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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

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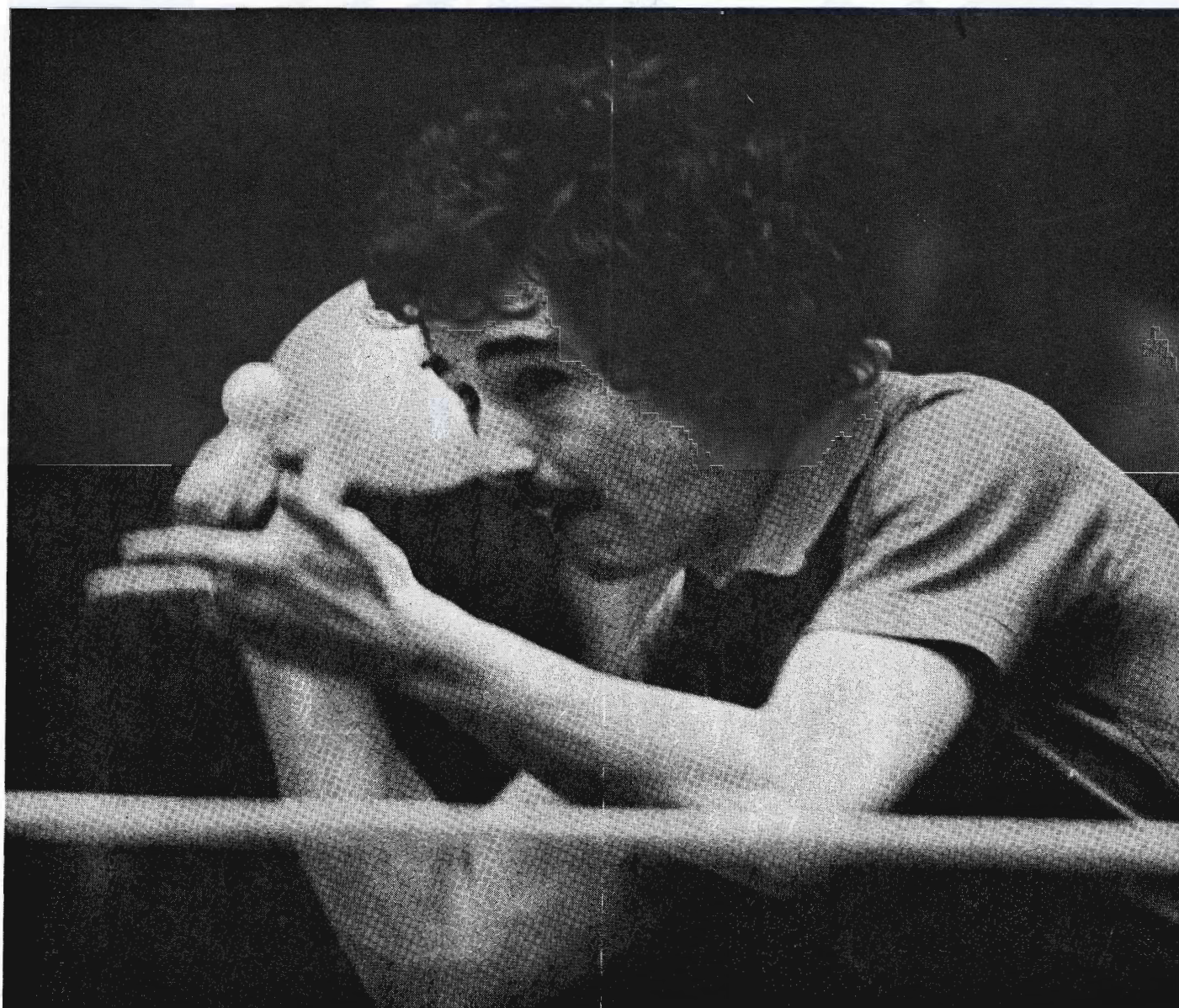


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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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Self Destruction

Aggravation is something we can well do without and table tennis is a sport which, by and large, has been relatively free of bad behaviour by those who indulge in it.

But latterly modern youth, seemingly somewhat more aggressive, has amidst its ranks a certain element who seem hell bent on self destruction when it comes to that all-important aspect of conduct.

There are many players within our ranks whose table manners are beyond reproach but, then again, there are others, particularly in the junior category, whose demeanor is positively anti-social.

Their actions bring the game into disrepute and tournament referees, in particular, are being given a hard time as indeed are the umpires whose last resort is to call on the referee.

From up and down the land complaints are forthcoming which tarnishes the image of the sport to a degree, which although not quite alarming, is nonetheless causing concern.

Might not, therefore, a plea be lodged to those the cap fits to amend their attitudes and concern themselves more with the game itself, win or lose.

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On the International Front by The Editor

SHOCK SUCCESS

Thanks to a splendid opening set victory by Duggie Johnson over Milan Orlowski in Nachod, England capitalised on this shock success by beating Czechoslovakia 4-3 in the Super Division of the European League played on Dec. 16/81.

Subsequent wins for Desmond Douglas, over Jindrich Pansky and Orlowski, plus a victory in the mixed for Douglas and Linda Jarvis brought a winning 4-2 lead and a totally unexpected point which should ensure England's position among the elite for next season. Individual Scores.

M. Orlowski lost to D. Johnson -17, 13, -19;
J. Pansky lost to D. Douglas -15, -14;
M. Hrachova bt J. Hammersley -19, 11, 16;
Orlowski/Pansky bt Johnson/G. Sandley 18, 12;
Pansky/Hrachova lost to Douglas/L. Jarvis -16, -18;
Orlowski lost to Douglas -14, -18;
Pansky bt Johnson 9, -17, 9.

Meantime, in Compiègne, France went under for a fourth consecutive time when beaten 6-1 by defending champions Hungary whose only falter was in the mixed when Bruno Parietti and Nadine Daviaud beat Istvan Jonyer and Gabrielle Szabo. Scores.

P. Birocheau lost to I. Jonyer 17, -17, -16;
B. Parietti lost to T. Klampar -16, -9;
N. Daviaud lost to Z. Olah -21, -24;
Parietti/Birocheau lost to G. Gergely/Jonyer -12, 16, -17;
Parietti/Daviaud bt Jonyer/G. Szabo 16, -21, 18;
Birocheau lost to Klampar -22, -19;
Parietti lost to Jonyer -15, 18, -15.

At home to Federal Germany in Slavovska Pozega, Yugoslavia brought off a like 6-1 success the only difference being a face-saving last set win for the visitors when Peter Stellwag beat Zoran Kalinic. Scores:

D. Surbek bt P. Stellwag 18, 18;
Z. Kalinic bt P. Engel -16, 19, 13;
B. Batinic bt K. Kruger 17, 11;
Kalinic/Surbek bt J. Rebel/Stellwag 15, 7;
Surbek/Batinic bt R. Wosik/Kruger 14, -21, 10;
Surbek bt Engel 15, 17;
Kalinic lost to Stellwag -13, -21.

SUPER DIVISION TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Hungary *	4	4	0	19	9	4
Czechoslovakia	4	3	1	18	10	3
Yugoslavia	4	3	1	17	11	3
England	4	2	2	15	13	2
Sweden	3	1	2	12	9	1
Poland †	3	1	2	11	10	1
Federal Germany	4	1	3	10	18	1
France	4	0	4	3	25	0

* Defending champions † Promotees

Fixtures for Jan. 13:

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

Continuing troubles in Poland, which



caused the postponement of their away tie with Sweden on Dec. 16, will doubtless prevent England from making the trip to Gdansk on Jan. 13 and doubts must now be expressed as to what will happen.

DIVISION ONE

Denmark, as a result of their 5-2 victory over the Netherlands in Faborg on Dec. 16, remain the front runners with Kim Kartholm leading the assault against the Dutch with wins over Han Gootzen and Ron van Spanje. Scores:

C. Pedersen bt R. van Spanje 15, 19;
K. Kartholm bt H. Gootzen 15, 21;
A. Larsen lost to B. Vriesekoop 19, -12, -9;
J. Hansen/Pedersen bt Gootzen/van Spanje 14, 22.
Pedersen/Larsen bt van Spanje/Vriesekoop 18, -12, 12;
Pedersen lost to Gootzen 13, -14, -17;
Kartholm bt van Spanje 13, 7.

Also unbeaten, with a match less played, the Soviet Union maintained their challenge with a like 5-2 win over Austria in Baden Bei Wein where Erich Amplatz opened the proceedings with a win over Dvorak and, in the penultimate set, had a further success over Igor Podnosov. Scores:
E. Amplatz bt Dvorak 20, 19;
D. Palmi lost to I. Podnosov -17, -18;
E. Deistler lost to N. Antonjon -12, -10;
Amplatz/G. Muller lost to I. Minkevitch/Podnosov -14, -18;
Muller/D. Fetter lost to Podnosov/Antonjan -17, -12;
Amplatz bt Podnosov 13, -17, 16;
Palmi lost to Dvorak -13, -8.

Finland brought off their third win of the season by beating Italy 4-3 in Tampere but left it to the last set to do so when Jarmo Jokinen just got the better of Rosario Troilo. Scores:

J. Ikonen bt R. Troilo 9, 18;
J. Jokinen lost to G. Bisi 19, -12, -14;
E. Malmberg bt M. Cergol 12, 13;
Ikonen/Jokinen lost to M. Costantini/Bisi -13, -21;
Jokinen/Malmberg bt Bisi/Cergol -17, 11, 15;
Ikonen lost to Bisi 19, -15, -16;
Jokinen bt Troilo 17, 21.

DIVISION 1 TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Denmark †	4	4	0	21	7	4
U.S.S.R. *	3	3	0	19	2	3
Finland	4	3	1	19	9	3
Netherlands	3	2	1	12	9	2
Austria	4	0	4	8	20	0
Italy	3	0	3	4	17	0
Greece	3	0	3	1	20	0

(Bulgaria withdrawn)

† Promotees * Demotees

Fixtures for Jan. 13:

Netherlands v Finland
Soviet Union v Denmark
Greece v Italy
Open date: Austria

DIVISION TWO

Bad tidings for the home countries in Division 2 with Ireland, away to Norway in

Bergen, being beaten 6-1, Scotland, at home to Luxembourg in Coatbridge, going down 3-4 and Wales, at home to Spain in Colwyn Bay, also beaten 5-2.

Ireland's lone success in Bergen was achieved by Anne Leonard who beat Tone Folkson. Scores:

T. Johansen bt C. Slevin -20, 8, 11;
P. Guttormsen bt K. Keane 13, 13;
T. Folkson lost to A. Leonard -14, -17;
Guttormsen/Johansen bt Keane/Slevin 15, 8;
Johansen/Folkson bt Slevin/Leonard 17, -14, 17;
Johansen bt Keane 12, 4;
Guttormsen bt Slevin 13, 16.

4-1 was the score in Coatbridge before, in the last two sets, Richard Yule beat Y. Maas and David Hannah accounted for V. Langehegermann, Keith Rodger and Yule having won the men's doubles. Scores:

R. Yule lost to V. Langehegermann 17, -18, -16;
D. Hannah lost to Y. Maas 17, -14, -9;
C. Dalrymple lost to C. Risch -12, -15;
D. Rodger/Yule bt Maas/Minden 12, 16;
Rodger/Dalrymple lost to Maas/Risch -20, -17;
Yule bt Maas 19, 14;
Hannah bt Langehegermann 18, 13.

Wales, as reported elsewhere, had Alan Griffiths winning the first set and the mixed with Nigel Thomas and Lesley Tyler.

Scores:
A. Griffiths bt I. Caymel 11, 10;
N. Thomas lost to J. Pales -15, -19;
L. Tyler lost to P. Lupon -12, -16;
Griffiths/Thomas lost to Caymel/Pales -23, -20;
Thomas/Tyler bt Pales/Sanahuja 11, 18;
Griffiths lost to Pales -17, 20, -18;
Thomas lost to Caymel 20, -17, -18.

Elsewhere, in Villette Couillet, Belgium played hosts to Switzerland and won 5-2 after losing the first two sets. Scores:
T. Cabrera lost to M. Hafen 7, -15, -18;
R. de Prophetis lost to T. Busin -16, -15;
B. Lippens bt B. Witte 11, 5;
Cabrera/de Prophetis bt Busin/Hafen -15, 15, 19;
D. Leroy/Lippens bt Busin/Witte 14, 8;
Cabrera bt Busin 13, -15, 15;
de Prophetis bt Hafen 14, 15.

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Norway	4	4	0	23	5	4
Spain	4	4	0	20	8	4
Belgium	4	3	1	19	9	3
Luxembourg *	4	2	2	11	17	2
Switzerland	4	1	3	12	16	1
Scotland †	4	1	3	10	18	1
Wales †	4	1	3	10	18	1
Ireland	4	0	4	7	21	0

† Promotees * Demotees

Scheduled to have played Switzerland away on Jan. 9, the Welsh team found themselves snowbound in the principality. Ireland were due to meet Scotland in Cork on Jan. 11 the two other fixtures being Luxembourg v Belgium and Spain v Norway both scheduled for Jan. 13.

REVISED EUROPEAN RANKINGS

In the revised rankings issued by the Classification Committee of the European Table Tennis Union, and released on Jan. 3/82, England's Desmond Douglas moves up from No. 4 to No. 3, whilst John Hilton, drops from No. 13 to No. 19. On the distaff side Jill Hammersley drops one place, from No. 2 to No. 3 behind Bettine Vriesekoop and Valentina Popova. Rankings (previous position in brackets):

Men

- 1 T. Klampar (HUN) (1)
- 2 D. Surbek (YUG) (3)
- 3 D. Douglas (ENG) (4)
- 4 J. Secretin (FRA) (6)
- 5 S. Bengtsson (SWE) (2)
- 6 A. Grubba (POL) (11)
- 7 Z. Kalinic (YUG) (21)
- 8 I. Jonyer (HUN) (9)

- 9 M. Orlowski (CZE) (5)
- 10 M. Appelgren (SWE) (15)
- 11 G. Gergely (HUN) (8)
- 12 U. Carlsson (SWE) (10)
- 13 L. Kucharski (POL) (16)
- 14 J. Dvoracek (CZE) (7)
- 15 J. Pansky (CZE) (19)
- 16 C. Martin (FRA) (17)
- 17 P. Stellwag (GFR) (18)
- 18 P. Birocheau (FRA) (14)
- 19 J. Hilton (ENG) (13)
- 20 U. Bengtsson (SWE) (—)

Women

- 1 B. Vriesekoop (NET) (3)
- 2 V. Popova (USS) (1)
- 3 J. Hammersley (ENG) (2)
- 4 A-C. Hellman (SWE) (4)
- 5 I. Uhlikova (CZE) (5)
- 6 M. Hrachova (CZE) (12)
- 7 Z. Olah (HUN) (11)
- 8 U. Kamizuru (GFR) (9)
- 9 G. Perkucin - Kostik (YUG) (7)
- 10 M. Lindblad (SWE) (10)
- 11 G. Szabo (HUN) (—)
- 12 J. Magos (HUN) (6)
- 13 B. Kishazi (HUN) (8)
- 14 K. Kruger (GFR) (14)
- 15 B. Batinic (YUG) (20)
- 16 E. Urban (HUN) (21)
- 17 D. Bayerova-Dubinova (CZE) (—)
- 18 E. Ferenczi (RUM) (16)
- 19 N. Antonian (USS) (15)
- 20 B. Silhanova (CZE) (13)

Players of note missing from the previous list are: - Men: U. Thorsell (SWE) (12) and E. Lindh (SWE) (20). Women: C. Bergeret (FRA) (17) and F. Bulatova (USS) (18).

Invitees to the Top 12 in Nantes (Feb. 5/7) are indicated over the line.

ENGLISH JUNIOR CLOSED

PREAN SUPREME AT HINCKLEY

by The Editor

As befitting two players who carried off the Cadet team award in the last European Youth Championships in Topolcany, Carl Prean and Billy Gleave disputed the boys' singles final at Hinckley with victory going to the Isle of Wight boy in straight games.

No longer a cadet Gleave had earlier

watched his conqueror take over his U-14 title with a final win over Martin Firth whilst the undefeated cadet girls' title, previously won by Lisa Bellinger, was taken over by Lesley Popkiewicz with a final win over Clare Mouzon.

Jean Parker kept the girls' singles title in Lancashire succeeding Joy Grundy by beating Lisa Bellinger in a 3-leg final.

Prean and Gleave combined to take the boys' doubles with a final win over Philip Gunn and Lindsay Taylor, the latter sharing in a mixed success with Rebecca Russe over Gleave and Jackie Bellinger. The Bellinger sisters had matters all their own way in the girls' doubles beating Lesley Broomhead and Jean Parker in the final.

Unfortunately, this season's event was marred by the disqualification of Surrey's Michael Hammond in his fourth round set against Jeffrey Thatcher of Yorkshire. According to Philip Reid, the 'incident' happened like this.

"Hammond was engaged in a battle with Jeff Thatcher. Intimidation is the only word I could describe Hammond's actions, fist-waving being paramount. Referee Richard Scruton went three times to warn him but he just didn't want to know. At 21-all in the third Scruton's patience was exhausted and he showed him the red card.

"It was unfortunate that the scores were so close but sympathy must be extended to Scruton for his thankless task. Older people, who should have known better, started booing and one said "You are a disgrace. If I were him I would punch you in the face!"

"And all this because the Referee had the courage of his convictions! I had some sympathy with Hammond, coming all the way from Surrey to be dismissed in such a manner — but where in heaven's name was he when the warnings were given? He MUST have known that sooner or later he would be disqualified, so where was the sense in it all?"

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

C. Prean (IOW) bt D. Rudge (Wa) 10, -19, 11;
N. Hoare (Sy) bt D. Dodd (K) -19, 19, 15;
B. Gleave (Ch) bt A. Cooke (Dy) -17, 12, 20;
A. Moore (Sx) bt M. O'Leary (Mi) 6, 10.

Semi-finals:

Prean bt Hoare 9, 19;
Gleave bt Moore 18, 17.

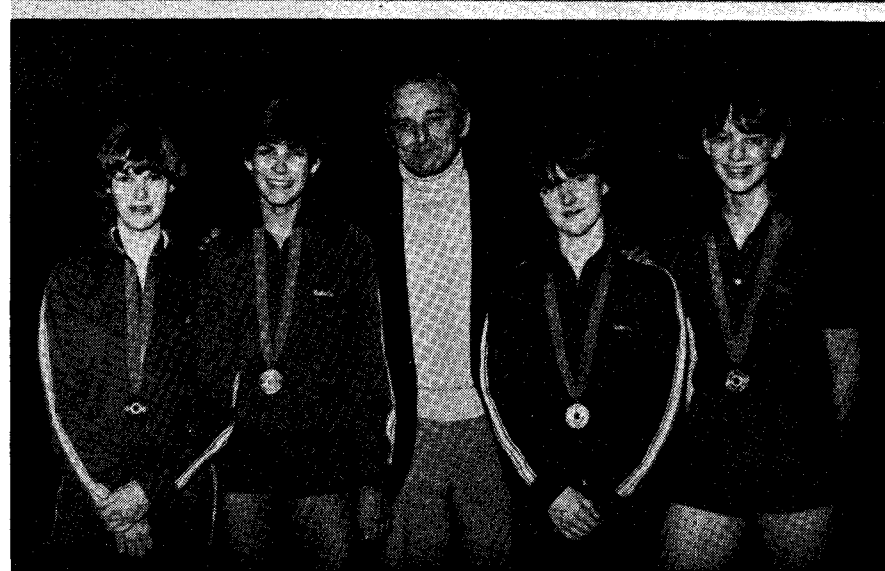
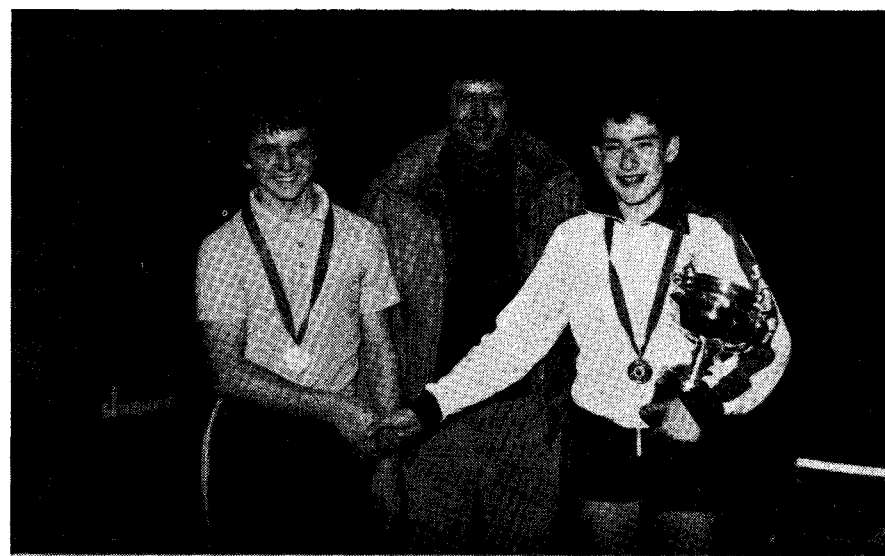
Final:

PREAN bt Gleave 14, 9.



The I.O.W. Kid CARL PREAN is delighted to receive the Boys' U-17 Singles Trophy from MAURICE GOLDSTEIN, O.B.E., President of ETTA, at Hinckley, where the English Closed Junior Championships were held last month.

Photo by Murray Corbin.



Top Left: MARTIN FIRTH, Runner-up of the Cadet Boys' Singles Championship, shakes hands with CARL PREAN, the winner, while ALAN RANSOME looks on.
Top Right: LESLEY POPKIEWICZ holds on to the Trophy tightly, after defeating CLARE MOUZON in the Final of the Girls' Cadet Singles.
Bottom Left: MIKE KERCHER, Member of the Ranking Panel is in 'pretty good' company — from our left — LISA/JACKIE BELLINGER and JEAN PARKER/LESLEY BROOMHEAD, the respective winners and runners-up of the Girls' Doubles.
Bottom Right: REBECCA RUSSE shares a moment of joy with LINDSAY TAYLOR, after they had won the Mixed Doubles Championship.
 Photos by Murray Corbin.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:
 L. Bellinger (Bd) bt R. Russe (Av) 12, 14;
 J. Bellinger (Bd) bt M. Denbow (Ox) 18, 17;
 C. Peacock (La) bt H. Bardwell (He)
 (no scores);
 J. Parker (La) bt S. Collier (Bk) 19, 19.
Semi-finals:
 L. Bellinger bt J. Bellinger 16, 18;
 Parker bt Peacock 19, 19.
Final:
 PARKER bt L. Bellinger -14, 17, 17.
Cadet Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:
 Prean bt A Dixon (St) 19, 18;
 S. Craggs (Cv) bt J. Stokes (Bk) 19, 16;
 M. Jukes (Wo) bt P. Andrews (Bk) 8, 14;
 M. Firth (Y) bt M. Randle (Wa) 14, -19, 13.
Semi-finals:
 Prean bt Craggs -19, 12, 8;
 Firth bt Jukes -17, 13, 22.
Final:
 PREAN bt Firth 15, 15.
Cadet Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:
 J. Shaw (Y) bt A. Evans (Y) 14, 11;
 L. Popkiewicz (Sy) bt D. Malpas (Y) 13, 16;
 C. Mouzon (Nd) bt J. Powis (St) -17, 14, 8;
 L. Forster (Dy) bt L. Hayden (E) 17, 19.
Semi-finals:
 Popkiewicz bt Shaw 12, -11, 16;
 Mouzon bt Forster 12, 18.
Final:
 POPKIEWICZ bt Mouzon 17, 13.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:
 Gleave/Prean bt S. Dettmar (E)/
 R. Whiteley (Y) -15, 15, 14;
 P. Gunn (Wa)/L. Taylor (Cv) bt Cooke/
 Hoare 19, 16.
Final:
 GLEAVE/PREAN bt Gunn/Taylor 18, 20.
Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:
 Bellinger/Bellinger bt J. Ryalls/M. Seaton
 (Y) 11, 14;
 L. Broomhead (Y)/Parker bt Bardwell/
 J. Smith (He) 15, 17.
Final:
 BELLINGER/BELLINGER bt Broomhead/
 Parker 17, 17.
Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:
 Taylor/Russe bt M. Hammond (Sy)/
 C. Boxall (He) 15, 17;
 Gleave/J. Bellinger bt Gunn/F. Elliot (St)
 -7, 15, 18.
Final:
 TAYLOR/RUSSE bt Gleave/J. Bellinger
 13, -16, 19.

John Hilton, Paul Day, Kenny Jackson, Philip Bradbury, Alison Gordon, Carole Knight and Joy Grundy. The non-playing captains are Donald Parker (men) and Bryan Merrett (women) with the ETTA's Deputy Chairman, George Yates, as leader, he being also a member of the Commonwealth Management Committee.

MIDDLESEX 3-STAR OPEN

Graham Sandley with a final 18, 16 victory over Kenny Jackson was the men's singles winner in the Middlesex 3-Star Open played at Edmonton over the weekend of Dec. 12/13 the counterpart women's title being won by Jill Hammersley with a 7, -19, 17 success over Karen Witt.

Sandley and Duggie Johnson beat Skylet Andrew and John Souter to win the men's doubles and Mrs. Hammersley and Linda Jarvis won the women's doubles beating Miss Witt and Alison Gordon in the final.

Johnson and Mrs. Hammersley combined to win the mixed beating Sandley and Miss Gordon whilst the veterans' singles title went to Peter D'Arcy who beat M. Close (Mi) in the final.

A full report (by Iris Moss) will appear in the February issue.

COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The following players have been invited to represent England in the 6th Commonwealth Championships, to be held in Bombay from Feb. 3/9, 1982:

Cleveland 3-Star Open

CHINA DOMINATE by Alan Ransome

The Chinese touring team took all main titles in the Cleveland Open Championships at Thornaby Pavilion on Jan. 1/3 but despite the Chinese domination there were many interesting and significant performances.

The Chinese party, with the exception of Teng Yi, were all new to Cleveland but nevertheless the standard of their play was equal to that of any visiting Chinese team in the past and could easily be described as being in the same league as the team which dominated the World Championships in Novi Sad some nine months ago.

In the Butterfly International Team Event, men's section, the winners were the Chinese II team, Fan Changmao and Teng Yi, who beat their I team of Jiang Jialiang and Chen Xinhua 3-1 in an entertaining final. Both Chinese teams reached the final without the loss of a single set, although Duggie Johnson came close in the semi-final when he took the first game from Chinese champion Chen Xinhua.

Of the non-Chinese teams, the best performance came from the England II team of Duggie Johnson and Graham Sandley. After beating Soham and Larkhall 3-0 they took on the considerable strength of the USA and did very well to again win 3-0 with Johnson beating Danny Seemiller and Sandley beating Eric Boggan.

England I team of Kenny Jackson and Paul Day had a tough run to the semi-final. They were extended to 3-2 by Ellenborough after Mark Mitchell had beaten Day and the Ellenborough pair of Wilson and Mitchell had taken the doubles. Jackson proved too strong for Wilson at 2-all. In a round later the Welsh I team pushed England to 3-1 as Nigel Thomas beat Jackson and the doubles went the distance. Of other teams in the competition, Scotland I did particularly well, they beat Unity 3-2 in the opening round despite two singles wins over Richard Yule and Keith Rodger for Skylet Andrew. They beat the Dutch Club team, Nikon 3-2 in the second round despite Bob Potton winning both his singles. The doubles went to 19 in the third to the

Scots, then Rodger beat Gootzen 19 in the third to clinch it. The Scottish elation was short lived coming to an abrupt end as they met the Chinese in the quarter-finals.

In the women's section the Chinese domination was not quite so strong. England I put up stubborn resistance by beating China II 3-2 in the semi-finals. Jill Hammersley produced her best performance for many years against the Asians in beating both Chen Jieliang and Xie Xiaoyan and then Linda Jarvis played her part beating Jieliang 15 in the third with the score level at 2-all.

Other England girls had successes too. Alison Gordon, playing for Omega, beat Xiaoyan 23 in the third as her club team went down 3-1.

England II did well. After beating Ellenborough 3-0 they beat Finland 3-1 with Carole Knight beating both Monica and Sonja Grefberg in straight games.

In the individual events the Chinese men completely dominated the singles winning all four semi-final placings. The winner was Jiang Jialiang who added the Cleveland title to the Scandinavian he had won a month earlier.

There were some good performances against the Chinese. Sandley took the first game from Jialiang and looked a possible winner in the second before going down -16 and losing the third by the same score.

American Eric Boggan also put up a spirited display against Fan Changmao losing -19, -20. Both games could have gone either way. Other than that, the Chinese had things pretty much their own way.

Other good performances included an easy win for Jackson over Johnson and a surprise victory for George Evans of Butterfly Cardiff who beat Steve Mills 13 in the third.

The best performance in the women's singles of a non-Chinese player came from Carole Knight. She beat Chen Jieliang 19 in the third in the quarter-final having earlier despatched Sonja Grefberg for the second time that weekend. Xie Xiaoyan came back to form beating Jill Hammersley 11, 17. She beat Dai Lili in the semi-final and then Chen Lili, who had already beat Carole Knight "ducee" and 18, in the final.

Other notable performances in the tournament included a win for Anita Stevenson

over Linda Jarvis, Karen Witt beating Monica Grefberg and Joy Grundy, after Joy had beaten Angela Mitchell and Lisa Bellinger who scored her revenge from the English Junior Closed over Jean Parker.

Both doubles titles went to China although Johnson and Sandley proved again that they are a fast-improving pair by beating the Seemiller brothers 15 and 20 and the Chinese pair Jialiang and Xinhua 11 in the third before almost taking the first game of the final against Teng Yi and Fan Changmao.

The Class 2 title stayed at home as Lindsay Taylor excelled to beat Andy Creed of Avon in the final and Robert Watson in the semis.

Overall the Championships were very successful and the sponsors, Cleveland County Council were pleased, although it would obviously have been better had Desmond Douglas taken up his England selection and provided some further opposition to the Chinese domination.

The prizes for the main events were presented by the Chairman of Cleveland County Council, Councillor A. A. Carter, J.P.

MIDDLESEX Under-15 and Under-13 Open

by Iris Moss

As mentioned in Middlesex Notes last month, the entry for this Tournament was not amongst our best, being affected not only by the confusion as to whether it was on or off, but also by the incidence of County Championships on the same weekend. A number of players were prevented from entering because of County commitments, and 5 of the entrants also had to withdraw. It indicates the standard of the younger players when under-15's are representing their Counties. Nevertheless 122 boys entered the Tournament and 41 girls, so we did not have a bad entry.

Final results:

Boys'

U-15 Singles:

Andrew Barker (Es) bt Andrew Cunningham (Ke) -17, 18, 19.

U-15 Doubles:

Barker/Stephen Dorking (Es) bt David Cole/Tony West (Es) 12, 13.

U-15 Consolation Singles:

Matthew Syed (Bk) bt Jonathan Huckle (Ke) 18, -17, 16.

U-13 Singles:

M. Syed bt Paul Amos (Ke) -14, 19, 15.

U-13 Doubles:

Derren Hams/Richard Jones (Sy) bt Amos/Michael Rutherford (Ke) 17, 18.

U-13 Consolation Singles:

Andrew Houghton (Ke) bt Greg Barden (Ke) 12, 11.

Girls'

U-15 Singles:

Susan Collier (Bk) bt Deborah Simmonds (Bu) 10, 9.

U-15 Doubles:

Alison Barker/Lisa Hayden (Es) bt Alison Boxall (He)/Sarah Hammond (Ha) 18, -11, 15.

U-15 Consolation Singles:

Gillian Blanch (Mi) bt Lesley Souter (Mi) 18, 19.

U-13 Singles:

Rachel Knight (Mi) bt Hayden -14, 18, 16.

U-13 Doubles:

Souter/Katrina Baker (Mi) bt Hayden/Knight 18, 20.

U-13 Consolation Singles:

Tanya Holland (Es) bt Amanda Shufflebotham (Ox) 14, 9.

Once again we must express our appreciation to our sponsors, Langdon & Twelftree Ltd., and to the Lee Valley Regional Park Authority who gave us special terms for the hire of Picketts Lock to enable us to run the event.

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Scandinavian Open

CHINA LOSE 3-4 IN VAXJO

by THE EDITOR

In the footsteps of his countrymen, Guo Yuehua (1976), Lu Chi-wei (1977) and Li Zhenshi (1978), newcomer Jiang Jialiang, aged 17 from Guangdong, took over the men's singles title from Sweden's Ulf Thorsell in the Scandinavian Open played over the period Dec. 3/6 in Vaxjo's Teleborgs-Hallen.

And yet another newcomer from the People's Republic of China in the person of **Chen Lili**, aged 19 and also from Guangdong, won the women's singles title taking over from her compatriot Cao Yanhua who won the title in 1980.

Apart from these two successes the only other title won by the Chinese was the women's team event, the men's title going to Yugoslavia with a 3-2 victory over China I. This latter triumph for the Yugoslavs was due almost entirely to Dragutin Surbek who won both his singles in the final encounter and was also successful in the doubles with **Zoran Kalinic**.

Surbek was also the beaten finalist in the men's singles but, again with **Kalinic**, took the men's doubles title with a final victory over Gabor Gergely and Istvan Jonyer of Hungary. Hungary's **Judit Magos** and **Gabriella Szabo** were the winners of the women's doubles the mixed being won by the Polish/Dutch combine of **Andrzej Grubba** and **Bettine Vriesekoop**.

Sadly it was not a good tournament for the English contingent with Desmond Douglas losing out to the eventual winner, Jiang Jialiang, in Rd. 2 and John Hilton suffering a first round reverse to the French defender Christian Martin.

Graham Sandley had a good first round win over the Swede, Ake Liljegren, before encountering Surbek and Kenny Jackson was also removed by a Yugoslav — **Kalinic**. Bob Potton, from his Dutch base, failed to emerge from the qualifying rounds going under to Niklas Persson of Sweden.

Jill Hammersley, in receipt of a first round bye in the women's singles, was despatched in straight games by Zsuzsa Olah of Hungary but Karen Witt made a name for herself in beating Magos before falling to China's Xie Xiaoyan. Linda Jarvis was also ousted by a Chinese player, Chen Jieliang and Alison Gordon fell, also in the first round, to Menni Weizades of Sweden.

One victory of note that was accomplished was that of Jackson and Karen in the mixed when they beat the former world champions Jacques Secretin and Claude Bergeret of France before losing to Mikael Appelgren and Marie Lindblad of Sweden.

Elsewhere nothing but disaster stalked with Douglas and Hilton in the men's doubles being beaten by Peter Engel and Ralf Wosik of Federal Germany whilst, in the women's Jill and Linda lost to Sweden's Susanne Dahl and Kristina Nilsson.

In the mixed Douglas and Linda met with instant defeat at the hands of Giovanni Bisi of Italy and Anita Jonsson of Sweden and Hilton and Jill fell to Ulf Carlsson and Anneli Hernvall of the host nation.

RESULTS

Team Events

Men's Quarter-finals:
 China I 3 England I 1
 Poland I 3 France 0
 Sweden I 3 Czechoslovakia I 1
 Yugoslavia I 3 Hungary 0
Semi-finals:
 China I 3 Poland I 0
 Chen Xinhua bt A. Grubba 14, 13;
 Jiang Jialiang bt L. Kucharski 15, 18;
 Chen Xinhua/Jiang Jialiang bt Grubba/Kucharski 9, -17, 13.

Yugoslavia 3 Sweden 1 0
 Z. Kalinic bt S. Bengtsson 16, -15, 12;
 D. Surbek bt M. Appelgren 19, 13;
 Kalinic/Surbek bt Appelgren/U. Carlsson 15, -19, 12.
Final:
YUGOSLAVIA 3 China I 2
 Surbek bt Jiang Jialiang 19, 15;
 Kalinic lost to Chen Xinhua 17, -18, -21;
 Kalinic/Surbek bt Chen Xinhua/Jiang Jialiang 9, 15;
 Kalinic lost to Jiang Jialiang -19, -13;
 Surbek bt Chen Xinhua 18, -19, 14.

Women's Quarter-finals:
China I 3 Hungary II 0
Sweden I 3 Finland I
China II 3 Yugoslavia 0
Czechoslovakia I 3 Korea R. I 1
Semi-finals:
China I 3 Sweden I 1
 Dai Lili bt M. Lindblad 14, 19;
 Chen Jieliang lost to A.C. Hellman -19, -12;
 Dai Lili/Chen Jieliang bt Hellman/Lindblad -16, 17, 17;
 Dai Lili bt Hellman -17, 21, 7.
China II 3 Czechoslovakia I
 Chen Lili bt I. Uhlíkova 16, 10;
 Xie Xiaoyan lost to M. Hrachova -18, -14;
 Chen Lili/Xie Xiaoyan bt Hrachova/Uhlíkova 13, 14;
 Xie Xiaoyan bt Uhlíkova 13, 19.
Final:
CHINA I 3 China II 0
 Dai Lili bt Chen Lili 15, 13;
 Chen Jieliang bt Xie Xiaoyan -20, 5, 17;
 Dai/Lili/Chen Jieliang bt Chen Lili/Xie Xiaoyan 13, -18, 15.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

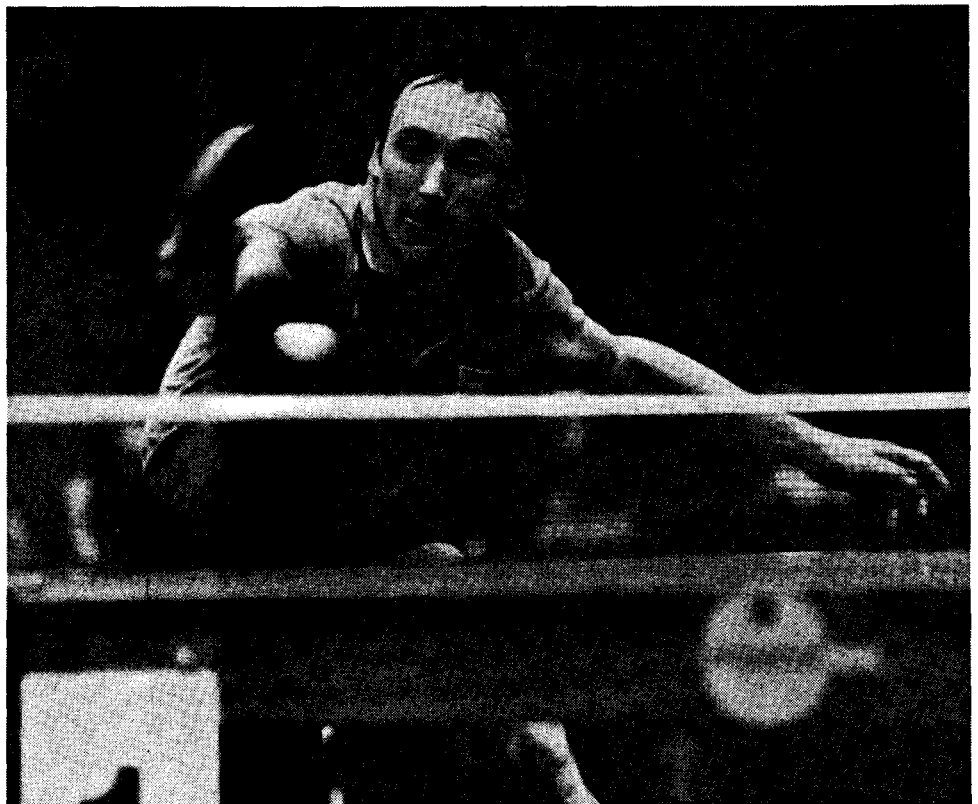
Men's Singles Quarter-finals:
 Chen Xinhua (CHN) bt L. Kucharski (POL) 18, 19, -18 15;
 Jiang Jialiang (CHN) bt J. Secretin (FRA) 12, 17, 14;
 Teng Yi (CHN) bt J. Dvoracek (CZE) 18, -17, 10, 12;
 D. Surbek (YUG) bt Fan Changmao (CHN) 16, -17, 18, 15.
Semi-finals:
 Jiang Jialiang bt Chen Xinhua 15, 17, 17;
 Surbek bt Teng Yi -12, 21, 18, 22.
Final:
 JIANG JIALIANG bt Surbek 15, 16, 19.
Women's Singles Quarter-finals:
 Chen Lili (CHN) bt Kim Jung Mi (KRR) -16, 17, 18, 19;
 Chen Jieliang (CHN) bt I. Uhlíkova (CZE) 19, -16, 16, 19;
 Dai Lili (CHN) bt M. Hrachova (CZE) 16, 15, -19, 18;
 An Hae Sook (KRR) bt Xie Xiaoyan (CHN) 17, 15, 15.
Semi-finals:
 Chen Lili bt Chen Jieliang 17, 11, 12;
 Dai Lili bt An Hae Sook 17, 18, 17.
Final:
 CHEN LILI bt Dai Lili 19, 19, 8.
Men's Doubles Quarter-finals:
 P. Birocheau (FRA)/Secretin bt Chen Xinhua/Jiang Jialiang -13, 16, 19;
 G. Gergely/I. Jonyer (HUN) bt P. Engel/R. Wosik (GFR) -24, 4, 9;
 Z. Kalinic (YUG)/Surbek bt S. Bengtsson (SWE)/C. Pedersen (DEN) -17, 19, 10;
 J. Akesson/J.O. Waldner (SWE) bt G. Bohm/P. Stellwag (GFR) -19, 18, 17.
Semi-finals:
 Gergely/Jonyer bt Birocheau/Secretin 16, 17;
 Kalinic/Surbek bt Akesson/Waldner 20, 12.
Final:
 KALINIC/SURBEK bt Gergely/Jonyer 13, -14, 18.

Women's Doubles Quarter-finals:
 Kim Jung Mi/Lee Soo Ja (KRR) w.o. Dai Lili/Chen Jieliang;
 Park Mal Bun/Yang Young Ja (KRR) bt S. Dahl/K. Nilsson (SWE) 15, -9, 14;
 J. Magos/G. Szabo (HUN) bt A-C. Hellman/M. Lindblad (SWE) -15, 21, 17;
 An Hae Sook/Hwang Nam Sook (KRR) bt A. Gordon/K. Witt (ENG) 10, 13.
Semi-finals:
 Park Mal Bun/Yang Young Ja bt Kim Jung Mi/Lee Soo Ja -16, 11, 17;
 Magos/Szabo bt An Hae Sook/Hwang Nam Sook -15, 16, 12.
Final:
 MAGOS/SZABO bt Park Mal Bun/Hwang Nam Sook 9, 18.
Mixed Doubles Quarter-finals:
 Ro Yoon Kwan (KRR)/Yang Young Ja bt U. Carlsson/A. Hernvall (SWE) -17, 14, 16;
 A. Grubba (POL)/B. Vriesekoop (NET) bt Gergely/E. Urban (HUN) 17, 19;
 M. Appelgren (SWE)/Lindblad bt Kalinic/A. Ojstersek (YUG) -11, 16, 16;
 Fan Changmao/Xie Xiaoyan bt J. Ikonen/S. Grefberg (FIN) -14, 11, 9.
Semi-finals:
 Grubba/Vriesekoop bt Ro Yoon Kwan/Yang Young Ja 17, 15;
 Fan Changmao/Xie Xiaoyan bt Appelgren/Lindblad 5, 18.
Final:
 GRUBBA/VRIESEKOOP bt Fan Changmao/Xie Xiaoyan -9, 17, 18.

ENGLISH RESULTS

Team Events

Men
England I
 v Austria (won 3-1)
 D. Douglas bt G. Muller 7, 7;
 J. Hilton bt E. Amplatz 11, 15;
 Douglas/Hilton lost to Amplatz/Muller 16, -15, -19;
 Douglas bt Amplatz 20, 8.
 v Yugoslavia II (won 3-0)
 Douglas bt B. Mesáros 17, 15;
 Hilton bt M. Karakasevic 14, 20;
 Douglas/Hilton bt Karakasevic/Mesáros 21, 16.
 v China I (lost 1-3)
 Douglas bt Chen Xinhua 14, 16;
 Hilton lost to Jiang Jialiang 22, -13, -15;
 Douglas/Hilton lost to Chen Xinhua/Jiang Jialiang -15, -17;
 Hilton lost to Chen Xinhua -20, 18, -9.
England II
 v Federal Germany II (lost 0-3)
 K. Jackson lost to P. Engel -15, 19, -17;
 G. Sandley lost to R. Wosik -19, -9;
 Jackson/Sandley lost to Engel/Wosik -15, -17.
Women
England I
 v Hungary II (lost 1-3)
 J. Hammersley lost to J. Magos 17, -17, -21;
 L. Jarvis lost to G. Szabo -19, 17, -13;
 Hammersley/Jarvis bt Magos/Szabo 17, 17;
 Hammersley lost to Szabo -18, 22, -15.
England II
 v Sweden II (lost 1-3)
 A. Gordon lost to M. Weizades -18, -14;
 K. Witt bt A. Hernvall 11, 13;



Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia still a force to be reckoned with as exemplified by his exploits in Vaxjo.

Photo by Karola Kiesslich, Hamburg, Federal Germany.

Gordon/Witt lost to Hernvall/Weizades 23, -16, -12;
Witt lost to Weizades -14, -16.

Men's Singles:

Douglas bt Molnar (HUN) 17, 16, -19, -17, 16;
lost to Jiang Jialiang (CHN) -19, -14, 21, -15.
Hilton lost to C. Martin (FRA) -10, -9, -18.
R. Potton bt J. Ekstrom (SWE) 18, 10, -18, -18, 14;
lost to N. Persson (SWE) -14, -9, -12 (qualifying rounds).
Jackson lost to Z. Kalinic (YUG) -12, -12, -11.
Sandley bt A. Liljegren (SWE) 19, 11, -15, 19;
lost to D. Surbek (YUG) -17, -17, -10.

Women's Singles:

J. Hammersley lost to Z. Olah (HUN) -20, -15, -18.
K. Witt bt A. Ojstersek (YUG) -18, -17, 17, 7;
bt J. Magos (HUN) 12, 21, 17;
lost to Xie Xiaoyan (CHN) -17, -14, -9.
L. Jarvis bt B. McKnight (CAN) 11, 15, 9;
lost to Chen Jieling (CHN) -16, -16, -20.

A. Gordon lost to M. Weizades (SWE) 24, -19, 15, -13, -13.

Men's Doubles:

Douglas/Hilton bt S. Dryszel/L. Kabazinski (POL)
19, -19, 14;
lost to P. Engel/R. Wosik (GFR) -20, -15.
Potton/Sandley bt J. Ekstrom/J. Persson (SWE) 17, -14, 18;
lost to E. Hugin (GFR)/C. Martin (FRA) -18, -16.

Women's Doubles:

Hammersley/Jarvis lost to S. Dahl/K. Nilsson (SWE)
-12, -20.

Gordon/Witt bt A. Jonsson/E. Stromvall (SWE) 22, 14;
bt P. Eliasson/G. Borgstrom (SWE) 19, 22;
lost to An Hae Sook/Hwang Nam Sook (KRR) -10, -13.

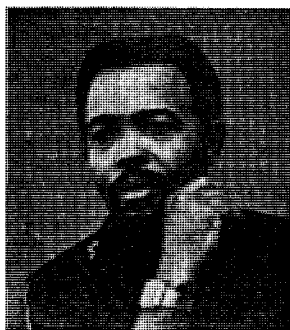
Mixed Doubles:

Douglas/Jarvis bt G. Bisi (ITA)/A. Jonsson (SWE) 6, 13;
lost to J. Ikonen/S. Grefberg (FIN) 15, -20, -17.
Hilton/Hammersley bt J. Jokinen/E. Malmberg (FIN)
20, -7, 13;
lost to U. Carlsson/A. Hernvall (SWE) -19, 14, -19.
Jackson/Witt bt J. Secretin/C. Bergeret (FRA) 16, 9;
lost to M. Appelgren/M. Lindblad (SWE) -14, -14.
Sandley/Gordon lost to U. Bengtsson/S. Dahl (SWE)
-20, -17

COVER PICTURE

Warwickshire's Duggie Johnson who set England on the victory path in their Super Division European League match away to Czechoslovakia, in Nachod. In the opening set, against Milan Orlovski, the dapper Brummie brought off a spectacular 17, -13, 19 victory on which England capitalised with subsequent wins by Desmond Douglas, over Jindrich Pansky and Orlovski, and by Douglas and Linda Jarvis in the mixed doubles against Pansky and Marie Hrachova.

THIS & THAT IN SURREY



by MURRAY CORBIN

**ANOTHER DISQUALIFICATION:
ENQUIRY SOUGHT**

During a Junior Boys' Singles Quarter-final match of the English Junior Closed at Hinckley, last month, MICHAEL HAMMOND was disqualified by Referee RICHARD SCRUTON. It is believed that subsequent to this action being taken, Michael may have blown a 'kiss' at the Referee after winning a very exciting rally, to level the score at 21-21 in the third.

I had originally included my own comments on this affair in my notes for this issue but these have now been withdrawn, in order not to prejudice in any way, the outcome of the enquiry which is being sought by the SURREY T.T.A. However, I hope to be able to give you my opinion at a later date, when the matter is no longer "sub judice".

AROUND THE LEAGUES: SOME!

I am happy to report that after a long and sustained period of groans and moans at the Leagues for their lack of interest in making known on a wider scale what is going on in their locality, I may have broken the ice at last. I have never had any communication from SOUTHWARK or the leagues in CROYDON. I may have heard once from BYEFLEET. I would certainly like to hear from REDHILL & REIGATE, THAMES VALLEY and SUTTON again.

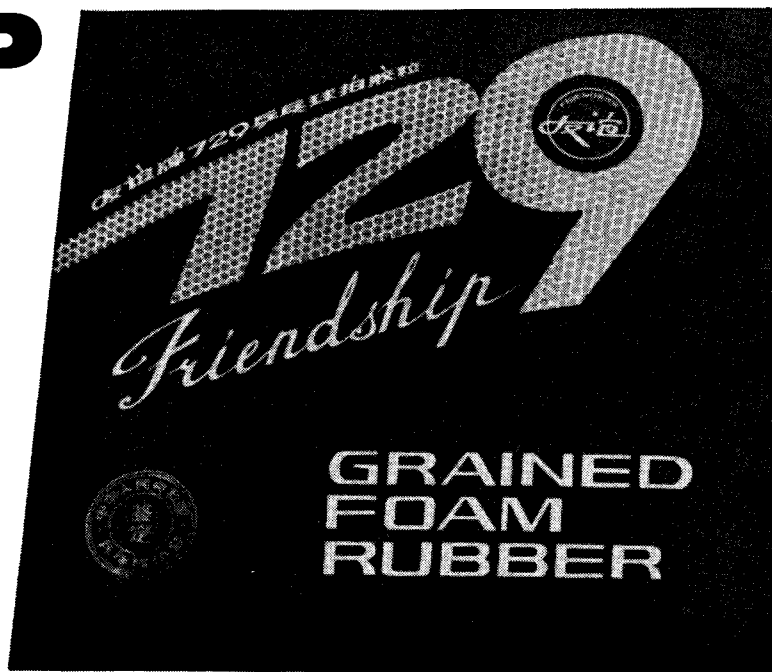
GUILDFORD

Ted Simpkin informs me that this league, which was founded in 1934, is thriving, in spite of the number of Clubs shrinking from 144 to 132, and its divisions from 12 to 11. It appears that they are not aware of the true reason for the temporary decline, but feel it is because their peak and performance were high for a considerable time and the years that have rolled by may have taken their toll, which their rebuilding process will soon re-establish. If it is any consolation to you all, Ted! It happens to the very best of organisations.

Apart from the usual competition, there are the various K.O. Cups to be presented on a formal occasion in May, to the respective winners of the PERCY LAWES, the INTERMEDIATE, the LEWIS, the LAST FOUR, the Under-14 and -17's, the LADIES, the HANDICAP and the VETERANS Cups. The Handicap Pairs and SINGLES events will be held this month at Surrey University, over two days, whilst in March, at the same venue, the SENIOR Individual Tournaments will take place, when 14 trophies will be contested, with great eagerness. Separately, and under the control of John Dickens, the Coaching Officer, the Junior Tournament produces 13 trophies for the next generation, or the next generation but one, depending on one's age.

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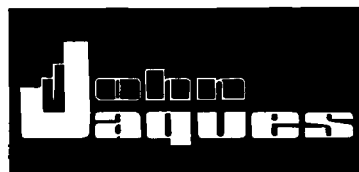
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June 1984 will be the 50th Anniversary of the League, and it is hoped that some form of history of the Association will be produced to mark this auspicious and momentous occasion. While existing records go back to the beginning of the league, historians are eager to hear from anyone about their personal reminiscences of the pre-1945 times. Now come on lads, there must be quite a few of you who are willing and eager to get those stories off your chests! Please contact Ted at 8 Great Goodwin Drive, Guildford, GU1 2TX, or telephone him on Guildford 68013, as soon as possible.

DULWICH

Janice Seabrook reports that they — Lynne Bennett, Tina Holmes and her good self, were thrashed 1-8 by Michelle Williams, Angela Mitchell and Sylvia Tyler of North Middlesex, in the ROSE BOWL trophy, while in the BROMFIELD, when being represented by Lynne Bennett, Karen Heasman and Janet Smith, they were beaten narrowly by BRENTWOOD'S Susan Cole, Lisa Hayden and Tanya Holland — a very promising 11-year-old.

In the local league, JOE KENNEDY, JOHN BURLETON and K. CALDEN, who spearhead IRVING SPORTS 'A', are at the top of Division 1, but Sedgell and Irving Sports 'B' closely follow.

Leading Div. 2A, at the time of writing, is DOG KENNEL HILL 'D', who must keep a close watch on Peckham Manor, Paragon 'A' and Irving Sports 'E'. The barks of DOG KENNEL HILL 'C' are just loud enough to keep Irving Sports 'D', Southwark 'B' and A.E. Club, at bay, in Div. 2B, while PARAGON 'B' seem to be "walking it" in Div. 3, where Dulwich Grove 'C', Southwark 'C' and Dulwich Grove 'D' are fighting for the minor places.

LEATHERHEAD, EPSOM & DISTRICT

In their Newsletter 3, The Honorary Secretary P.R. METERS, thanked Vice-President, Miss MARGARET BRIGGS, for her generous donation of £10 to the league funds, which has effectively sponsored two issues of the Newsletter. Again, at the time of writing, Graham Spicer 1 were leading Fetcham 1 and C.E.R.L.1, in the Premier Division, where R. BHALLA was on 100%, M. HAMMOND 88%, ANDREW SEXTON 86% and JOHN ROBERTS, who must still be travelling from Southampton for the matches, had 77%. Thanks for talking to me at the FOUR T's, John.

BITS AND PIECES

I have accepted the invitation of PETER SIMPSON to attend the next England Training Camp in February, to observe and record what, and how things are done there . . . Will MIKE KERCHER's team — Whitbread, in the London Business Houses survive relegation from the Premier now that three young men — ANDREW SEXTON, NEIL SUTTON and MARTIN JONES have been signed-up . . . TONY FITZGERALD of the Wimbledon YMCA team — THE TOPICS, which also boasts the talents of Mike Loveder and Danny Ola, is looking 'pretty' sharp. Well, it is about time Tony . . . Simon Gray, Ray Munn and Stephen Davis of LARKHALL BEES, have made a very good impression in Wands-worth's Division 1 . . . I hope that you have sent of your entry forms for the SOUTH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR OPEN, at Woking Leisure Centre, on 6/7th Feb., and the ESSEX 3-STAR at Harlow Sports Centre, on 13/14th Feb. . . . Thank you PETE HANCOCK, Secretary/Treasurer of Launceston & District TTA, Cornwall, for your recent letter, in which you state that you admired the behaviour and 'Team Spirit' of our 2nd Junior County Team when they played Cornwall in November. I am hoping that Surrey will be well represented in the Cornish 2-Star Junior Open, in March. I would have entered but my birthday next year, is a little too early . . . Fantastic!! LESLEY POPKIEWICZ's victory in the Final of the Cadet Girls' Singles of the English Junior Closed at Hinckley, last month. Well done too, EMIL . . . Dates to remember in February: Graham Spicer take on MEDWAY in a National League match on Sunday 21st at New Malden; Saturday 27th, our County SENIOR 1st Team play away against Wiltshire, while on the same date, the 2nd SENIORS entertain Suffolk in the evening at Tweeddale. Prior to this, in the afternoon, the 2nd JUNIORS should play Avon. Since the SURREY SCHOOLS Competition is being held over this same weekend, it is hoped that Avon will agree to play this match on the morning of Saturday, 6th Feb. As a bonus both Teams could then play in the South of England Junior Open, later in the day and also on the Sunday . . . After seven years, PETER CORNER received his County badge for his Captaincy of Junior and Senior Teams, during this period. They had to be careful, Peter! No hanging about this time, ROBERT CAMPBELL received his recently,

on the same occasion, after playing in three County matches, as is the requirement . . . It is a great pity that PAUL SMITH finds it difficult to let me have details of the matches the 1st Junior Team plays much quicker than he does. I am not going to bother you Captains of the County teams anymore. I am imposing myself upon you and I will ask you all to accept my apology . . . HAPPY NEW YEAR!

NORWICH UNION ENGLISH OPEN CHINESE TAKEAWAY

In much the same manner as at Thornaby, players from the People's Republic of China swamped the finals of the Norwich Union English Open winning all seven titles at stake, the major one — the men's singles — by Teng Yi who, it will be recalled, was the losing finalist at Brighton in 1978 when beaten by Li Zhenshi. On this occasion he beat compatriot Jiang Jialiang.

Winner of the women's singles was Chen Lili with a final victory over Dai Lili. Teng Yi and Fan Changmao won the men's doubles, Chen Jieling and Dai Lili took the women's doubles and Chen Xinhua and Chen Lili the mixed.

In the team events China II beat China I (men) and China II beat China I (women) to complete a sorry story for Europe which will be duly told in the February issue.

COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Australia, Bangladesh, Canada, England, Hong Kong, India, Malaysia, Mauritius, New Zealand, Pakistan and Scotland with, possibly, Kenya and Singapore, are the countries to have indicated their interest in participating in the 6th Commonwealth Championships from Feb. 3-9, 1982. The venue for the Championships will be the palatial Cricket Club of India, in the heart of Bombay.

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PETER CORNER is seen receiving his County Badge from CHARLIE BOURNE, President of Surrey TTA. Peter has been a non-playing Captain for Surrey for at least seven years, is the mentor of GRAHAM SPICER CLUB, and the current County Coach Administrator.



Welsh Corner

by H. ROY EVANS

DISRUPTIVE ELEMENTS

Snow, so attractive on Christmas Cards, but so disruptive to sporting events, also had its effect on Welsh Table Tennis activities during December.

Following national policy, one of our European League matches was played in North Wales, but one hardly expected that Colwyn Bay would see more snow than in living memory, or that the whole travel systems of the country would suffer so badly.

The Llandudno League and Roy Williams had worked hard to produce a virtual sell-out at the Colwyn Bay Leisure Centre, and taking the Spaniards to the North Wales coast didn't seem to promise such cold for the sun-loving players of a team doing well in Division Two of the European League.

But the week-end of Dec. 12 turned out otherwise, and there were plenty of mishaps before the match was finally played.

Most of the Welsh team come from the South, and it was almost as much of an away match for them. It took nine and half hours of snow and freezing fog for the main Welsh party to get to the Rhos Abbey Hotel in Rhos-on-Sea. The Spaniards, who were due to arrive on Friday evening, didn't turn up at all and we weren't too surprised as Heathrow and Manchester Airports were closed and trains indefinitely delayed.

Len Elias was waiting patiently at Manchester Airport most of Saturday, whilst others beat a path through the snow to the railway station where trains turned up from anywhere at any time.

But no news at all from the Spaniards, lead by Laszlo Stipek, twice World doubles title holder with Ivan Andreadis, who during his non-playing captaincy in Peru and Spain probably never had to include snow and ice in his problems. A good crowd of enthusiasts had turned up despite the atrocious weather, and the Mayor and her party were all waiting. So we put on an exhibition match which went down well with a very indulgent audience. Then followed the civic reception, and just when we'd all reached a happy state of relaxation, the Spanish team arrived!

We had arranged to play the match late, if necessary, even up to mid-night, and first thoughts were that it might be a good idea to play the Spaniards before they thawed out! In the event it was just as well we didn't, as the snow came down harder that night, and many spectators, including the Mayor, may not have got home. As it was, it soon became evident that there was no way either the Spanish or the Welsh teams were going to start off home on Sunday afternoon. So we played the match in a smaller but perfectly adequate hall at the Leisure Centre, the main hall being committed already to other activities.

We beat Spain last time we played them in the European League, but this was a team of much more experience, Jose Pales, their brilliant junior, now developing into

a mature senior of more than average promise. Caymel is stronger at No. 2, and their girls Pilar Lupon and Monserrat Sanahuja are stronger now. In fact Spain are expecting to challenge Norway for promotion to Division 1. But Wales gave them as many anxious moments as the weather did!

Alan Griffiths got the Welsh off to a good start with a convincing win over Caymel. But then Nigel Thomas felt the full force of the Pales backhand, a full-blooded drive around which Pales has built his game. One-all, and then soon two-one to Spain when Lesley Tyler found Pilar Lupon much too good for her.

The watershed in the match came next when Alan and Nigel lost a nail-biting doubles to Pales and Caymel, -23, -20. The frustration of this so near and yet so far doubles came when Nigel and Lesley produced a fine mixed win over Pales and Monserrat Sanahuja.

Now only 2-3 down, and with Nigel to play Caymel last, both Brian Everson and Laszlo Stipek were biting their nails when Griffiths faced Pales. It was a fine set, with many great points, victory going narrowly to the Spanish No. 1, whose backhand and greater strength of shot Alan found hard to contain. So Spain had won, and the last set between Nigel and Caymel was different from what it might have been, for the Spaniard was now relaxed, and played better than did the disappointed Nigel.

Both teams spent the rest of Sunday in the warm and comfortable hotel, the Spaniards setting out mid-morning on Monday by rail, whilst the South Wales contingent spent another seven hours getting home!

SCORES

Griffiths bt Caymel 11, 10;
lost to Pales -17, 20, -18.

Thomas lost to Pales -15, -19;
lost to Caymel 20, -17, -18.

Tyler lost to Lupon -12, -16.

Griffiths/Thomas lost to Pales/Caymel
-23, -20.

Thomas/Tyler bt Pales/Sanahuja 11, 18.

The National League

The weather took toll of Butterfly Cardiff's programme, too. Dec. 27 is hardly the most convenient day on which to play an important match, and it so happened that Butterfly, so far unbeaten, expected Dunlop Sports Birmingham to provide the hardest obstacle so far. However, the snow intervened again, and a hurried consultation on Sunday morning with Maurice Goldstein resulted in the match being called off.

Lansdown Medway were Butterfly's last victims. It wasn't a great match at the National Sports Centre in Cardiff, but there was rarely any doubt of Butterfly's eventual success. Nigel Thomas beat Paul Namdjou and Clive Morris. Mark Thomas beat Namdjou and Brown, whilst George Evans accounted for Ling, but surprisingly went down to Namdjou. Tony Healan wasn't up to his usual form, and lost to Brown, but beat Ling.

Cranfield Colours maintained their share of second place in Div. 3 with a shaky win over Gillette Reading at Cwmbran.

Brian Jeanes and Gary Wilkins put the Gwent side in a strong position with outstanding wins over Fullerton and Stokes respectively. John Bloomer then went down to Michael Childs, but Andrew Evans lengthened the Cranfield lead by beating Simon Rowland. But Cranfield faltered, Jeanes lost concentration and his set to Stokes. Wilkins also looked as if he were suffering a reaction, but after losing the first to Rowland, he won the next two.

Bloomer completed an unhappy day by losing in the third to Fullerton, so that the Cranfield lead was reduced to 4-3. But

Angie Evans was equal to the occasion, and his two straight win over sixteen-year-old Michael Childs brought a 5-3 Cranfield win.

YORKSHIRE 2-STAR OPEN

YOUNG PRETENDERS

by Rea Balmford

It was success for the home county in the finals of the Yorkshire Open at Featherstone Sports Centre on Dec. 6 with Sheffield's Steve Mills, steadily making his way up the National Ranking Lists, defeating title holder Dave Constance in a tight final and women's champion Melody Hill retaining her crown with a win over Anita Stevenson after dropping the first game.

Thus both top seeds came out winners, but the two personalities of the event were undoubtedly two of the young invaders from across the Pennines — Cheshire's Mark Hankey who has been there or thereabouts for some little while now, and young Lancastrian Steve Scowcroft, presently powering his way towards the top.

Every credit must go to this pair who contested the final of the C2XS as well as playing on opposite sides in the MD final. Scowcroft played with hardly a break from mid-afternoon until the end of the finals session, while Hankey got little more rest, but both played to this demanding schedule with never a grumble. Thank you, lads, and well done!

At the other end of a career in our sport, it was good to see the evergreen Derek Schofield, a little thinner on top, but as competitive as ever, enjoying a good run in the Class 2, where he reached the semi before giving best to Scowcroft.

The MS finalists took their places at the expense of — yes, you've guessed it — Scowcroft and Hankey — for this was the end of the road for the two pretenders, both going out in straight games to the England-ranked men.

Disappointing feature was the failure of no less than three seeds — Anwar Majid, Phil Bowen and Paul Namdjou — to put in an appearance without the courtesy of a phone call to the organizers.

In the Women's Singles good wins for Suzanne Hunt and Julie Speight over the seeded Karen Smith and Jill Harris respectively and a Women's Doubles success for Doreen Schofield and young Karen Burrows over second seeded Melody Hill/Helen Shields, a result which let in Harris/Speight for the title.

Shock of the Men's Doubles was the defeat of top seeds Mills/Constance in the quarters by Brian Carney (Lancs) and D. Kenefick, another of the Welsh contingent who also created an impression in the singles events, but, with the other seeded spots decimated by non-starters, Hankey and Malcolm Green came through from the top place in the second half to take the title.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

S. Mills (Y) bt S. Scowcroft (La) 9, 17;

D. Constance (Do) bt M. Hankey (Ch) 14, 15.

Final:

MILLS bt Constance 18, 19.

Women's Singles Final:

M. HILL (Y) bt A. Stevenson (Le) -14, 17, 17.

Class 2 Semi-finals:

Hankey bt M. Illingsworth (Y) 22, 12;

Scowcroft bt D. Schofield (Ch) 21, 16.

Final:

HANKEY bt Scowcroft 8, 17.

Men's Doubles Final:

HANKEY/M. GREEN (Sp) bt Scowcroft/
P. D'Arcy (Ch) 10, 11.

Women's Doubles Final:

J. HARRIS (St)/J. Speight (Y) bt

A. Stevenson/L. Smith (Y) 18, 12.

Obituary

DUDLEY WARGRAVE POUPARD

1900 - 1981

D. W. (known to all as 'John') Poupard, the senior Vice-President of the ETTA passed away peacefully in Tiverton Hospital on Thursday, 5th November 1981 after a long period of illness borne with great courage and fortitude.

John commenced his table tennis life in or about 1924 as Secretary of a Manchester table tennis club and in May 1930 at the AGM held at the George Hotel, Strand, London, was elected Hon. General Secretary of the ETTA. He held office for two years during which time he re-organised the administration and made some valuable contributions in developing the game including the introduction of a "Secretary's News Letter" which ultimately led to the publishing of an official table tennis magazine and assisted in the revision of the constitution of the Association. In reading the Minutes of the AGM at which John was appointed, two items were recorded which today makes fascinating reading. One was the new Hon. General Secretary obtaining permission to engage a typist at a cost not exceeding £1 per week. The other was the meeting accepting the offer of Messrs. Montagu, Bunbury, Poupard, Pope and Vint to act as joint guarantors to Lloyds Bank against a bank overdraft on the ETTA account to the extent of £25!

In December 1931 the late Mr. John Jaques invited him to become the Sales Manager of his Company which he accepted and consequently resigned his secretarial position with the ETTA and was elected a Vice-President in 1932, a post he held until his death.

In his new post John maintained a continuance of active interest in all phases of the game. In the 1930 years two World Championships (1935 and 1938) were organised in England when John and his wife Dorrie played their part in the organising work, particularly in the handling of ticket sales prior to and during the Championships, which in those days was no mean task. Similar help was forthcoming at a number of pre-war English Open Championships which was a task few people were prepared to undertake.

For a considerable period of time the Jaques table was used in the majority of championships and tournaments when John was always ready to give practical help to all organisers in providing tables, arranging transportation and setting up lighting facilities. The high standard of equipment in use at tournaments in the early days of the Association was largely due to the expertise of John Jaques aided by John Poupard in developing to a high degree of efficiency the manufacturing side of the business.

To perpetuate the memory of Leslie Forrest of Yorkshire, a stalwart of the County Championships, in 1961 a trophy was presented by the late John Jaques and John Poupard to be awarded annually to an administrator judged by an Awards Committee to have rendered the greatest contribution to table tennis in the county field.

John retired from business in 1966 to Devonshire where he devoted himself to many interests. One in which he took a keen delight was to collect used British and foreign stamps, catalogue, mount on sheets and display them for sale at the Tiverton Museum for the benefit of their funds.

To Dorrie, his wife and son Michael, we extend our heartfelt sympathy in the great loss they have sustained and we offer our thanksgiving for a man who not only worked well for the Association and the game but throughout his business life contributed much to the well being of table tennis.

A.K.V.



JOHN POUPARD

This photograph of the late John Poupard is reproduced from a copy of Table Tennis Illustrated, dated December 1931 at which time John Poupard held the position of Hon. General Secretary of the English Table Tennis Association.

but deserved 20, 17 win over local rival Jean Allinson, to bring her a sixth successive County singles success.

However, although the Firsts are much improved, it would appear that Shropshire already has designs on Division 3C honours, and it is the Juniors who appear to have the better chance of topping a County Championship table, after a fourth win in a row, with Oxfordshire providing the 6-4 victims.

The boys' section is the main strength of the side, and although Steve Kendall lost his first set of the season against Oxfordshire, the thoughtfulness of Ian Hawes and the continued emergence of Graeme McKim ensured a victory despite the failures of Jane Nicoll, and Donna Furniss on her debut, after the pair had played a surprisingly promising opening doubles.

Meanwhile the Veterans are struggling in their present company, although Alan Print gained his first County win in the 8-1 defeat by Notts, when he outhit the Notts No. 2 before Cliff Bull almost made it two, when he reached a winning position, before missing out in the closing stages.

A Motorway pile-up in freezing fog barred the route to Kettering for Keystone's commuting northern stars, and led to a late call-up for Keystone's local resources against Corby Town 'A'. Ian Baldock responded superbly, but his hat-trick was not enough to prevent Keystone from ending the first half of the season as they had begun, with a defeat. Nevertheless Keystone lead Kettering's Premier Division from Rothborough 'C' and Kettering Town 'A', who earlier in the week had ironically failed to fulfil their crucial match.

Latest League Positions and Averages

	P	W	D	L	P
Keystone	11	9	0	2	88
Rothborough 'C'	10	9	0	1	78
Wellingborough Town 'A' ..	11	7	1	3	73
Kettering Town 'A'	10	8	0	2	72
Rothborough 'A'	11	6	1	4	67

In the Wellingborough League's Premier Division, Burton Britannia lead, but Chapman's and EMEB, both with a game in hand, look better placed, and Rushden WMC 'A', who have already beaten Britannia, also have the ability to upset the other leading contenders.

The Northampton League, despite its ample resources, seems to be going through a difficult time, with two of the YMCA's strong sides now having withdrawn from the Premier Division, but this state of affairs has not prevented an entertaining Willmot Cup clash with Birmingham from taking place at the Abington Community Centre.

In this, the nationally-ranked Barry Johnson and Barry Hayward, with the aid of a combination bat, proved too versatile for Brian Wooding, Graeme McKim and Ashley Bennett, although Wooding's defeat 17 and 15 to Johnson was a commendable achievement, while a similar verdict at "deuce" in the decider against Lester Bertie produced some spectacular rallies, in the most entertaining set of the day. Earlier Bennett had prevented a clean sweep by beating Bertie -18, 16, 18, with some fine services and third ball 'kills', which must make him a future contender for the County ranks.

Dennis Millman reports from ...

NORTHANTS

EASY WIN

Although Gary Alden was not at his best, and fell narrowly to Keith Willett, excellent displays from Steve Lyon, Mandy Wallis and Dorothy Marsh gave Northants an easy win against Huntingdonshire in the latest series of County Championship matches.

Alden had earlier won his opening singles, and after Keith Nicoll had also been shaded by the impressive Willett, he took part in the best set of the night, when he eventually hit through a defensive Roy Norton. Meanwhile Mandy Wallis continued her unbeaten run at this level, with a narrow

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS THE LAST WORD

by DONALD PARKER,
ETTA Staff Coach

A lot has been said and written since the European Youth Championships in Topolcany which is not too surprising as they were one of the most successful championships England has ever had. Numerous hypotheses have been put forward as to the reasons for the results, ranging from the outstanding ability of our current batch of Juniors to the other extreme, that I have heard from certain quarters, of luck! What I would like to do in this article is examine the reasons for the good performances of our players and hopefully convince people that it was not luck.

The squad of eleven players all distinguished themselves without exception but particularly outstanding were Carl Prean and Billy Gleave in the Cadet Team Event with the latter reaching the final of the singles. Lisa Bellinger and Sue Collier also did well in the Cadet Girls' Team Event; John Souter throughout the championships; and finally Joy Grundy in achieving a quite superb record in the team events and then winning a bronze medal in the singles.

Performances such as these are not produced by a two-week training camp prior to the championships but by thorough preparation throughout the whole season with the final camp sharpening everyone's game and hopefully making them play to their full potential.

The first people to be congratulated are obviously the players and then their respective coaches/parents who take them around the country to the tournaments and, between tournaments, arrange coaching and training sessions. For most people this is an incredible time and money consuming activity and they have my utmost admiration for their unceasing dedication to the game. Some parents may treat it as a profession, some within the parental role of giving their children the best possible chance. Whatever the motive English table tennis would be in a very poor state without them. Indeed I hope for the parents and coaches of the players who played in Topolcany that the successes of their players made all of it worthwhile.

Throughout last season the Juniors had several training camps, which gave them the opportunity for some concentrated first class practice, and myself the opportunity to assess how well I felt they would fare in European competition. Should a player require slight modifications made to his or her game then this is the ideal situation in which to make such, obviously in consultation with the player's coach. Of those who played in Topolcany there was, at that time, a very good working relationship between the players' coaches and ETTA Coaches and this I feel was also a contributing factor towards the success.

There is no doubt that within the squad there are some very fortunate highly-talented individuals. However, this talent has to be produced at the right time and indeed this was the role of the final pre-European Training Camp. The main aim of any pre-competition camp is that when the players leave they are playing at their best and that they are mentally prepared for ten days competition or whatever and maintain their form for that duration.

I do not think that anyone would disagree with the statement that the better the players you play against, up to a certain point, the better it is for sharpening up your

game. Any weak services or receives and any negative play are quickly exploited by top players and indeed this was the case when the Juniors practiced with the Seniors.

UNEQUALLED

During the last five days of the camp, for two hours each day, the Juniors practiced against the Seniors in match play situations. Jill Hammersley was present throughout the whole camp to give the Juniors practice against backspin and, in fact, when John Hilton arrived we had two European champions to practice against. I know for a fact that the quality of the opposition for our Juniors was unequalled by any other country and for that I would like to thank Peter Simpson and all his squad. Again I feel that this was a contributing factor towards the squad's success and it was the first time that such extensive high quality practice has been available in the fifteen years that I have been involved either as a player or coach.

All the squad had had previous experience in European competition and therefore between us we had a good idea of the areas that needed to be worked on. Considerable time was spent with the Prean/Gleave, Bellinger / Collier and Parker / Grundy doubles combinations because of the constitution of their respective team events and as the former pair were unbeaten in the Team events it appears in retrospect to have been time well spent. I feel sure that once the Prean/Gleave combination reproduces this form domestically it will be very difficult to beat even by the leading Seniors.

The arrival time in Topolcany left a lot to be desired and was far from ideal but at least it gave the players thirty hours to prepare themselves. While this is insufficient it is still the longest I can remember and therefore a step in the right direction. Indeed all our teams were successful in their initial matches but to give the players the best possible chance of playing at their peak a little more time is required. I was very pleased to see all our players, without being prompted too often, used the practice hall frequently and prepared themselves well — a habit which can be attributed to the education they received from their various coaches in England.

Gleaves' success lay in the fact that he 'twiddled' well, played positive throughout and with his deceptive spins made it very difficult for his opponents to read him. Throughout the team events and up to the final of the singles he won every set 2-straight and then in the final when it was close he found himself in an alien situation and one his opponent was very familiar with. Prean played extremely well in the team events and was unlucky to lose the one set that he did — 19 in the third. He won extremely vital close games against Czech and Russian opponents and when the pressure was really on he played positive strokes including backhand topspins with his reverse rubber, a stroke he has really developed with his coach.

A major factor in favour of Gleave and Prean is that they both give 100% and never give in. Indeed, Prean played in the individual event with a chipped bone in his playing hand. Both these players use combination bats and to be this successful with such a bat requires a deep understanding of what these bats can do by both player and coach.

These two players are fortunate in having two coaches who have developed their techniques along the correct lines.

John Souter's key to success was that he won six out of six 'deuce' in the third games. This was not due to luck, but by John continuing to go for his shots and his opponents, on several occasions, playing safe. This requires a strong mental approach to the game and the ability to make winners, which is exactly what John did.

OUTSTANDING

Joy Grundy's performance was outstanding and hopefully one she will be able to reproduce at Senior level. She played a game the continentals were not too familiar with in that she used the slow heavy topspin quite frequently and when the ball is not coming on to the bat quickly a lot of foreigners are lost.

Lisa Bellinger showed all the qualities of an outstanding international player in that she based her game around defence but had the ability to put away any loose balls with a very good hit. When she played a player, good against her style, she adapted well and attacked more frequently depending upon necessity.

The team spirit within the squad was extremely high and when it did not interfere with preparation the players would support each other. The parents and umpires certainly made their presence felt and the whole spirit of the squad was lifted by the support they received, albeit from the "Leper Colony". With very strict officials the parents from any country were not allowed in the arena unless they were present in an official capacity and with an official pass.

However, this in no way interfered with the support our supporters gave us. With only two captains, Peter Simpson and myself, it was impossible to spend any time anywhere other than with the players and therefore I would like to thank all our supporters for the excellent job they did in enhancing team spirit. Indeed, the evening before the rest day the English umpires took the players out to a restaurant for an excellent meal. Such a meal at this stage of the championships was important as some players had been a little apprehensive of Czech canteen food and the squad were all back at the hostel by 10.30 p.m. and so did not lose out on sleep.

Both Cadet teams had two rest days while the two Junior teams had only one. But on the last day of the team events they had a relatively easy day with only one match. As the players practiced on the first of the two rest days it was decided on the official rest day to take the whole squad away from the hostel to relax in a suitable environment. We left at 9.30 a.m. and returned at 5 p.m. and spent the day relaxing in the shade, with skin covered to prevent any chance of sunburn, by a pool in some woodland.

CHIPPED BONE

The Germans challenged us to a game of football but we felt that this was not desirable and instead the Germans played against Sweden. In the individual events the only player who did not play as well or better than expected was Prean who, unknown to us at the time, was playing, as already mentioned, with a chipped bone and so it appears the rest day was beneficial to all.

There was a problem with having only two captains as there were on several occasions three players playing at the same time. Therefore one captain was having to fluctuate between two. A good example of this was when Peter Simpson, as girls' captain, was looking after one of his charges, coincident with Gleave and Prean playing in the second round of the Cadet singles. Gleave, in fact, changed ends with one of the players advising him while Prean played the first ten points of his game with no captain as I had to move between the two.

Accusations that in this or any similar situations the captains 'bottled' are, I feel, a little unjust, and possibly a more accurate accusation would be that the captains were not in two places at the same time and this, I would agree, Peter and I were guilty of. Obviously though, two captains is not a desirable situation but one that the current financial situation forces upon us and I feel sure than in better times we will be able

to overcome the problems by sending a third coach.

It was a little disappointing to see the event receive so little publicity in the national newspapers in England especially after the hard work John Oakley, a press reporter, did in 'phoning from Topolcany.

Throughout this article I have mentioned some of the more important factors that I feel contributed to the overall success and I end with listing them:-

- 1 Extremely dedicated Parents/Coaches.
- 2 Close liaison between individual coaches and ETTA coaches.
- 3 Quality of practice on pre-European Training Camp.
- 4 Natural talent.
- 5 Effective use of combination bats.
- 6 Careful preparation.
- 7 Very high team spirit combined with the excellent support received from parents and umpires.

These are listed in no set order of priority and, of course there are other points which would over stretch this article. What I do hope this article achieves is to dampen down the conclusions of various cynics that it was luck that brought home the medals and scalps. Instead it was the efforts of dedicated players, parents and coaches.

Junior and Cadet Rankings

In addition to the first computer ranking list released by Lentec in respect of seniors the first sets of rankings appertaining to juniors and cadets have also been released by the Coventry-based company.

Carl Prean heads both the boys' and cadet boys' lists whilst the girls' list is headed by Lisa Bellinger and the cadet girls' by Lesley Popkiewicz. The new rankings with positions as at June 30th last in brackets are:

- Boys**
- 1 Carl Prean (IOW) (3)
 - 2 Adrian Moore (Sx) (5)
 - 3 Billy Gleave (Ch) (21)
 - 4 Alan Cooke (Dy) (9)
 - 5 Nicky Hoare (Sy) (10)
 - 6 David Dodd (K) (18)
 - 7 Lindsay Taylor (Cv) (14)
 - 8 Raymond Namdjou (K) (16)
 - 9 Steven Dettmar (E) (24)
 - 10 Andrew Sexton (Sy) (20)
 - 11 Iain Fullerton (Bk) (15)
 - 12 Philip Gunn (Wa) (27)
 - 13 Steven Sharpe (Y) (25)
 - 14 Paul Jackson (Av) (30)
 - 15 Gary Lambert (Dv) (—)
 - 16 Michael O'Leary (Mi) (32)
 - 17 Michael Hammond (Sy) (26)
 - 18 Darren Griffin (Gs) (29)
 - 19 Shaun Browne (La) (—)
 - 20 Jeremy Duffield (Wo) (11)
 - 21 David Rook (Y) (—)
 - 22 David Illingsworth (Y) (23)
 - 23 David Rudge (Wa) (—)
 - 24 Mark Werner (Do) (—)
 - 25 Stuart Worrall (Li) (28)
 - 26 Peter Hayden (E) (—)
 - 27 Mark Ellett (Dv) (—)
 - 28 Eddie Gorniak (Mi) (—)
 - 29 Darren McVitie (Du) (—)
 - 30 Roderick Lewis (Wa) (—)
 - 31 Jeffrey Thatcher (Y) (—)
 - 32 Michael Thomas (We) (—)
 - 33 David Dewsbury (Sy) (—)
 - 34 Andrew Dixon (St) (—)
 - 35 Philip Cole (Hu) (—)
 - 36 Colin Luscombe (Bd) (—)
 - 37 Gary Wilson (Dv) (—)
 - 38 Paul Sayer (E) (—)
 - 39 Richard Whiteley (Y) (—)
 - 40 Julian Wheel (Ca) (—)
 - 41 Keith Samuels (He) (—)
 - 42 Ian Doughty (Bd) (—)
 - 43 David Sharpe (Bd) (—)

- 44 Gerry Bonner (Sx) (—)
- 45 Paul Ashcroft (La) (—)
- 46 Phillip Logsdon (Nk) (—)
- 47 Andrew Dodd (K) (—)
- 48 Lionel Faure (Sy) (—)
- 49 Richard Hayward (St) (—)
- 50 Alan Longhurst (K) (—)

- Girls**
- 1 Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (2)
 - 2 Jean Parker (La) (3)
 - 3 Jackie Bellinger (Bd) (4)
 - 4 Helen Bardwell (He) (8)
 - 5 Susan Collier (Bk) (14)
 - 6 Melanie Seaton (Y) (9)
 - 7 Nina Tsakarisianos (Gs) (12)
 - 8 Josette Ryalls (Y) (11)
 - 9 Tracy Lightfoot (Ch) (22)
 - 10 Lesley Broomhead (Y) (18)
 - 11 Christine Peacock (La) (—)
 - 12 Fiona Elliot (St) (21)
 - 13 Vicki Bellingham (St) (20)
 - 14 Nikki Hamilton (Bu) (24)
 - 15 Michelle Williams (Mi) (17)
 - 16 Teresa Moore (Sx) (—)
 - 17 Laura Goldsmith (Mi) (—)
 - 18 Mary Denbow (Ox) (19)
 - 19 Julie Dimmock (Bd) (—)
 - 20 Michelle Hams (Sy) (—)
 - 21 Amanda Judd (Ca) (—)
 - 22 Rebecca Russe (Av) (25)
 - 23 Jeanine Smith (He) (—)
 - 24 Thuy Dung To (Dy) (—)
 - 25 Jacqueline Myers (La) (—)
 - 26 Rachel Roberts (St) (—)
 - 27 Alison Boxall (He) (—)
 - 28 Ruth Hunter (Ca) (—)
 - 29 Joanne Shaw (Y) (—)
 - 30 Lisa Hayden (E) (—)

- Cadet Boys**
- 1 Carl Prean (IOW) (1)
 - 2 Martin Firth (Y) (10)
 - 3 Andrew Syed (Bk) (17)
 - 4 Murray Jukes (Wo) (13)
 - 5 Jimmy Stokes (Bk) (16)
 - 6 Stuart Craggs (Cv) (14)
 - 7 Adrian Dixon (St) (18)
 - 8 David Williams (Sp) (23)
 - 9 Andrew Cunningham (K) (20)
 - 10 Mark Randle (Wa) (—)
 - 11 Richard Hayward (St) (19)
 - 12 Andrew Henry (Dy) (—)
 - 13 Tony Suggett (Cv) (—)
 - 14 Sean Groom (Sp) (21)
 - 15 Matthew Syed (Bk) (24)
 - 16 Martyn Campbell (Wa) (—)
 - 17 Jonathan Goode (Mi) (—)

- 18 Mark James (Co) (—)
- 19 Paul Savins (Bk) (—)
- 20 Paul Brown (Cv) (—)
- 21 Colin Hogarth (La) (—)
- 22 Kevin King (E) (—)
- 23 Wayne Harrison (Ch) (—)
- 24 Paul Bumpus (Le) (—)
- 25 Rodney Thomas (Do) (—)
- 26 Tony West (St) (—)
- 27 Adrian Hough (St) (—)
- 28 Paul Andrews (Bk) (—)
- 29 Russell Thompson (Y) (—)
- 30 Ian Sharp (Cu) (—)

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

GOLDEN WONDER

Hundreds of table tennis enthusiasts flocked to Northampton on Jan. 9 to watch the top 100 players in the county competing for 11 major titles. Golden Wonder was for the second year running sponsoring the Northamptonshire County TTA's annual tournament which took place at Lings Forum, Weston Favell. There were six senior and five junior individual and doubles trophies to be won.

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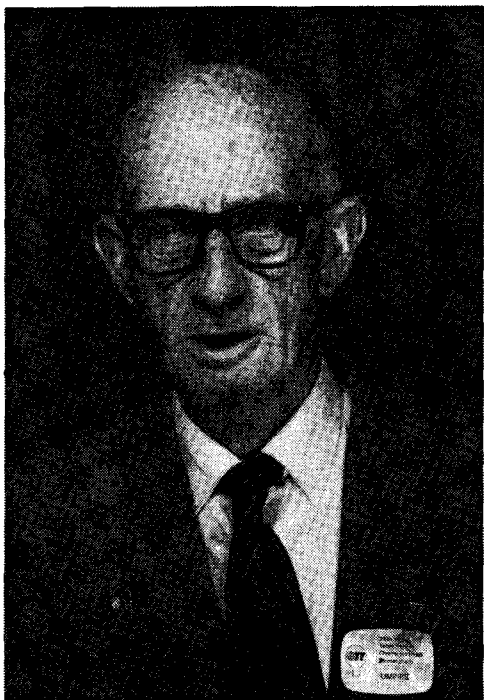
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SPOTLIGHT ON . . . EDDIE BROWN



by LES D'ARCY

How long can a player expect to play table tennis at tournament level and enjoy it? Derek Schofield, Peter D'Arcy, Matt Sheader, Geoff Brook and you probably know of a dozen more veterans in the 40-55 age group who never seem to lose their enthusiasm.

Norman Lusher of Harrogate, in his early sixties, plays for the town's vets, but how many 70-year-olds will be travelling round the tournaments in 1982? I know of only one. A gentleman sportsman, seventy years young, Eddie Brown of Manchester, who for almost six decades has achieved a combined playing record and contribution to table tennis which may never be equalled, for he is still going strong.

I met Eddie for the first time at the West Yorkshire Open last November. We were both taking part, but in addition Eddie was umpiring and selling the E.T.T.A. Magazine. Geoff Scruton, the Yorkshire TTA Chairman, introduced me to Eddie and I knew immediately that I was speaking to someone very special.

At the Yorkshire 2-Star at Featherstone in December, Derek Schofield, former England-ranked No. 6 and non-playing captain, was full of praise for Eddie who he said had taught him to play and was known to practice until 2 a.m. in the morning. Terry Donlon, Derek's doubles partner, was equally enthusiastic about a man who has become a living legend in both Cheshire and Lancashire. Not only had their friend overcome the handicap of advancing years, but also that of partial blindness in one eye as well.

Eddie's first game of table tennis was on Christmas Day, 1923, after dinner on the dining table at the home of his aunt. As a result he received a table tennis set for his 12th birthday the following month. Later on, in 1926, he joined the Boys' Brigade, where they played on top of a full-size billiards table covered with boards.

In 1934 he joined St. Andrew's and played his first match for their second team in Division 2 of the Stockport League in

October at St. Augustine's, Cheadle Heath where they played by gas light. The following season he was promoted to the first team in Div. 1 where he easily held his own.

Graded C3, he was not 'called up' and got plenty of practice during the war and became club secretary of St. Andrew's in 1944 until 1952. His best season was immediately after the war when he finished up with 80% in Stockport and, in 1946, became club champion. In 1950 Eddie joined Gatley YMCA and played for their 2nd team in Div. 4 of the Manchester League, gaining promotion to Div. 3 in only two years.

Although still retaining his membership of St. Andrew's he signed on for Ravens 2nd in 1952 who finished runners-up in Div. 2. In 1953 he began a 7 years stint with Gatley YMCA in the Stockport League whilst playing for Ladybarn House "B" in the Manchester League. This meant playing in Div. 4 again but eventually promotion was gained to Div. 1. When the Ladybarn club disbanded in 1960, Eddie rejoined Gatley Y.M., again in Div. 4, for two seasons maintaining membership of Ravens until 1966 when the team players all joined St. Andrew's.

Eddie became secretary of St. Andrew's in 1961 remaining in office until 1981. In 1973 his team lost their premises at St. Andrew's and amalgamated with a small club Wynnstay who played at the Waterloo Hotel, Wythenshawe, 2 miles away. After four years they returned to Levenshulme at the neighbouring church of St. Mark's for another four years, finally disbanding in 1981.

Eddie also played for his works team, Massee-Ferguson Ltd., from 1958 to 1974 in the Sale League and occasionally turned out for ICI in the Hyde League. He played three times for Stockport, the first time in 1946 at Radcliffe, a friendly, and later against Blackpool in a Lancs and Ches League match. "They were one short and I was in charge that night" was Eddie's comment.

Although Eddie's successes at league level are not as significant as at the bigger tournaments they are still worth noting: Stockport League: 1948 men's singles semi-finalist; 1956, '57 and '59 veterans' finalist. Manchester League: 1957 veterans' winner. Sale League: 1965 men's singles semi-finalist; 1968 veterans' finalist.

His first open tournament was in 1947 — the North of England, and he has entered it every year since, 36 times in total (is this a record?). He has entered the Lancashire Open 32 times, the Yorkshire Open (29), Pontefract Open (26). Twice he has played in the English Open and countless are the other tournaments he has entered.

The best players he has played against are Richard Bergmann, Ferenc Sido and Johnny Leach, all ex-world champions. He has also done battle with Hagenauer of France and Aubrey Simons, Derek Burr ridge, Laurie Landry, Mike Johns, John Hilton, Donald Parker and Nigel Eckersley.

Eddie became Match Sec. for Stockport in 1949 for 2½ seasons, Competitions Sec. in 1953 for one season and then Match Sec. again in 1954 until 1980 when he was presented with a television set by the member clubs. In 1964 he received the Sharples Merit Award. In 1954 Eddie became Magazine Sec. for the Manchester League and eventually for Lancs and Cheshire.

He passed his test as a County Umpire at the English Open when it was held at Belle Vue, Manchester in 1956. Since then he has regularly umpired at Cheshire matches also the Quadrangular tournaments at Preston when England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales descended on Atkinson Vehicles, Walton-le-Dale.

At the World Championships in Birmingham's NEC in 1977 Eddie was once again in action and appeared on the TV coverage of

the event. In 1980 at the Pontefract Open he was presented with a pewter tankard in acknowledgement of having entered the event 25 times.

Originally Eddie played with a wooden bat, and then a hard-rubber bat at St. Andrew's. Whilst playing at Gatley, Harry Jones, their secretary, said Eddie should play with a thick sponge bat, "He wanted to sell his own" was Eddie's dry comment. However, he did not like Harry's bat but took advice and bought one which he used until sponge was banned. When sandwich bats were legalised he changed over again and now plays with Mark V rubber.

In his career to date Eddie has won the following veterans' singles titles: Yorkshire Open (1955, 56), Manchester Closed (1957), North of England (1957), Lancashire Open (1959) and Pontefract (1961).

Asked if anything unusual had happened to him in his table tennis career, Eddie replied "I have always been regarded as a lucky player and whilst I was playing for Gatley YMCA in a Manchester League match in the early '60's I got quite a few nets and edges and my opponent got so annoyed that he threw his bat at me. Fortunately I ducked in time, and the bat hit the wall behind me. Needless to say I won the set and was quite amused. Terry Donlon didn't do that even when playing a veteran from Yorkshire with a "funny bat" who hit eight winning nets against him in the vets semi-final at this season's West Yorks Open".

We hope that you will continue to be as lucky, Eddie, as all your friends are on both sides of the Pennines, and beyond, who have had the privilege of knowing you. See you at the Pontefract Open!

Geoff Harrower Trophy

The International Table Tennis Club of England has awarded this annual Trophy to George Yates, Deputy Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association, for season 1981-82.

The Officers and Committee of the Club were unanimous in this selection for an award that is given each season for services to Table Tennis in any field. In the case of George, not only has he been an able administrator involved in many aspects of the sport but also as Editor of Table Tennis News, he has been able to spread the message of the game with all the 'News and Views' and encouraged members from all parts of the country to put pen to paper.

The International Club is proud to be able to announce George Yates as this season's recipient in succession to John Hilton.

N.B. The above Trophy is named in memory of Geoff Harrower who was the founder of the Club in 1964 and was also a Life Member of the E.T.T.A. He was an international player and non-playing captain as well as an administrator of the highest calibre and a much respected journalist.

Laurie Landry,
Hon. Sec., International Club.

On The Move

For the first time in 53 years Phil Reid has moved house and now resides at 21 Newcombe Road, Braunstone, Leicester LE3 1EQ. 'Phone: Leicester 824654.

As from January 1, 1982 Martin Foulser previously with Stiga AB will be working from 113 Addison Road, Caterham on the Hill, Surrey CR2 5LW ('Phone: 0883-45732) as Marketing Director of L. Lenton & Co. Ltd. whose brand name is, of course, LENTEC.

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

Mary Rose and
Ray Barton report from . . .

WARWICKSHIRE

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS CAMPAIGN

A training injury wrecked Birmingham's Duggie Johnson wrecked Warwickshire's County Championships campaign. The accident happened the night before he was due to leave with the County squad for Walthamstow for the first of the Premier Division weekends.

Duggie was training with his brother Barry, also a squad member, when he went over on his ankle causing a bad sprain. As a result Warwicks were left with Barry Hayward, Barry Johnson, Lester Bertie and Karen Groves for three formidable matches. And they proved no match for Yorkshire, Lancashire and Berkshire going down 2-7 in all three matches. The County now face an enormous uphill struggle to stay with the elite.

Birmingham, in the Wilmott Cup, were drawn at home to Northampton and triumphed 5-1. They next meet North Herts away in Rd. 2. In the Carter Cup, for juniors, Birmingham's trio of Craig Stevens, Stephen and Stuart Bertie beat Leamington 7-2 and next travel to oppose Bedford.

First matches in the Warwicks League championships were scheduled to be played at the West Warwicks Club on Sunday, Dec. 13. But due to bad weather conditions — snow and ice — it was reluctantly decided to call off the event two days before as many of the teams involved would face hardships in reaching the venue. It is now hoped to play off the first session of the round-robin matches on Sunday, Jan. 24 . . . weather permitting of course!

The Junior Premier Division of the County Championships had their first weekend at St. Neots on Nov. 21/22. Having gained promotion Warwicks began their quest for further honours with an encounter against Bedfordshire choosing from a squad comprising Phil Gunn, Dave Rudge, Michael Thomas, Rod Lewis, Fiona Sutton and Melanie McHayle.

Rudge got the side off to a great start in beating David Sharpe to be followed by Thomas, accounting for Colin Luscombe, and Gunn made it 3-0 at the expense of Ian Doughty. As expected the Bellinger sisters, Lisa and Jackie, chalked up a win for Beds in the girls' doubles but Warwicks went into a commanding 4-1 lead when Rudge and Lewis triumphed over Luscombe/Sharpe.

Beds then began a second half revival with Rudge losing to Luscombe and Melanie going down -5, -12 to Jackie the elder of the Bellinger sisters. Gunn did his team proud in beating Sharpe but Fiona proved no match for Lisa and, in the final set, Thomas lost to Doughty for a share of the spoils in a 5-all draw.

The evening session saw the Warwicks side taking on new favourites Surrey fielding a very strong side comprising Nicky Hoare, Michael Hammond, Andrew Sexton, David Dewsbury, Michelle Hams, Jane Mills and Lesley Popkiewicz. Gunn was our only winner as we crashed 2-8 to afford Surrey the leadership.

Sunday brought us into opposition with Staffs with Thomas losing the opening encounter with Andrew Dixon -10, 16, -15. Lewis levelled the match score by beating Richard Haywood only for Gunn to re-establish the lead with a fine 17, 16 win over Adrian Dixon.

Staffs again drew level by winning the girls' doubles before the Rudge/Lewis combine again gave us the lead. But Staffs came back strongly and Thomas lost to Haywood and Melanie were beaten by Vicky Bellingham as Staffs surged ahead.

Warwicks hero of the hour, Gunn, kept our hopes alive with a win over Adrian Dixon but we were then forced into a tight situation when Fiona lost -15 in the third. Lewis versus Adrian Dixon was the final set with Rod winning 12 and 7 to save the match and earn a point in another 5-all draw.

Gunn headed Warwickshire's averages with 6 wins in three matches, Lewis 2 from 4, and Thomas and Rudge 1 from 4. The next weekend session is scheduled for March 6/7 when Sussex, Middlesex, Yorkshire and Kent will provide the opposition.

ENGLISH JUNIOR CLOSED

Two Handsworth youngsters turned in fine performances at Hinckley with Gunn, partnering Lindsay Taylor of Cleveland, reaching the final of the boys' doubles losing to Carl Preen and Billy Gleave, after knocking out the No. 2 seeds Alan Cooke and Nicky Hoare. Phil also reached the last 16 in the singles whilst David Rudge battled his way through to the last eight.

John Woodford reports from . . .

SUSSEX

FIRST TIME ORBIT

Both East and West Sussex championships have now been decided — Malcolm Francis and Rachel Mackriell struggled to win the East Sussex singles titles at Bexhill, whilst over the West at Lancing it was Peter Pudduck and Nina Williams who took the honours but very little else at the unsponsored event.

But thanks to the sterling efforts of Bert Fretwell, the county chairman, the West Sussex went into orbit for the first time. In East Sussex the tournament happened for the fifth time with £180 sponsorship from the "Eastbourne Gazette".

The entries for both events was lower than expected, especially in the women's events — 15 at Lancing but only 8 at Bexhill. This makes the County Championships mix (apart from the premier divisions) of three men and two women right out of line. The number of entries from women at Closed tournaments from the English downwards is really appalling.

So what has happened? According to Worthing veteran player Mrs. Pat Wales at the Sussex A.G.M. last July, "they — the women — are all being sat on", a solitary view (like Erica Preen at National Council) whose forthright views cannot find seconders for motions, Mrs. Wales, who is developing a strategy of becoming a one-person Opposition for the Sussex T.T.A., had another fascinating sniping session at the last Sussex T.T.A. Management Council meeting at Hurstpierpoint. She unleashed a whole string of complaints at the organisers of the West Sussex Championships, mainly based (to cut a long story short) on the fact that she was called on to play six sets in a row in the women's events which were telescoped into the afternoon to save the ladies having to drag themselves out of bed early on the Sunday morning.

The other delegates were far from impressed with the Pat Wales broadsides so when Bernard Rowley checked in with a vote of confidence in the organisers, this was seconded even more rapidly and passed with a huge majority.

The Lombard £750 Sussex Championships moves to a new venue at Worthing Sports Centre on Feb. 14, after many years at the popular Brighton Corn Exchange. It now remains to be seen if the entry suffers from the Westwards move and also the earliest

dead-line I have ever seen, Dec. 19, eight weeks ahead!

What it is certainly going to suffer from is a lack of Moores — Stephen, Adrian and Teresa almost totally enmeshed in the tournament circuit cannot afford in terms of national rankings to be absent from the clashing Essex 3-Star, even with £750 on offer at Worthing. So, Malcolm Francis, not gaining many friends but quite a few prize scalps with his "quickie" services with a minimum throw-up, seems certain to be the No. 1 seed ready to accept challenges from the probable No. 2 seed the still improving Peter Pudduck from Littlehampton, the young man I am still rating as the most improved Sussex player of the season.

Although Sussex juniors achieved a mid-table position in the first round matches in the premier division the prospects for next season are bleak as a huge batch become of age, the only top players remaining will be Garry Bonner (Crawley) and Teresa Moore, who despite the big advantage she has in practicing with her brothers, is in need of a big win to boost her confidence.

Obituary

BRIAN GORDON

A player of some distinction back in the fifties in the Brighton and Shoreham areas of Sussex and also a frequent tournament winner at Worthing, Brian Gordon died aged only 51 in Dorset in November. For three years he was treasurer of the Sussex T.T.A. and a prominent member of the old Shoreham T.T.C. based at the Crown & Anchor pub in the High Street. Brian leaves two boys and his wife Anne.

Ian E. McKelvey reports on the . . .

MIDLAND LEAGUE

PACE SETTERS

Leamington are running away with Junior Division 5. They now have eight points from four matches in which they have dropped only two sets, and their players occupy the first four places in the individual averages. Visiting Walsall, they beat both the "B" and "C" teams of that League 10-0, and they subsequently beat Stratford 9-1. The Walsall teams seem to play most of their matches in pairs, for they both visited Pontesbury "B" on the same day. Pontesbury fielded six different players to play the matches simultaneously and beat the "B" team 9-1 and the "C" team 10-0. However the result against the "B" team was amended to 5-5 when it was discovered that one of the Pontesbury players, Stephen Morris, was ineligible.

The Women's division has a very polarised look, Nottingham, Wolverhampton, Birmingham "A" and Derby having 100% records and all the rest looking for their first points. Wolverhampton look capable of toppling the champions, Birmingham "A". They beat both Birmingham "B" and Leamington 8-2, Janet Dunning and Jill Harris being unbeaten in both matches. Add Vikki Bellingham, who played in the first match of the season but not these two, and you have a strong side indeed. Nottingham introduced Cheryl Buttery against Kidderminster, and although Paula Reddish lost the opening set to Alison Westwood, ran out 9-1 winners.

No team still has a 100% record in Men's Div. 3, although four teams are unbeaten, dropping points in one drawn match only. Wolverhampton "B" and Coventry "B" are both in this position, having drawn with Hinckley. Ray Dixon took three to secure Wolverhampton's draw, whilst Ian Randle and Jaz Singh won two each for Coventry's draw. Hinckley only just squeezed out this draw with Colin Jones winning the tenth set for them at 24 in the third. John Veasey won five in these two matches, and also the only singles set won by Hinckley in their

2-8 defeat by Rugby. Coventry "B" beat Chesterfield "B" 8-2 and Shrewsbury beat Cheltenham "B" 10-0. Shrewsbury and Coventry "B" thus head the division with five points each, but Chesterfield and Cheltenham look like being relegated.

Albrighton's promising start in Junior Div. 2 has come to an abrupt end with defeats by Coventry "B", Leicester and Derby. Albrighton were handicapped by being a player short against Coventry, but neither of their players could master Nigel Tucker or Robert Taylor. Simon Griew and Stuart Wilford won three each for Leicester, as did Paul Druce and David Slack for Derby. Coventry "B" went on to obtain a draw with Nottingham "B", Tucker again being undefeated. This was the first point dropped by Nottingham. Coventry "C" gained their first points with a 6-4 win away to Derby, cadet Mark Randle winning three and Richard Marklow two. Nottingham "B" head the division with five points from three matches, followed by Coventry "B" with five from four. Leicester are nicely placed one point behind having played only two matches.

Birmingham "A" and Nottingham "A" have made further progress in Veterans Div. 1. The former beat Coventry "A" 10-0 and Leicester "A" 9-1, Terry Bache losing his 100% record to Geoff Aldwinckle in the first set of a match which subsequently became a procession. Nottingham beat Oxford "A" 8-2 after being 8-0 up, and another two 100% records went, Alf Davies first losing his to Alan Jesson and subsequently taking Ron Bolton's. Bryan Merrett made one of his rare appearances, demolishing all opposition to help Gloucester to a 6-4 win over West Bromwich. But there can be no doubt that the Birmingham-Nottingham match will settle this division.

In Men's Div. 4, Leamington have begun their programme with 7-3 wins over Loughborough and Lichfield, as a result of which they top the table. David Earl and Phil Paine each took three off Lichfield, and Earl a further three off Loughborough, for whom Mick Meredith won twice. Derby "B" gained their first point against Lichfield, Martin Simpson and Arnold Vinay winning two each, but John Beresford won three for Lichfield. Nuneaton began their programme by beating Lichfield 7-3, Peter Muir winning three.

The two Potteries teams in Men's Div. 2 have been split by Birmingham "B" who beat the "B" team 6-4 in a match in which every player won at least one and lost at least one. Ian Smith and Richard Tanner won two for Birmingham, and Mark Evans did likewise for Potteries. Leicester "B" had an interesting draw with Coventry "A", for whom Kevin Pilgrim won three. A significant development was the reintroduction by Cheltenham "A" of Dave Harvey and Steve Moreman for the local derby with Stroud. Harvey's three gave Cheltenham their first two points. A 0-10 defeat at the hands of the leaders, Potteries "A", puts Stroud in not too happy a position with only two points from four matches.

There have been only two more matches in Junior Div. 4. Loughborough have moved to the top of the division with a 7-3 win over Stroud. Paul Bumpus won three for Loughborough. Worcester "A" beat Bromsgrove 6-4 despite a valiant Bromsgrove fight back from 0-4 down. Jeremy Clutterbuck won three for Worcester. Junior Div. 3 has been little more active, with just three matches in this period. Walsall "A" lost twice. Roderick Heap won three for them against Nuneaton, but could not prevent his side from losing 4-6. Their other defeat was a "whitewash" by Pontesbury "A", although Heap gave each of Barry Ruddick, Roger Morris and Brian Andrews a run for his money. The only other match was a 6-4 win for Birmingham "C" away to Chesterfield's "B" team. Jevan Lal won three for the visitors, Paul White and Simon Lennox two each for the home side.

Chesterfield "A" maintained their position at the top of Men's Div. 1 with a 6-4 win over Nottingham "A", Alan Cooke winning another three. Nottingham had greater success against Gloucester, winning 8-2 with three each from Robert Watson and Kevin Edwards, and against Derby "A", winning 7-3 with three from Alf Saunders. Gloucester got off the mark by drawing at home to Bristol. This was a team effort with two from Mark Owen, one from Bill Dawe and from Darren Griffin, and the doubles. Kevin Satchell won three for Bristol. Derby, led by Dave Yallop, put Leicester to the foot of the table with a 7-3 win after the match had been poised at 3-all.

Junior Div. 1 is little changed, with Birmingham "A" adding a 7-3 win over Coventry "A". Phil Gunn winning three after just getting the better of Micky Thomas 20 in the third in the first set of the evening. Thomas got Coventry's two singles and a share in the doubles Nottingham "A" just beat Oxford 6-4 after being 4-0 up, Richard Tilford preserving his unbeaten record.

Oxford "B" top Veterans Div. 2 after beating Leicester "B" 6-4. Gerry Collins made a comeback for Oxford in this match, and won three. Birmingham "B" opened with a 9-1 win over Stratford but were then held to a draw by Nuneaton despite three from Frank Norton. Oxford "B" and Leamington would be my favourites for promotion.

Les D'Arcy reports from ...

YORKSHIRE

POPULAR WINNERS

Melody Hill and Steve Mills were popular winners at the Yorkshire 2-Star Open held at the Featherstone Sports Centre on Dec. 6. In the women's singles Melody reversed her recent defeat by Anita Stevenson when they met in the W. Yorks Open. This time, showing greater consistency, Melody, after losing the first game -14 came back to win 17, 17. Mills refused to be overawed by the 1980 holder of the men's singles title, David Constance. Steve matched his Bundesliga opponent in aggression and expertise to win a closely contested final 18, 19.

Yorkshire had another success in the women's doubles when Julie Speight (Wakefield) and Jill Harris defeated Mrs. Linda Smith (Bradford) and Anita Stevenson in the final after putting out Julie's county team mate Karen Burrows and Mrs. D. Schofield.

Congratulations to Ruth Baxter (Leeds) and Joanne Shaw (Wakefield) on winning the Cleveland Junior 2-Star 'Select' team championship for cadet girls. Joanne, playing No. 1 met and defeated all her opponents — including England No. 1, Alison Barker and L. Haydon No. 2 and L. Popkiewicz No. 3. Ruth, playing against the No. 2's in each team went through the championship without dropping a single game.

At the England Junior Closed, Joanne was once again on top form. She reached the semi-final of the cadet singles, but on this occasion lost to L. Popkiewicz. Joanne's performances have impressed the Yorkshire County selectors and gained her a junior county place which could be a stepping stone to national honours.

The county's junior premier side: Steve Sharpe, David Illingsworth, Jeffrey Thatcher, David Rook, Lesley Broomhead, Josette Ryalls and Melanie Seaton finished all square in the quadrangular Junior Premier matches at St. Neots defeating Middlesex 7-3 drawing 5-5 with Kent and losing to Bedfordshire 3-7. Sharpe was outstanding. He won five of his six singles and gained Yorkshire's only boys' doubles win with Illingsworth who also played well to win three of his six singles. Thatcher took over from Rook for the match v Kent and

his win over A. Dodd proved to be a vital contribution to the 5-5 result. Josette Ryalls with two wins out of three in the girls' singles and the same result in the girls' doubles with Melanie Seaton, helped considerably to keep Yorkshire in contention. Lesley Broomhead scored one win out of two to complete the scoring.

At the Senior Premier Division week-end an outstanding performance by Kevin Beadley with good support from his colleagues gave the county premier team a 5-4 victory over Lancashire. Kevin gave one of his best ever displays to beat Donald Parker and Steve Turner.

When John Souter beat Steve Mills 33-31 in the 3rd game of their men's singles encounter it proved to be the decisive factor in the difference between the two teams when Middlesex beat Yorkshire 5-4 — in spite of a convincing win by Melody Hill over Helen Williams and excellent form from both Yorkshire's doubles combinations.

Mills was 'man of the match' with two emphatic wins in the 6-3 win over Warwickshire.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE YORKSHIRE LEAGUES

Selby T.T.L.

Although Selby League is one of the most recent members of the Yorkshire TTA it is quickly becoming one of the most progressive organisations in the county. Chairman Mike Hanley, Coaching Sec. Mick Wilcockson and Gen. Sec./Treas./Press Officer Ray Gilyeat are three of the leading members of a committee who are determined to make Selby League one of the finest in the county. It seems as though these stalwarts threw away the wishbone from last year's Christmas turkey and replaced it by a great deal of backbone in all their recent endeavours.

Sturge 'A' is Selby's leading team with seven Div. 1 championship wins out of ten in the recent past. The present side with outstanding juniors, M. Emmerson, N. Thorn and M. Wilcockson won the Yorkshire Summer League Div. 2 title competing against opposition from Sheffield, Leeds, Barnsley, Dewsbury, Harrogate and others, winning 145 sets against 35 with Wilcockson the merit award winner. In the Yorkshire Summer League Individual Championships, M. Emmerson won the handicap singles defeating team mate, N. Thorn, in the final. Nigel reversed the decision in the consolation singles final.

In recent open tournaments Mick Wilcockson is Selby's most successful senior player with wins over ex-county players Geoff Brook, Mick Dainty and Mat Shearer. Michael Emmerson, the County's No. 8 junior broke new ground when he won the boys' title at the Hartlepool 1-Star and now has his sights set on a junior county place, before graduating to the seniors next season. Several other Selby juniors look very promising: Mandy Holmes, still a cadet, tops the girls' ranking list at local level, with Sharon Phillipson 2, Sarah Pickering 3, and Helen Farmery 4. Michael Emmerson's brother, Steve, is No. 2 in the boys' list with L. Harris No. 3 and cadet No. 1. A. Dobson at No. 4. M. Carling, cadet boy No. 3 has gained a place in the junior list at No. 7.

The current U-18 Youth Champions are: Boys - A. Fletcher; Girls - S. Crabb; Doubles - M. & S. Emmerson; U-14 Boys - A. Dobson.

For a league with only twelve clubs, thirty teams and a hundred and twenty players, the quality and quantity of junior talent seems remarkable, but it is no accident. The Selby League Coaching Scheme is probably one of the most highly developed for its size in the county. There are four coaching centres - Sturge T.T.C. (3 tables), Selby Squash Club (8 tables), Thorpe Willoughby Church Hall (4 tables) and Selby High School (6 tables) now with

England-ranked Julie McLean on the staff. The bulk of Selby's coaching programme is carried out by Mick Wilcockson, Mike Hanley and Ray Gilyeat who has added to his many other duties by becoming a member of the Y.T.T.A. Executive Committee. Coaching help also comes from Messrs P. Harpham, R. Hewitt, B. Wales and Mrs. Dawn Harris.

The next event planned by this progressive League is the Selby Junior 1-Star on Feb. 27. We wish them well and hope it gains your full support.

Entry forms from Mr R. A. Gilyeat, 1 Barlby Road, Selby, N. Yorks. 0757-702907.

YORKSHIRE LEAGUE RESULTS

Premier Division

Doncaster 6 Barnsley 4
Bradford II 2 Bradford 8
York 3 Bradford III 7
Sheffield 6 Huddersfield 4

Division 1

Dewsbury 6 York II 4
Wakefield 5 Harrogate 5
Sheffield II 2 Leeds 8
Barnsley II 8 York III 2
Leeds 4 Wakefield 6

Division 2

Halifax 7 Rotherham 3
Castleford/Pontefract 2 Doncaster II 8
Hull 8 Hull II 2
Huddersfield II 4 Selby 6

Selby 8 Sheffield III 2

Leeds II 5 Halifax II 5

Wakefield II 5 Leeds II 5

Division 3

Leeds III 3 Huddersfield II 7

Barnsley III 7 Barnsley IV 3

Division 4

Harrogate III 1 Wakefield III 9

Harrogate IV 8 Harrogate V 2

Selby II 7 Harrogate III 3

York IV 4 Selby II 6

Wharfedale/Airedale 5 Dewsbury II 5

Wakefield III 9 Dewsbury II 1

Division 5

Northallerton 9 Selby III 1

Harrogate VI 4 Hull III 6

Hull III 5 Ryedale 5

Doncaster III 6 Harrogate VI 4

N. Yorks 4 Wharfedale/Airedale II 6

Women's Division

Harrogate II 0 Barnsley 10

Veterans' Division 1

Bradford 10 York 0

Castleford/Pontefract 1 Rotherham 9

Rotherham 8 Leeds 2

Huddersfield 2 Barnsley 8

Veterans' Division 2

Halifax 10 Wharfedale/Airedale II 0

Barnsley II 8 Huddersfield II 2

Leeds II 3 Halifax 7

Wharfedale/Airedale II 3 Doncaster 7

Junior Premier

Sheffield 5 Harrogate 4

Leeds 8 Bradford 1

Bradford 5 Dewsbury 4

Harrowgate 0 Bradford 7

Junior Division 1

York 5 Doncaster 4

Hull II 7 Sheffield 2

Barnsley 7 Hull II 2

Leeds II 6 Barnsley 3

Junior Division 2

Dewsbury II 8 Barnsley II 1

Harrogate II 3 Halifax 5

Wakefield 2 Selby 7

Cadets Division 1

Barnsley 8 Leeds 1

Sheffield 8 Halifax 1

Doncaster 8 Bradford 1

I feel dispirited team at the end of the day. Cheshire wins by Janet Deakin (2) Mark Hankey (2) and Brian Johns (1) plus three men's doubles by Hankey/Johns. A veil gently drawn over the rest is kindest.

One thing certain, the next Premier County weekend will be different, wins by opposition counties will be over dead bodies.

The Juniors in winning two matches under the guidance of County veteran Norman Deakin are more than holding their own. Great promise shown by this side which must surely be insurance for the County's future.

Cheshire's second team look set to win their division, a fine mixture of experience and youth with the men — Trevor Manning, Ron Weatherby, Tony Taylor playing with imagination and flair supported by fighting performances from Ann Hepple and Marie Turner. Their last match at Durham a draw, full of excitement and the best sportsmanship I've seen in years plus a bonus in watching a pyrotechnic display from Durham's Geldart.

Latest news I have from the tournament scene is Mark Hankey's ousting of seeded Newman in the Midland Open and the disappearance without a lifebelt of Billy Gleave on the same day.

Gritty Billy however came back strongly to reach the final of the singles of the English Junior Closed, winning the boys' doubles and to feature in the final of the mixed. A solid performance, but more important, signs of a more mature and tolerant Billy emerging from a Jekyll and Hyde character, which has earned him strong criticism. Without doubt justified but sometimes he has been completely misunderstood.

In the Yorkshire Open one could be forgiven for assuming it was the Cheshire Closed. Cheshire players — Tony Worthington, Tony Taylor, Pete D'Arcy, Terry Turner (beating Tony Boasman), Derek Schofield all reaching quarters and semis in various events.

Top money winner was Mark Hankey who won the men's doubles — Class II singles and reached the semi-final of the men's singles, losing to Dave Constance, a fine reward for consistent play.

Apologies to Cheshire fans for no notes previously from the County.

This will be remedied but I need news — particularly local news — if you don't provide it, I can't write it. Ring me any evening on 061-747 8246 — I'll be delighted to hear from you.

John Prean reports from . . .

THE ISLE OF WIGHT

TRIUMPH AND DISASTER AT HINCKLEY

A year ago we reported that Carl had won the English Junior title. He has done it again! This time he added the Cadet and Boys' Doubles titles (with Billy Gleave). It was his 6th 'Select' Junior and 8th 'Select' Cadet title. He now has another three years to gain a 3rd Singles title which would establish a new record. Paul Day and Graham Sandley have won it twice.

It was a hard weekend at Hinckley and again he struggled in the Cadets. Whilst his colleagues told him he could win every game under 10, they forgot to tell his opponents who sailed into him with considerable verve, particularly Adrian Dixon who played quite beautifully.

Carl hit his best form in the Juniors and as so often before he got better and better as he neared the final. It is the top domestic Junior tournament of the season and deserves the best preparation. We did not get it quite right this time. The 'Topolcany thumb', a chest virus, school examinations all brought interruptions. He did well to win

through. When he was behind it only stirred him to greater efforts and he had the heart of a lion. Our thanks to the inimitable Lloyd Lewis for all his help. What a great chap he is to have in your corner.

Again it was a well organised event, but spoilt by one very unfortunate incident. For the second time in successive Junior tournaments a player was sent off. I was not present on the first occasion at Cleveland, but the majority view in the hall during the Junior Closed was that Michael Hammond of Surrey should not have been sent off. The Umpire, an experienced, competent official was over-ruled by the Referee at "deuce" in the 3rd after Hammond had saved a match point after a stunning rally. Having spoken to several spectators I am assured that he did nothing worse than to clench his fist and exclaim "good boy" for which "transgression" he had apparently been warned earlier.

Attempts to improve our image are laudable, but as usual they have been made too late. What Hammond did most of us regarded as harmless, but fist shaking, shouting and swearing are now commonplace in our Sport. Towelling down has become a time wasting ritual. Wiping off sweat is secondary. I cannot see the sense in penalising Juniors for something Seniors do time and time again. Indeed a visitor from another planet might be forgiven for thinking that all this is part of our Sport. Players are under considerable stress as the game is very fast. Oxygen is burned up quickly and things happen that would not happen in the calm of the fireside. Much clearer directions are necessary — to Players, Umpires and Referees, and those directions should not be issued until there is a general consensus as to what is permissible and what is not. Directions on "stamping" were made very clear by Colin Clemmett. Similar clarity is now required. Discipline must above all be consistent. What is acceptable at one tournament must not be a disqualification offence at another.

It must be accepted too that the Junior Tournament Circuit is extremely strenuous and harsh, imposing many stresses, the travel, the conflict with School, the quite horrifying expense. There are far too many Junior Tournaments. They drag on too long. A player's life is short, an official's life is long. There are times when it is right to be severe, there are others when tolerance and patience will succeed far better. The spirit among Junior rivals is excellent. Bad behaviour is rare. Let us build on that foundation and not create an atmosphere when everyone looks over their shoulder and enthusiasm and exuberance are stifled.

The third match of our County Team ended in defeat. We lost 7-3 to Dorset II who are a strong County after the influx of 3 very talented performers from other parts of the country. Two by Carl and a good performance in the women's doubles (Rose Grimaldi and Janice Babcock) gave us our three. We were grateful to our hosts for their hospitality. It was almost a pleasure to lose the 2 points. A sign of the times: 5 players with combination bats.

The Isle of Wight first division could not be more interesting. One commiserates with Ryde who started off like a bomb, then lost Fred Sillwood (broken ankle), whilst John Stacey battles on with shoulder trouble. Only "iron man" Jim Daly remains indestructible. Columbia beat them 7-3 (three again from you-know-who). Columbia lost to Sandown (4-6). Ryde (before the injury plague) beat Sandown 9-1. Wroxall shared the points with Ryde and suddenly Columbia and Sandown, who have shed 2 points each, are top. Ryde have shed 3 and are 3rd and surprise package Wroxall, 4 points dropped, are fourth, a great deal due to Keith Taylor who keeps chopping away to good purpose locally, but not yet on the County scene.

In Division 7 Cowes Trinity (Operatic

Vince Hankey reports from . . .

CHESHIRE

INSURANCE FOR THE FUTURE

What's wrong with Cheshire? From past Champions to a no-win weekend in the Premier Division County Championships.

No Nigel Eckersley — No Billy Gleave.

Worse No Cheshire officials. No-one to chaperone or advise a sadly weakened and

Society) are hitting high notes. No clear favourites have emerged in the other divisions. Our three up/three down promotion and relegation system keeps things lively till the end.

Erica and I have been involved in a fair amount of controversy of late and what had to be said has now been fully aired. Therefore I add only a general note. The E.T.T.A. is a democratic organisation. Like all of us it is far from perfect. Mistakes are made. It is not the critics who are the enemy of the Sport, they at least care enough to speak. The real enemy are the ones who remain silent. They grumble, they complain in little circles, opt out, say nothing, do less, disaffiliate. That is not the way to create a better, more progressive organisation.

It must provide food for thought that members are often reluctant to pay to their organisation less than £1, but they think nothing of spending £30 on a new bat, in short they cannot see further than the length of the table, the walls of their Clubroom or the next Local League match. The isolation of the grass roots is not the result of one-way traffic. Those at the top also feel increasingly isolated. The dialogue has to start somewhere and this is the life-blood of all democratic bodies. When it is stifled, only red tape and sterility remain. Only good can come from public debate.

Mike Baker reports from . . .

SOMERSET and AVON

STRONGEST SINCE INCEPTION

This season sees the League at its strongest since its inception in 1975. A second Junior division has had to be added to accommodate six new teams.

In the Premier Division, Failand 'A' have made a good start in defence of the championship that they won last season. They started the campaign with a comfortable 8-2 win over Bath 'B', but a significant victory for them was their 7-3 win against Knowle and Brislington (Bristol), last season's winners of Division One. K. & B. were tipped as possible contenders this season as they can call on Avon county player Andy Creed and Tony Brown, and Gloucester's Paul Jackson. In the event, only Brown did play, and he gained a singles win over Colin Feltham. K. & B.'s other sets came from Michele Cohen who will be pleased with her two-straight wins over Pat Reeves and Muriel Lewis. Brian Reeves won both his singles and Failand added both doubles.

Both 'A' won their domestic tussle with Bath 'B' by 8-2, with Clive Elison and Joanna Bush undefeated, but there were good wins for 'B' team's George O'Brien over John Higgs and Linda Porter over Julie Cruse.

Taunton 'A' are also unbeaten as yet but were pressed hard by Page (Bristol). Peter Harris had two good wins for Page, beating Dean Sully, last year's leading individual player.

In Division One, Yeovil have started their promotion campaign with convincing wins and they must hope that they will not be bridesmaids for the fourth year running. Southmead (Bristol) with two good wins so far could upset their plans however.

Division Two could see the re-emergence of the Mendip League as contenders and they started with a 9-1 win over Taunton 'C'. Roy Smith and Colin Tinknell were undefeated as were the women Joy King and Sally Hartley. Nailsea 'B' look to be the main opposition and have had two good wins already, but Bath 'C' have only dropped one point.

The West Somerset League, very recently inaugurated, are finding the going tough, but it is all good practice for them. Bill Kelly is being cast as the Pied Piper of

Minehead and is evidently getting a lot of enthusiasm from the kids out on the west coast. So far no sets have been won by any of their representative teams, but I expect by the end of the season they will have learned a lot.

Junior Division One looks like being well contested again, and last year's champions Bridgwater 'A' have already lost to Weston 'A'. Weston won all the boys' singles through Mark Nicholls, Nick Fletcher and Carl Rutherford. Claire Bryant was responsible for Bridgwater's three sets with her singles win over Kirsty Witheyman, and both mixed doubles. Bristol are the only other unbeaten team and it looks like a battle between these sides.

In Junior Division Two the Bridgwater and Weston second sides are going to be the ones to beat, but Yeovil made an encouraging start by beating fellow newcomers Chard 9-1. Caroline Brake, L. Sadler and J. Smeeton were all unbeaten.

Geoff Waters reports from . . .

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

REASONABLY SUCCESSFUL

The third series of County Championships matches on Nov. 21 proved reasonably successful for the county, considering the number of players who were unavailable.

The senior first team were without Mandy Judd, recovering from a bout of glandular fever, but managed to beat Worcestershire 6-4 in Div. 2A at Wisbech. The county had to thank the men for their success with Keith Richardson, Mick Harper and Geoff Davies all winning their singles. With the home county losing all the women's sets and the men's doubles, the match finished on an exciting note with Davies scraping home 21-19 in the third against Steve Dunning to clinch the points. With two wins from three matches the county stays in touch with the leaders and despite the defeat by Staffordshire there is still everything to play for.

The junior first team are in a similar position to the seniors with two wins out of three following their 8-2 win over Suffolk in Junior 3D at Soham. Mandy Judd was also due to play in this match but had to withdraw and it was lucky for Suffolk that she did for both their sets were won in the girls' matches.

Jamie Frost, Julian Wheel and Tim Ashman (for the first time) all had doubles and Frost and Wheel also won the doubles. Ruth Hunter who moved into the No. 1 spot, completely annihilated Jane Leonard 5 and 6 to complete the scoring for Cambs. This may be Ruth's final match for some time as she is now working on Saturdays. With Tracey Fisher not making herself available for county matches and Mandy Judd playing in the seniors, the junior girls are now looking a bit thin on experience.

The senior second team were hardest hit with absentees having Andy Withers away on tour with Barclays Bank and Robert Swift still nursing a knee injury. They had to face the Suffolk first team with Tony Holmes, Paul Stacey and Jamie Frost making his senior debut. Not surprising they went down 2-8 with John Kitchener, Mick and Stuart Palmer having a clean sweep for Suffolk.

Fortunately, for Cambs, the women were in good form with Alison Edge a revelation in beating the redoubtable Julie Dowsett in straight games. Val Parkes was as reliable as ever and came up trumps with a three games win over Sue Butcher.

With only one point from three matches this team is now in a relegation position, yet with a full strength team they are a match for anyone in the division. The team badly needs a fit Robert Swift to help lift them from the danger zone but it is likely to be

the New Year before he is in action again.

The junior second team picked up their first point in Junior 4 when they drew 5-5 with Leicestershire II. This was a good team effort with every player having a hand in at least one win. Neil Burgess, Paul Holmes and Samantha Wales all had a singles win, while Holmes and Peter Holliday won the boys' doubles and Samantha won the girls' doubles with Helen Smith.

This effort should give them confidence for future matches and the girls in particular will need plenty of it as they are likely to be playing in the first team for most of the remaining matches.

Cambridge had a good win in the first round of the Carter Cup beating March 6-3. They had to thank Cameron Alexander in the main for he won all his three sets. However, he had good support from Neil Burgess who won two and Stephen Meacham one. Neil had revenge over Paul Oldroyd for his defeat in the Cadet final of the Cambridgeshire Closed, but he was unable to beat county colleague Peter Holliday. Oldroyd, Holliday and Paul Holmes won one each for March.

Cambridge had mixed fortunes in the St. Neots Winter League, with the men and the veterans team each winning and losing one. The men beat Northampton 7-2 with Andy Withers and Mick Palmer winning three each and Albert Jackson one. They were no match for North Herts however going down 2-7. Withers and Palmer both beat Gavin Booth, but Mick Harper and Peter Taylor were invincible for North Herts.

The veterans beat St. Neots 5-4 with John Thurston and Ken Green winning two each and John Loker one. Like the men's team they found North Herts much tougher opposition and went down 3-6. Harry Gaunt was in fine form for North Herts and went through the match unbeaten. John Thurston won two for Cambridge and Green one.

Ken Green had two expedite sets which sent Mike Jackson into a state of ecstasy. Green beat Keith Hartridge in one but lost to Alan Harding in the other.

Leslie Constable reports on the . . .

ST. NEOTS WINTER LEAGUE

In the Senior Division Bedford are top with a 7 point lead over Kettering and a 9 point lead over North Herts. Bedford have had good wins over Peterborough, Cambridge 'A' and St Neots by seven set margins although Cambridge 'B' extended them to 3-6 when Lars Knudsen won all three for Cambridge.

The Bedford team of McConnell, Bird and Aisop should see them head the division although a strong North Herts trio of Peter Taylor, Mick Harper and Booth would really test them and could alter things at the top. Kettering too are in with a chance although they lost to Cambridge 'A' early in the season 3-6 but an early victory over a weakened North Herts team by 7-2 has stood them in good stead with Ken Nicoll, Steve West and Mick Deacon taking the honours.

In the Junior Division North Herts are well ahead of Bedford and Wellingborough in 2nd and 3rd positions respectively. For North Herts, their team of Turner, Papworth, Osborn and Samuels have accounted for Peterborough, North Herts 'B', Dunstable, Hunts Central and Bedford by 9 set margins and Wellingborough 6-3. Bedford who have lost only one match, and that to North Herts, have had big victories over Dunstable (9-0), Hunts Central (9-0), St. Neots (8-1) and Kettering (6-3) so that their team of James, Stanley and Hadfield are doing a good job of work and their contest with Wellingborough due at the end of December should be interesting al-

though North Herts have beaten them both and are virtual champions.

Wellingborough have only been beaten once and that by North Herts (6-3) and victories have been obtained over Peterborough (9-0), N. Herts 'B' (8-1), Northampton (8-1), St Neots (9-0) and Kettering (6-3) and their team of Edmonds, Hawes, McKim and Kendall are really doing themselves justice. Hawes has lost only one set and that against Turner of North Herts who won in three. Dunstable and St. Neots are lying at the bottom with 4 and 3 points respectively from six matches, so it is a matter of who will take the wooden spoon!

In the Veterans Section North Herts are top closely followed by Bedford and Cambridge. For North Herts their team of Alan Harding, Derrick Harris, Keith Hartridge and Gaunt have accounted for Cambridge (6-3), Bedford (6-3), Peterborough (8-1), Northampton (9-0), St. Neots 'B' (9-0) and Peterborough 'B' (8-1). For Cambridge John Thurston is still playing as well as ever at the age of 50 and has only lost two sets against Gaunt of North Herts and Len Saywell of St. Neots. Cambridge have only lost one match (North Herts) and have beaten second-placed Bedford 7-2 in an important fixture. Bedford have lost two matches (Cambridge & North Herts) but have beaten St. Neots 'A' (5-4), Peterborough 'B' (9-1), St. Neots 'B' (9-0) and Northampton (8-1). Cutting, Gill and Foulds are their stalwarts and the race for the championship between these teams will be very interesting.

RECENT RESULTS

Senior Division

Northampton 'B' 2 R.A.F. 7
Cambridge 'B' 3 Kettering 6
North Herts 7 Cambridge 'A' 2
Northampton 'A' 4 Peterborough 5
St. Neots 1 Bedford 8
Bedford 6 Cambridge 'B' 3
R.A.F. 1 North Herts 8
Cambridge 'A' 7 Northampton 'A' 2
Kettering 7 Northampton 'B' 2
Peterborough 1 St. Neots 8

Junior Division

Dunstable 0 Bedford 9
Wellingborough 6 Kettering 3
St. Neots 0 Wellingborough 9
Kettering 9 Dunstable 0
Northampton 9 Peterborough 0
North Herts 'B' 5 Northampton 4
St. Neots 7 Peterborough 2
North Herts 'A' 9 North Herts 'B' 0
Hunts Central 0 North Herts 'A' 9
Bedford 9 Hunts Central 0

Veterans Division

St. Neots 'B' 3 Peterborough 'B' 6
St. Neots 'A' 2 Peterborough 'A' 7
Peterborough 'A' 7 Northampton 2
Peterborough 'B' 1 North Herts 8
North Herts 6 Cambridge 3
Cambridge 5 St. Neots 'A' 4
Northampton 1 Bedford 8
Bedford 5 St. Neots 'A' 4
Bedford 9 St. Neots 'B' 0

OUTSTANDING MATCH

North Herts 'A' 6 Wellingborough 3

A match which has almost decided the championship of the Junior Division was played between North Herts 'A' and Wellingborough with the former successful by 6 sets to 3 and so going to the top of the division. Five of the sets went to three and with North Herts leading 4-3 a close finish was anticipated but Papworth and Turner narrowly beat McKim and Kendall respectively in the remaining two singles. Osborn and McKim had a terrific struggle before McKim was successful in the last set. Another three games occurred when Hawes beat Papworth at 14 in the 3rd but despite these two victories Wellingborough could not clinch the match and had to concede at 3-6.

RESULTS

North Herts 'A' Wellingborough
G. Turner bt G. McKim 18, -18, 11.
D. Osborn bt S. Kendall 10, 18.

M. Papworth lost to I. Hawes 18, -19, -14, -21.
D. Osborn lost to McKim -20, 16, -18.
Turner bt Hawes -14, 18, 11.
Papworth bt Kendall 18, 18.
Papworth bt McKim -13, 13, 10.
Osborn lost to Hawes -8, -13.
Turner bt Kendall 19, 17.

TABLES (Leading Positions)

Senior Division		
	Played	Points
Bedford	4	30
Kettering	4	23
North Herts	4	21
Northampton 'A'	4	20
St. Neots	4	20
Junior Division		
North Herts 'A'	6	51
Wellingborough	6	43
Bedford	6	37
Veterans Division		
North Herts	6	43
Bedford	6	38
Cambridge	6	37

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

Seniors

Saturday, 6th February, 1982

1.30 p.m.

St. Neots v Northampton 'B'
Northampton 'A' v Kettering
North Herts v Bedford
Cambridge 'A' v Peterborough
Cambridge 'B' v R.A.F.

5.30 p.m.

Kettering v St. Neots
Bedford v Northampton 'A'
Peterborough v North Herts
R.A.F. v Cambridge 'A'
Northampton 'B' v Cambridge 'B'

Jack Chalkley reports from ...

STAFFORDSHIRE

BUSY WEEKEND

The weekend of Nov. 21/22 was a busy one for County table tennis in Staffordshire. The junior "A" side had to be transported to St. Neots, changes to the Junior "B" team had to be made at the last minute due to players being involved in the Staffordshire Schools Tournament, and Tamworth were planning to promote the home match of the senior A side against Leicestershire. Fortunately the senior "B" and "C" teams were not playing otherwise we might have had difficulty in fulfilling our obligations.

I've started my column by making this point. It means that we, like many other Counties require a lot of helpers and officials to share the jobs around. Just take the straightforward duty of umpiring. Derek Carson, our Umpires Secretary, unable to get any other umpires to help with the match at Tamworth, had to do the lot for the evening. Are there no table tennis enthusiasts, uncommitted at the moment, who would be willing to become County Umpires and share some of the load? Talking recently with John Harvey of the Woodfield Club in Wolverhampton, he commented that Staffordshire now is really very strong in table tennis. This is true. We have moved up into the top flight — with teams in or very near to the Premier Divisions at both junior and senior level, and five County teams all told — but we haven't got the depth of organisation of those Counties which have been at the top for many years. I only hope that we do not reach the point where we are unable to provide the opportunity for up-and-coming players within the County because of lack of officials and supporters. Perhaps one or two reading this column (I hope there are one or two!) might take the point.

One thing marred the excellent promotion at Tamworth and that was that Andy Rich was taken ill during the match. I gather he was unwell before he played the first singles against nationally-ranked Chris Rogers, the Leics No. 1, but he played a stormer, only

losing over three, by which time he was obviously pretty drained and after further bouts of sickness was taken to Hospital with suspected food poisoning. I am glad to report that he is now fully recovered, but it meant at the time that we had to forfeit his singles against Maurice Newman, a match which we would have expected to win, and thus we lost the match 4-6 when we should have at least achieved a draw. However, we still may reach the play-off, as Leics lost against Yorks II with a weakened side.

Andrew Bellingham and Janet Dunning were the heroes for Staffs. I cannot remember a time when Andrew has let the County down (except of course in the dreaded doubles!) and once again he performed above expectations, particularly in a splendid recovery against Rogers after losing the first rather depressingly. I'm sure all Tamworth supporters will agree that this game went a long way towards repaying them for all their efforts in preparation, and certainly the rest of the County are indebted to Mike Cross and his colleagues for once again demonstrating that, provided Counties put in the effort, the County Championships can still be an attraction. The results of the evening should without doubt contribute to national rankings.

Janet Dunning is now playing as well as she has ever played. She helped Jill Harris win the doubles against Karen Smith and Julie Revill in comfort and then went on to win her singles against Julie in grand style despite dropping the second set on "deuce". They still reckon in Tamworth that she hit the hardest and fastest smash of the evening! Mark Evans was the Staffs No. 3 and although he was unable to chalk up a win he performed very creditably and certainly did not let down the band of supporters who travelled from his club in the Potteries. Paul Randell, well-known to Staffs followers, was the other player in the Leicestershire side, a team we are always pleased to welcome to our County.

RESULTS

A. Bellingham bt P. Randell 23, 11;
bt C. Rogers -15, 6, 15.
A. Rich lost to C. Rogers 16, -11, -17;
lost to M. Newman walkover.
M. Evans lost to M. Newman 20, -16, -17;
lost to P. Randell -12, -18.
Bellingham/Evans lost to Rogers/Randell
-21, -6.
Jill Harris lost to Karen Smith -20, -15.
Janet Dunning bt J. Revill 11, -21, 13.
Harris/Dunning bt Smith/Revill 18, 7.

Outstanding performances by our girls marked the first of the two junior Premier weekends, and with Adrian Dixon, although still a cadet, gaining two wins out of six, our team, which we cannot claim to be strong, did well to take a point off Warwickshire and to hold both Kent and Sussex to a narrow 6-4. Fiona Elliot and Vicky Bellingham were unbeaten in both singles and doubles giving us a 3-0 scoreline, but an off-form Andrew Dixon, the 'senior' of the side, unable to take more than one of his six singles, meant that we were unable to capitalise on this strength. On the day, cadet Richard Hayward was playing better than Tony Devitt and was selected to play in two of the matches, winning one of his four sets. There is room for some optimism that we may be able to capture enough points during the second weekend to retain our place in the Premier, but even if that is not to be, we have sufficient potential at the under-14 level to regain our place within a year or two.

The Junior "B" side had little difficulty in beating Worcestershire 7-3. Alan Trubshaw and Steve Nixon each lost to Murray Jukes and also lost the doubles, but all the other sets were won, with Matthew Harvey, Jill Powis and a rather nervous Tracy Spencer doing all that was asked of them.

The Malcolm Scott Restricted was held on the weekend in December when the weather

was particularly inclement. Nevertheless, all but a few of the entrants were able to travel to the Woodfield to play in this popular tournament, which was excellently run this year by Mike Leach, the Wolverhampton secretary (and an old colleague of mine from Gloucester days) and John Harvey. Group winners in the men's were Andrew Dixon, Mark Devitt, Peter Dawes, Neil Harris, David Hanney, D. Russell, D. Rawlins, Richard Hayward, J. Beckett, Martin Harvey, G. Cartwright, Kevin Cartwright, Paul Chester, C. Trong, Antony Devitt and Quang Ly Cao, and in the women's Amanda Hegarty, Doris Dawes, Angela Saunders and Allison Evans.

In the quarter-finals, Dawes beat Dixon, Hanney beat Hayward ("deuce" in the third), Harvey beat G. Cartwright and Devitt beat Chester. Dawes was the eventual winner, beating Harvey 11, -7, 12, and Hanney took third place by beating Antony Devitt -16, 12, 21 in the play-off. Amanda Hegarty was, perhaps, the obvious winner of the women's event with 21-9, 21-6 win over Angela Saunders in the final.

Entry forms are now available for the Staffs Closed at the Northwood Sports Centre on March 14. Unfortunately it clashes with a Junior 'Select' again so some of our top juniors may be missing. We are also running a Lilleshall weekend at the same time — it is not easy to obtain these coaching weekends so we are reluctant to forego this one — but coaches Ron Harvey and Graham Povey will be arranging it for a lower level of player, those who would not normally enter the 'Closed'. They emphasise that this does not mean that it will be at the 'novice' level.

The draw for the Beattie Trophy, with thirteen entries, is -

Lichfield 'C' v Walsall 'A'
Walsall 'B' v Lichfield 'B'
Wolverhampton 'B' v Potteries 'C'
Walsall 'C' v Wolverhampton 'D'
West Bromwich v Potteries 'D'
Byes: Potteries 'B', Wolverhampton 'A',
Lichfield 'A'.

Pauline Long reports from . . .

NORTHUMBERLAND CONVINCING VICTORY

The junior County team travelled to meet Lincolnshire II on Nov. 21, and came away with a convincing 9-1 victory. Neil McMaster and Allan Matthewson each won both singles, and Martin Tate won one, narrowly losing to T. Mackie. The doubles sets were both won and Clare Mouzon and Christine Burke easily beat their opponents in the girls' singles. This was Clare's first win for the County at junior level, and having mentioned in the last issue of "Table Tennis News" that she had yet to win a singles match for the junior team, it took her only one week to do so following her splendid women's singles victory in the Northumberland Closed.

The following weekend, the County senior team travelled to Walthamstow for the first series of Premier Division matches. Their first match was against Lancashire, and Chu Van Que got them off to a good start by beating Stephen Scowcroft, but Ian Robertson went down to Steve Turner. Andrew Clark had an exciting tussle with Donald Parker, and actually led 20-17 in the third end before losing 20-22. Chu scored his second victory when he beat Parker, and Robertson was successful over Scowcroft, but although the same two players also won the men's doubles it was not quite enough and they went down only by 4-5 in what was a very creditable performance.

Perhaps the narrow defeat drained their resources, as they fared badly against Middlesex, losing by 2-7. Chu beat John Souter, and together with Robertson, had an easy men's doubles victory over David

Wells and John Payne, but these were to be their only successes. However, the men came good in the last match against Cheshire, with Chu beating Mark Hankey and Tony Boasman, Clark beating Boasman and Brian Johns, and Robertson gaining a singles win over Hankey to give Northumberland a 5-4 victory. Having broken their duck, the team must now look forward with confidence to the second series of matches to be played at Batley on Feb. 27/28.

Revised senior and junior ranking lists were recently issued, and these are shown below, with previous positions in parentheses:

Men

1 Chu Van Que (1), 2 Andrew Clark (2), 3 Ian Robertson (3), 4 Fred Short (4), 5 Paul Said (—), 6 John Burke (11), 7 Bob Dodds (5), 8 Ronnie Scott (6), 9 Neil McMaster (7), 10 Martin Tate (8), 11 Glen McCardle (—), 12 Tom Trehwhitt (—), 13 Martin Moore (—), 14 Steve Robinson (10), 15 Fred Woodhouse (14), 16 Dave McAllister (9).

Omitted from previous list are: Peter Whiteman (12), Dave Lucas (13), Charlie Robertson (15), and Martin Young (16).

Women

1 Barbara Young (1), 2 Clare Mouzon (3), 3 Christine Burke (4), 4 Caron Buglass (2), 5 Kit Cheung (5), 6 Shirley Laver (9), 7 Julie Hobson (6), 8 Susan Norris (7), 9 Pauline Long (8).

Junior Boys

1 McMaster (1), 2 Tate (2), 3 Nicholas Jeffreys (4), Allan Matthewson (3), 5 David O'Neill (5), 6 Gordon Watson (6), 7 Steve Allen (7), 8 Paul Morton (—), 9 Wasim Shakoor (9), 10 John Bridges (8), 11 Tom Blackman (10), 12 Peter Curry (11), 13 Eddie Smith (12), 14 Stephen Waugh (—), 15 Jonathan Miller (—), 16 Andrew Drapkin (13).

Junior Girls

1 Mouzon (1), 2 Burke (2), 3 Lindsey Jackman (3), 4 Denise Campbell (4), 5 Tanya Cramman (5), 6 Julie Robson (6), 7 Judith Drapkin (7), 8 Debbie Wallace (—), 9 Meeta Shukla (8).

The cadet boys' and girls' ranking lists remain unchanged.

The Northumberland League men's team of Chu Van Que, Andrew Clark and Ian Robertson opened their account against Stockton in this season's Wilmott Cup competition. The losing finalists from last season started off on the right foot with a 5-1 win, Chu beating Jevan Chan and Terry Murphy. Clark gaining successes over Chan and Malcolm Corking, and Robertson beating Murphy but losing to Corking. The Tyneside Summer League representative side, who had never progressed past the first round of this competition before, met the Carlisle League at Byker Community Centre and won 5-2, with Cliff Olsson and Ronnie Scott winning two sets each, and Paul Watkins one.

Andrew Clark travelled to Norway recently to take part in the Lorenskog Cup in Oslo. Players from Norway, America, Germany and Sweden took part, and he turned in a fine performance to beat the Norwegian No. 2, Pal Guttormsen, as well as Gustavsen, the Norwegian No. 5, before losing to Eric Boggan of the United States, who went on to win the event.

The latest available Northumberland League tables as at Nov. 30, with three weeks to go before the Christmas and New Year break, show the current leaders and runners-up as follows:

Premier Division: Gladstone Terrace 'A' and North Shields YMCA 'A'.
Div. 1: R.G.S. 'A' and Gladstone Terrace 'B'.
Div. 2A: Tyne Head and High Pit 'B'.
Div. 2B: Cullercoats Methodist and South Shields YMCA 'B'.
Div. 3A: Post Office 'A' and Whitehouse Lane 'C'.
Div. 3B: John Boste 'A' and St. Charles 'A'.

Div. 3C: West Allotment 'A' and Blyth Town B.C. 'B'.

Div. 4A: Northumberland Water Authority and B.S.R.A. 'B'.

Div. 4B: R.G.S. 'B' and North Shields YMCA 'E'.

The men's Knock-Out Cup has now reached the last sixteen, and the third round draw is as follows:

West Allotment 'B' v High Pit 'A'
Newcastle YMCA 'A' v West Allotment 'A'
Tyne Dock 'A' v Gladstone Terrace 'B'
Simonside v Whitehouse Lane 'A'
John Boste 'A' v Gladstone Terrace 'A'
Byker C.C. v REVAC
Electrics v Whitehouse Lane 'C'
Tyne Dock 'B' v Ashington Leisure 'B'
All ties are to be played before Jan. 23.

Finally, news of yet another marriage has just reached me. Val Smith, women's singles champion in 1976-77, and now living and working in Leicester, was married to Chris Harding in September. Belated best wishes go to you both for a long and happy married life. Any bets on who is going to be next?!

David Cosway reports from . . .

HAMPSHIRE

QUITE A PLEASURE

It is quite a pleasure writing notes this season about the county teams! Three sets of fixtures and still a 100% record for all 6 county teams. When was the last time that happened! It is difficult to pin point the reason for this sudden change in the county's fortunes after last season's run of disasters. Obviously the re-organisation of the league set-up has had a bearing for judged on last year's results Hampshire find themselves possibly in lower divisions than their potential justifies.

The change in manager for the first team has certainly had an effect with the whole team pulling together behind Bill Wilson and following the enthusiastic lead of their No. 1 Derek Holman. The clash with former colleagues from the Isle of Wight proved a little bit of a disappointment as a match because it was really Hampshire against Carl Prean. Carl won both his singles and combined with Jim Daley to win the men's doubles. On the other hand Holman, Rhamish Bhalla, Graham Toole, Serina Sinanan, and Kathy Conlan won the remaining sets.

I wonder again about the Isle of Wight's decision to go independant. Clearly Carl raises the Island to a status above the ability of the other players. On the other hand with the Hampshire team Carl might possibly have helped the county to even better things. Who knows — we will never now find out. The county first team followed this win over the Isle of Wight with a similar 7-3 win over Berkshire, with Holman, Bhalla and Toole, each winning two sets, while Serina and Christine Davies combined to an excellent women's doubles win. The second team had a good 6-4 win over Avon 2nds.

A real team effort this under captain Dennis Kneller, Martin Gilbert, John Roberts and Chris Shetler each won a singles, while John and Chris combined to win the doubles. Paul Bathard was outstanding for Avon winning his two. Christine Davies won her singles and combined to win the doubles with Angie Gilbert. I was very impressed with Avon's young cadet Helen Perrott who did well to take Christine to a 3rd game. Chris Wilshere returned for the 8-2 win over Somerset 2nds, and won his two singles as did John Roberts. The junior 'A' team had a win over Somerset followed by an 8-2 win over Dorset's seconds. Mark Wilding, Helen Frost and Kate Lines were all unbeaten in this later win.

The second junior team beat Cambridge

but did not make the trip to Cumberland. It is not really a trip for a second string junior team for either practical or economical reasons! The first veterans team beat Middlesex 2nds, 5-4 with a Maurie Shave victory in the final set. Ray Lush back in form earlier with a win over George Muranyi. This win was followed by an equally tight 5-4 win over Berkshire. Wins over both Wiltshire II and Berkshire II for the second veterans team, complete a notable start to the county's programme.

In the inter-town league, very little action considering the season is almost half over, and the league secretary Di Winmill appeals to town team captains "please" post off result cards. In the mixed division few matches played with early leaders Aldershot gaining two wins, and Winchester having a surprise 10-2 win over Bournemouth. Not enough matches played in the men's or junior divisions, to gain any idea on the likely winners. In the veteran division Bournemouth 'B' top with 5 points from 3 matches, but no 100% teams. The champions Portsmouth have already lost a match 4-6 to Basingstoke.

I hear Di Winmill and Bill Wilson have joined the growing list of National Umpires in the county — congratulations!

I paid my first visit to Generation 2 for their match against Gunnersbury Triangle, to see Prean's debut. He comfortably won his two but other close sets made the 6-1 score line to Generation 2 a little flattering although they must be front runners for the promotion playoff. Simon Heaps lost his 100% record to Tony Stark "deuce" in the 3rd, but his opponent's attitude hardly endeared him to the very good home crowd. What a well promoted match though, and with the team doing well crowds are improving and I hope this will continue for this hard working club. The next home match is against Graham Spicer on Jan. 24 as a warm up for their vital clash with Butterfly Cardiff on Feb. 21. These games start at 2 p.m. at St. Anne's School, Fareham.

On the tournament scene, I am pleased to see the English Closed is to be held in Basingstoke, Feb. 18/20. I was amazed to see the E.T.T.A. approval given to a Basingstoke junior 2-star tournament on the same day as the well established Bournemouth senior open. No county approval was given for this Basingstoke event and the clash can not be in the interest of either. The organisers have enough problems these days without this type of disorganisation. Both closed county tournaments have been held since my previous report, at Redbridge Sports Centre, Southampton, with Harold Albery as secretary and Peter Thorne as referee of both events.

The junior event was noticeable mainly for the poor entry. The majority of Southampton's juniors were noticeable by their absence. With two entries only for the U-12 girls, Lucy Proudlove beat Sarah Wilson 16 and 19 in the "final". Both girls were from the Walhampton school in Lymington. The U-14 event was even worse, with Southampton's Sarah Hammond being the only entrant. Five players in the U-17 girls' with matches played in a group. Kate Lines of Aldershot won her four to win the event with Helen Frost of Andover second winning 3. Kate in fact beat Helen 16, -19, 18 in the group match. I must ask where is all the coaching in the county leading, when only 8 players in 3 events take part in the closed championships? The boys' events were slightly better supported with 5 entries in the U-12 event again played in a group. Mark Westmacott won all four with Edward Butler, Edward Westmacott and Robert Magill all winning 2. All four of these players are again from the Walhampton school. Clearly something must be wrong with their coaching at this school — they actually produce juniors that win! In

the U-14 boys, Phillip Davenport of Basingstoke beat Paul Whyton of Andover while Sean Picken of Basingstoke beat Jason Hegarty of Bournemouth in the other semi-final. In the final Sean beat Phillip 8 and 11. A good entry of 31 for the U-17 boys' with the top four seeds reaching the semis. At that stage Toole of Gosport and Fareham beat Steve Snow of Southampton 16 and 14, while Mark Wilding of South East Hants beat Keith Dickinson the No. 2 seed 14 and 10. Top seed Toole won the final 16 and 12.

Despite the exclusion of non-Hampshire-ranked players for the senior event, the total entry was only two down on last season. In the men's singles only two of the eight seeds failed to reach the quarters. The No. 4 seed Wilshere made his usual early exit, this time 19 in the third to Clive Young. The seeded Roberts lost to Winchester/Hursley club mate Gary Longland. In the quarters Steve Wilson beat Young 13 and 17, while Bhalla beat Shetler 15 and 13. Toole beat Longland 12 and 19, and Holman beat Andy Thomas 16 and 16. Despite a painful knee injury Bhalla was playing well to justify his No. 2 seeding and reached the final with a 16 and 13 win over Wilson, who had no answer to the variation and placement on which Bhalla bases his game. In the other half Holman beat Toole 19 and 19. A good final with Holman winning the first at 14, leading 16-14 in the second but Bhalla fought back well to take this second at 18, only one player in the 3rd however, with Holman retaining the title to justify his No. 1 seeding and ranking in the county. The four seeds into the women's singles semi-finals with at that stage Serina Sinanan beating Christine Davies 11 and 16 and Kathy Conlan beating Tracey Knellor 12 and 7. Serina played well to retain her championship 14 and 20 against Kathy with the second game just short of expedite.

I felt it was just as well for Serina that this did not go to a third because Kathy was recovering well and her constant talking clearly had Serina on edge and losing confidence. In the men's doubles the unseeded Aldershot pair from the R.C.T. Club, Thomas and David Phelps became the first winners of a Hampshire closed title from this town. They did it the hard way beating the No. 2 seeds Shetler and Longland in the quarters -17, 16 and 18 and the No 1 seeds Holman and Wilson 20 and 16 in the final. The top two seeds to the final of the women's doubles with Serina Sinanan and Christine Davies beating Barbara Clark and Andrea Seagar 10 and 14 in one semi and Avril Waters and Kathy Conlon beating Di Winmill and Tracey Knellor, -18, 9 and 16, in the other. The final was all one way traffic with top seeds Serina and Christine winning 6 and 11. Toole and Tracey Knellor knocked out top seeds Holman and Kathy Conlan in the second round of the mixed and went into the final with a 16 and 18 win over Phelps and Andrea Seagar. In the other half No. 2 seeds Serina and Micki Sinanan beat Bhalla and S. Green 17 and 18. Again a disappointing final with the Sinanans winning 9 and 5. In the veterans singles No. 1 seed Maurie Shave lost in the first round to "Bunny" Ellis the ex-county player from Bournemouth — good to see him back. "Bunny" went on into the semi where he lost to Norman Stagg -17, 16, -8. In the other half Lush had a semi-final win over J. Harvey and a comfortable 8 and 18 win over Stagg in the final to gain his 8th county veteran title. For the first time the senior championships was sponsored by Wimpey Homes and with expenses escalating this must be hopeful for the future.

On a slightly personal note I was very pleased to see John Prean's comments on the Four T's tournament in December Table Tennis News. I could not put it better myself! It is rather nice for someone to be constructive and grateful for the considerable work that went into the organisation of this event, rather than the destructive criticism we received from other quarters.

Ray Simpson reports from . . .

DURHAM

HECTIC TIME

The County's representative teams in the County Championships have had a hectic time lately, and have played several matches in the past few weeks.

The Senior side played in a very good match against Cheshire at Shiney Row, with the match finishing all square. Tony Gelder scored two good wins for Durham, beating both Trevor Manning and Ron Weatherby, as well as helping Ian Svenson win the doubles.

SCORES (Durham names first)

D. Svenson lost to R. Weatherby -17, 17, -15;
lost to T. Taylor -16, -16.
I. Svenson lost to Taylor -18, -17;
lost to T Manning -14, -13.
T. Gelder bt Manning 19, 19;
bt Weatherby 17, -17, 18.
L. Yarnell bt M. Turner 14, 23.
J. Smith bt A. Hepple 8, 9.
Gelder/Svenson bt Taylor/Weatherby
23, -17, 17
Smith/Yarnell lost to Hepple/Turner
16, -12, -20.

The juniors meanwhile have had two defeats, and are perhaps finding the going a bit tough. One plus however is the form of Gary Webstell, who has won three out of four sets played since stepping in for the ill Stephen Crosby.

SCORES

v Cleveland (L 3-7)
D. McVitie lost to J. Chan -10, 20, -19;
lost to L. Taylor -19, -14.
G. Webstell bt T. Adams 16, 18;
lost to Chan -4, -7.
D. Blackburne lost to Taylor -11, -13;
bt Adams 11, 18.
L. Wilson lost to A. Wattis -14, -19.
E. Blackburne lost to C. Montague
17, -12, -25.
McVitie/Blackburne bt Taylor/Chan 18, 14.
Wilson/Blackburne lost to Montague/Wattis
19, -13, -18.
v Lincolnshire (L 4-6)
McVitie bt C. Bryan 21, 17;
bt S. Worrell 10, 13.
Webstell bt R. Hodson 16, -5, 14;
bt Bryan -17, 8, 19.
Blackburne lost to Worrell -19 -10;
lost to Hodson -17, 12, -8.
E. Blackburne lost to J. Shippey 10, -16, -14.
L. Wilson lost to J. Craik -21, -12.
Blackburne/McVitie lost to Worrell/Bryan
-17, -13.
Blackburne/Wilson lost to Shippey/Craik
-14, -8.

Gelder continued his recent domination of the Maureen Kerry memorial tournament when he won the men's singles and men's doubles titles in Consett on Nov. 22 beating Bill Reay in the singles final and together with Dave Svenson beating the surprise Meller/Lusk combination in the doubles. He lost his chance of a treble when with his wife Shirley they were beaten by Ian Svenson and Julie Smith in the Mixed.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

T. Gelder bt I. Svenson 10, 17;
W. Reay bt D. Svenson 10, -16, 14.

Final:

GELDER bt Reay -18, 16, 16.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Gelder/D. Svenson bt T. Bainbridge/
I. Svenson 11, 15;

Meller/Lusk bt P. Watkins/D. McAllister
17, 16.

Final:

GELDER//SVENSON bt Meller/Lusk 14, 17.

Women's Singles Final:

L. BAINBRIDGE bt J. Smith 17, 9.

Women's Doubles Final:

SMITH/BAINBRIDGE bt S. Gelder/
J. Suddick 13, -18, 14.

Junior Singles:

D. McVITIE bt P. Stafford 5, -19, 10.

Mixed Doubles:

SMITH/I. SVENSON bt Gelder/Gelder
17, 11.

In the Durham Senior League, there are four teams unbeaten in the Men's Division — Sunderland 'A', Peterlee, Philadelphia 'A' and Darlington. However, at the time of writing, only two of these teams have met — Peterlee and Sunderland 'A' who drew 5-5 in the first match of the season — so few conclusions can be drawn at this stage.

The Junior division response has been disappointing, with one team dropping out leaving only four participants — Aycliffe, Bishop Auckland, Philadelphia and Sunderland.

The Women's division, which has four Sunderland teams in it out of five, is led by Sunderland 'A' who have won both their matches by 10-0.

Philip Reid reports from . . .

LEICESTERSHIRE

SPATE OF UMPIRES

There has been a spate of County Umpires within the confines of the county. Ron Emerton was the first successful applicant and he started the ball rolling. Keith Bramhall, Tony Pickles, Edward Griew, Tim Odams and Martin Pickles have all succeeded in gaining their County Umpire badge and one can only hope it leads to other things nationally, besides a welcome easing of this important side of the game within the county boundary. It will be quite a change to have someone else at the Veterans matches, apart from Mike Jackson!

Talking of Veterans, the county beat Bedfordshire 6-3 to virtually clinch the title in 3A. Allen Crowson kept his 100% record intact, the only individual to do so, although the Men's and Mixed Doubles are still intact. Allen beat Jim Wooliscroft in the opening encounter of the evening, but Jim subsequently beat Collin Truman. Audrey Robinson beat a bewildered Pat Kilsby, who could not believe she had not won a set this season! The Junior 2nd team weathered the elements to make the long journey to Southampton in search of Div. 4 (Junior) points but it was a fruitless exercise, losing to Hampshire 4-6. Paul Bumpus won two, David Aldwinckle one and Tracy Clark won her singles, but that was all. The Arctic weather played havoc with County fixtures. Huntingdonshire were unable to manage to fulfill a Junior 2A fixture, whilst we were unable to go to Shiny Row to play Durham in a 3A encounter.

This season's Leicestershire Closed will be held at the Granby Halls in March. This will be a real prestige event and I, for one, am eagerly looking forward to it, especially the Hard Bat Singles. This will bring back memories to the old and not so old! Chairman Geoffrey Aldwinckle has deemed that entry fees for all events will be only 50p. It should be quite a day! The Leicestershire League is now becoming more settled, team-wise. Great Glen (1), Bardwell Liberals (2), Thurnby/Northwood (3), Jones & Shipman (4), Wadkin (5), Knighton Park (6), Wyvern (7), Goodwin Barsby (8), County Hall (9), Bentley Engineering (10), Gynsill (11), Oadby URC (12), Wigston Fields (13), Anstey WMC (14), Guthlaxton YC (15), Leics Telephone Area (16) and Rolls Royce (18) top the divisions, with the following topping the individual averages: Phil Smith (1), John Veasey (2), Terry Yeomanson (3), Bob Davies (4), Steve Freeman (5), Vijay Sheth (6), Geoff Poole (7), Victor Chin (8), Ahmed Sheikh (9), Dave Roche (10), Ian Barkshire (11), Steve Burn (12), Eddie Kirkland (13), Roger Tuck (14), Dipak Patel (15), Tony Williams (16) and Dave Randell (18).

I have been spending rather a lot of

time at Knighton Park lately and have been impressed with Mark Laywood, who looks a real player of the future. Incidentally thank you Knighton Park for putting up with me and inviting me to your Christmas party. Some good has come out of this illness of mine. I'm off to the Lake District to ring the New Year in, to Crawley to see the 'English Open' and in between I move house (thankfully on the 'phone). I was told to 'steady down'. I went to the doctor — who prescribed a pint of brake fluid. Oh well!!

Gerald Green reports from . . .

SHROPSHIRE

Shropshire have taken the unprecedented step of withdrawing from two County matches scheduled to have taken place on Dec. 19 due to the high cost of travel. The matches hit by this decision were the Senior fixture against Buckinghamshire and the Junior 2nd Team meeting with Cumbria. County funds will just not allow the matches to go ahead.

The irony of the situation is that Shropshire are rapidly improving their playing standard with the County teams more successful than at any time in the past.

Grove TTA players from Market Drayton, Malcolm Green, Ivan Smith, David Williams and Sean Groom have all gained National Rankings, with girls Alison Barker, Denise Doughey, Julie Ballard and Carol Wickstead doing likewise.

On the playing side the future looks bright with John Morris doing a splendid job at Pontesbury by coaching a squad of impressive youngsters, many of whom no doubt will soon be recognised at National level. Ian Baker continues to produce some players from his headquarters at Belle Vue Youth Club in Shrewsbury, whilst the Telford League continues to attract more youngsters to the game.

The County teams have performed better than ever this season with the Senior side unbeaten and the two Junior sides having won two matches each. Money, however, is the key. The picture is reflected nationally, with interest in the County Championships waning to the National League.

Grove go top

Grove share the top spot in Div. 2 (North) of the National League following their 6-2 victory over Salford Select at The Grove School, Market Drayton. They share with previous leaders Tarmac of Wolverhampton. Unbeaten displays by Phil Bowen and Mark Hankey proved to be the basis for the Drayton side's victory over an impressive Salford team. Tony Boasman gave Grove a good start by beating Brian Johns in the opening set after saving one set point, but Salford soon levelled the scores when Scottish International Anwar Majid beat Malcolm Green. However, fighting displays by Bowen and Hankey took Grove into a 3-1 lead after both players had lost opening games to Brian Carney and Steve Scowcroft respectively. An in form Majid beat Boasman, but that was to be the visitors' last success as Green beat a determined Scowcroft and paved the way for Bowen to beat Johns and Hankey to baffle Carney.

Carter Cup Win

In the first round of the Carter Cup The Grove made the long journey to Wisbech in Cambridgeshire and demolished their opponents 5-0 in a match which lasted for only an hour. Ivan Smith gave Grove the start they needed by beating Darren Rayner. Sean Groom followed by dealing a similar blow to Nicholas Rayner and James Frost had no answer to the consistent top spin attack of David Williams. With the score 3-0 Smith returned to beat Nicholas Rayner and brother Darren succumbed to Williams to give the Drayton side an impressive win.

Up and down for Alison

Grove School pupil Alison Barker (14) hit top form to win the Cadet girls' singles title in the Cleveland Junior Open at Middlesbrough. Alison, currently ranked No. 1 in England in the U-14 age group faced tough opposition on her way to the final, being extended to three by Yorkshire's Dianne Malpass in the semi-final but beating Jill Powis one round earlier and Yorkshire's Joanne Shaw in the final.

There was a big disappointment however for Alison in the English Junior Closed at Hinckley when as No. 1 seed she had to withdraw through illness, leaving the way for her arch rival Lesley Popkiewicz (Surrey) to take the title.

Doubles win at the first attempt

Malcolm Green and Mark Hankey teamed up as a doubles pair for the first time in the Yorkshire Open and made an impressive start, beating all opposition 'two straight' including Pete D'Arcy and Stephen Scowcroft in the final.

Tournaments hit by weather

Inclement weather and power cuts caused both the Shrewsbury and Telford 'Closed' Tournaments to be postponed and fresh arrangements will now have to be made. I hope there will be an increase of entries on the new dates because the initial numbers could only be depleted.

Iris Moss reports from . . .

MIDDLESEX

WELLS THE HERO

I did warn our opponents that they had a fight on their hands from our "second string" Premier Division team and our gang proved that my confidence was justified, beating Essex 8-1, Northumberland 7-2 and Yorkshire, the reigning champions, 5-4. The hero of the week-end was David Wells with a 100% success, but this must not detract from the achievements of the rest of the team. John Payne won 5 out of his 6 sets and John Souter 4 out of 6 including a nail-biting recovery from 11-19 and 14-20 down in the third game against Steven Mills of Yorkshire before managing to win 33-31! Helen Williams, too, played a very important part, winning 2 out of her 3 singles. Well done, all of you; you are a credit to yourselves and to your County.

Although our Second team started off well, winning their first 3 matches, the fact that some players then had to play up in the Premier Division means that the team will be weaker for the rest of the season, which might jeopardise our chances of a quick return to the Second Division. It is a shame that whatever arrangements are made, there always seem to be clashes and the County Championships are always the event to suffer.

Our Junior Premier team did not do so well, only managing to draw one match and losing the other 2. We hope that they will do better in their next group of matches and thus avoid relegation, particularly as our young second team are doing so well, being unbeaten in their first 3 matches, and will be looking for their turn in the Premier Division.

The Veterans' Premier team have won all their matches including beating Essex who deprived them of the overall title last year.

Money permitting, we hope to continue our coaching sessions for promising juniors under the expert guidance of Malcolm Sugden throughout the season. Our policy is that investment in our future is of primary importance and we only wish that we could find a schoolteacher who would be willing to resuscitate the Middlesex Schools Table Tennis Association. Anyone who would be willing to do this important task should contact any of the County Executive Committee and we would do anything we can to help.

COUNTY OF CLEVELAND 8th 2-STAR JUNIOR 'SELECT'

DISQUALIFICATION AND WARNINGS

by Alan Ransome

Impeccable Adrian Moore and Lisa Bellinger shared the titles in the Cleveland Junior 'Select' Open Championships at Eston Leisure Centre on Nov. 28/29, amidst a disqualification and warnings given to leading players who behaved badly.

Adrian won the Boys Singles with the loss of only one game to Nigel Tyler in the fourth round. He accounted for Philip Gunn in straight games in the quarters and then came up against Gleave. The Moore attack proved far too strong for Gleave's awkward defence with the Sussex boy giving the European silver medalist a beating in the first game. Gleave couldn't take it. With the finals crowd assembled, including guests from the sponsors, Cleveland County Council, Gleave's bat was thrown into the barriers at the end of the first game.

Umpire Brian Foggin gave him a warning but then as Moore penetrated again and built up an early lead in the second, the language from Gleave was too much and Mr. Foggin stopped the game, called the referee who disqualified Gleave on the spot. Referee Richard Scruton had given Gleave a warning for similar behaviour in the team events on the previous day and with that warning going unheeded, he had little option but to carry out the disqualification.

In the other half of the draw, second seed Alan Cooke was unlucky to be beaten 28-26 in the third in the quarters by David Dodd. Dodd also performed well in the semi-final against Lindsay Taylor winning 14 in the

third but in the final against Moore there was a difference in class and Moore, whose behaviour is impeccable, was a popular winner. The Girls' Singles was won by top seed Lisa Bellinger but this also was not without its traumas. The highlight of the event came in the semi-final in an excellent match between Lisa and her former England cadet colleague Susan Collier.

Susan looked in the third game to have the beating of Lisa but with usual grit, solid temperament and determination, the Bedfordshire girl fought back brilliantly in the final few points to win 21-19. Susan showed her extreme displeasure with her opponent's recovery and she, too, was given a warning by the senior tournament official.

Jean Parker did well to beat Jackie Bellinger, three 10's, in the semi-final but was no match for Lisa in the final.

The Cadet Boys' Singles was won by Jimmy Stokes who played a tremendous final against Martin Firth, winning 23-21 in the third. Stokes fully deserved his victory going for the big shots when it mattered and producing a spectacular win.

Stokes' earlier coaching was done by Simon Heaps and one can see the similarities in style between the Reading youngster and Heaps who won the European Youth Cadet Boys' Singles title in Cleveland in 1970, when he was about the same size.

Stokes also did well to beat his Berkshire colleague Andrew Syed 13 in the third in the semi-final.

Firth's path was made easier by Adrian Dixon beating Stuart Craggs 9 in the third in the quarters. Firth went on to beat Dixon in straight games in the semi.

The Cadet Girls' Singles was won by Alison Barker who enjoyed her best tournament for some time. Alison beat Diane Malpass in the quarters, 18 in the third and Ranking Tournament winner Jill Powis who had earlier ousted Claire Mouzon and Alison Boxall, 15 in the third, in the semi. In the final she overcame Yorkshire's latest prospect Joanne Shaw. Joanne reached the final from an unseeded position, doing well to beat Ruth Baxter, Lisa Hayden who was the second seed and Leslie Popkiewicz 14 in the third in the semi.

TEAM EVENT

Moore won his second title partnered by Eddie Gorniak in the Boys' Team Event. Coming from the No. 2 seed position they beat Dodd and Ray Namdjou 3-1 in the quarters, Taylor and Ian Fullerton 3-2 in the semis and then Gleave and Gunn 3-1 in the final.

Top seeds Cooke and Nicky Hoare made an early third round exit, 3-1 to Paul Jackson and David Griffin who, after beating Steve Dettmar and Richard Whiteley, went out in straight games to Gleave and Gunn in the semi-final.

Almost inevitably the Girls' Team Event was won by the Bellinger sisters who did not even drop a game beating Susan Collier and Laura Goldsmith 3-0 in the semi and Jean Parker and Lesley Broomhead by the same score in the final.

The Cadet Boys' Team Event was also a victory for the top seeds with Firth and Andrew Syed beating the second seeds Adrian Dixon and Murray Dukes 3-0 in the final. Firth and Syed's hardest match, in fact, came in the semi-final against Richard Haywood and Matthew Syed with the score-line of 3-1.

The Cadet Girls' Team Event gave an indication of the current standard of the Yorkshire cadets with Ruth Baxter and Joanne Shaw winning the whole event without the loss of a game. They beat Lisa Hayden and Claire Mouzon in the quarters, Alison Boxall and Leslie Popkiewicz 3-0 in the semi and then Alison Barker and Diane Simmonds in the final.

The Championships, which received a mammoth entry, ran well and were finished

for 6.30 on Sunday evening. The prizes were presented by Mr. Alan Alden, Chief Officer of Cleveland County Leisure and Arts Department who sponsored the event.

Comments were made by the sponsors, not just about the two semi-final incidents where action was taken, but at the general level of table behaviour during the tournament and table tennis as a sport is going to have to get a grip of this growing trend if it is to expect continued support.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Round 3:

A. Moore (Sx) bt N. Tyler (Mi) 14, -16, 19;
P. Gunn (Wa) bt I. Fullerton (Bk) 16, 15;
B. Gleave (Ch) bt A. Sexton (Sy) 12, 12;
N. Hoare (Sy) bt D. Griffin (Gs) 19, 18;
L. Taylor (Cv) bt S. Worrall (Li) 15, 14;
R. Namdjou (K) bt S. Griew (Le) -7, 7, 15;
D. Dodd (K) bt D. Illingsworth (Y) 17, 14;
A. Cooke (Dy) bt E. Gorniak (Mi) 5, 14.

Quarter-finals:

Moore bt Gunn 14, 20;
Gleave bt Hoare 16, 19;
Taylor bt Namdjou 13, 12;
Dodd bt Cooke -10, 20, 26.

Semi-finals:

Moore bt Gleave 2-0;
Dodd bt Taylor -17, 17, 14.

Final:

MOORE bt Dodd 19, 10.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

L. Bellinger (Bd) bt S. Collier (Bk) 19, -18, 19;
J. Parker (La) bt J. Bellinger (Bd) -10, 10, 10.

Final:

BELLINGER bt Parker 8, 13.

Cadet Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

M. Firth (Y) bt A. Cunningham (K) -15, 12, 19;

A. Dixon (St) bt S. Craggs (Cv) -8, 19, 9;
J. Stokes (Bk) bt M. Syed (Bk) 14, 15;
A. Syed (Bk) bt M. Jukes (Wo) 20, 17.

Semi-finals:

Firth bt Dixon 23, 13;
Stokes bt Syed 20, -19, 13.

Final:

STOKES bt Firth 13, -11, 21.

Cadet Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

A. Barker (Sp) bt J. Powis (St) -14, 19, 15;
J. Shaw (Y) bt L. Popkiewicz (Sy) -15, 15, 14.

Final:

BARKER bt Shaw 15, 21.

U-11 Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

M. Syed bt S. Cooper (Sp) 12, 17;
N. Pickard (Sk) bt D. Morris (Sp) -19, 7, 16.

Final:

SYED bt Pickard 11, 11.

U-11 Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

C. Potts (Ch) bt R. Metcalfe (Y) 9, 6;
K. Hall (Dy) bt J. Billington (Dy) 18, 16.

Final:

POTTS bt Hall 13, 5.

Team Events

Boys' Semi-finals:

Gleave/Gunn bt Griffin/P. Jackson (Gs) 3-0;

Gorniak/Moore bt Fullerton/Taylor 3-1.

Final:

GORNIK/MOORE bt Gleave/Gunn 3-1.

Girls' Semi-finals:

Bellinger/Bellinger bt Collier/L. Goldsmith (Mi) 3-0;

L. Broomhead (Y)/Parker bt M. Denbow (Ox)/N. Tsakarisanos (Gs) 3-0.

Final:

BELLINGER/BELLINGER bt Broomhead/Parker 3-0.

Cadet Boys' Semi-finals:

Firth/A. Syed bt R. Hayward (St)/M. Syed 3-1;

Dixon/Dukes bt S. Groom/D. Williams (Sp) 3-0.

Final:

FIRTH/SYED bt Dixon/Groom 3-0.

Cadet Girls' Semi-finals:

Barker/D. Simmonds (Bu) bt B. Knight (Mi)/D. Soothill (Cu) 3-1;

R. Baxter (Y)/Shaw bt A. Boxall (He)/Popkiewicz 3-0.

Final:

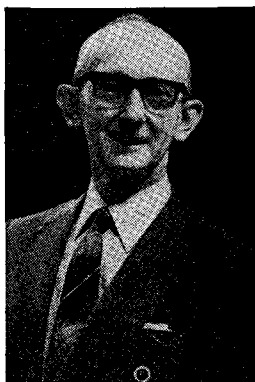
BAXTER/SHAW bt Barker/Simmonds 3-0.



Displaying the spoils of war: MATHEW SYED of Berkshire, and NEIL PICKARD of Norfolk — the respective Winner and Runner-up of the Boys' U-11 Singles at Cleveland.

Photo: Murray Corbin, Wimbledon.

CURRENT AFFAIRS



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

PRIORITIES

Over the past four or five years there has been very little thought given to our priorities, simply because we have not been in a position to afford the luxury of having any. The World Championships in 1977 left us with a terrible legacy that even yet has not been eliminated. The financial disaster of 1979-80 added salt to the wounds and served only to prolong the period of recovery.

With two years of financial success almost achieved and the prospect of a third to follow I do not think anyone could blame me for starting to think of plans for the future. We must remain optimistic but must not lose sight of realities. Whilst, for the time being, we appear to have solved our financial problems there are a few red lights that keep flashing to remind us that the path ahead is not perfectly straight and level.

But that should not eliminate the dreams or stifle initiative. When we can open up our sights a little in the near future, what will emerge as our priorities?

I seem to have spent most of my official life putting good plans on the shelf or even burying them completely, but perhaps I can now indulge in some more positive thinking for the future.

Several ideas come to mind. The one which is very topical at the present time is the introduction of further regional development officers to follow the successful pattern started this season in the north east. Another one is to complete our complement of national coaches making five in all to cover the whole country more effectively. Then there is the temptation to invest more money in our professional players to draw them away from Federal Germany to spend their time in England where they belong and where they can be usefully employed for the benefit of the younger players and the entertainment of the spectators.

Another topic of current interest is the National League which is stifled through lack of funds to assist the less successful clubs to continue. The County Championships too calls for consideration for financial assistance.

The management committee concluded two years ago that the E.T.T.A. required a full time promotions manager to conduct all commercial negotiations on behalf of the association. It was recognised that this would be a risk but it was confidently expected that such an official would very soon pay for himself by the introduction of sponsorship, better contracts and a general improvement in the image of the game. Are we yet in a position to take such risks?

The consideration for the younger players must have some priority and investment in more training and competition is long overdue. Local leagues see very little tangible benefits for their affiliation fees and have often asked for an annual issue of the association's handbook; an expensive luxury or a sensible necessity?

Improvements in administrative functions have been suggested with the introduction of modern machinery for the production of our own publications and material. Again, a risk, an investment, a luxury or a necessity?

Our prestige event the Norwich Union English Open has not yet regained the status as the top tournament in Europe and with restricted finance it probably never will. One of my priorities when I was chairman of our development committee about twelve years ago was to take the "Open" back to Wembley where it was held so successfully for many years.

For a brief period we did something positive for that most under privileged group, the intermediates, the in-betweeners who are too old to be juniors and not yet talented enough to become recognised senior players. The Rock Under-21 competitions was just what was wanted but the events did not attract sufficient attention from the general public and we lost the sponsorship.

Our very efficient and patient umpires still finance much of their own activities and it seems a long time since we invested in an umpires' conference. Even their participation in foreign tournaments is restricted by the requirement to make a substantial contribution towards the expenses.

No doubt others will have their own ideas as to what should be our priorities and what constitutes progress. Ideas will vary according to each one's own particular interest. But it is a good sign that we can now start thinking about our ideas with some degree of confidence and not to be left forever dreaming.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ON STAMPING OUT THE FOOTSTAMP

Perhaps it's a voice I hear in the high or low reaches of my psyche, or a desperate imagination, that prompts me to disagree with ITTF Rules Chairman Colin Clemett and his recent (something's rotten somewhere) comments on the "nuisance" of footstamping (see "Deterrent to Footstamping" in the Nov. '81 issue), but don't agree with the ITTF BGM that existing "rules" on the subject are "adequate".

ITTF Law 3.10.1.7 says nothing about a footstamp but says a sudden noise is a disturbance which may effect the outcome of a rally; obviously the intent is to make it clear that one player ought not to take unfair advantage of another. But Clemett argues if this sudden footstamp is not obtrusive (cannot be heard for the noise of an excited crowd), there's no need to call it. So part of his argument depends on whether the noise is "obtrusive" or not.

Clemett also quotes ITTF Regulation 4.6.7.1 that's meant to "discourage players from mannerisms or behaviour that may unfairly affect an opponent, may offend spectators or may bring the game into disrepute". So his argument also depends on whether the footstamp noise is not just obtrusive but unfairly obtrusive.

I would like to suggest, however, that the footstamp serve, while usually obtrusive, is not unfairly so — no more or less than a sudden high-toss serve may be an "obtrusive" non-noise. In both cases, the opponent will very soon understand that, used repeatedly, it is a logical, inherent part of

the new two-sided racket technology of deception that's come into the game, and so will scarcely be taken unawares — or taken unawares for long — in this day of bat surprises to find one more artifice that he or she must contend with. As for what offends spectators or brings the game into disrepute — that is not always easy to decide on, but I scarcely think the footstamp serve is felt to be offensive by many a player or spectator in many a table tennis community.

It seems to me that not only the ITTF but Clemett himself recognizes the moral ambiguity in the footstamp serve "rule", for the official penalty he advocates for its use is "Don't do it . . . Don't do it . . . Don't do it (urges the umpire to "consistently" call a "Let" against the offender), then follow with a Please don't do it (a warning), then follow that with a My god, I asked you please not to do it (to delay the match while the umpire passes the burden over to the referee). This is just obviously so absurd as to make a mockery of any so-called "rule". Clearly some moral compromise is hoped for — brought about because of the unclear judgement call that the it may be practical-minded umpire or referee will have to make.

One feels — or at least I feel — that the footstamp serve is a "nuisance" to Rules Chairman Clemett (and the ITTF?) because there's no precise "rule" in these changing times that can ethically be found to cover it — hence Clemett's ambiguous advice: "the umpire has the right, if not the duty", to call "Let". Which advice, to my mind, is whimsical and therefore as a moral imperative ridiculous.

Here in the U.S. there are many players who would agree that when the ITTF BGM refused to incorporate a specific rule against footstamping — as they could have done, knowing (from the World Championship and other tournaments) that very good player after very good player in country after country uses it — they, in effect, allowed conscientious umpire after conscientious umpire, conscientious referee after conscientious referee, to condone it, whether that umpire or referee personally approves of it or (something's rotten somewhere) the new opportunities for deception that have come into the game. Certainly I have not been to one single tournament in the U.S. this whole season where to my knowledge the footstamp serve has been disallowed — and, in my opinion, rightly so.

Indeed, were some well-meaning umpire (and what other kind are there?) to call this "rule" on me, I'd say I like to think imaginatively with Hamlet, "By Heaven, I'll make a ghost of him that lets me".

TIM BOGGAN,
12 Lake Avenue,
Merrick, N.Y. 11566,
U.S.A.

RANKING LISTS

These notes were written before the publication of the first ranking lists and though I have been critical of some ETTA policies in the past I have never been in print on any ranking matters. I hope therefore that this will not be regarded as another "promotional exercise". I write in general terms.

I have never been a great fan of ranking lists in any sport. They are now issued so frequently that they have lost their novelty appeal and have become a thrice annual routine. No-one really cares, except the player and sometimes not even he or she, whether they are ranked at, say, No. 13 or No. 17. It makes them no better, no worse. If you win, you win. If you lose, you lose.

If we do have to have ranking lists, then they should serve a definite purpose, notably that of improving performances and the Game as a whole. I have grave reservations whether these purposes are served by the

new system. To employ a computer was an admirable idea, but the computer remains a machine able to digest only what it is fed. The quality of what emerges is governed by the quality of what is put in.

To start with, the temptation has not been resisted to feed in far too much information. Opens, Closed's, Selects, 8 County matches, 14 National league matches, heaven knows how many 2 star tournaments, all these results are fed into the computer and qualify for points in varying degrees. The poor player may rush from one event to the other, weekend after weekend, travel thousands of miles in the hunt for those precious computer points. The system encourages the quantity rather than quality player. There is positive encouragement here to play and play and play, leaving little time for practice to improve basic skills. There is no allowance for the fact that the rest of the week most of us may work for 40 hours or more or go to school for similar periods. So heavy is the programme that it is virtually impossible for a Junior to figure on both Senior and Junior lists without embarking on a veritable rat-race in the course of which school work must inevitably suffer. It is not a responsibility which I would like to share.

Apart from the carrot of computer points, there is the negative one of penalty points. A player, absent from 'Select' tournaments, will incur 10 penalty points. He may be ill, he may have to work, he may be unemployed and short of money. Never mind, he will be deducted those 10 penalty points.

A Junior may not have transport, because his parent has to work that weekend, Juniors too may be ill, the parent may be on a three day week or unemployed and unable to afford the travel and hotel expenses. Still the penalty points will come. All this for the benefit of amateur players who for most of the week have other things to do. Did no-one seriously think all this out? At the end of the day, I understand that whatever emerges from the computer may be over-ruled by the Ranking Committee.

The first official notes were followed by various helpful explanatory articles. They were sorely needed. Unfortunately, the more numerous the explanations, the more puzzled the players have become.

Is it too late to restore some sense of balance? Would it not be far better to adopt a system similar to that of the Motor Racing Grand Prix where only the best 8 or 10 performances of the season are considered?

As things are, the plight of the under privileged areas continues. Most Counties are not in the Premier League of the County Championships, few players can go to the big International events where the big ranking points can be obtained. They can only play in tournaments devalued by the absence of Desmond Douglas, John Hilton and now the injured Paul Day. I hope that this matter will not again be discussed in personal terms. I really have no personal axe to grind and I merely express reservations and criticisms that are quite widespread. I am hardly likely, at my time of life, to enter a ranking list and my son's career is a long term matter not greatly affected by short-term considerations. Therefore I hope that all these things will be looked at in a constructive way and that something better emerges.

JOHN PREAN,

12 Marlborough Road,
Ryde, Isle of Wight

WHY BOTHER

I read with interest every month the Table Tennis News. What a bore the Preans are becoming. If they are so fed up with conditions why bother to enter their son, and so save their two thousand pounds every season. It is obviously not considered

a sport for them. I think they would complain what ever they did.

You never hear any complaints from Umpires who travel for miles in bitter weather and at no little expense. I don't expect my letter to be published as I am only a mere International Umpire's wife.

Mrs. J. M. GLOVER,

84 Wakefords Way,
West Leigh,
Havant,
Hants.

Mick Miles reports from . . .

BEDFORDSHIRE

DISHEARTENING CIRCUMSTANCES

When the Junior Premier weekend was moved back by a fortnight, no-one in Bedfordshire had foreseen the consequences — that a Senior, two Junior and a Veterans' match falling on the same Saturday would have on a Men's Ranking List of twelve, which included (without doubt on merit) the top Juniors and Veterans. Throw in a late withdrawal, add a couple of prior commitments plus the organiser's inability to contact two others, thus saw our Seniors draw their match with Hunts which they otherwise might have won had they not played with a man short. All credit though to Gavin Booth and Dawn Campbell for winning their singles in disheartening circumstances.

Just across our County border, at St. Neots, our Junior First team were really flying the flag for Bedfordshire in the Premier Division. Lisa Bellinger was fresh from her splendid victory over Jill Hammersley at the Midlands 3-Star where she and Jackie also reached the Doubles final. The sisters were on form again and finished the weekend undefeated as did the team, but 7-3 victories over Middlesex and Yorkshire and a draw with Warwickshire are not achieved by Girls' sets alone. Although our boys are not nationally ranked, they never give in, and they will determinedly fight every inch of the way. David Sharpe was a bit unlucky to only win 3 of his 6 sets but

he did beat Michael O'Leary, David Rook and David Illingsworth. Ian Doughty defeated Eddie Gorniak, and Colin Luscombe had successes over Nigel Tyler and Rook.

Meanwhile our Junior Second team were having a day at the seaside. For the inhabitants of a landlocked county, some 100 miles from the nearest coast, it was a novelty indeed to be walking along Worthing sea front in late November eating a bag of fish and chips. The team managed to draw with Sussex. Andrew Conquest got his pair, Andrew James and Lee Holmes won a set a piece, plus the boys' doubles, were our five. No joy at all for the girls, but a mention for young Michelle Hollick, making her debut as a last minute replacement. Although ranked only ninth in our girls' list, she gave a good account of herself getting to 17-all with her opponent, before going down in straight games.

The Veterans had a long journey to Clwyd, where they were made very welcome. Jim Wooliscroft maintained his 100% record with little else going our way. Peter Cutting won one, and lost the other "deuce" in the third, but Colin Gill and Audrey Robinson were empty handed as the team returned from Wales with a 3-7 defeat.

As if there was not enough table tennis going on already, it was the Middlesex U-15, where the up-and-coming Peter Edwards reached the Quarter-finals and also the Bedfordshire Schools Team Championships Weekend.

This competition was held in Luton and the Boys' events were once again dominated by Bedford Modern who won the Under-11, U-13 and U-19, but the surprise was that the U-16 title was taken by the Samuel Whitbread School of Shefford, a small rural community that had not previously entered a team. Even more surprising considering the team included Hertfordshire's Garry Turner and the Samuel brothers!

The Girls' events went much as expected, with the present pupils of Ramridge Junior winning the U-11, and the U-13 and U-16 events going to the former pupils (now at Putteridge High) who are still coached at Ramridge by their former teacher Richard Teague, who also gives up much of his free

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time to organise and transport the girls for their matches each week in the Luton League.

November finished with a flourish from the Bellingers who won the Team event at the Cleveland Junior 'Select' with Lisa winning the singles and Jackie reaching the semi-final.

The girls have also made an excellent start to December by winning the doubles at the English Junior Closed, in the singles they were unfortunately drawn to meet in the semis, which they did, with Lisa going on to the final where she lost in three to Jean Parker. Lisa was also the losing semi-finalist in the mixed with Billy Gleave.

Condolences to Julie Dimmock for once again drawing Jackie in the First Round but congratulations to Peter Edwards and Ian Doughty who reached the last 32 in the Boys' Cadet and Junior Singles respectively.

Finally more congratulations to Lisa Bellinger for being chosen by the selectors to represent England in the Team Events at the English and Cleveland Open.

First Computer Rankings

The English Table Tennis Association have released the Lentec National Senior Rankings Lists — the first set of rankings ever to be produced by computer.

The computer has been provided by the Coventry-based company which is renowned for its development of table tennis rubber — Lentec. The company's slogan is 'Where Sport and Technology meet' and, announcing the ranking list, the Chairman of the Ranking Panel, Peter Charters, was obviously delighted at the fruition of nine months research. "The initial reaction of the players at the Middlesex 3-Star Open was very favourable" he said "and we are happy that we seem to have achieved a good balance within the computer programme".

Not unexpectedly Desmond Douglas heads the men's list but Paul Day is the new England No. 2 — the European Champion, John Hilton, unranked due to insufficient evidence. And Jill Hammersley, despite an unexpected defeat in the Midland Counties 3-Star Open, is still ahead of the two leading girls, Karen Witt and Alison Gordon. Rankings (previous positions in brackets):

- Men**
- 1 Desmond Douglas (Wa) (1)
 - 2 Paul Day (Ca) (3)
 - 3 Duggie Johnson (Wa) (4)
 - 4 G Sandley (Mi) (9)
 - 5 D. Parker (La) (7)
 - 6 K. Jackson (E) (6)
 - 7 M. Crimmins (Sy) (8)
 - 8 N. Eckersley (Ch) (11)
 - 9 S. Andrew (E) (21)
 - 10 D. Wells (Mi) (16)
 - 11 D. Constance (Do)
 - 12 M. Mitchell (Mi) (17)
 - 13 P. Bradbury (Bu) (25)
 - 14 S. Mills (Y) (10)
 - 15 A. Wellman (Bk) (22)
 - 16 D. Barr (Bk) (20)
 - 17 J. Souter (Mi) (23)
 - 18 C. Rogers (Le) (15)
 - 19 D. Newman (E) (19)
 - 20 J. Kitchener (Sk) (14)
 - 21 I. Kenyon (K) (18)
 - 22 D. Tan (Mi)
 - 23 C. Wilson (Mi) (26)
 - 24 P. McQueen (Sy) (24)
 - 25 W. Gleave (Ch)
 - 26 S. Turner (La) (28)
 - 27 C. Preat (IOW)
 - 28 K. Satchell (W1)

- 29 R. Jermyn (He)
- 30 A. Fletcher (Y)
- 31 J. Walker (Cv)
- 32 K. Beadsley (Y)
- 33 A. Bellingham (St) (27)
- 34 M. Francis (Sx)
- 35 A. Boasman (Ch)
- 36 K. Paxton (Du)
- 37 A. Clark (Nd)
- 38 J. Kennedy (K)
- 39 P. Taylor (He)
- 40 D. Charlery (E)
- 41 I. Robertson (Nd)
- 42 B. Hayward (Wa)
- 43 M. Hankey (Ch)
- 44 B. Johnson (Wa)
- 45 J. Payne (Mi)
- 46 M. Green (Sp)
- 47 S. Moore (Sx)
- 48 D. Dodd (K)
- 49 P. Namdjou (K)
- 50 S. Scowcroft (La)

The following are not ranked due to insufficient evidence:- John Hilton (La) (2), Robert Potton (E) (5) and Ian Horsham (E) (13), the former now resident in Saarbrücken and Potton in Alkenwaard, Holland. Nicky Jarvis (Cv), formerly at No. 12, is not now engaged competitively.

- Women**
- 1 Jill Hammersley (Bu) (1)
 - 2 Karen Witt (Bk) (2)
 - 3 Alison Gordon (Bk) (6)
 - 4 Linda Jarvis (Sy) (3)
 - 5 Carole Knight (Cv) (4)
 - 6 Anita Stevenson (Le) (12)
 - 7 Angela Mitchell (Mi) (5)
 - 8 Karen Smith (Le) (8)
 - 9 Helen Williams (Mi) (11)
 - 10 Melody Hill (Y) (7)
 - 11 Mandy Reeves (Bk) (10)
 - 12 Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (14)
 - 13 Jill Harris (St) (9)
 - 14 Joy Grundy (La) (18)
 - 15 Mandy Smith (Bk) (13)
 - 16 Suzanne Hunt (Li) (15)
 - 17 Sarah Sandley (Mi) (16)
 - 18 Claire Maisey (Wi) (17)
 - 19 Gina Pritchard (Dv)
 - 20 Jackie Bellinger (Bd)
 - 21 Helen Shields (Y)
 - 22 Cheryl Buttery (Li)
 - 23 Julie McLean (Y)
 - 24 Jean Parker (La)
 - 25 Sally Midgley (Y)
 - 26 Elaine Short (Dv)
 - 27 Julie Revill (Le)
 - 28 Janet Parker (Wi)
 - 29 Nina Tsakarisianos (Gs)
 - 30 Susan Collier (Bk)

Due to insufficient evidence Lesley Radford (E) is not ranked.

Alf Pepperd reports from . . .

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

IMPORTANT NEWS

Without doubt the most important news to come out of Gloucestershire of late is the all England Senior No. 29 ranking awarded to Nina Tsakarisianos by the LENTEC National Senior Ranking Lists — the first ever set of rankings to be produced by a computer. Nina of course has been in the public eye for quite some time, No. 1 Senior woman in the County and still a junior, and ranked No. 7 in England. Congratulations Nina.

The Gloucestershire Closed held at The Stroud Leisure Centre in December recorded the smallest entry for several years. Nevertheless play began promptly at 9 a.m. under the ever watchful eye of Ray Westbury the Tournament Sec. and continued until 9.45 p.m.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Final:

David Harvey (Cheltenham) the defending champion, appeared to have a psychological fear of being ahead and then being caught and passed and this indeed was to be his

ultimate downfall. Leading his younger opponent Paul Jackson (Gloucester) 17-11 in the 3rd and final game Harvey allowed Jackson, the more determined player, to do precisely that. Jackson ran out winner 18, -23, 17, to take the Title and the Trophy. If I may add a personal comment upon this championship and not necessarily this year but others, I feel that a final comprising the best of three is inadequate, it should be the best of FIVE.

Girls' Singles:

Nina Tsakarisianos (Glos) beat Sue Webley 6 and 8, Miss Webley did extremely well to get to the final beating Clare Symonds and Jenny Ellery (The County Junior No. 2).

Boys' Singles:

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

Women's Singles:

Nina Tsakarisianos bt Mrs. Jean Golding (Stroud) 8, 11.

Mixed Doubles:

Paul Jackson/N. Tsakarisianos bt Jean/Andrew Golding 12, 15.

Men's Doubles:

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

Girls' Cadet:

Jenny Ellery bt Clare Symonds 8, 13.

Boys' Cadet:

A. Wilson bt R. Hayward 17, 17.

Women's Doubles:

J. Ellerby/N. Tsakarisianos bt Mrs. Jean Golding/Sue Webley 6, 23.

Veterans' Singles:

Bryan Merrett (holder) bt Peter Slack (Cheltenham) 5, 6.

At the end of the evening Mr. Leslie Smith The County Sec./Treas./and National Councillor presented the cups and trophies and thanked Mr. George Payne of Cheltenham who was The Tournament Hon. Referee, Mr. Ray Westbury The Organiser, and Hon. Umpires present, i.e. Messrs. John Cooper, Trevor Golding, Jack Greening, Peter Cruwys, Jack Reeves and G. Wrightson-Warner.

Peter Cruwys began a coaching class for teachers on Jan. 11 at Saintbridge School, Gloucester. This is really in direct connection with The Gloucestershire Schools TTA. This course is also open for Club players — the only qualification required — is that of 'having an interest in Table Tennis'. So any Gloucestershire player seeing this why not come along and derive the benefit of Peter's long experience at coaching.

And finally, the following players (Juniors) from Gloucester City have official England Rankings - Boys: Paul Jackson No. 14, and Darren Griffin No. 18. Cadet Girl: Jenny Ellery at No. 25.

W. J. Kelly reports on the . . .

WEST SOMERSET LEAGUE

In a West Somerset League match between the Beachcomers, of St. Audries, and Minehead Middle School Pupils the set between Brian Ward (Beachcomers) and Gavin Walker (Minehead Middle School) produced a staggering third game scoreline of 39-37. We don't know what the record for such a score is, but in view of the 20 minute time rule, it would probably be necessary to go back a few years to find it.

Gavin Walker is currently ranked 8th under-14 junior in Somerset, and is a member of the Somerset under-13 squad. His tenacious attempt to keep the Middle School in the match was to no avail as, in the end, Brian Ward's greater experience helped him to take the set and put the match result beyond doubt.

The West Somerset League was only founded at the beginning of the current season. It comprises one division of ten teams and covers the sparsely populated rural area which lies between the Quantock Hills and the western boundary of Somerset on Exmoor.

County Championships Round-up

by PHILIP REID

PREMIER WEEKENDS

Berkshire and Middlesex both won three matches from the opening senior Premier Division weekend, with the former topping the chart on set average. The defensive skills of David Barr proved decisive for the table-toppers, being one of the two players remaining on 100% (the other player was David Wells of Middlesex). Berks, however, had the trump card on the distaff side. In fact they had an embarrassment of riches, with only one of Alison Gordon and Mandy Smith needed.

Yorkshire, lost to Middlesex, and Lancashire to Yorkshire. Kevin Beadsley was the star in the Battle of the Roses, the highlight being his victory over Donald Parker. But Joy Grundy partnered Parker to three mixed doubles wins besides recording a trio of singles wins herself. Northumberland relied heavily on Chu Van Que and he did not fail them, losing only to Wells, besides taking the doubles with Ian Robertson. But he proved that 1-man teams are not in fashion, winning only against Cheshire when Andrew Clark won a couple. Essex too, only beat Cheshire, with Skylet Andrew and Des Charlery proving victorious. Cheshire, in fact, had only Janet Deakin on form and emerged pointless, along with Warwickshire.

The Midland county were dealt a savage blow when Duggie Johnson withdrew through injury. In the circumstances the display of Barry Hayward and Duggie's brother, Barry — defenders both — in securing all eight of Warwickshire's sets was very creditable indeed.

RESULTS

Yorkshire 6 Warwickshire 3

S. Mills bt B. Hayward -16, 17, 14;
bt B. Johnson 15, -18, 9.

K. Beadsley lost to Hayward 17, -17, -17;
bt L. Bertie 9, 17.

M. Illingsworth lost to Johnson -14, -14;
bt Bertie -16, 9, 19.

Mrs. M. Hill bt Miss K. Groves 17, 17.

Beadsley/Mills lost to Hayward/Johnson
21, -17, -13.

Illingsworth/Mrs. Hill bt Bertie/Miss Groves
17, -19, 19.

Lancashire 5 Northumberland 4

D. Parker lost to Chu Van Que -16, -19;
bt A. Clark -19, 15, 20.

S. Scowcroft lost to Chu Van Que -10, -13;
lost to I. Robertson -16, -22.

S. Turner bt Robertson 16, 13;
bt Clark 12, -21, 15.

Miss J. Grundy bt Mrs. B. Young 17, 20.

Scowcroft/Turner lost to Chu Van Que/
Robertson -16, 18, -11.

Parker/Miss Grundy bt Clark/Mrs. Young
9, 14.

Middlesex 8 Essex 1

D. Wells bt D. Newman 8, 20;
bt D. Charlery 10, 18.

J. Souter lost to Newman 15, -11, -19;
bt S. Gibbs 18, -16, 14.

J. Payne bt Charlery 13, 17;
bt Gibbs -15, 19, 7.

Miss H. Williams bt Mrs. E. Foulds
23, -17, 18.

Payne/Wells bt Charlery/T. Penny
-19, 14, 14.

Souter/Miss Williams bt Newman/
Mrs. Foulds 15, -16, 13.

Berkshire 8 Cheshire 1

A. Wellman bt M. Hankey 17, 22;
bt A. Boasman 13, 13.

D. Barr bt Boasman 14, 14;
bt B. Johns 15, 15.

D. Reeves lost to Hankey -17, -14;
bt Johns 16, 16.

Miss A. Gordon bt Miss J. Deakin 13, 12.

Barr/Reeves bt Boasman/Johns -14, 17, 23.

Wellman/Miss Gordon bt Hankey/
Miss Deakin 17, 15.

Lancashire 4 Yorkshire 5

Parker bt Mills 10, 13;

lost to Beadsley 10, -14, -18.

Scowcroft lost to Mills -11, -13;

bt Illingsworth 14, -13, 9.

Turner lost to Beadsley 17, -15, -21;

lost to Illingsworth 18, -18, -15.

Miss Grundy bt Mrs. Hill 10, 8.

Scowcroft/Turner lost to Illingsworth/Mills
20, -19, -21.

Parker/Miss Grundy bt Beadsley/Mrs. Hill
16, -10, 22.

Northumberland 2 Middlesex 7

Chu Van Que bt Souter 18, -19, 13;
lost to Wells -17, -14.

Robertson lost to Souter -14, -14;
lost to Payne -16, -19.

Clark lost to Wells -21, -19;

lost to Payne -18, 12, -18.

Mrs. Young lost to Miss Williams -18, -12.

Chu Van Que/Robertson bt Payne/Wells
13, 12.

Clark/Mrs. Young lost to Souter/
Miss Williams -14, -13.

Warwickshire 2 Berkshire 7

Hayward bt Wellman 11, 14;
lost to Barr -12, 20, -17.

Johnson bt Wellman -14, 11, 14;
lost to Reeves 21, -10, -19.

Bertie lost to Barr -15, -16;
lost to Reeves -14, -16.

Miss Groves lost to Miss Gordon -11, -14.

Hayward/Johnson lost to Barr/Wellman
20, -18, -19.

Bertie/Miss Groves lost to Reeves/
Miss Gordon -17, -8.

Essex 5 Cheshire 4

Newman bt Boasman 14, 13;
bt Hankey 15, 18.

Charlery bt Boasman -18, 6, 6;
bt Johns -16, 20, 22.

Penny lost to Hankey -10, -12;
bt Johns 12, 15.

Mrs. E. Sayer lost to Miss Deakin -17, -14.

Charlery/Penny lost to Boasman/Johns
-17, -18.

Newman/Mrs. Sayer lost to Hankey/
Miss Deakin -14, -19.

Yorkshire 4 Middlesex 5

Mills lost to Wells -9, -17;
lost to Souter 14, -14, -31.

Beadsley lost to Wells -13, 19, -14;
bt Payne 14, 10.

Illingsworth lost to Souter -18, -6;
lost to Payne 19, -17, -15.

Mrs. Hill bt Miss Williams 18, 15.

Illingsworth/Mills bt Payne/Wells
14, -14, 20.

Beadsley/Mrs. Hill bt Souter/Miss Williams
17, 12.

Northumberland 5 Cheshire 4

Chu Van Que bt Boasman 17, 17;
bt Hankey 14, 11.

Clark bt Boasman 18, 16;
bt Johns 18, 17.

Robertson bt Hankey 18, 17;
lost to Johns -18, -19.

Mrs. Young lost to Miss Deakin -18, -19.

Chu Van Que/Robertson lost to Hankey/
Johns -21, 18, -16.

Clark/Mrs. Young lost to Boasman/
Miss Deakin -16, -19.

Lancashire 7 Warwickshire 2

Parker bt Hayward 18, 19;
bt Johnson 17, 13.

Scowcroft lost to Hayward -10, -16;
bt Bertie 19, 7.

Turner bt Johnson 12, -21, 17;
bt Bertie 12, 14.

Miss Grundy bt Miss Groves 13, 14.

Scowcroft/Turner lost to Hayward/Johnson
15, -14, -16.

Parker/Miss Grundy bt Bertie/Miss Groves
-14, 11, 5.

Essex 2 Berkshire 7

Newman lost to Wellman 20, -22, -10;
lost to Barr -10, 19, -9.

Charlery lost to Wellman -10, -15;
bt Reeves -13, 12, 15.

Penny lost to Barr -13, -15;
lost to Reeves -18, 13, -16.

Mrs. Foulds lost to Miss M. Smith -13, -9.

Charlery/Penny lost to Barr/Reeves
18, -19, -15.

Newman/Mrs. Sayer bt Wellman/
Miss Smith -16, 19, 20.

SENIOR PREMIER

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Berkshire	3	3	0	22	5	6
Middlesex	3	3	0	20	7	6
Lancashire	3	2	1	16	11	4
Yorkshire	3	2	1	15	12	4
Northumberland	3	1	2	11	16	2
Essex	3	1	2	8	19	2
Cheshire	3	0	3	9	18	0
Warwickshire	3	0	3	7	20	0

DIVISION 2A

Staffordshire 4 Leicestershire 6

Lancashire II 10 Warwickshire 0

Derbyshire 3 Yorkshire II 7

Cambridgeshire 6 Worcestershire 4

Lancs only unbeaten team in this division with Paul Rainford 100%. Andy Bellingham (Staffs) supreme against Leics. Six MS for Cambs (Keith Richardson, Mick Harper and Geoff Davies). Derbyshire's junior protege, Alan Cooke, ploughed a lonely furrow taking two singles and a doubles (with Ivor Warner).

DIVISION 2B

Hertfordshire 5 Surrey 5

Devon 3 Kent 7

Wiltshire 6 Essex II 4

Richard Jermyn (Herts) supreme v Surrey. Kent men (Joe Kennedy, John Burleton and Paul Namdjou) and Devon women (Elaine Short and Gina Pritchard) unbeaten. Wilts a 1-man (Kevin Satchell) and 2-women (Janet Parker and Claire Maisey) team.

DIVISION 3A

Cumbria 4 Derbyshire II 6

Durham 5 Cheshire II 5

Leicestershire II 7 Lincolnshire 3

Derbys' three Stephens — Yallop, Young and McCarthy — responsible for them being only 100% team. Cheshire II and Durham, previously 100% shared spoils. Ron Weatherby (Ches) and Durham women (Linda Yarnell and Julie Smith) starred.

DIVISION 3B

Cornwall 4 Avon 6

Gloucestershire 7 Somerset 3

Dorset II 7 Isle of Wight 3

Berkshire II 3 Hampshire 7

Hants still 100% thanks to Derek Holman, Ramesh Bhalla and Graham Toole (still unbeaten). Andy Creed easily best in Cornwall — Avon encounter. Andrew Golding and Bill Dawe helped Gloucs to victory. The islanders' Carl Prean fought in vain, with Jason Creasey taking two for Dorset.

DIVISION 3C

Northamptonshire 4 Shropshire 6

Oxfordshire 7 Herefordshire 3

Worcestershire II 6 Buckinghamshire 4

Bedfordshire 5 Huntingdonshire 5

Bedfordshire 7 Oxfordshire 3

Surprise pacemakers Salop, only 100% team, although Malcolm Green surrendered his individual record to Gary Alden (Northants) -18, -18. Alden and Ivan Smith took two. S. Kathuria (Oxon), Paul Osman (Worcs) helped their teams to victory. G. Booth helped Beds, one player short, to draw with Hunts. Belling sisters the main difference in the Beds/Oxon match.

DIVISION 3D

Kent II 2 Middlesex II 8

Sussex II 10 Surrey II 0

Norfolk 3 Hertfordshire II 7

Cambridgeshire II 2 Suffolk 8

Sussex look championship material (Philip Smith, Peter Puddock, Roger Chandler, Sheila King and C. Randall) although they could be challenged by Middx II especially John Payne (6 out of 6). Barry White gained unexpected victory over Doug Bennett (Norfolk). John Kitchener-inspired Suffolk too strong for Cambs II.

DIVISION 4A

Avon II 1 Wiltshire II 9

Somerset II 2 Hampshire II 8

Hants, thanks to John Roberts and Chris Wilshere, still 100%. Wilts, with Steve McBean and Eddie Rofe, too powerful for Avon.

DIVISION 4B

Suffolk II 7 Oxfordshire II 3

Buckinghamshire II 6 Norfolk II 4

Third successive 7-3 win for leaders Suffolk but Arthur Chilvers (Oxon) the star. Bucks men (Norman Swift, Les Wooding and Steve Brindle) carried too many guns for Norfolk.

JUNIOR PREMIER

The Junior weekend proved disastrous for champions Middlesex, picking up a mere point (against Surrey) from three matches. Surrey, in fact, finished top. Nobody could match their boys' trio of Nicky Hoare, Michael Hammond and Andrew Sexton although Bedfordshire, level on points with them, had the redoubtable Bellinger sisters who had the effect of giving them three start every match. Kent with David Dodd and Ray Namdjou suffered from having no consistent No. 3. Yorkshire lost surprisingly to Beds and could only finish in fourth spot despite having the best all-round team in the competition.

Sussex, with Adrian Moore spearheading their attack, look safe, in fact they are only 2 pts. behind the leaders! In sixth spot are Warwicks who have a boy of rich promise in Phil Gunn, with Ray Namdjou (Kent) the only boy 100%. Staffs rely on Fiona Elliot and Vicky Bellingham to such an extent they have collected 9 of their 13 sets! In the unaccustomed position of wooden- spoonists are Middlesex. Yet they are a useful looking outfit, which just proves the strength of the Premier Division!

RESULTS

Middlesex 3 Yorkshire 7

E. Gorniak bt D. Rook 14, 16;
lost to D. Illingsworth -16, -17.
M. O'Leary bt Rook 17, 15;
lost to S. Sharpe -13, -17.
D. Goode lost to Sharpe -15, -18;
lost to Illingsworth -19, 16, -19.

Miss M. Williams bt Miss M. Seaton 20, 21.
Miss L. Goldsmith lost to Miss J. Ryalls
-21, -9.

Gorniak/O'Leary lost to Illingsworth/
Sharpe -18, -15.

Miss Goldsmith/Miss Williams lost to
Miss Ryalls/Miss Seaton -15, 17, -16.

Sussex 1 Surrey 9

A. Moore lost to M. Hammond 19, -18, -20;
lost to N. Hoare -12, 13, -22.

R. Venner lost to Hoare -16, -14;
lost to A. Sexton -16, 12, -16.

G. Chandler lost to Hammond -14, -11;
lost to Sexton -9, -12.

Miss T. Moore lost to Miss M. Hams
-20, 15, -15.

Miss S. Weston bt Miss J. Mills 20, -17, 7.

G. Bonner/Moore lost to Hammond/Sexton
-22, 14, -17.

Miss Moore/Miss Weston lost to Miss Hams/
Miss Mitchell -18, -20.

Warwickshire 5 Bedfordshire 5

P. Gunn bt D. Sharpe 16, 20;

bt I. Doughty -15, 15, 15.

D. Rudge bt Sharpe 15, -17, 16;

lost to C. Luscombe -11, -12.

M. Thomas lost to Doughty -20, 16, -18;

bt Luscombe 18, 22.

Miss F. Sutton lost to Miss L. Bellinger

-15, -11.

Miss M. McHale lost to Miss J. Bellinger

-7, -12.

R. Lewis/Rudge bt Luscombe/Sharpe 16, 20.

Miss McHale/Miss Sutton lost to

Miss Bellinger/Miss Bellinger -15, -6.

Kent 6 Staffordshire 4

D. Dodd bt Andrew Dixon 18, 17;

bt Adrian Dixon 15, 18.

R. Namdjou bt Andrew Dixon -14, 13, 16;

bt A. Devitt 15, 14.

N. Harris lost to Adrian Dixon -15, -22;

bt Devitt 12, 14.

Miss J. Mersh lost to Miss F. Elliot -10, -16.

Miss J. Smith lost to Miss V. Bellingham

-20, 17, -13.

Dodd/Namdjou bt Andrew Dixon/Devitt

19, 8.

Miss Mersh/Miss Smith lost to

Miss Bellingham/Miss Elliot -20, 17, -18.

Bedfordshire 7 Middlesex 3

Sharpe lost to Gorniak 13, -18, -17;

bt O'Leary 16, -12, 13.

Doughty bt Gorniak 11, 17;

lost to N. Tyler -16, -18.

Luscombe bt Tyler 20, -17, 19;

lost to O'Leary 19, -13, -10.

Miss L. Bellinger bt Miss Williams 13, 15.

Miss J. Bellinger bt Miss Goldsmith 14, 18.

Luscombe/Sharpe bt Gorniak/O'Leary

14, 17.

Miss Bellinger/Miss Bellinger bt Miss

Goldsmith/Miss Williams 9, -14, 13.

Surrey 8 Warwickshire 2

Hoare lost to Gunn -18, -20;

bt Rudge 20, 12.

Hammond lost to Gunn -19, -18;

bt Lewis 17, -20, 18.

Sexton bt Rudge 19, 12;

bt Lewis 19, 12.

Miss Hams bt Miss Sutton 17, 17;

Miss Mills bt Miss McHale 14, -10, 18.

Hammond/Sexton bt Lewis/Rudge 18, 10.

Miss Hams/Miss Mills bt Miss McHale/
Miss Sutton -18, 10, 7.

Yorkshire 5 Kent 5

Illingsworth lost to D. Dodd -11, -16;

lost to P. Namdjou -14, -15.

Sharpe lost to D. Dodd -19, -15;

bt A. Dodd 16, 21.

J. Thatcher lost to Namdjou -17, -18;

bt A. Dodd 12, -19, 18.

Miss Ryalls bt Miss Mersh 7, 10.

Miss L. Broomhead bt Miss J. Haughton

18, 11.

Illingsworth/Sharpe lost to D. Dodd/
Namdjou -16, 19, -15.

Miss Ryalls/Miss Seaton bt Miss Haughton/
Miss Smith 19, 16.

Staffordshire 4 Sussex 6

Andrew Dixon lost to Moore -7, -16;

lost to Bonner 12, -20, -17.

Adrian Dixon lost to Moore -14, -9;

bt Venner 13, 20.

R. Hayward lost to Bonner 20, -14, -12;

lost to Venner -17, 10, -17.

Miss Elliot bt Miss Moore 17, 25.

Miss Bellingham bt Miss Weston 20, 20.

Andrew Dixon/Devitt lost to Bonner/Moore

-15, -15.

Miss Bellingham/Miss Elliot bt Miss Moore/
Miss Weston 21, 19.

Middlesex 5 Surrey 5

Gorniak lost to Hoare 19, -11, -15;

bt Hammond 15, 15.

O'Leary bt Hoare -20, 19, 20;

bt Sexton 17, -17, 16.

Goode lost to Hammond 20, -15, -15;

lost to Sexton -13, 20, -13.

Miss Williams lost to Miss Hams -10, -17;

Miss Goldsmith bt Miss Mills 16, 14.

Gorniak/Tyler bt Hammond/Sexton 10, 13.

Miss Goldsmith/Miss Williams lost to Miss

Hams/Miss Mills -11, -18.

Warwickshire 5 Staffordshire 5

Gunn bt Andrew Dixon 19, 13;

bt Adrian Dixon 18, 16.

Thomas lost to Andrew Dixon -10, 16, -15;

lost to Hayward -17, 13, -20.

Lewis bt Adrian Dixon 12, 7;

bt Hayward 11, 16.

Miss Sutton lost to Miss Elliot 13, -12, -15.

Miss McHale lost to Miss Bellingham

-14, -13.

Lewis/Rudge bt Andrew Dixon/Devitt 18, 20.

Miss McHale/Miss Sutton lost to Miss

Bellingham/Miss Elliot 15, -6, -11.

Yorkshire 3 Bedfordshire 7

Rook lost to Sharpe -17, -20;

lost to Luscombe -20, -12.

Sharpe bt Conquest 9, 21;

bt Luscombe 18, 13.

Illingsworth lost to Sharpe -15, 15, -9;

bt Conquest 15, 12.

Miss Ryalls lost to Miss L. Bellinger -16, -18;

Miss Broomhead lost to Miss J. Bellinger

16, -16, -17;

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Rook/Sharpe lost to Luscombe/Sharpe 19, -25, -13.
Miss Broomhead/Miss Ryalls lost to Miss Bellinger/Miss Bellinger -14, -13.

Sussex 5 Kent 5
Moore bt Dodd -17, 16, 17;
lost to P. Namdjou -22, 16, -21.
Bonner lost to Dodd -12, -17;
bt Harris 21, -13, 17.
Venner lost to Namdjou -12, -10;
bt Harris 17, 14.
Miss Moore bt Miss Mersh 18, 7.
Miss Weston lost to Miss Smith -22, -18.
Bonner/Moore lost to Dodd/Namdjou -17, 21, -18.
Miss Moore/Miss Weston bt Miss Haughton/
Miss Smith 16, 19.

JUNIOR PREMIER

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Surrey	3	2	1	0	22	8	5
Bedfordshire	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Kent	3	1	2	0	16	14	4
Yorkshire	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Sussex	3	1	1	1	12	18	3
Warwickshire	3	0	2	1	12	18	2
Bedfordshire	3	0	1	2	13	17	1
Middlesex	3	0	1	2	11	19	1

JUNIOR 2A

Lincolnshire 6 Durham 4
Cleveland 6 Yorkshire II 4
Leicestershire 8 Buckinghamshire 2
Gloucestershire 8 Huntingdonshire 2
Battle of giants resulted in a win for Cleveland, thanks to Glenn Skipp. Lincs girls (J. Shippey and J. Craik) pulled them round against Durham (David McVitie 2). Colin Jones and Simon Griew good for Leics against Bucks. Gloucs good young team (especially Darren Griffin, Paul Jackson, David Smith and Nina Tsakarisianos).

JUNIOR 2B

Dorset 4 Devon 6
Hertfordshire 8 Wiltshire 2
Berkshire 2 Essex 8
Keith Samuels' two keep Herts in contention with Essex for who Peter Hayden still undefeated. Devon's twin spearhead of Mark Ellett and Gary Wilson secured the points for them.

JUNIOR 3A

Lincolnshire II 1 Northumberland 9
Nottinghamshire 4 Cumbria 6
Derbyshire 6 Cleveland II 4
Lancashire 8 Cheshire 2
Two good recoveries here. Cumbria, whose first win it was, beat Notts, despite being 0-3 and 2-4 down — the latter's first defeat! Derbys, likewise, 0-3 and 3-4 down against Cleveland II but won (thanks to Louise Forster and To Thuy Dung again). Neil McMaster supreme in Northld win. Lancs flying high with their three boys (Philip Huggon, Shaun Browne and Michael Mercer) still unbeaten.

JUNIOR 3B

Staffordshire II 7 Worcestershire 3
Northamptonshire 10 Buckinghamshire II 0
Warwickshire II 7 Oxfordshire 3
Herefordshire 2 Shropshire 8
Northants still leading the way in this division. Graeme McKim and Steve Kendall unbeaten. Oxon lost for first time against Warwicks II. Mark Randle 100% for Warwicks. Mathew Harvey sparkled for Staffs. Salop, with Sean Groom and David Williams outstanding, still in contention.

JUNIOR 3C

Hampshire 8 Dorset II 2
Berkshire II 9 Somerset 1
Middlesex 9 Avon 1
Hants, with Mark Wilding prominent, kept up their unbeaten record. Andrew Nash and Paul Halliday shone for Berks II. Middx supreme in this division with D. Topiwala outstanding.

JUNIOR 3D

Norfolk 0 Essex II 10

Cambridgeshire 8 Suffolk 2

Sussex II 5 Bedfordshire II 5
Essex II continue to dominate this division. John Sparks the live-wire (still 100%). Cambs, with James Frost, Julian Wheel and Tim Ashman outstanding, improving. Andrew Conquest the star of Beds in their drawn encounter with Sussex.

JUNIOR 4

Shropshire II 4 Essex III 6
Cumbria II 10 Hampshire II 0 (default)
Leicestershire II 5 Cambridgeshire II 5
David Aldwinckle impressed for Leics as did Dean Pountney for Salop against leaders Essex for who Richard Hendricks made a fine debut.

VETERAN PREMIER

Essex 3 Middlesex 6
Cheshire 7 Worcestershire 2
Dorset 5 Huntingdonshire 4
Middlesex's win virtually gives them the championship. Alan Lindsay and Don Smith clinched it. Derek Schofield still irrepressible for Ches. John Russell gave Dorset both points.

VETERAN 2A

Avon 4 Cheshire II 5
Nottinghamshire 8 Buckinghamshire 4
Oxfordshire 7 Northamptonshire 2
The "old firm" of Alf Saunders and Ron Bolton did it for Notts. Alf Davies, still one of the best hard bat players around, posed too many problems for Northants. A. Brown toiled in vain for Avon.

VETERAN 2B

Essex II 9 Dorset II 0
Berkshire 4 Hampshire 5
Sussex 9 Wiltshire 0
Middlesex II 2 Kent 7
Two "whitewashes" in this division and a close match, thanks to Berks' A. Foster. Henry Buist and T. Adams too much for Middx.

VETERAN 3A

Cumbria 3 Hertfordshire II 6
Clwyd 6 Bedfordshire 3
Jim Wooliscroft's couple in vain for Beds but not Brian Gale and Keith Hartridge for Herts.

VETERAN 3B

Kent II 5 Sussex II 4
Hampshire II 5 Berkshire II 4
Hertfordshire III 7 Somerset 2
Two each from K. Underwood and P. Halliday for Berks, but nothing else. B. Maxted (Kent) and P. Metters (Sussex) also tasted success. David Seaholme cruised to two easy wins for Herts.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP ROUND-UP ADDENDUM
Pride of place must go to those counties who braved the fog, ice and snow on a beast of a weekend to fulfill their fixtures. Although many hazardous journeys were undertaken, all teams prevailed and happily no instances of accidents on the roads were reported.

DIVISION 2A

Leicestershire 6 Warwickshire II 4
Cambridgeshire 7 Lancashire II 3
Worcestershire 4 Yorkshire II 6
Great performance by Warwicks' Adrian Pilgrim to beat Paul Randall and Chris Rogers. Keith Richardson starred for Cambs v Lancs. Up-and-coming star Tony Sander-son responsible for Yorks win.

DIVISION 2B

Dorset 6 Wiltshire 4
Sussex 3 Surrey 7
Dorset's Mark Werner and Tony Clayton ensured they stay top. In youthful Sussex-Surrey encounter, Surrey's Nicky Hoare triumphed.

DIVISION 3A

Staffordshire II 6 Cumbria 4

Cheshire II 5 Derbyshire II 5

Ches dropped first point, thanks to Stephen Young (Derbys). Craig Bakewell and Gregg Hallam (Staffs) too good for Cumbria.

DIVISION 3B

Avon 6 Hampshire 4
Somerset 5 Berkshire II 5
Dorset II 7 Cornwall 3
Isle of Wight 5 Gloucestershire 5
Martin Abbott and Trevor Smith ensured Dorset stay top. Hants lost for the first time, largely through Avon's Andy Creed and Paul Hooper. Martin Bartholomew baulked Somerset's attempts. Carl Preat's wins supplemented by Jim Daly and J. Fothergill for IOW.

DIVISION 3C

Northamptonshire 8 Huntingdonshire 2
Worcestershire II 3 Oxfordshire 7
Keith Willett lone Hunts' winner, P. Jones star of Oxon side.

DIVISION 3D

Sussex II 10 Middlesex II 0 (default)
Surrey II 7 Cambridgeshire II 3
Suffolk 6 Norfolk 4
Brian Garraway helped Surrey win. Doug Bennett's fine -12, 18, 23 win over John Kitchener in vain.

DIVISION 4A

Staffordshire III 9 Avon II 1
Wiltshire II 9 Somerset II 1
Tony Hancock still 100% for Staffs. Carl Bushell much too strong for Somerset.

JUNIOR DIVISION 2A

Yorkshire II 9 Durham 1
Darren McVitie won a hectic first -13, 21, 23 against Jeff Thatcher but the rest plain sailing for Yorks.

JUNIOR DIVISION 2B

Avon 1 Glamorgan 9
Glamorgan 5 Berkshire 5
Essex 1 Devon 9
Devon's quintet of Gary Lambert, Mark Ellett, Gary Wilson, Sarah O'Leary and Dana Kratochvila too sharp in crucial table-toppers decider v Essex. Glamorgan lost their 100% record but Andrew Jones superb against Berks.

JUNIOR DIVISION 3A

Lancashire 10 Lincolnshire II 0
Lancs leading division, thanks to Michael Mercer and Philip Huggon.

JUNIOR DIVISION 3B

Warwickshire II 7 Staffordshire II 3
Oxfordshire 4 Northamptonshire 6
Mark Randle easily kept his 100% for Warwicks but Northants lead division. Ian Hawes and Graeme McKim still 100% but Steven Kendall lost his — to Steven Jonyer.

JUNIOR DIVISION 3C

Dorset II 3 Cornwall 7
Avon II 5 Somerset 5
Middlesex II 8 Hampshire 2
Surrey II 8 Berkshire II 2
Surrey, spearheaded by Robert Campbell and David Dewsbury, top the division. Middlesex, though, led by Nigel Tyler and Dipak Topiwala, pushing them all the way. D. Lee, Somerset, star in their drawn game with Avon — first blood for both teams. Jon Woolins helped Cornwall secure the points.

JUNIOR DIVISION 3D

Suffolk 0 Essex II 10
Bedfordshire II 3 Kent II 7
Essex (John Sparks, Mark Taylor, Paul Stephens, Susan Cole and Edel Puddy) overwhelmed Suffolk. Beds led 3-0, yet lost 3-7!

JUNIOR DIVISION 4

Hampshire II 6 Leicestershire II 4
Cambridgeshire II 3 Norfolk II 7
Paul Bumpus starred for Leics, as did Simon Steward for Norfolk.

(continued on page 34)

(continued from page 32)

VETERANS PREMIER DIVISION

Huntingdonshire 3 Essex 6
Steve Battrick supreme.

VETERANS DIVISION 2A

Northamptonshire 1 Nottinghamshire 8

Hertfordshire 8 Oxfordshire 1
Alf Saunders and Ron Bolton spear-headed Notts win. Alf Davies won against Geoff Tyler in opening set, but Oxon lost 8-1.

VETERANS DIVISION 2B

Dorset II 0 Middlesex II 9

Berkshire 5 Essex II 4

Hampshire 4 Sussex 5

Graham Batt-Rawden helped Sussex to top chart but Hants slipped up losing for first time. Laurie Fountain excelled for Essex. Middx won first match in style.

VETERANS DIVISION 3A

Hertfordshire II 5 Clwyd 4

Leicestershire 6 Bedfordshire 3
Herts behind 0-3, led 5-3! Roy Williams (Clwyd) the star. Allen Crowson impressive against Beds.

VETERANS DIVISION 3B

Sussex II 3 Hertfordshire III 6

Kent II 3 Hampshire II 6

Bernard Gale (Herts) and Norman Stagg (Hants) helped their respective teams to victory.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIP TABLES to 29th December, 1981

SENIORS

Division 2A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Leicestershire	5	4	0	1	30	20	8
Cambridgeshire	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Yorkshire II	5	3	0	2	24	26	6
Lancashire II	4	2	1	1	27	13	5
Staffordshire	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Warwickshire II	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Derbyshire	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
Worcestershire	4	0	0	4	13	27	0

Division 2B

Dorset	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Kent	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Sussex	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Wiltshire	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Hertfordshire	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Surrey	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Essex II	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Devon	3	0	0	3	8	22	0

Division 3A

Cheshire II	4	3	1	0	29	11	7
Staffordshire II	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Derbyshire II	3	2	1	0	17	13	5
Durham	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Leicestershire II	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Lincolnshire	3	0	0	3	9	21	0
Cumbria	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

Division 3B

Dorset II	4	4	0	0	27	13	8
Hampshire	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Avon	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Gloucestershire	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Somerset	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Berkshire II	4	0	2	2	17	23	2
Isle of Wight	4	0	2	2	16	24	2
Cornwall	4	0	0	4	13	27	0

Division 3C

Shropshire	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Bedfordshire	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Northamptonshire	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Buckinghamshire	4	2	0	2	27	13	4
Oxfordshire	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Huntingdonshire	4	1	1	2	14	26	3
Worcestershire II	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Herefordshire	3	0	1	2	10	20	1

Division 3D

Sussex II	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Middlesex II	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Surrey II	4	3	0	1	21	19	6
Suffolk	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Hertfordshire II	3	1	2	0	17	13	4
Cambridgeshire II	4	0	1	3	13	27	1
Norfolk	4	0	0	4	12	28	0
Kent II	3	0	0	3	8	22	0

Division 4A

Wiltshire II	3	2	1	0	23	7	5
Hampshire II	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Staffordshire III	2	1	1	0	14	6	3
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
Buckinghamshire II	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Oxfordshire II	2	0	1	0	8	12	1
Northamptonshire II	1	0	0	1	5	5	1
Norfolk II	2	0	0	2	7	13	0

JUNIORS

Division 2A

Yorkshire II	5	4	0	1	35	15	8
Cleveland	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Gloucestershire	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Lincolnshire	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Leicestershire	4	2	1	1	22	18	4
Durham	4	0	0	4	12	28	0
Huntingdonshire	3	0	0	3	9	21	0
Buckinghamshire	3	0	0	2	6	24	0

Division 2B

Devon	4	3	0	0	26	14	7
Hertfordshire	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Essex	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Glamorgan	4	2	1	1	26	14	5
Berkshire	4	0	2	2	16	24	2
Wiltshire	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Dorset	3	0	0	3	10	20	0
Avon	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

Division 3A

Lancashire	4	4	0	0	35	5	8
Northumberland	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Cheshire	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Nottinghamshire	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Derbyshire	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Cleveland II	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Cumbria	3	1	0	2	10	20	2
Lincolnshire II	4	0	0	4	6	34	0

Division 3B

Northamptonshire	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Warwickshire II	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Worcestershire	4	2	1	1	28	12	5
Oxfordshire	4	2	0	2	23	17	4
Shropshire	4	2	0	2	18	22	4
Staffordshire II	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Buckinghamshire	3	0	0	3	7	23	0
Herefordshire	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

Division 3C

Surrey II	4	4	0	0	36	4	8
Middlesex II	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Hampshire	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Berkshire II	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Cornwall	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Dorset II	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Avon II	4	0	1	3	12	28	1
Somerset	4	0	1	3	7	33	1

Division 3D

Essex II	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Kent II	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Cambridgeshire	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Hertfordshire II	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Bedfordshire II	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Sussex II	3	0	2	1	14	16	2
Norfolk	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Suffolk	4	1	0	3	12	28	2

Division 4

Essex III	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Cumbria II	3	2	1	0	25	5	5
Shropshire II	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Hampshire II	3	2	0	1	14	16	4
Leicestershire II	4	0	2	2	16	24	2
Norfolk II	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Cambridgeshire II	4	0	1	3	11	29	1

VETERANS

Premier Division

Middlesex	3	3	0	0	23	4	6
Essex	4	3	1	0	21	15	6
Cheshire	2	2	0	0	15	3	4
Dorset	3	2	1	0	12	15	4
Huntingdonshire	4	0	4	0	8	28	0
Worcestershire	2	0	2	0	6	12	0
Lincolnshire	2	0	2	0	5	13	0

Division 2A

Nottinghamshire	4	3	1	0	27	9	6
Hertfordshire	3	3	0	0	20	7	6
Cheshire II	2	2	0	0	10	8	4
Oxfordshire	4	2	2	0	17	19	4
Buckinghamshire	3	1	2	0	11	16	2
Avon	3	0	3	0	9	18	0
Northamptonshire	3	0	3	0	5	22	0

Division 2B

Sussex	4	4	0	0	27	9	8
Hampshire	4	3	1	0	22	14	6
Kent	3	2	1	0	17	10	4
Middlesex II	4	2	2	0	21	15	4
Berkshire	4	2	2	0	17	19	4
Essex II	4	1	3	0	19	17	2
Dorset II	4	1	3	0	9	27	2
Wiltshire	3	0	3	0	3	24	0

Division 3A

Leicestershire	2	2	0	0	16	2	4
Hertfordshire	4	2	2	0	14	22	4
Bedfordshire	2	1	1	0	10	8	2
Clwyd	3	1	2	0	12	15	2
Cumbria	3	1	2	0	11	16	2

Division 3B

Hertfordshire II	4	4	0	0	26	10	8
Hampshire							

**ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS
ASSOCIATION**

present

**THE NORWICH UNION
ENGLISH CLOSED
TABLE TENNIS
CHAMPIONSHIPS**

1981-82

to be held

**THURSDAY/SATURDAY,
18th-20th FEBRUARY, 1982**

at

**BASINGSTOKE LEISURE CENTRE
TOWN CENTRE, BASINGSTOKE**

Tel. (0256) 26171

ENTRANCE FEE:

Thursday: £1 including programme

Friday: £2.50 including programme

Saturday: £3.50 including programme and finals

TIMES OF COMMENCEMENT OF PLAY

Thursday 19.00, Friday/Saturday 09.00

REFEREE: C. Wright (NR)

ASSISTANT REFEREE: J. Jermyn (NR)

ORGANISER: H. J. Webb

ASSISTANT ORGANISER: Mrs. A. Waters

PRESS OFFICER: R. E. Oldfield

CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE:

Mrs. D. M. Stannard (Chairman); H. J. Webb
(Secretary); G. James; J. Jermyn; L. C. Pilditch;
Mrs. A. Waters; M. D. Watts; C. Wright;
J. M. Wright; R. E. Oldfield.

PROVISIONAL PLAYING SCHEDULE

It is anticipated that events will be played in the following order:

Thursday, 18th February, 1982

19.00 Mixed Doubles (up to and including quarter-finals)

Friday, 19th February, 1982

- 09.00 Men's Singles — (qualifying competition to Round 1)
- 11.00 Women's Doubles — (up to and including quarter-finals)
- 13.10 Men's Doubles — (1st, 2nd and 3rd Rounds)
- 13.30 Women's Singles — (up to and including quarter-finals)
- 16-10 Men's Singles — (2nd, 3rd and quarter-final Rounds)
- 18-30 Mixed Doubles — Semi-finals (Final at 19.30)
- 18.30 Men's and Women's consolation events — (up to and including Finals)
- Saturday, 20th February, 1982**
- 09.00 Men's and Women's Veteran Singles — (Finals at 11.45)
- 09.30 Men's Doubles quarter-finals (semi-finals 10.20)
- 09.40 Women's Doubles semi-finals
- 10.50 Men's and Women's singles semi-finals
- 13.30 Finals of Men's Singles, Women's Singles, Men's Doubles, Women's Doubles

DIRECTIONS:

By Road - M3 from London and the West (Exit 6). Centre situated in main shopping centre.

By Rail - To Basingstoke Station from Paddington. Walkway through to Centre.

The Friendly Island
GUERNSEY

The Lions Table Tennis Club offer their unique premises for your 1982 holidays. This club, the main centre of Table Tennis in

Guernsey, opened its holiday accommodation facilities to clubs and groups throughout the United Kingdom and the continent of Europe in 1979 and has quickly become a well-known and popular venue for summer holidays.

The Holiday Club caters for groups of 16 people male and female, the leader of a full group of 16 persons can come free of charge. Smaller groups are welcome; table tennis players, family and friends can make up a party, you need not all be table tennis players.

Matches can be arranged if it is your wish with other local clubs and our National teams, and we are pleased to welcome players of all ages and standards.

We provide bed and breakfast and you have full use for yourselves of the catering facilities to make yourself at home and self-cater for the other meals. The Table Tennis Hall, the lounge and TV room etc. are

available to you at all times. Terms £5 per day. No hidden extras.

You can travel direct from most Airports in the U.K. or by Sealink roll-on roll-off car ferries from Weymouth or Portsmouth or from St. Malo or other European Airports.

We will look forward to meeting new and old friends, so if you are interested please write or telephone me for a brochure and booking form.

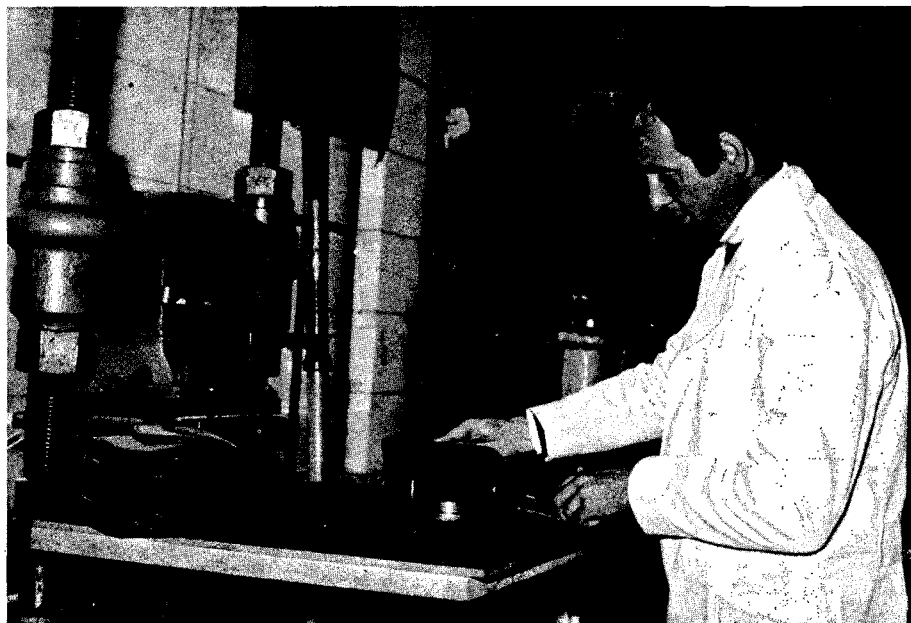
We still have vacancies in May, June and September with one or two weeks still available in July and August. Send or telephone now for our colour brochure and booking Form.

Horace J. Mallett,

**Holiday Club Secretary,
Brackenhurst, Les Hubits,
St. Martin's, Guernsey.**

Telephone: 0481-38972.

Why Toni Hold is so happy...



Foam rubber expert Toni Hold is standing next to a solidly built temperature press and making original anti topspin rubber sheets. Every piece is checked and approved by the chief himself.

Just a few years ago the major foam rubber producers were smiling about the inventor from Austria. Today these companies are using advanced technology in order keep pace with developments.

Now Toni Hold is smiling. As an expert — four times Austrian cham-

— pion and national team member — he knows that only his original anti topspin can give the ball that wicked effect that confuses an opponent and forces him to concentrate constantly.

Anti topspin —
like Turbo exclusively from

JOOLA
table tennis

U.S. CHAMPIONSHIPS

by **TIM BOGGAN**

FAMILY AFFAIR

Scott Boggan, 20, defeated his younger brother Eric, 18, in five games to win the 500-player United States Championships held at the Tropicana Hotel in Las Vegas, Dec. 17-20. Scott, who downed defending champion Dan Seemiller, 19 in the fourth in the quarters, has been playing several seasons in Germany but only recently has been getting good practice with Wosik, Nolton, and Huing. Eric has been playing in Sweden for the last three months establishing himself as a strong contender in any tournament there. Together they're proving that if U.S. players want to improve their game they must live and play abroad.

Sean O'Neill, 14, who has also trained in Sweden, made the quarters of the Men's Singles and won the Under-17 and Under-15 Boys' from arch-rival Scott Butler.

In-sook Bhushan and He-ja Lee, after taking time out for babies, picked up where they'd left off — with In-sook defeating He-ja in five to win the Women's Championship.

Tien Lan Vuong and Diana Gee fought each other through the Under-17, -15, and -13 Girls' events — with the young Vietnamese defeating the San Francisco star in two out of the three finals.

In the round robin U.S. Team Trials, held Dec. 21-23 at the Tropicana, the top finishers (who will be representing the U.S. at the Seoul Open this summer) were:

Men

- 1 Eric Boggan
- 2 Scott Boggan
- 3 Dan Seemiller

Women

- 1 In-sook Bhushan
- 2 Judy Tun
- 3 Alice Green

U.S. CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS (Tropicana, Las Vegas, Dec. 17-20)

Men's Singles Final:

SCOTT BOGGAN bt Eric Boggan
16, -11, 15, -23, 17.

Semi's:

S. Boggan bt Dal-joon Lee 16, 16, -13, 15;
E. Boggan bt Rick Seemiller 15, 18, 17.

Quarter's:

S. Boggan bt Dan Seemiller 19, 18, -17, 19;
E. Boggan bt Sean O'Neill 14, 12, 17;
Lee bt Rey Domingo 14, 14, 7;

R. Seemiller bt Attila Malek 13, -19, 11, 12.

Women's Singles Final:

IN-SOOK BHUSHAN bt He-ja Lee
9, -18, -14, 16, 16.

Semi's:

Bhushan bt Angelita Rosal Sistrunk
-19, 11, 12, -20, 13;

Lee bt Faan Yeen Liu 14, 19, -19, 12.

Quarter's:

Bhushan bt Judy Tun 20, 16, 10;
Sistrunk bt Alice Green 10, 21, 14;
Liu bt Linda Chong 15, -17, 19, 12;
Lee bt Yee H. Choy 13, -19, 7, 17.

Men's Doubles Final:

DAN and RICK SEEMILLER bt Scott and Eric Boggan 15, 6, -14, 13.

Women's Doubles Final:

KASIA DAWIDOWICZ GACA/IN-SOOK BHUSHAN bt He-Ja Lee/Angelita Rosal Sistrunk 16, -18, 20, -18, 13.

Mixed Doubles Final:

DAN SEEMILLER/IN-SOOK BHUSHAN bt Scott Boggan/Kasia Dawidowicz Gaca 19, 8, -18, 17.

Amateur Men's Singles Final:

PERRY SCHWARTZBERG bt Lim Ming Chui -19, 15, 16, 15.

Amateur Women's Singles Final:

CAROL DAVIDSON bt Faan Yeen Liu 9, 19, 18.

Over 70 Final:

Laszlo Bellak bt Wing Lock Koon 19, 19, 21.

Over 60 Final:

George Hendry bt Mike Lieberman 16, 19, 11.

Over 50 Final:

George Hendry bt Tim Boggan -16, 9, 8, 9.

Over 40 Final:

George Brathwaite bt Bohdan Dawidowicz 17, -21, 17, 16.

Over 40 Women's Final:

Pat Hodgins bt Lorma Bauer 16, 14, 14.

Under-21 Final:

Dean Wong bt Scott Boggan 26, 14, -18, 16.

Boys' Under-17 Final:

Sean O'Neill bt Scott Butler
-19, 17, 11, -18, 9.

Boys' Under -15 Final:

Sean O'Neill bt Scott Butler 19, 17, 17.

Boys' Under-13 Final:

Jim Butler bt Billy Lipton 15, 13, 16.

Boys' Under-11 Final:

Jim Butler bt Aaron Cherkas 11, 10, 10.

Girls' Under-17 Final:

Tien Lan Vuong bt Diana Gee 14, 11, 15.

Girls' Under-15 Final:

Diana Gee bt Tien Lan Vuong 15, 17, 19.

Girls' Under-13 Final:

Tien Lan Vuong bt Diana Gee

-22, -18, 23, 15, 10.

UNIVERSITIES ATHLETIC UNION CHAMPIONSHIPS

UNFORTUNATE CLASH

by **Derek Oldman**

The Championships paid a first visit to Exeter University where they were accommodated in the very splendid and spacious sports hall. Fourteen Butterfly tables were used but there was ample space for many more.

Although the entry was slightly down on the past few seasons (due I think to the location) the standard was in no way diminished although it was very unfortunate that the ETTA County Premier weekend had been changed thus providing a clash which deprived this tournament of Janet Deakin, David Barr, Colin Wilson and Mark Illingsworth.

Chris Rogers, having moved on to Warwick University for his final year was hot favourite for the men's singles title. After the withdrawals his main rivals appeared to be Kevin Edwards (Nottingham) and Dave Gannon (Lancaster). These three together with Steve Barby, the Bedfordshire No. 2 and a fresher at Birmingham who had beaten 4th seed Neil Bailey of Sheffield in the quarter-finals, Rogers and Edwards both moved smoothly into the final, comfortably beating Barby and Gannon respectively. As expected Rogers had little difficulty regaining the title he temporarily lost last year.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

C. Rogers (Wa) bt S. Inkley (Lo) 10, 11;
S. Barby (Bg) bt N. Bailey (Sh) 11, 13;
D. Gannon (La) bt S. Douglas (So) 10, 15;
K. Edwards (Ng) bt A. Proffitt (Ng)
19, -20, 12.

Semi-finals:

Rogers bt Barby 7, 11;
Edwards bt Gannon 16, 12.

Final:

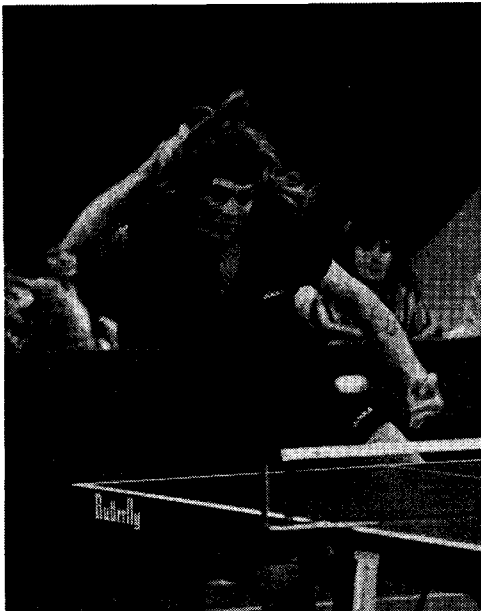
ROGERS bt Edwards 12, 19.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

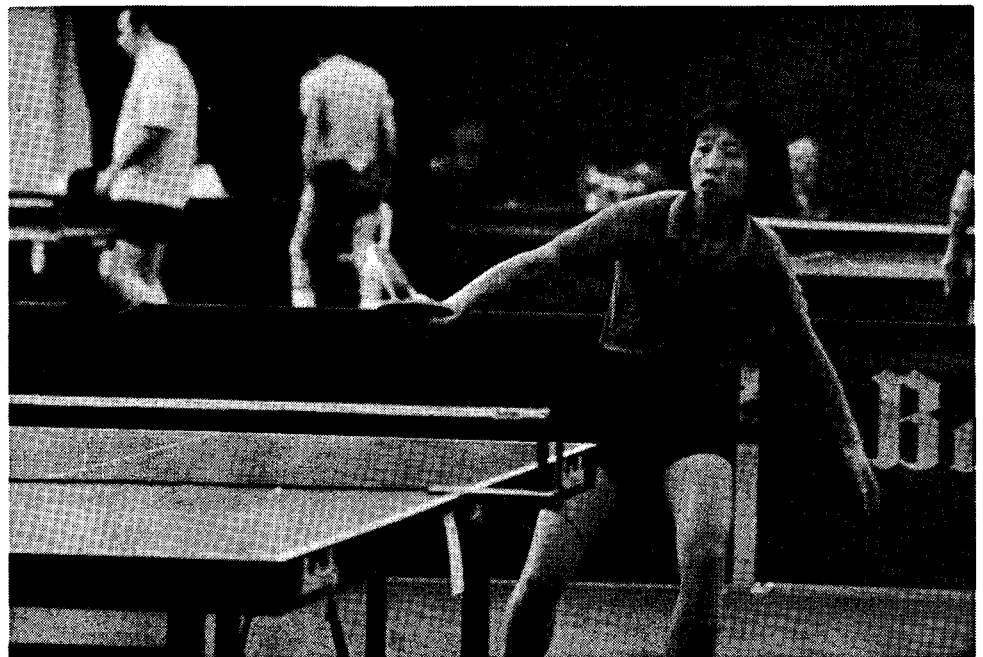
C. Buttery (Ng) bt H. Angmo (Sx) 19, 10;
J. Bush (Ba) bt M. Sangster (Lo) -17, 18, 19;
V. Cruwys (Hu) bt A. Mytton (Bg) 20, 19;
G. Munzer (So) bt L. Tyler (Sw) 14, -8, 19.

Semi-finals:

Buttery bt Bush -15, 18, 14;
Munzer bt Cruwys 13, 9.



Scott Boggan
Photo by Robert Compton.



In-Sook Bhushan
Photo by Robert Compton.

Final:
BUTTERY bt Munzer 17, 14.
Men's Doubles Semi-finals:
 Edwards/Proffitt bt Glennon/Russell (Br) 16, -19, 16;
 C. Lee (Wa)/Rogers bt Field (La)/Gannon 18, -18, 17.
Final:
EDWARDS/PROFFITT bt Lee/Rogers -13, 13, 17.
Women's Doubles Semi-finals:
 Cruwys/Dudman (Hu) bt Emmins/Wong (Lo) 21, 8;
 J. Bush/P. Graham (Ba) bt A. Jones (Sw)/Tyler 19, 16.
Final:
CRUWYS/DUDMAN bt Bush/Graham 16, 16.
Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:
 Edwards/Buttery bt L. Faulman (Bg)/Mytton 9, 14;
 Inkley/Sangster bt Rogers/Bamford (Wa) -9, 9, 11.
Final:
EDWARDS/BUTTERY bt Inkley/Sangster 12, 17.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

by Robert Oldfield

Tables and Results

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Soham	6	5	0	1	36	12	10
Sealink Ormesby	6	5	0	1	34	14	10
Ellenborough	5	4	1	0	25	15	9
Omega	6	2	3	1	24	24	7
Unity	6	2	1	3	21	27	5
Bristol & West Inv.	7	2	1	4	21	35	5
Larkhall	7	0	1	6	19	37	1
Mayfair Wallcvrgs.	5	0	1	4	12	28	1

2ND DIVISION NORTH

Grove	6	5	0	1	33	15	10
Tarmac W'ampton	7	4	0	3	34	22	8
Sealink Ormesby II	6	3	2	1	27	21	8
MBS St. Neots	6	3	0	3	30	18	6
Salford	6	2	2	2	24	24	6
March	6	2	1	3	23	25	5
Stockton	6	2	1	3	18	30	5
S.W. Durham	5	0	0	5	3	37	0

2ND DIVISION SOUTH

Generation	7	6	0	1	38	18	12
Butterfly Cardiff	6	5	1	0	33	15	11
Dunlop B'ham	6	4	1	1	36	12	9
Dolphins	7	3	2	2	32	24	8
Larkhall II	7	3	0	4	23	33	6
Graham Spicer	7	2	1	4	24	32	5
Lansdown Medway	7	1	0	6	17	39	2
Gunnersbury T'gle	7	0	1	6	13	43	1

3RD DIVISION NORTH

Wharfedale Hrmts.	6	5	1	0	32	14	11
South Yorkshire	7	4	2	1	38	18	10
Unity II	5	3	1	1	22	18	7
Salford II	5	2	1	2	21	19	5
Sealink Ormesby III	6	2	1	3	22	26	5
Tarmac W'pton II	7	2	1	4	25	32	5
Ruston Buc. Linc.	6	1	1	4	16	32	3
B'ham J.D. White	6	1	0	5	17	31	2

3RD DIVISION SOUTH

Dagenham	7	7	0	0	44	12	14
SIB Bath	7	5	1	1	38	18	11
Cranfield C. Gwent	7	5	1	1	37	19	11
Gillette Reading	7	3	1	3	25	31	7
Pengeley S. Torbay	7	2	1	4	21	35	5
Prudential Ibis	7	1	1	5	19	37	3
South Bank	6	1	0	5	18	30	2
Cippenham	6	0	1	5	14	34	1

PREMIER DIVISION

20th December 1981

Sealink Ormesby v Omega (postponed)
 Ellenborough v Soham (postponed)
 Unity v Mayfair Wallcoverings (postponed)
 Larkhall 3 Bristol and West 5

27th December 1981

Omega 7 Larkhall 1
 Bristol & West 3 Unity 5
 Soham 3 Sealink Ormesby 5
 Mayfair Wallcoverings v Ellenborough (postponed)

10th January 1982

All matches postponed

2ND DIVISION NORTH

20th December 1981

Stockton v March (postponed)
 Grove v MBS St. Neots (postponed)
 South West Durham v Sealink Ormesby II (postponed)
 Tarmac Wolverhampton 3 Salford 5

27th December 1981

March 1 MBS St. Neots 7
 Salford v South West Durham (postponed)
 Tarmac Wolverhampton 3 Grove 5
 Sealink Ormesby II 4 Stockton 4

2ND DIVISION SOUTH

20th December 1981

Dolphins 2 Generation 6
 Larkhall II 0 Dunlop Birmingham 8
 Gunnersbury Triangle 1 Graham Spicer 7

27th December 1981

Graham Spicer 4 Dolphins 4
 Generation 6 Larkhall II 2
 Lansdown Medway 5 Gunnersbury Triangle 3
 Dunlop Birmingham v Butterfly Cardiff (postponed)

3RD DIVISION NORTH

13th December 1981

South Yorkshire 4 Wharfedale Hermits 4

20th December 1981

Billingham J.D. White v Unity II (postponed)
 Salford v Ruston Bucyrus Lincoln (postponed)

Wharfedale Hermits v Sealink Ormesby III (postponed)
 Tarmac Wolverhampton II 2 South Yorkshire 6

27th December 1981

Unity II v Salford (postponed)
 Sealink Ormesby III 5 Billingham J.D. White 3
 Tarmac Wolverhampton 6 Ruston Bucyrus Lincoln 2

3RD DIVISION SOUTH

20th December 1981

Cranfield Colours Gwent 5 Gillette Reading 3
 Dagenham F.C. 5 South Bank 3

SIB Bath 7 Pengeley Sports Torbay 1
 Cippenham 3 Prudential Ibis 5

27th December 1981

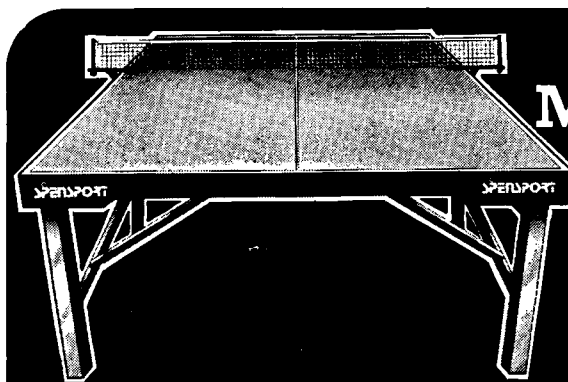
Gillette Reading 0 Dagenham 8
 South Bank v Cippenham (postponed)
 3rd January 1982

Prudential Ibis 2 SIB Bath 6
 Pengeley Sports Torbay 1 Cranfield Colours Gwent 7

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

February

- 3/9 6TH COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS, Cricket Club of India, Bombay.
 5/7 EUROPEAN TOP 12 (Nantes, France).
 6 Lancashire 2-Star Open, British Aerospace Dynamics, Lostock, Bolton (Finals 7.30 p.m.).
 6/7 TSB South of England 2-Star Junior Open, Woking Leisure Centre, Woking Park, Kingfield Road, Woking, Surrey (Cadet finals 7.30 p.m. Saturday, Junior finals 5.30 p.m. Sunday).
 7 North Bournemouth 1-Star Open, Winton YMCA, Jameson Road, Bournemouth.
 7 National League (10).
 10 European League, Super Division, ENGLAND v SWEDEN (Macclesfield Leisure Centre, 7 p.m.).
 13 Exeter 1-Star Junior Open.
 13/14 Essex 3-Star Open, Harlow Sports Centre, Hammarskjold Road, Harlow (Finals 6 p.m. Sunday).
 18/20 NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CLOSED, Basingstoke Leisure Centre, Town Centre, Basingstoke, Hants.
 20 Halton 1-Star Junior Open, Norton Recreation Centre, Castlefields Avenue East, Runcorn, Cheshire.
 21 National League (11).
 21 National School Team Championships Regional Finals. North: Moor Grange School, Parkstone Avenue, Leeds. Midlands & West: Stroud Leisure Centre, Stratford Park, Stroud. South & East: Walnuts Centre, Orpington, Kent.
 26/28 Rumanian Open (Norwich Union Grand Prix) (Bucharest).
 27 Selby 1-Star Junior Open, Selby High School Sports Hall, Leeds Road, Selby, Yorks. 27 County Championships (6).
 27/28 County Championships Premier Division, Batley Sports Centre, Batley, 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.
 28 Coventry 1-Star Open.
 March
 6/7 Junior Premier Division ... County Championships Weekend. St. Neots T.F. Club, Riversmead, The Common, St. Neots. Play will commence at 3 p.m. (Sat.), the final session being timed for 1.30 p.m. (Sun.).



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Brian Halliday reports from . . .

BERKSHIRE

ON THE BRINK?

Are Berkshire on the brink of the County Championship title? After the first series of matches our players have given themselves a wonderful chance of becoming champion county for the first time. Three fine victories at Walthamstow have provided a platform from which a determined challenge can be made at Batley. The squad are aware that the four matches to come will be difficult but there is a growing confidence that this could be our year.

The success story in the first series of matches was due to strength in depth. The whole team played well with Dave Barr in outstanding form. His 100% record in singles and doubles provided the spring-board for three outstanding wins. Andy Wellman, still at No. 1 in the Berkshire rankings, was not at his best but nevertheless gave Barr excellent backing as did the reliable and consistent Dave Reeves who rarely has a bad match. Once again the girls, even without the services of Karen Witt, proved themselves the envy of their rival counties. Alison Gordon and Mandy Smith both played an important part in these gratifying results. Brian Latham will be organising the trip to Batley and any supporters who would like to travel are asked to contact him as soon as possible. The players would appreciate some vocal backing — and certainly deserve it.

England-ranked junior Iain Fullerton won the men's singles title in the Berkshire Closed. His final victim was Rowland who had beaten Iain in the semi-final of the U-21 event. The appalling weather failed to keep the entry down and all events were completed on schedule. Tracey Watkins from Swindon came to Reading with a local raiding party and took the women's singles title. Fullerton and Rowland added more trophies to their collections by winning the men's doubles

Roy Williams reports from . . .

NORTH WALES

MIXED FORTUNES

Clwyd veterans won their first match of the season at Kinmel Bay where Beds were the visitors. Derek Stanfield, making his debut, looked like being unbeaten but lost his second singles to Jim Wooliscroft who won both his. Roy Williams and Jim Bishton each won a singles as did Shiela Rogers. Williams and Stanfield won the men's doubles and Bishton paired up with Mrs. Rogers to take the mixed.

Our visit to Barnet for our fixture with Herts II started off well. Don Hobbs, Williams and Bishton all succeeded in their opening singles then Herts fought back to win both doubles and the women's singles to level the match score at 3-3. Hobbs then lost his second singles, on expedite, and Williams went down -19 in the 3rd to Stevens to clinch the points for the home team. Bishton closed the gap by winning his second singles.

On our return journey we were involved in an accident when a police car collided with us on the A405 near Watford both cars being write-offs but, by some miracle, no one was injured. Police at the North Watford Traffic Base were most helpful and soon had us on the train.

NORTH WALES INTER-LEAGUE

The first session on inter-league matches should have been played on Dec. 13 but was cancelled due to the bad weather. Teams from Anglesey, Rhyl, Llandudno and Wrexham had entered. League Sec. Malcolm Hook hopes to find a new date at the end of the season.

LLANDUDNO CLOSED

John Hook retained his men's singles title in the Llandudno Closed held at Quinton Hazell, Mochdre on Nov. 28, beating his veteran Cricket Club teammate, Roy Williams, in the final. In the semis Hook beat surprise packet Sue Powell whilst Williams had a battle royal with Ken Jones. Hook and Williams won the doubles event beating George Mynott and Les Jones.

Williams, playing in his third final of the day, retained his vets singles title overcoming Bill Rushton in the semis and Mynott in the final. Llion Evans won both the boys' and boys' cadet events beating, respectively, Paul Hulme and Steve Nichols. In the cadet girls' singles Kath Ashton beat Caroline Johnson to become the first winner of the event. Thanks to Rob Walker the tournament was again a success.

INTERNATIONAL

WINS FOR JILL AND KAREN

In beating Jiang Jialiang in the opening game of the first set between England and China in the international match at Ordsall Recreation Centre, Salford on Feb. 5, sponsored by Lex Motors, Lancashire's reigning European champion, John Hilton, flattered to deceive, with China going on to win 5-2.

Hilton was subsequently beaten quite decisively in the next two games which was all that was required by Fan Changmao to dispose of England's champion Desmond Douglas in the second set.

But England did have their successes, two in fact, when both Karen Witt and Jill Hammersley got the better of China's Xie Xiaoyan. Between these sets Paul Day, returning to the side after injury, was out-classed by Chen Xinhua and there was no reward for either Douglas or Hilton on their second excursions to the table. Scores:

J. Hilton lost to Jiang Jialiang 19, -13, -15;
D. Douglas lost to Fan Changmao -14, -19;
Miss K. Witt beat Xie Xiaoyan 18, -13, 20;
P. Day lost to Chen Xinhua -13, -9;
Mrs. J. Hammersley bt Xie Xiaoyan
-15, 13, 13;
Douglas lost to Teng Yi -13, -14;
Hilton lost to Fan Changmao -19, -13.

Laurie Selby reports from . . .

WILTSHIRE

TREBLE FOR ALISON

One of Wiltshire's most popular players, Alison Boyce, chalked up a hat-trick of wins in the Devizes championships.

Former Wiltshire champion Alison notched her ninth singles victory when she beat Helen Webb.

She partnered Helen's husband John to win the mixed doubles and completed the "grand slam" when she and Karen Richards took the women's doubles title.

Other winners were:- Men's Singles: Alan Duke; Men's Doubles: Lionel Coles and Brian Cook; Veterans' Singles: John Bright; Boys' Singles: Andrew Oxley; Girls' Singles: Sarah New.

Swindon teams top all divisions in the Wiltshire inter-town junior league after the first day's play.

In the under-17 section Steve Davies and Darren Embling were undefeated. Jon Hook has a 100% record in the U-15's and Ian Neate, Michael Oxley, Ray Powell and Martin Edwards were unbeaten in the U-13 league. The competition is held over two weekends.

Old rivals Swindon and Salisbury scored a win each in their latest battles.

Swindon edged out 5-4 when they met in the Wiltshire inter-club league, Karl Bushell, Eddie Roofe and Claire Maisey each getting two wins.

But a week later Salisbury got their own back when they elbowed Swindon out of the Wilmott Cup 6-3.

Terry Bruce was undefeated in both matches.

Ronald Hedley reports from . . .

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

CHANGED FORMAT

The Bucks Management Committee have decided to change the format of the Bucks Closed Championships. This season's championships will include a cadet event for the first time. The Cadet and Junior championships will be held at Quarrenden School, Aylesbury on a separate weekend from the senior championships.

As usual the senior championships will be held at Slough and will take place on one day instead of the normal two. As the actual playing time for the senior events has been reduced it has been decided that the restricted singles event will be open to the first 32 entries received only. The change of format is the work of new coaching officer, Sylvia Coombs, who is being supported by treasurer Bill Clark. Obviously the rest of us will be watching with great interest to see how successful the junior events are going to be.

The county teams have been suffering this season due to players withdrawing at the last moment. On Nov. 21 we were in the embarrassing position of having to concede 2 sets in a junior second team match against Northants as we could not raise a full team. On the same day we had to concede the women's doubles set in a Senior 2nd team match against Norfolk II as we could not get a girl back from the junior 2nd team match at Northants, in time.

Due to the problems caused and the large amount of money being spent on the teams it has been decided to get a commitment from the ranked players for the rest of the matches this season and if this cannot be done the County are prepared to withdraw the teams from the Championships. Obviously this would be a last desperate measure and it is hoped that it will not have to be done.

Vic Bennett reports from . . .

NORFOLK

NEW COUNTY RECORD

With a record entry of 120 for the Norfolk /Broadside Sports Senior Closed Championships at the University Sports Hall on Sunday, Dec. 20, 1981, this was king-sized headache for the officials to conclude 380 sets on a limited number of good tables and the remaining equipment — suspect!

However the men's singles produced early shocks with T. Bunn (3) and S. Howlett (6) k.o'd then the holder, Mick Broughton, failing to get the better of Phil Logsdon. In the other half the return of Mick Musson to the table tennis scene had an immediate impact with him coasting through until losing to Doug Bennett in the semis.

A newcomer to Norfolk, Ken Phillipson, was causing problems throughout the day and capped it by reaching the final with an impressive win in the semis over Logsdon. The final saw Bennett at his best picking off shots through his opponent's defence, winning his fifth title establishing a new county record that was set by Alan Coby in the sixties.

The trophies were presented by Mr. R. Parrish (Broadside Sports) and the County President, T. D. Felton, Esq.