



TABLE TENNIS NEWS

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

No. 132 January/February, 1983 Price 60p

£80,000 Adoption Contract



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Indicative of Destiny

A study of the results appertaining at the Yugoslav and French Open championships, in Split and Strasbourg, again underlines the dominance of the People's Republic of China as a table tennis nation.

It was heartening, of course, to note the victory of European champion, Bettine Vriesekoop of the Netherlands, in the women's singles event in Strasbourg and the victories obtained in Split by European players in the men's, women's and mixed doubles.

But four team titles won, not by China's top line players, is indicative of the destiny of both the Swaythling and Marcel Corbillion Cups at the forthcoming world championships in Tokyo.

Are we to have a repeat of the blanket coverage which descended, like a shroud, in Novi Sad. Or can Europe provide a player, or players, to stem the Eastern tide.

As a postscript how about this item which appeared in the January issue of China Sports: "A national academic conference on table tennis was held in Chongqing in late September. Each of the 30 papers presented at the conference by coaches of national ranking consisted of two parts: 1. an analysis of the trend of development of world table tennis, and 2. discussions on optional topics.

The reporters put forward different ideas about how to maintain China's leading position in the table tennis world, and raised some important issues demanding prompt solution with respect to playing techniques, ways and means of training and so on. Top coaches Li Furong, Zhang Xielin and Li Henan were in attendance!!"

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On the International Front

by The Editor

SWEDEN BEATEN IN POZNAN

POLAND brought off the shock result of the season when, in the fourth series of matches in the **Super Division** of the **European League**, played on Dec. 15/'82, they accounted for previously unbeaten Sweden 4-3 in Poznan.

Andrzej Grubba was Poland's hero with an opening set win over Jan-Ove Waldner followed by success in the mixed, with Jolanta Szatko, over Erik Lindh and Marie Lindblad and, finally with the match score balanced at 3-3 beat Lindh 23-21 in the third to give Poland the victory. Scores: S. Dryszel bt E. Lindh -14, 18, 20; A. Grubba bt J-O. Waldner -11, 20, 22; J. Szatko lost to M. Lindblad -15, -15; Dryszel/Grubba lost to Lindh/Waldner 17, -16, -10; Grubba/Szatko bt Lindh/Lindblad 20, 14; Dryszel lost to Waldner -18, 16, -25; Grubba bt Lindh 16, -19, 21.

Meantime, in Wurzburg against Federal Germany, defending champions, Yugoslavia, continued their winning ways with a 6-1 victory over their hosts whose only success came in the third set when Kirsten Kruger beat Branka Batinic. Scores: G. Bohm lost to D. Surbek -19, 9, -15; R. Wosik lost to Z. Kalinic -15, -15; K. Kruger bt B. Batinic 21, 20; P. Engel/Wosik lost to Kalinic/Surbek -14, -13; Wosik/S. Wenzel lost to Surbek/Batinic -12, -12; Bohm lost to Kalinic -12, -9; Wosik lost to Surbek -11, -18.

In Szolnok Hungary got back to winning ways with a 6-1 win over promotees Denmark whose Lars Hauth saved the 'white-wash' in the final set when he beat Janos Molnar 14 in the third. Scores: Z. Kriston bt L. Hauth 13, 14; J. Molnar bt J. Hansen 17, 15; G. Szabo bt S. Pedersen 14, 8; Kriston/Molnar bt Hansen/Hauth 10, 17; Molnar/Szabo bt Hauth/Pedersen 16, 19; Kriston bt Hansen 15, 17; Molnar lost to Hauth 18, -14, -14.

As reported elsewhere (by Mike Watts) England, after establishing a 2-1 lead over Czechoslovakia in Harrogate, disappointed when beaten 4-3.

SUPER DIVISION TABLE

Yugoslavia *	4	4	0	22	6	4
Sweden	4	3	1	21	7	3
Czechoslovakia	4	3	1	18	10	3
Hungary	4	2	2	11	17	2
Fed. Germany	3	1	2	10	11	1
England	4	1	3	11	17	1
Poland	3	1	2	8	13	1
Denmark †	4	0	4	4	24	0

* Defending champions † Promotees



Fixtures for Jan. 12/'83

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

Fixtures for Feb. 9/'83

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

FIRST DIVISION

After two seasons in the **First Division**, the Soviet Union would appear intent on regaining their Super Division status and, following their victory over France, took another step towards their target by beating Austria 5-2 in Moscow. Scores:

A. Mazonov bt G. Bar 17, -14, 15;
B. Rosenberg bt E. Amplatz -14, 12, 23;
N. Antonian bt D. Fetter 8, 20;
V. Dvorak/Rosenberg lost to Amplatz/
G. Muller -22, -19;
Dvorak/Antonian bt Muller/Fetter
-12, 12, 15;
Mazonov lost to Amplatz 13, -19, -13;
Rosenberg bt Bar 16, 17;

France maintained their second position with a like score against Belgium in Croix where Thierry Cabrera opened up for the visitors with a win over Bruno Parietti and led 2-1 after Barbara Lippens had beaten Brigitte Thiriet. But from then on it was all France taking the next four sets in a row. Scores:

B. Parietti lost to T. Cabrera 18, -13, -22;
P. Reverse bt R. de Prophetis 15, 16;
B. Thiriet lost to B. Lippens -12, 18, -18;
Parietti/Reverse bt Cabrera/de Prophetis
17, 18;
Reverse/P. Germain bt D. Leroy/Lippens
20, -13, 7;
Parietti bt de Prophetis -19, 20, 13;
Reverse bt Cabrera 9, 15.

Italy took their second point of the season with a narrow 4-3 win over Finland in Toronto where Massimo Costantini shone with two singles successes and a third win when partnered by Giovanni Bisi in the men's doubles. Scores:

M. Costantini bt J. Jokinen 20, 18;
G. Bisi bt J. Ikonen 19, 22;
A. Busnardo lost to E. Malmberg -11, -12;
Bisi/Costantini bt Ikonen/Jokinen
-14, 10, 14;
Bisi/Busnardo lost to Jokinen/Malmberg
16, -13, -10;
Costantini bt Ikonen 18, 18;
Bisi lost to Jokinen -19, -20.

The Netherlands also chalked up their second win of the season in Brielle, a historical town south of Rotterdam, before 1,000 spectators, when they just got the

(continued on page 5)

(continued from page 3)

better of Norway 4-3 former England player, Bob Potton, beating Jorgen Gierloff in the final set. Scores:

R. Hijne lost to J. Gierloff 21, -11, -16;
 R. Potton lost to T. Johanson 19, 19, -19;
 B. Vriesekoop bt T. Folkesson 15, 12;
 Potton/H. v. Spenge lost to G. Gustavson/
 Johanson 19, -17, -13;
 Potton/Vriesekoop bt Johanson/Folkesson
 18, 16;
 Hijne bt Johanson 13, 13;
 Potton bt Gierloff 12, -14, 10.



Bob Potton, former England and Essex player.
 Photo by Thomas B. Slater,
 Mississauga, Ontario, Canada.

FIRST DIVISION TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Soviet Union	4	4	0	19	9	4
France *	4	3	1	19	9	3
Finland	4	2	2	16	12	2
Italy	4	2	2	13	15	2
Austria	4	2	2	11	17	2
Netherlands	4	2	2	11	17	2
Belgium †	4	1	3	11	17	1
Norway †	4	0	4	12	16	0

* Demotees † Promotees

Fixtures for Jan. 12/83

Finland v Netherlands
 Norway v Soviet Union
 Austria v Belgium
 Italy v France

Fixtures for Feb. 9/83

Netherlands v Italy
 Soviet Union v Finland
 Belgium v Norway
 France v Austria

SECOND DIVISION

Beating Ireland 6-1 at Monklands Leisure Centre, Coatbridge on Dec. 15 took Scotland to the head of **Division 2** following Turkey's first defeat of the season at home to Spain in Ankara.

Only Colum Slevin registered an Irish win at Coatbridge when, in the second set, he beat David Hannah. Keith Rodger figured in four successes beating Slevin and Kevin Keane in singles and partnering Hannah

and Carole Dalrymple in two doubles successes. Scores:

K. Rodger bt K. Keane 18, 15;
 D. Hannah lost to C. Slevin -13, -20;
 C. Dalrymple bt A. Leonard 16, -20, 18;
 Hannah/Rodger bt Keane/Slevin 14, 14;
 Rodger/Dalrymple bt Slevin/Leonard
 -15, 20, 17;
 Rodger bt Slevin 20, 10;
 Hannah bt Keane 10, 14.

Jose Pales was Spain's strong man in Ankara with singles wins over Gurhan Yaldiz and Oktay Cimen and doubles successes when partnered by Roberto Casares and Pilar Lupon. Scores in Spain's 4-3 win were:

O. Cimen bt R. Casares 20, -10, 15;
 G. Yaldiz lost to J. Pales 9, -18, -15;
 K. Poyrazoglu bt P. Lupon -12, 15, 18;
 Cimen/Yaldiz lost to Casares/Pales -17, -16;
 Yaldiz/S. Dogan lost to Pales/Lupon
 -18, -19;
 Cimen lost to Pales -19, 18, -11;
 Yaldiz bt Casares 9, 19.

Luxembourg, in Porto, brought themselves up to the three point mark — now shared by five teams — by beating Portugal 7-0 with no set requiring a third game decider. Scores:

D. Pinto lost to A. Hartmann -18, -15;
 J. Alvoeiro lost to Y. Maas -16, -14;
 A. Fernandes lost to C. Risch -10, -16;
 Miguel/Portela lost to Hartmann/Maas
 -13, -23;
 Pedro/Cardoso lost to Hartmann/Risch
 -5, -8;
 Pinto lost to Maas -16, -11;
 Alvoeiro lost to Hartmann -17, -16.

Wales, still seeking their first win, were beaten 5-2 by Switzerland at Caerphilly on Dec. 4. It was only after their visitors had taken a 5-0 lead that the Welsh came into the picture when Mark Thomas beat Thierry Miller and, finally, Gary Wilkins accounted for Thomas Busin. Scores:

M. Thomas lost to T. Busin -9, -9;
 G. Wilkins lost to T. Miller -10, 20, -15;
 L. Tyler lost to B. Witte -5, -15;
 A. Jones/Wilkins lost to Busin/Miller
 -13, 21, -16;
 Thomas/Tyler lost to Busin/Witte
 19, -12, -10;
 Thomas bt Miller 18, 19;
 Wilkins bt Busin 18, 12.

SECOND DIVISION TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Scotland	4	3	1	20	8	3
Luxembourg	4	3	1	19	9	3
Switzerland	4	3	1	19	9	3
Turkey *	4	3	1	19	9	3
Spain	4	3	1	17	11	3
Ireland	4	1	3	9	19	1
Wales *	4	0	4	8	20	0
Portugal	4	0	4	1	27	0

* Promotees

Fixtures for Jan. 12/83

Switzerland v Luxembourg
 Ireland v Portugal
 Wales v Turkey

Fixtures for Feb. 9/83

Luxembourg v Ireland
 Scotland v Wales
 Portugal v Spain
 Turkey v Switzerland

NETHERLANDS TTb CUP

Bob Potton, the former English international, now playing in the orange colours of the Netherlands, was the winner of the NTTB Cup played over Dec. 11/12 in Dommelen (Brabant) before 1,000 spec-

tators. In the final Potton beat Rene Hijne -11, 21, 8 and 13 to capture the cup for the second year running.

Stefien van Gennip was the winner of the counterpart women's event for the Limburg Coupe beating Mirjam Kloppenburg 20, 8, -18, -22, 9 in the final to preserve her unbeaten record. Last year van Gennip finished second to Kloppenburg. Bettine Vriesekoop, the European champion, did not play in Dommelen because of illness.

EUROPEAN CLASSIFICATIONS

LISA AND CARL MAKE THE GRADE

Both of England's up-and-coming youngsters, Lisa Bellinger of Beds and Carl Prean of the Isle of Wight, are included in the revised classifications issued by the European Table Tennis Union on January 6th, 1983.

Under the new chairmanship of Ella Constantinescu of Rumania the committee have left undisturbed the reigning European champions, Sweden's Mikael Appelgren and Bettine Vriesekoop of the Netherlands, in the lead positions.

In the men's list Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden is moved up from No. 6 to No. 2 whilst Zoran Kalinic, winner of the Italian Open in Como, is risen from No. 11 to No. 3. Desmond Douglas, England's leading light retains his No. 4 spot.

On the distaff side Jill Hammersley-Parker retains her No. 2 position and Lisa Bellinger comes in for the first time at No. 27 just in front of Carole Moore (nee Knight) and, at No. 30, Karen Witt.

Prean occupies position No. 30 in the men's list with Duggie Johnson at No. 28 and John Hilton at No. 29. England, therefore, have no less than eight players now ranked in Europe — four men and four women. But only two — Douglas and Hammersley-Parker will qualify for the Top 12 tournament on Teesside.

Revised classifications (previous position in brackets) are:

Men

- 1 Mikael Appelgren (SWE) (1)
 - 2 Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE) (6)
 - 3 Zoran Kalinic (YUG) (11)
 - 4 **Desmond Douglas** (ENG) (4)
 - 5 Istvan Jonyer (HUN) (8)
 - 6 Dragutin Surbek (YUG) (3)
 - 7 Milan Orlovski (CZE) (7)
 - 8 Stellan Bengtsson (SWE) (5)
 - 9 Erik Lindh (SWE) (16)
 - 10 Jindrich Pansky (CZE) (14)
 - 11 Andrzej Grubba (POL) (12)
 - 12 Ulf Bengtsson (SWE) (26)
-
- 13 Jacques Secretin (FRA) (9)
 - 14 Janos Molnar (HUN) (25)
 - 15 Gabor Gergely (HUN) (10)
 - 16 Leszek Kucharski (POL) (15)
 - 17 Ulf Carlsson (SWE) (17)
 - 18 Josef Dvoracek (CZE) (13)
 - 19 Zsolt Kriston (HUN) (—)
 - 20 Ralf Wosik (FRG) (19)
 - 21 Patrick Birocheau (FRA) (21)
 - 22 Milivoj Karakasevic (YUG) (20)
 - 23 Christian Martin (FRA) (23)
 - 24 Peter Stellwag (FRA) (22)
 - 25 Vlasislav Broda (CZE) (—)
 - 26 Bela Mesaros (YUG) (—)
 - 27 Georg Bohm (FRG) (—)
 - 28 **Duggie Johnson** (ENG) (24)
 - 29 **John Hilton** (ENG) (28)
 - 30 **Carl Prean** (ENG) (—)

Omitted from the previous list are: Tibor Klampar (HUN) (2), because of in-

sufficient evidence, together with Engelbert Hugging (FRG) (18), Peter Engel (FRG) (27), **Paul Day** (ENG) (29) and Igor Solopov (URS) (30).

Women

- 1 Bettine Vriesekoop (NET) (1)
- 2 **Jill Hammersley-Parker** (ENG) (2)
- 3 Valentina Popova (URS) (3)
- 4 Marie Hrachova (CZE) (5)
- 5 Zsuzsa Olah (HUN) (8)
- 6 Gabriella Szabo (HUN) (7)
- 7 Fliura Bulatova (URS) (17)
- 8 Edit Urban (HUN) (11)
- 9 Branka Batinic (YUG) (16)
- 10 Marie Lindblad (SWE) (12)
- 11 Olga Nemes (RUM) (9)
- 12 Ann-Christin Hellman (SWE) (6)

- 13 Inna Kovalenko (URS) (—)
- 14 Kristen Kruger (FRG) (14)
- 15 Judit Magos (HUN) (10)
- 16 Narine Antonian (URS) (13)
- 17 Gordana Perkucin (YUG) (18)
- 18 Brigitte Thiriet (FRA) (25)
- 19 Beatrice Kishazi (HUN) (20)
- 20 Ilona Uhlíkova (CZE) (19)
- 21 Erzebet Palatinus (YUG) (—)
- 22 Sonia Grefberg (FIN) (21)
- 23 Nadine Daviaud (FRA) (24)
- 24 Eva Malmberg (FIN) (22)
- 25 Barbara Lippens (BEL) (—)
- 26 Iolanta Daniilavichute (URS) (—)
- 27 **Lisa Bellinger** (ENG) (—)
- 28 **Carole Moore** (ENG) (29)
- 29 Daniella Guergueltcheva (BUL) (28)
- 30 **Karen Witt** (ENG) (27)

Omitted from the previous list are Eva Ferenzi (RUM), because of insufficient evidence, together with Ursula Kamizuru (FRG) (4), Dubravka Fabri (YUG) (23), Blanka Silhanova (CZE) (26) and Claude Bergeret (FRA) (30).

• STOP PRESS

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

Results of the matches scheduled for Jan. 12/83 were:

SUPER DIVISION

Hungary 4 Federal Germany 3
Poland 7 Denmark 0
Sweden 2 Czechoslovakia 5
Yugoslavia 4 **England** 3

DIVISION 1

Finland 3 Netherlands 4
Norway 1 Soviet Union 6
Austria 5 Belgium 2
Italy 0 France 7

DIVISION 2

Switzerland 2 Luxembourg 5
Spain 5 **Scotland** 2

YUGOSLAVIA 4 ENGLAND 3

Z. Kalinic bt G. Sandley 11, 16;
D. Surbek lost to D. Douglas -14, -17;
B. Batinic bt K. Witt 22, 18;
Kalinic/Surbek bt Douglas/Sandley 14, 15;
Surbek/Batinic lost to Douglas/Witt -20, -12;
Kalinic lost to Douglas 15, -14, -14;
Surbek bt Sandley 7, 13.

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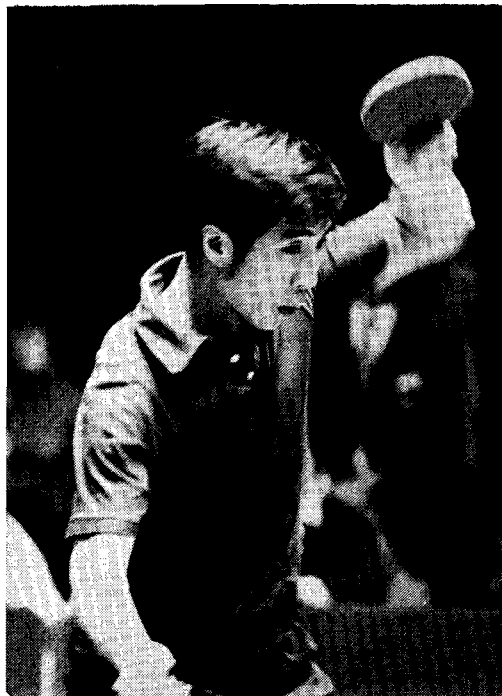
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INTERNATIONAL OPENS

CHINESE DOMINATE IN SPLIT AND STRASBOURG

by The Editor



China's Wang Huiyuan winner of the men's singles title in Split.

Photo by Graham Duncan

Of the fourteen titles at stake in the Yugoslav and French Opens, players from the **People's Republic of China** won no less than ten of them including all four team titles.

In Split in the 25th Yugoslav Open the host country's **Zoran Kalinic** and **Dragutin Surbek** won the men's doubles, **Andrzej Grubba** and **Bettine Vriesekoop**, the European champions, the mixed and, surprisingly, the women's doubles title was claimed by the French pairing of **Brigitte Thiriet** and **Patricia Germain**.

But in Strasbourg, in the 29th French Open, only Miss **Vriesekoop**, the European champion, stemmed the flow of Chinese success by winning the women's singles with a final victory over Qi Baoxiang, the winner in Split.

China's **Wang Huiyuan** was the winner of the men's singles in Split beating his compatriot Fan Changmao, of the high-tossed service, whilst in Strasbourg **Jiang Jialiang** was the title winner beating Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner in the final.

Waldner, in Strasbourg, had impressive victories over both Fan Changmao and Wang Huiyuan whilst, in Split, England's Desmond Douglas reached the quarters before falling to Jiang Jialiang leaving Ulf Bengtsson of Sweden to carry the European flag into the semis.

Seven English players made the trip to Split where Douglas had by far the best return leading England into the semi-final of the men's team event with wins over Yugoslavia II (3-1) and Czechoslovakia (3-1) before falling, inevitably, to China (0-3). En route Douglas had wins over

Kovac and Karakasevic, and Dvoracek and Vladislav Broda. Graham Sandley and Dougie Johnson were twice doubles winners.

Our women's team, in Split, were quickly seen off by China in the first round when Karen Witt and Lisa Bellinger lost their singles and Miss Bellinger and Joy Grundy were beaten in the doubles.

In the individual events Skylet Andrew had a qualifying round win over Stefan Kovac of Yugoslavia but then bowed out to Miroslav Broda, the Czech, in the first round. Sandley had an impressive win (3-2) over the French defender Christian Martin and Johnson moved on at the expense of the Russian Vlagyimir Dvorak.

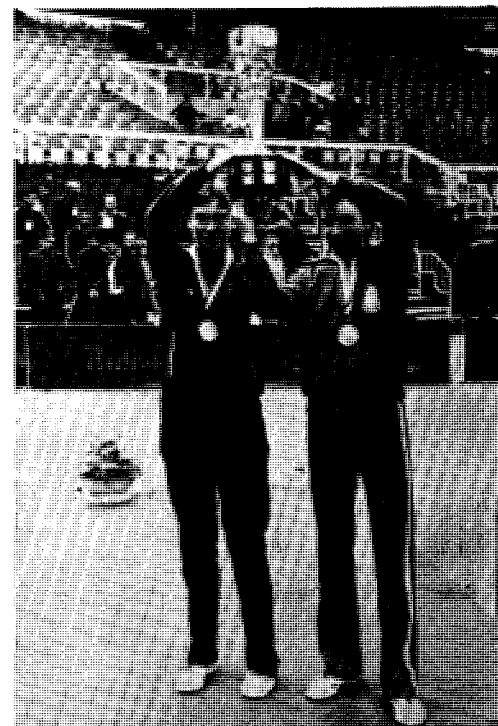
In Rd. 2 Sandley fell to Wang Huiyuan (2-3) and Johnson lost (1-3) to Kalinic but the win by Douglas over Hungary's Janos Takacs took the Birmingham left-hander into the last eight and the end of the road.

Lisa Bellinger made a name for herself by beating the Rumanian prodigy **Olga Nemes** (3-2) but both she and **Karen Witt** fell in Rd. 2 to **Tiang Jing** (CHN) and **Vriesekoop** respectively.

Douglas, partnered by Andrew, suffered a first round defeat in the men's doubles by Yugoslavia's **Joze Urh** and **Kovac** but Johnson and Sandley triumphed against **Cheng Yin Hua** and **Diao Ming** of China. Further progress was not to be made when opposed by **Mikael Appelgren** and **Ulf Bengtsson** but a game was taken from the Swedes.

In the counterpart women's event **Lisa** and **Joy** after qualifying were beaten by the eventual champions **Thiriet** and **Germain** whilst **Karen**, with **Safarova**, bowed out to a Chinese pairing.

Dougie and **Joy** had an impressive eliminating win over **Mikhael Ovcharov** and **Valentina Popova** (-15, 14, 16) in the mixed but **Graham** and **Karen** lost to **Martin/Thiriet** (-17, -21). **Desmond** and **Lisa** took care of **Diao Ming/Tiang Jing** of China and pros-



Andrzej Grubba of Poland and **Bettine Vriesekoop** of the Netherlands who won the mixed doubles title in Split.

pects looked good in this event. Especially was this so when Duggie and Joy beat Karakasevic/Perkucin (YUG) in Rd. 2. But Des and Lisa were beaten (18, 16) by Josef Dvoracek and Blanka Silhanova, the Czech tandem, in Rd. 3 and Duggie and Joy took their departure at the hands of the Hungarians Gabor Gergely and Gabriella Szabo (-11, -18).

In Strasbourg John Hilton and Carl Preat took over from Douglas and Johnson whilst Miss Grundy was stood down to be replaced by Alison Gordon with Jackie Bellinger also included in the 8-strong party.

ELIMINATED

After an easy 3-0 victory over Switzerland in the men's team event England were eliminated in the quarters by Czechoslovakia whose Jindrich Pansky beat both Sandley and Preat and the former, with Hilton, lost the doubles. Preat was our only winner against Broda.

On the distaff side England began with a 3-1 win over Poland with Lisa Bellinger unbeaten in her two singles and with Alison Gordon also a winner in the doubles, Alison losing to Jolanta Szatko. Defeat also came in the quarters when beaten 3-1 by Federal Germany whose Suzanne Wenzel and Kirsten Kruger both beat Karen Witt who, together with Alison in the doubles, also tasted defeat. Lisa was our only winner beating Kruger -20, 16, 14.

Only Preat succeeded in making the second round of the men's singles beating Henk van Spanje only to lose -15, -7, -14 to Istvan Jonyer. Hilton was beaten -20,

-10, 9, -19 by Patrick Renverse; Sandley by Michael Plum, and Andrew by Thierry Cabrera of France, Federal Germany and Belgium respectively.

Alison Gordon failed to qualify when beaten by Stefien van Gennip of the Netherlands and the same fate befell Jackie Bellinger when she lost to Inna Kovalenko of the USSR. In the first round proper Karen Witt afforded Beatrice Abgrall of France a walk-over and Lisa Bellinger was beaten 12, 17 and 15 by Hungary's Judit Magos. Not an inspiring record to be sure!

Hilton and Preat, together in the men's doubles, suffered the indignity of a first round dismissal by Miller and Renold of Switzerland but Sandley and Andrew had the satisfaction of beating two Chinese, Cheng Yinghua and Diao Ming (20, -11, 11) before falling to Kalinic and Surbek.

In failing to qualify in the women's doubles, with their top pair, England's colours were carried by the Bellinger sisters who had a first round success over Kruger/Wenzel (17, -20, 17) and put up a great fight against Magos/Olah before going down -17, 20, -17.

With Karen unfit Douglas was not called upon for the mixed but he was soon joined by his teammates as pair by pair they took their leave of the event in the first round.

Sandley and Alison were seen off by Martin and Thiriet of France; Preat and Lisa by Lindh and Lindblad of Sweden and Andrew and Jackie by Broda/Pelikanova of Czechoslovakia. All in all a most disappointing set of results which were:

25th YUGOSLAVIAN OPEN

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

Jiang Jialiang (CHN) bt Douglas (ENG) 12, 13, -14, 14;
Fan Changmao (CHN) bt S. Bengtsson (SWE) 11, 14, -19, 17;
U. Bengtsson (SWE) bt Cheng Ying Hua (CHN) 19, 12, 13;
Wang Huiyuan (CHN) bt B. Mesaros (YUG) 18, 11, 13.

Semi-finals:

Fan Changmao bt Jiang Jialiang 9, -14, 20, 19;
Wang Huiyuan bt U. Bengtsson 14, 21, 22.

Final:

WANG HUIYUAN bt Fan Changmao 8, 13, -17, 11.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

Qi Baoxiang (CHN) bt Z. Olah (HUN) -15, -16, 9, 8, 20;
V. Popova (URS) bt K. Kruger (FRG) -13, 18, 12, 12;
I. Kovalenko (URS) bt Tiang Jing (CHN) -16, 17, -19, 18, 17;
Geng Lijuan (CHN) bt B. Vriesekoop (NET) -17, -15, 19, 20, 15.

Semi-finals:

Qi Baoxiang bt Popova -22, 13, 13, 10;
Geng Lijuan bt Kovalenko 11, 11, 13.

Final:

QI BAOXIANG bt Geng Lijuan 19, -20, 19, 14.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Fan Changmao/Wang Huiyuan bt Z. Kriston/J. Molnar (HUN) 17, 16;
Z. Kalinic/D. Surbek (YUG) bt S. Bengtsson/U. Carlsson (SWE) 15, 13.

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A superb popular rubber ideally suited for attacking players giving maximum spin, speed and control. Can be used successfully by players of all standards.

Spectol
A high quality rubber suitable for all round style players giving maximum control.

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A soft rubber giving good spin and excellent control for all round type players.

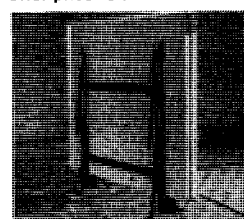
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5164 Space Saver Rollaway. A new table from Butterfly specially designed to fit into a smaller area when stored. Unique fold and wheelaway system comes all ready erected. Suitable for youth clubs, sports halls, schools and for play in the home. 16 mm playing top. Usual price £225.00 **Offer £195.00**

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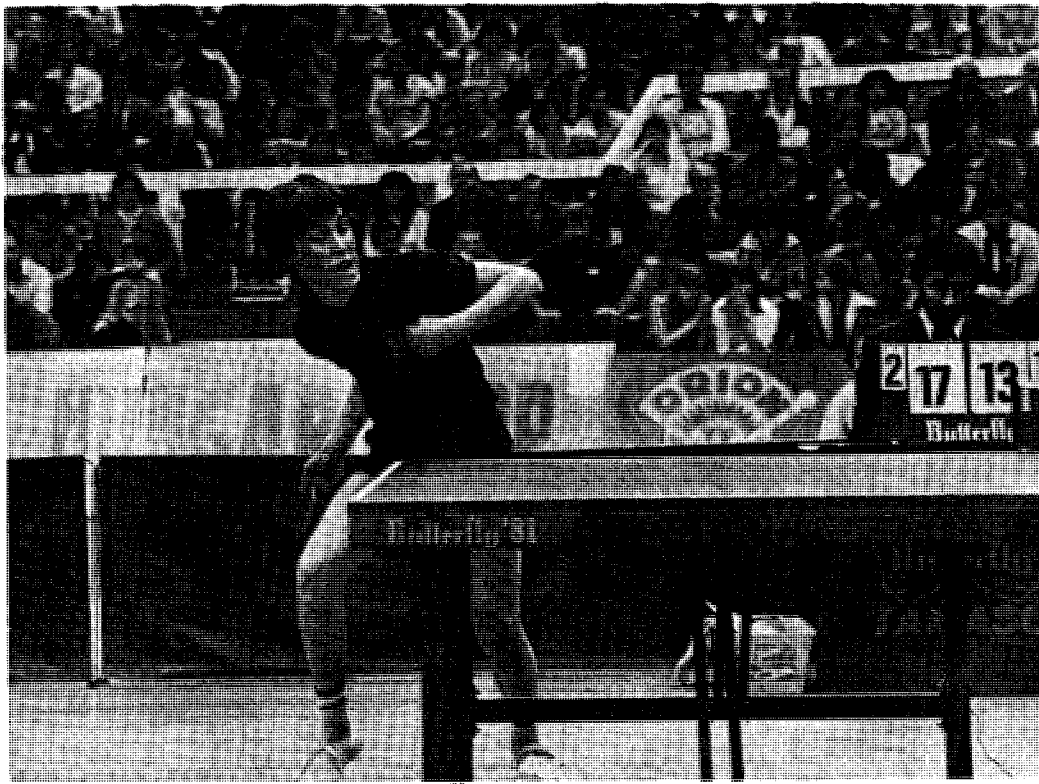


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Jan-Ove Waldner, Sweden's defeated men's singles finalist in Strasbourg.

Final:
KALINIC/SURBEK bt Fan Changmao/Wang Huiyuan 18, 15.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:
P. Germain/B. Thiriet (FRA) bt M. Hrachova (CZE)/Vriesekoop 13, 6;
N. Antonian (URS)/Popova bt He Zhi Li/Tiang Jing (CHN) 18, -15, 20.

Final:
GERMAIN/THIRIET bt Antonian/Popova 16, 16.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:
Fan Changmao/Qi Baoxiang bt C. Martin (FRA)/Thiriet 7, -15, 23;
A. Grubba (POL)/Vriesekoop bt U. Bengtsson/M. Weizades (SWE) 20, -12, 12.

Final:
GRUBBA/VRIESEKOOP bt Fan Changmao/Qi Baoxiang 17, -14, 18.

Men's Team Semi-finals:
China 3 England 0
Wang Huiyuan bt D. Douglas 14, -20, 16;
Jiang Jialiang bt G. Sandley 13, 14;
Wang/Fan Changmao bt D. Johnson/Sandley 12, 10.

Yugoslavia 3 Hungary 1
Z. Kalinic bt J. Molnar 15, 11;
D. Surbek bt Z. Kriston 10, 15;
Kalinic/Surbek bt Kriston/Molnar 19, -19, 10.

Final:
CHINA 3 Yugoslavia 2
Wang Huiyuan bt Surbek 11, -18, 15;
Jiang Jialiang lost to Kalinic -12, -21;
Wang/Fan Changmao lost to Kalinic/Surbek -15, -20;
Jiang Jialiang bt Surbek 15, -19, 14;
Wang Huiyuan bt Kalinic 12, 12.

Women's Team Semi-finals:
China 3 Rumania 0
Soviet Union 3 Yugoslavia 0

Final:
CHINA 3 Soviet Union 2
Qi Baoxiang bt I. Kovalenko 10, 14;
Geng Lijuan bt V. Popova 8, 16;
Geng/Qi lost to N. Antonian/Popova -18, -22;

Qi Baoxiang lost to Popova 16, -15, -19;
Geng Lijuan bt Kovalenko 13, 15.

29th FRENCH OPEN

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:
Jiang Jialiang (CHN) bt I. Jonyer (HUN) 16, 23, 20;

Cheng Ying Hua (CHN) bt Diao Ming (CHN) 9, 18, 19;
Wang Huiyuan (CHN) bt A. Grubba (POL) -17, 16, 11, 20;
J-O. Waldner (SWE) bt Fan Changmao (CHN) 19, 20, 19.

Semi-finals:
Jiang Jialiang bt Cheng Ying Hua 18, -16, 18, 20;
Waldner bt Wang Huiyuan 15, 23, 19.

Final:
JIANG JIALIANG bt Waldner -18, 20, 12, 9.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:
Qi Baoxiang (CHN) bt F. Bulatova (URS) 7, 14, 8;
Tiang Jing (CHN) bt I. Kovalenko (URS) 15, 9, 10;
Geng Lijuan (CHN) bt V. Popova (URS) 16, 14, 9;
B. Vriesekoop (NET) bt He Zhi Li (CHN) 12, -17, -15, 10, 11.

Semi-finals:
Qi Baoxiang bt Tian Jing 13, 11, 11;
Vriesekoop bt Geng Lijuan -17, 19, 11, -17, 19.

Final:
VRIESEKOOP bt Qi Baoxiang 17, -12, -14, 18, 19.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:
E. Lindh (SWE)/Waldner bt P. Birocheau/J. Secretin (FRA) -12, 14, 21;
Jiang Jialiang/Wang Huiyuan bt Z. Kalinic/D. Surbek (YUG) 20, 15.

Final:
JIANG JIALIANG/WANG HUIYUAN bt Lindh/Waldner -11, 14, 7.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:
Geng Lijuan/Qi Baoxiang bt J. Magos/Z. Olah (HUN) 16, 9;
He Zhi Li/Tian Jing (CHN) bt I. Balogh/G. Szabo (HUN) 15, -16, 14.

Final:
GENG LIJUAN/QI BAOXIANG bt He Zhi Li/Tian Jing 13, 7.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:
Wang Huiyuan/Geng Lijuan bt Kalinic/E. Palatinus (YUG) -17, 14, 17;
Grubba/Vriesekoop bt Fan Changmao/Qi Baoxiang 23, 17.

Final:
WANG HUIYUAN/GENG LIJUAN bt Grubba/Vriesekoop 15, -17, 21.

Men's Team Semi-finals:
China 3 Czechoslovakia 0
Jiang Jialiang bt J. Pansky 11, 17;
Wang Huiyuan bt M. Orlovski -19, 15, 18;
Fan Changmao/Wang bt Orlovski/Pansky -11, 19, 14.

Sweden 3 Yugoslavia 1
J-O. Waldner bt M. Karakasevic -10, 16, 19;
E. Lindh bt B. Mesaros 17, 19;
Lindh/Waldner lost to Kalinic/Surbek -12, -18;
Waldner bt Mesaros 16, 18.

Final:
CHINA 3 Sweden 0
Jiang Jialiang bt Waldner 19, 13;
Wang Huiyuan bt Lindh 17, 21;
Changmao/Wang bt Lindh Waldner -11, 7, 19.

Women's Team Semi-finals:
China 3 Yugoslavia 0
Soviet Union 3 Fed. Germany 1

Final:
CHINA 3 Soviet Union 0
Geng Lijuan bt V. Popova 12, 20;
Qi Baoxiang bt F. Bulatova 4, 8;
Geng/Qi bt Bulatova/I. Kovalenko 4, 12.

MEMORABLE ACHIEVEMENT

by MALCOLM HARTLEY

Malcolm Gee, quality control manager at the Yorkshire mill famous for its brass band — the Black Dyke — has gained his own fame in local table tennis circles.

He does not blow his own trumpet — in fact he's so modest he does not keep his own playing record — but league figures show that when he turned out for Lidget Green against Nemesis in the Bradford League it was his 500th consecutive league appearance.

Members of the league management committee went along in force to congratulate him and present him with a framed certificate to commemorate the achievement.

He began his sequence in 1962-3 and if you add cup matches he has not missed one of his team's last 542 engagements.

The appearances have been made in all the top five divisions and his average over the period is almost exactly 50 per cent.

Gee has had his illnesses now and then but none came at the wrong time or lasted too long.

He's a pen grip player who varies his direction and pace judiciously and he has been secretary of his club since 1966.

In 1979 he passed what was believed to be the previous national record for consecutive appearances held by Douglas Old of Portsmouth with 410.

His other interests are Halifax speedway, Winston Churchill, Conan Doyle, model railways, music and coin collecting.

SCOTTISH NEWS

by DENIS GEORGE

EUROPEAN LEAGUE Division II

Scotland moved to the top of Division II with a resounding 6-1 win over Ireland at Coatbridge Leisure Centre on December 15. Spain beat Turkey 4-3 in Ankara the same day which put Scotland top by one game.

With Richard Yule being declared unfit immediately before the match, Keith Rodger played the singles with Dave Hannah for the first time this season and celebrated with 2-0 wins over Kevin Keane and Colum Slevin. Carole Dalrymple continued in good form to beat Anne Leonard 2-1 and with Keith won the Mixed Doubles. Ireland's sole win came in the second tie when Slevin beat Hannah 13 and 20.

JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL:

SCOTLAND v NORTHERN IRELAND 26th November

For several years now we have played a junior international against Northern Ireland the evening before the WEST OF SCOTLAND OPEN with both boys and girls teams competing in separate matches for the ROYAL BANK Trophies. This year the matches were played at St. Paul's

Secondary School, Glasgow, and the Scots, who lost both matches last year, performed well to win the girls match 5-3 and draw the boys match 4-4. In the girls match Diane Greig and Janet Smith, the Anglo-Scot from Bromley playing in her first international, won both their games and in the boys match David Thomas won two and Brian Wright inexplicably lost the 3rd end of the final match 13-21 against Mervyn Kelly after being 12-8 up! The following day Brian beat Mervyn 18 and 10 in the Boys' Singles Final!

Boys' Match:

SCOTLAND 4 NORTHERN IRELAND 4
David Thomas bt Michael Scott 18, 10.
Gordon Cummings lost to Colin Inglis -10, -18.

Brian Wright bt John Fall 14, 18.
Martin Crawford lost to Mervyn Kelly 19, -14, -11.

Cummings bt Scott 15, 16.
Thomas bt Inglis 20, 19.
Crawford lost to Fall -15, -9.
Wright lost to Kelly -13, 17, -13.

Girls' Match:

SCOTLAND 5 NORTHERN IRELAND 3
Janet Smith bt Mandy Dunleavy 10, 17.
Alison Cook lost to Ursula Masterson 17, -13, -17.

Diane Greig bt Nora McAvoy 10, 11.
Lynyn Johnston bt Evelyn Nelson 18, 11.
Cook lost to Dunleavy 17, -18, -19.
Smith bt Masterson 18, -17, 17.
Johnston lost to McAvoy -19, 16, -13.
Greig bt Nelson 14, 9.

ROYAL BANK WEST OF SCOTLAND OPEN

Bellahouston Sports Centre, Glasgow
27th November, 1982

The usual party of youngsters came over from Ulster, in the care of Pat Hunter and Herbie Ross, but were not so successful as in previous years — A. Dennison won their only title, beating Gordon Waddell in the Cadet Boys' final.

There were few surprises in the early rounds of the MEN'S SINGLES and the 4 top ranked men duly arrived at the semi-finals; only John Broe having any problems on the way, beating Brian Wright 2-1 after losing the first at 8 and being taken to 19 in the 3rd by David McIlroy in the ¼-finals. Yule beat Rodger 14 and 16 in one semi-final but Hannah dropped the first at 10 before taking the next two to beat Broe 2-1 in the other. David Hannah faced Richard Yule in the Final for the first meeting since losing to him in the classification tournament in September and subsequently losing his No. 1 ranking. David attacked strongly, winning the first game at 16; Richard came back well to win the second at 12 but the younger player raced away in the 3rd to win at 13.

Semi-finals:

R. Yule bt K. Rodger 14, 16;
D. Hannah bt J. Broe -10, 10, 17.

Final:

HANNAH bt Yule 16, -12, 13.

Without Elaine Forbes (who had beaten Carole twice this season) in the draw, Carole Dalrymple duly won the WOMEN'S SINGLES but she had a fright in the quarter-finals, dropping the first end to Isobel Ferguson and only winning the 3rd at 19. Patrice Fleming, playing better than she had done all season, beat Kay Mackay in the semi-finals and took a game off Carole in the Final.

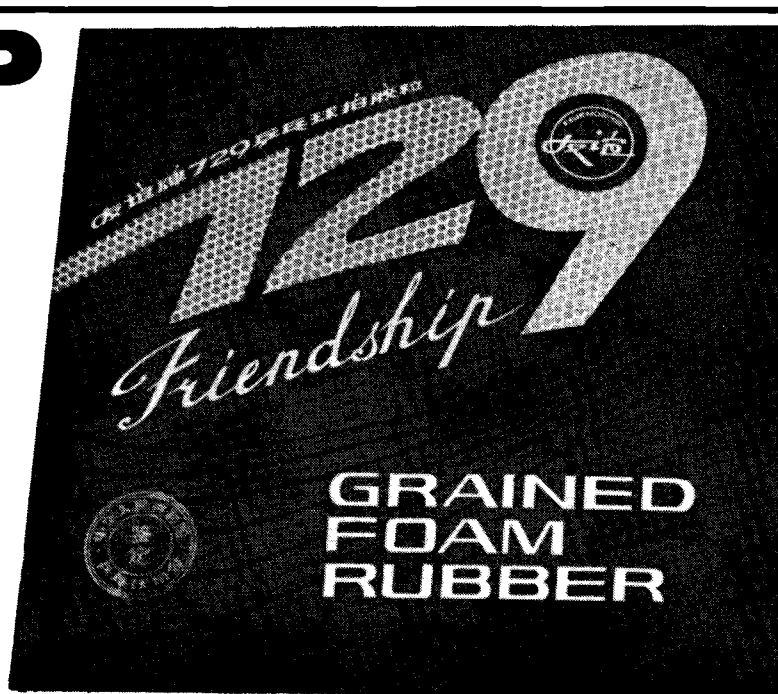
FRIENDSHIP RUBBER

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* Colin Wilson played Friendship 2mm to win Commonwealth Gold Medal.

* Carl Prean played Friendship / Tornado China Style to win European Junior Championship Gold Medal.

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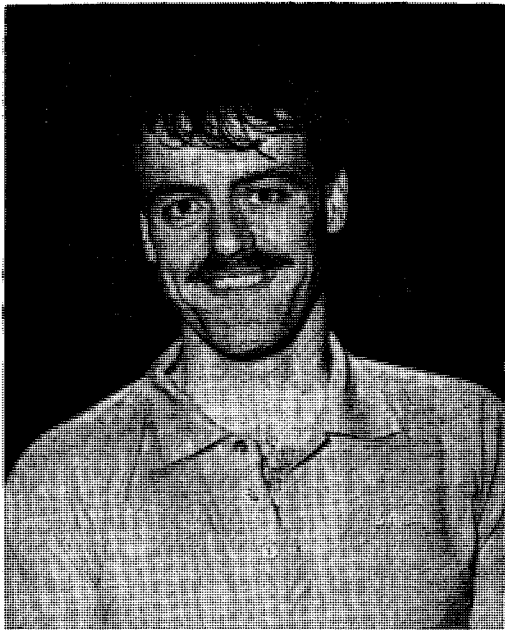
DENNETT'S SPORTS KIT BOURNEMOUTH
FINNIES AYR
WILLMONT BIRMINGHAM
CLAPSHAW & CLEAVE BRIGHTON
HARRIS BRISTOL
WOOF CHELTENHAM
VI SPORTS CRAIGAVON N. IRELAND
WATERHOUSE & CONNING SOUTHAMPTON
PAUL DAY ELY CAMBS.

ASHCROFT LIVERPOOL
GREAVES GLASGOW
JEFFREY GUILDFORD
JACK LEES HALIFAX
OLYMPUS HARROW
JENNINGS HEREFORD
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PLAYRITE STREATHAM
SANGSTER TORQUAY



361 WHITEHORSE ROAD,
THORNTON HEATH, SURREY



KEITH RODGER (Scotland)

Photo by R. Alexander

Semi-finals:

C. Dalrymple bt V. Thomson 21, 18;
P. Fleming bt K. Mackay -13, 19, 10.

Final:

DALRYMPLE bt Fleming 12, -16, 9.

Boys' Singles Final:

B. WRIGHT bt M. Kelly (N.I.) 18, 10.

Girls' Singles Final:

D. GREIG bt N. McAvoy (N.I.) 14, 21.

Cadet Boys' Singles Final:

A. DENNISON (N.I.) bt G. Waddell
-19, 19, 16.

Cadet Girls' Singles Final:

S. HURRY bt D. McNeill 19, -20, 12.

Men's Doubles Final:

YULE/RODGER bt J. Graham/R. Kerr
16, 13.

Women's Doubles Final:

FLEMING/THOMSON bt L. Johnston/
D. Greig 17, 19.

CLOBER SPORTS NATIONAL LEAGUE

After three rounds of matches Lindsay McCrea's MURRAYFIELD JOOLA (Keith Rodger, David Campbell, Dougie Mein, Scott Rennie and Graeme Sutherland) lead Division I, having lost only 2 games out of 30. Last year's winners GREAVES SPORTS 'A' (ex. Central) (Richard Yule, John Broe, David McIlroy, Graeme Docherty, David Fletcher and Ian McLean) are in second place, having only played 2 matches both of which were won 10-0. Jim Graham's G. E. WILLIAMSON CAMERAS (ex. Coatbridge Lentec), who have also played only two matches, are in 3rd place, having dropped one game.

GREAVES SPORTS 'B' head Division II with three wins, but have dropped 10 games out of 30 so competition in this division seems to be closer than in the top division.

LEAGUE TABLES

up to 18th December, 1882

DIVISION I

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Murrayfield Joola ...	3	0	0	28	2	6
Greaves Sports 'A' ...	2	0	0	20	0	4
G. E. Williams Camrs.	2	0	0	19	1	4
Falkirk Sportsreal ...	1	1	1	14	16	3
Nairn Travel 'A'	0	1	2	5	25	1
Springburn	0	0	2	2	18	0
Roseburn	0	0	3	2	28	0

DIVISION II

	W	D	L	F	A	P
Greaves Sports 'B' ...	3	0	0	20	10	6
Team Wilson Ins. ...	1	2	0	19	11	4
Whitehill	2	0	1	19	11	4
Dumbarton B'antines	1	2	0	17	13	4
Milnfield Harris	1	1	1	16	14	3
Nairn Travel 'B' ...	0	1	2	13	17	2
Falkirk Bison	0	1	2	11	19	1
Drumchapel Ladies .	0	0	3	5	25	0

10th Italian Open

PRIMO CARLO IN COMO

by Geo. R. Yates

Of the six English players competing in the 10th Italian Open in Como it was the two youngsters Carl Prean and Lisa Bellinger who made the headlines.

Initially, in the men's team event, the Isle of Wight boy had wins over Alain Bourbonnais and Joe Ng of Canada in a 3-1 English success with Nigel Eckersley also beating Ng but losing the doubles in partnership with Prean.

Subsequently Prean polished off the top two Italians, Massimo Costantini and Giovanni Bisi when England again triumphed 3-1 with Eckersley also a winner against Costantini and the doubles again lost.

But from thereon, in the semis, the going got a bit hard and although Prean, in the opening set, took the first game off Ulf Carlsson nothing more was gained from Sweden whose Erik Lindh disposed of Eckersley and Mikael Appelgren and Carlsson devoured Philip Bradbury and Eckersley in the doubles.

It was in the men's singles that Prean really made his mark with a 21, 21, -15, -21, 17 marathon success over no less a personage than Poland's Andrzej Grubba. This he followed up by beating in straight games the Italian No. 4, Paolo Bargagli 8, 8 and 10.

Against Czechoslovakia's Jindrich Pansky, in the third round, Prean continued his winning ways with an opening 16 win but the Czech, no mean player himself, shook himself into action to win the next three 15, 17 and 17.

Like the men, England's women also made the semi-final of their team event beginning with 3-0 success over Luxembourg with Lisa beating Malov Toussaint and Joy Grundy accounting for Nadine Deltour in like fashion the latter, partnered by Alison Gordon, also winning the doubles.

Next came a most unlikely 3-2 win over the Republic of Korea with Lisa winning two and Joy one, Lisa's final set win over Lee Huang Soon being particularly impressive -17, 16 and 9!

Again, like the men, the semi-final encounter against Czechoslovakia was too much to hope for and Lisa lost to Edit Urban, Joy to Gabriella Szabo and Alison and Joy to Hrachova/Kocova.

It was this latter Czech, Kocova, who despatched Lisa in the second round of the women's singles but the Bedfordshire girl, in partnership with Brigitte Thiriet of France, made her mark in the women's doubles by reaching the semis and taking a game from the eventual winners Fliura Bulatova and Valentina Popova.

In the singles events Eckersley incurred a first round defeat at the hands of Thierry Cabrera of Belgium as did Bradbury when seen off by Bruno Parietti of France. In the counterpart women's event Alison advanced to the third round before losing to Urban whilst, in Rd. 2, Joy lost to Beatrice Kishazi of Hungary.

Alison and Joy, in the women's doubles, took their departure in the third round when beaten by Szabo/Urban having disposed of Barbara Lippens and Cortice Bougard of Belgium in the second after a first round bye.

In the men's doubles Eckersley/Prean fell in Rd. 1 to Stefan Dryszel and Dariusz Kabacinski of Poland whilst Bradbury, partnering Tibor Kreiz of Hungary, fell to Kovac/Urh of Yugoslavia.

Carl and Lisa, in the mixed, had a sparkling win over Tibor Kreisz and Kishazi which took them into the quarter-finals there to lose 14, -11, -7 to Igor Solopov and Bulatova of the USSR. Nigel and Joy departed in the third round when beaten by the Russians Podnosov/Popova and at the same stage Philip and Alison lost to Zsolt Kriston and Olah of Hungary.

The titles were well shared out with Yugoslavia's Zoran Kalinic beating Erik Lindh of Sweden in the men's final and Zsuzsa Olah beating Bulatova in the women's.

Sweden came into their own with Appelgren and Carlsson winning the men's doubles, the former having been ousted in the singles by Janos Molnar of Hungary 20, 17, 14. Bulatova/Popova, for Russia, won the women's doubles and the Czechs, Pansky/Marie Hrachova took the mixed.

Hungary won the men's team title and Russia the women's all of which made up for an excellent tournament marred for me by tummy trouble. But even that has since been put right.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

Z. Kalinic (YUG) bt J. Molnar (HUN) 14, -11, 19, -13, 4;
M. Orlovski (TCH) bt P. Birocheau (FRA) 13, 20, -19, 12;
I. Jonyer (HUN) bt J. Pansky (TCH) 17, 16, -13, -19, 18;
E. Lindh (SWE) bt R. Wosik (FRG) -20, 10, 14, 12.

Semi-finals:

Kalinic bt Orlovski -12, 19, 16, 17;
Lindh bt Jonyer 17, 16, -13, -19, 18.

Final:

KALINIC bt Lindh 9, -12, 12, 19.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

E. Urban (HUN) bt V. Popova (URS) -8, 13, -14, 21, 16;
Z. Olah (HUN) bt N. Daviaud (FRA) -19, 17, 6, 23;
G. Szabo (HUN) bt Hyang Soon Le (KRR) -19, 19, 19, 18;
F. Bulatova (URS) bt M. Hrachova (TCH)
-19, -13, 16, 15, 24.

Semi-finals:

Olah bt Urban 14, 11, 16;
Bulatova bt Szabo 17, -18, 8, 21.

Final:

OLAH bt Bulatova 15, 19, -21, -21, 9.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

M. Appelgren/U. Carlsson (SWE) bt Kalinic/I. Lupulescu (YUG) -28, 10, 7;
Orlovski/Pansky bt G. Bohm/P. Stellwag (FRG)
-20, 16, 12.

Final:

APPELGREN/CARLSSON bt Orlovski/Pansky 20, 18.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Szabo/Urban bt Kim Kil Bok/Park Hee Sook (KRR) 13, 9;
Bulatova/Popova bt L. Bellinger (ENG)/B. Thiriet (FRA)
-10, 19, 14.

Final:

BULATOVA/POPOVA bt Szabo/Urban 15, -20, 16.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

I. Podnosov (URS)/Popova bt V. Broda/Kocova (TCH)
-18, 13, 14;
Pansky/Hrachova bt I. Solopov (URS)/Bulatova 17, 21.

Final:

PANSKY/HRACHOVA bt Podnosov/Popova 20, -20, 14.

Men's Team Semi-finals:

Sweden 3 England 0
Carlsson bt Prean -19, 19, 15;
Lindh bt Eckersley 19, 17;
Appelgren/Carlsson bt Bradbury/Eckersley 13, 17.

(continued on page 12)

Hungary 3 Yugoslavia 2
 Molnar lost to Kalinic -8, -13;
 Kriston bt Uhr -12, 20, 8;
 Kriston/Molnar bt Kalinic/Urh 14, 18;
 Kriston lost to Kalinic -18, -12;
 Molnar bt Urh 16, 14.

Final:

HUNGARY 3 Sweden 0
 Molnar bt Appelgren -17, 6, 16;
 Kriston bt Lindh 17, 11;
 Kriston/Molnar bt Appelgren/Carlsson 21, -21, 13.

Women's Team Semi-finals:

Czechoslovakia 3 England 0
 Hrachova bt Bellinger 11, 14;
 Kocova bt Grundy 19, 12;
 Hrachova/Kocova bt Gordon/Grundy 18, 18.

Soviet Union 3 Hungary 1

Popova bt Urban 13, 8;
 Bulatova bt Szabo 25, -21, 19;
 Bulatova/Popova lost to Szabo/Urban -15, -17;
 Bulatova bt Urban 17, -17, 15.

Final:

SOVIET UNION 3 Czechoslovakia 0
 Bulatova bt Hrachova -17, 14, 20;
 Popova bt Kocova 4, 14;
 Bulatova/Popova bt Hrachova/Kocova 14, 18.

Letters to the Editor

FUNDAMENTAL ISSUE

There has been much criticism, some of it justified, of the County Championships over the past couple of years and on behalf of the County Championships Committee I feel I should answer some of the charges laid against us.

First of all let us be quite clear who decides how the County Championships is to be run, because this is a fundamental issue upon which I am sure a number of our critics are unclear. The County Championships are governed by a set of Regulations, the bulk of which are under the control of the County Championships Conference, with the remainder subject to National Council approval. The Regulations concerning the constitution of divisions, order of play, format of teams, method of play etc. are exclusively the prerogative of the annual Conference, which means they are decided by the counties themselves.

Perhaps I could illustrate this point by picking up the two comments in the November issue of Table Tennis News. John Preat, in his Isle of Wight notes, referring to the County Championships says "... officials cannot bear to break with the past and give the players what they want". The Isle of Wight Association did attend, as he says, the 1981 Conference (but were absent in 1982), and the many proposals put forward by Isle of Wight were defeated, not by 'officials' but by their fellow counties who had presumably discussed the proposals with their members (including I would hope their county players). To provide the contrast to Isle of Wight, who whilst being critical did put forward constructive proposals for change, I turn to John Woodford's Sussex column. John has had a lot to say about the County Championships, in particular the desirability of playing all matches on two weekends. Although I have not checked back through all the records, I am certain that during my involvement with the County Championships no proposal of any description has come from Sussex (or indeed 90% of the counties) to amend the way matches are played. Now everyone can read into this sort of statistic whatever they like but the fact remains that unless counties express a desire for change and the format required, and this is accepted by the majority of other counties, the status quo must remain.

A good deal of the adverse comments

have been associated with the extra costs of running county teams under the pyramid system vis-a-vis the old system. No-one would deny that the pyramid system, especially at the top end, must involve more travelling, but two points seem to be overlooked. First of all, the pyramid must mean a levelling up of standards so that for the players the games become more competitive and make the journey more worthwhile. Secondly more matches are played under the pyramid system — for counties in all divisions an increase of two or sometimes three games. Neither of these reasons for a cost increase should come as a surprise — after all when the pyramid system was introduced, both were recognised and in spite of the possible drawbacks, it is interesting to note that there were only three counties against its introduction (and one of those was for a technical reason).

In the latter part of last season, Bob Bridges put pen to paper indicating a different way of playing County Championship matches, a copy of which went to every county. The proposal was briefly discussed at the Conference in June, but as many counties had not had the opportunity to consider the proposal in detail with their own committees, they were asked to let the Championships Administrator have their reactions by the end of September. Just two counties did so (and they were not Sussex or Isle of Wight). What conclusions therefore should the Championships Committee draw from this response? Could it be that most counties, as opposed to certain individuals, are satisfied with the present basis structure? I think not, and that is why the Championships Committee will be putting forward some proposals of their own to hopefully overcome the problem of the Fourth Division which I would be the first to admit is far from satisfactory at present.

If anything I have said has given the impression of complacency, or that the Championships Committee are merely trying to put the blame for any difficulties onto the counties, let me assure the reader that this is certainly not the case, but I cannot stress too highly the role of individual counties when it comes to improving the image of the County Championships.

To conclude, the Championships Committee are receptive to any ideas which anyone wants to put forward and this has always been the case, but any proposal must eventually have the support of the majority of counties participating in the competition.

IAN WHITESIDE,
 Committee Chairman,

40 Elm Walk,
Rayne, Braintree,
Essex CM7 5ES.

CONTRARY VIEW

I cannot agree with Mr. Shipley when he writes on the "Lambert and Butler" — "Table tennis as it used to be played before the "twiddlers" took over, was enjoyed by the audience . . .".

I don't think the twiddlers have ruined table tennis at all. In the Top 12 there is only one twiddler and that is all we shall see in Europe's biggest tournament of the season.

Most twiddlers are defenders anyway and play mostly well away from the table and produce lots of long rallies which are good to see. At tournaments John Hilton, Douggie

Johnson and Dave Barr always draw good crowds. John often played before two thousand spectators when he was with Saarbrucken in the Bundesliga while the so called attractive players with other clubs were watched by a few hundred.

Modern loops with 2½mm rubber backed by special glues are very fast and spinny and the defender needs at least one slow rubber to get them back and he has to vary his returns to have any chance at all.

There was not one defender at the "Lambert and Butler" and only one English player which was disappointing.

I am the only attacker who plays with "funny rubbers" in the English Top 30. Obviously I cannot comment on my own game, but I would rather see Jonyer any day than Klampar who has the same rubber on both sides.

I can't understand what all the fuss is about. It is a lot harder to play with a Combination Bat than a normal one, especially under pressure. Players should be allowed to get on with the game and win and lose their matches on the table tennis table.

CARL PREAN,

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

NO HINDRANCE

In reply to Alan Shepherd's letter regarding the decline of the County Championships and the extra divisions in the Halex National League, I am also disappointed that the Championships is in apparent decline. But, surely, this should not hinder the progress of the National League.

If the officials and players wish to take part in these extra divisions surely only good can come from this. As a local league official I have always believed that our duty is to provide the competitions that our members require and not to deny them the opportunity to take part.

KEITH JACKSON,

10 Willow Way,
Hurstpierpoint,
Sussex.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

January 1983

- 29 Dunlop Lancashire 2-Star Open, British Aerospace Dynamics, Lostock, Bolton.
- 30 International Club Hard Bat Tournament (Barnet Centre).
- 30 Monklands 2-Star Open (Coatbridge).

February 1983

- 3 European League Div. 2 SCOTLAND v WALES, The Fife Institute, Glenrothes.
- 4/6 EUROPEAN TOP 12 TOURNAMENT, Thornaby Pavilion, Cleveland.
- 5/6 Kent 2-Star Open (Folkestone).
- 5/6 British Universities Championships (Colchester).
- 6 North Bournemouth 1-Star.
- 9 European League Super Division DENMARK v ENGLAND.
- 12/13 SILVER JUBILEE MARTIN ESSEX 3-STAR OPEN (Harlow Sports Centre).
- 13 Scottish Junior Assessment Tournament (Edinburgh).
- 17/19 CZECHOSLOVAK OPEN (Prievidzej), (Norwich Union Grand Prix Event).
- 19 County Championships (5).
- 19 Halton Junior 1-Star.
- 19 Yorkshire Evening Press Selby Junior Open, Selby High School Sports Hall, Leeds Road, Selby, North Yorks.
- 19 DUNLOP SCOTTISH CLOSED, Meadowbank, Edinburgh.
- 19/20 County Championships Senior Premier Weekend.
- 20 Dunlop Lancashire 2-Star Open, Institute of Technology, Bolton.
- 24/26 NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CLOSED, Woking Sports and Leisure Centre, Woking Park, Kingfield Road, Woking, Surrey.
- 27 Halex National League (11).
- 27 ESTTA Team Regional Finals

EASTER TABLE TENNIS FESTIVAL

by T. J. Wilcock

The Isle of Man as a whole is a mecca for sport over the Easter period and in keeping with this theme table tennis has had a competitive event between selected invited groups which has proved very successful for many years. However, it is generally felt that something was lacking and as such a more substantial tournament will take its place and be open to all levels of competitors.

The events themselves will be totally unseeded and be - MS, WS, MD, WD, XD, VS, U-21 XS JXS and U-13 XS.

In the event of a large entry for the junior events, additional events will be held and age groups and sexes split accordingly, entry fee per event will be 50p.

The tournament itself will be held on the Saturday of Easter weekend, the Sunday, and Friday evening will be devoted to invitation team events. Other team facilities may be arranged for teams who arrive earlier or leave later, if required.

It is anticipated that the majority of people competing in the tournament will be travelling to the Island via sea (air travel is available, but expensive), and as such the association are negotiating with the shipping companies so that an overall package for travel and accommodation can be produced. We believe that this cost would be no greater than £50.00 for an adult travelling from either Heysham or Liverpool, by sea ferry, coach travel to the Hotel, Hotel accommodation for Friday evening, Saturday, Sunday morning for bed, breakfast and evening meal where appropriate, also there will be a presentation evening included within this costing, the entry fees for each event being a separate item for the tournament itself and it is hoped that prizes will

be available for event winners, with prizes and trophies going down the line as far as possible within the monetary constraints. The entry will be on a first come basis with the closing date of 28th February, 1983.

For anyone travelling over for the tournament as a holiday break, if enough interest is shown, it will be possible for a tour of the Island be made available during the weekend at a nominal cost but this would only be available if numbers were sufficient.

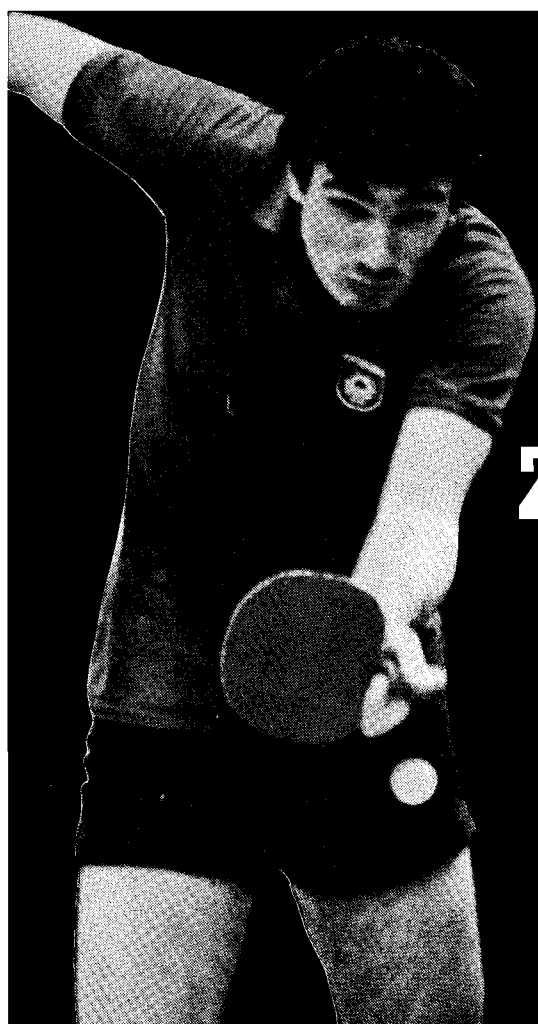
For anyone interested in competing in the tournament as a party or singularly then contact either -

Dave PHILLIPS, 15A Market Street, Peel, Isle of Man (0624 842321),

or

Les WILSON, 18 Derby Road, Douglas, Isle of Man (0624 3612).

Entry forms, accommodation requirement forms etc. and any extra information will enthusiastically be forwarded.



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CONTINUING TREND

by TOM BLUNN
Chairman, ETTA

First of all let me wish every member a happy and successful new year.

I have expressed my concern now on many occasions at the serious problem of the fall in membership. The trend is continuing and the full extent for the current season will be known in a few weeks time.

In my last article I gave a few possible reasons but in the meantime the ETTA office staff have carried out a small but significant sample of enquiries as to the reason for the fall. Where a league has recorded a substantial decrease, they have been asked to give us their own ideas as to the cause of the fall. The leagues have responded very well and it is very significant that every reply puts the emphasis on the economic situation, resulting in (a) a loss of playing facilities due to the closure of industrial premises, (b) a lack of funds by players to pay for alternative club membership, and (c) an increase in local authority charges for the use of sports hall facilities.

There could be other reasons, such as lack of enjoyment when playing against some of the modern racket surfaces but having reasonably identified the cause, what are we going to do about it? The ETTA has already prepared a plan for the next decade based on increased participation at all levels, designed to increase membership and to regain the enthusiasm which followed the Worlds in 1977. We have had meetings with the manufacturers who obviously share our concern at the fall in membership as this is materially affecting their sales.

Some leagues have already taken hold of the local unemployment problem and set up free or reduced facilities in the day-time. Plans are being made in some leagues for special divisions for the unemployed coupled with coaching scheme.

The ETTA regional development committees are very active in most parts of the country and in the north east there is a full-time regional development officer employed by the ETTA.

The regional Sports Councils have been very helpful and, with table tennis one of the few sports chosen to participate in the concentration of resources scheme, they have provided grant aid for many schemes put forward by our leagues and clubs.

The national Sports Council has announced a scheme for the building of nine new sports centres and the government has promised to increase the overall grant for sport by 14% for 1983/84.

The opportunities for expansion are there; it is just a question of how to go about taking advantage of the opportunities on offer. The ETTA will give all the support and advice possible but just cannot do the local arms and legs work. The best person to contact is the chairman of your regional development committee, who can tell you what grant aid is available and how to go about getting it, but remember, grant aid is given only on the understanding that local funds are also available and that the schemes are sound and practical.

Whilst the opportunities are there, it is obvious that a lot of local effort is going to be necessary and I can only thank all the club, league and county officials for their continued interest and effort in maintaining the organisation throughout the country.

1983 is going to be a hard year but let us all work towards a reversal of the downward trend by 1984.

NORWICH UNION TROPHY

by ALBERT SHIPLEY

Brighton Centre

Wednesday, 24th November, 1982

In previous years this event formed part of the Norwich Union Grand Prix and the players invited were those in the leading positions on a points table based on results from major international championships in the first half of the season. The European policy of encouraging countries to stage their international Open every other year has meant a reduction in the number of top grade events being staged each season. Therefore, this year Norwich Union staged the Trophy event as an invitation event, with two major innovations. One was to use the knock-out formula for the competition and the other was to stage the event in the superb Brighton Centre.

Problems with the availability of players meant that European champion Mikael Appelgren and Jacques Secretin of France had to be replaced at a late stage by Ulf Bengtsson of Sweden and England's European Cadet champion, Carl Preat, the latter's inclusion being a stroke of genius in publicity terms.

The opening match in the first round was a game of errors in which China's Jiang Jialiang beat a struggling Andrzej Grubba of Poland. Interest heightened when Desmond Douglas took on Eric Boggan of America, a player whom he has rarely met and because Boggan has a most unusual style against which Des was not happy, half of the English interest was lost at the first hurdle. Probably the best of the first round matches was between Milan Orlovski of Czechoslovakia and the Chinese national champion, Wang Huiyan, with some tremendously fast reaction play from both players. Orlovski had hopes of a sensation when he won the first game but then Wang changed gear and cruised home.

There was high audience interest in the appearance of Carl Preat, playing in his first event of this nature, to see if his nerve would stand the test. Certainly he entertained with his "back to the opponent" service but it was the vital lack of consistency of shot required at this level of play that caused his down fall.

The first of the semi-finals between Boggan and Jiang Jialiang was marred by persistent stamping from both players and after Jiang had lost the first game he soon adapted to the American's style and ran out a fairly comfortable winner, although the fighting spirit shown by Boggan could only be admired.

The second semi-final looked set to be a dull, rapid exit of Bengtsson at the hands of Wang after the first two games were won by

the Chinese champion in single figure scores. To his credit, Bengtsson staged a remarkable come-back in the third game and although he failed narrowly the score of 29-27 is a rarity at this level of play.

With hindsight, the arrangement to make the semi-finals and final the best of five games was an error of judgement as it resulted in an 11 p.m. start for the final. Inevitably, it was an all Chinese affair, the orthodox grip of Wang against the penhold style of Jiang. In the first two games Wang clinically disposed of his compatriot, making the openings and sending the ball to the far corners of the table. It was not until the third game that both players relaxed and gave the audience the kind of exhibition that is typical of the Chinese style of play, the ball seeming to be on the end of a piece of elastic, with Wang's piece proving to be the stronger.

Whilst it was pleasing to see top class table tennis staged out of sports centre surroundings, the size of the floor space in the Brighton Centre did mean that most of the audience were a little too distant from the action to create that vital atmosphere. Nevertheless, there were highlights, all of which were captured by the BBC cameras and shown on the following evening, including the presentation of the Norwich Union Trophy and a prize of £1,250 to Wang Huijan.

SCORES

1st Round:

Jiang Jialiang bt A. Grubba 19, 19;
E. Boggan bt D. Douglas -12, 16, 18;
Wang Huijan bt M. Orlovski -19, 13, 14;
U. Bengtsson bt C. Preat 18, 18.

Semi-finals:

Jiang Jialiang bt E. Boggan -15, 14, 9, 18;
Wang Huiyan bt U. Bengtsson 7, 9, 27.

Final:

WANG HUIYAN bt Jiang Jialiang 10, 16, 18.

NATIONAL TEAM COMPETITIONS

by K. T. O. Ponting

NATIONAL LEAGUES CHAMPIONSHIPS

The entry in all four competitions is down this season as the following figures show:

	1982-83	1981-82
Wilmott Cup	92	98
Rose Bowl	59	67
Carter Cup	75	91
Bromfield Trophy	36	42

NATIONAL CLUB KNOCK-OUT CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Men's entry for the Ormesby Cup is two less than last season, but I am pleased to report an increase in the Ladies' event for the Gainsford Cup. The comparative figures are:

	1982-83	1981-82
Ormesby Cup	58	60
Gainsford Cup	10	4

GEOFF HARROWER AWARD

After much deliberation by the International Table Tennis Club of England committee it was decided that the Geoff Harrower award this year should go to Carole Moore (nee Knight) in recognition, not only of her Commonwealth Championship victory, but also for her efforts over the years at International and National level. The presentation will be arranged at a suitable time, probably at the Norwich Union English Closed at Woking next month.

MIDDLESEX 3-STAR OPEN

EXCITEMENT UNDIMINISHED

by Ken Muhr

The excitement at the 26th Middlesex Open, held at the Picketts Lock Centre over the weekend of Dec. 11/12, was undiminished by the absence of stars Desmond Douglas, Paul Day, Donald Parker and Jill Hammersley-Parker, and most of England's leading players again participated.

In an event where shocks abounded 15-years-old Isle of Wight prodigy, **Carl Preat**, was the surprise winner of the men's singles, while **Karen Witt**, now living in Preston, comfortably fulfilled her top seeding for the women's trophy.

Off the table the polite, quietly spoken, bespectacled Preat appears more an academic than an athlete but in action he is constant aggression, with stabbing long-pimpled backhands and swinging forehands. And his apparent lack of footwork is compensated for by excellent anticipation and control. Certainly he is destined to reach the top in England but it is perhaps too early to say whether he will make the senior grade in Europe.

This was his first 3-Star tournament men's singles title. His path to the final was blocked in the quarters by the redoubtable top seed, Duggie Johnson. But the relentless Preat, after taking the first game with excessive ease, hit back from a substantial deficit to scrape through the second 22-20 for a notable victory.

Preat's semi-final opponent was 18-years-old Philip Bradbury who had done his own bit of giant killing in defeating former European champion John Hilton 18, -16, 19. Bradbury, tall, slim, with a flowing two wing attack had seemed generally untroubled by the unusual combination bat and hitting style of Hilton struggling to regain form, though he let slip three match points before putting it in the bag.

It was Preat's extra sharpness and bite that gave him the edge over Bradbury, but the gingerheaded Aylesbury lad was the only player to consistently roll back his backhand or to take him to a deciding game. Preat's ultimate victory was over Scottish No. 2 David Hannah, aged 22, who despite cracking away some powerful



Looking a little more serious than need be the case, Karen Witt reflects on her third successive 3-Star women's singles title obtained at Picketts Lock.

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec, London SW17.

looped winners, was not steady enough to pose a real threat.

In a tournament marked by the triumph of youth, Ian Kenyon was, at 23, the oldest of the semi-finalists, though his style has nothing to do with advancing years. Looking rather like Istvan Jonyer on a bad day, Kenyon has all the talent, spin and anticipation to be top class, but seems to lack real 'get up and go'. He had disposed of sixth seed Kenny Jackson and then David Barr but succumbed over three games to the power, fitness and workrate of Hannah. Interesting that no lefthanders reached the semis on this occasion.

In the earlier rounds there had been numerous shocks with seeds falling like flies. The biggest sensation was the second round departure of title holder Graham Sandley to fellow teenage lefthander Lindsay Taylor from Hartlepool, who promptly fell to Barr. Sandley had particular difficulty with Taylor's shielded serve.

Vanquished in the first round was another expert lefthanded server, Skylet Andrew,

seeded No. 4, whose conqueror was John Souter of Neasden, Middlesex. And out in the second round went Mr. Service himself, No. 5 seed Nigel Eckersley, dispatched by an opponent, Alan Cooke, who although ranked England's No. 4 junior, seems to be making more than a name for himself in senior events (Indeed, Cooke was no match for that all conquering junior, Carl Preat).

Local (and Welsh) junior Nigel Tyler kept the Middlesex flag flying when he beat the eighth seed Steve Mills, before losing in the last sixteen to Bradbury. But the seventh seed from Middlesex, Dave Wells, was put out by Leicester's Chris Rogers. However, it was no great surprise when another seeded (No. 9) Middlesex player, Mark Mitchell, who hates playing 'funny' rubbers and defenders, lost to county colleague John Payne. One more home county player, Colin Wilson, looked capable of overcoming the defence of top seed, Johnson, in the third round, but faded in the deciding game.

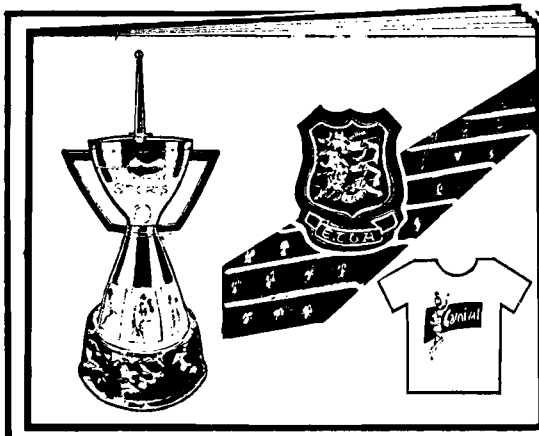
No woman seriously challenged Karen Witt's claim to Jill Hammersley-Parker's women's singles crown, and she powered through all before her in straight games. The losing finalist was 15-years-young Lisa Bellinger, England's top junior girl, who has every shot but not yet enough severity to beat the 21-years-old England No. 2 as she was then.

But Lisa, seeded sixth, had done wonderfully well to reach the final via second seed Alison Gordon, over three games in the quarters, and the experienced Karen Smith in the semis. She does not need a combination bat for future success.

Another girl on the way up is 15-years-old Sue Collier, the England No. 3 junior, who from an unseeded position put paid to the aspirations of seeds Jean Parker (8) and Anita Stevenson (4), both in three games. But she couldn't unsettle the ascendancy of Karen Witt in the semis.

Though still gutsy and diligent, English champion Carole Moore (nee Knight), seeded No. 3, failed to dominate as of old and went down in straight games to Karen Smith in her quarter-final.

A bizarre happening occurred in the second round encounter between former Berkshire colleagues Alison Gordon and Mandy Smith, who was unseeded. With the score standing at one game each, Mandy Smith 'retired' owing to having broken her bat and not having a spare. A few minutes later both parties returned to the table to resume play but the referee refused to allow this and awarded the match to Miss Gordon.



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EUROPEAN LEAGUE

ENGLAND FAIL NARROWLY

by Mike Watts

The other singles title, the veterans', went to Derek Schofield who wrested it from his Cheshire compatriot and the holder Peter D'Arcy. Johnson and Sandley retained their men's doubles title against surprise finalists, the unseeded pairing of Richard Jermyn and Joe Kennedy. A feature of the final was some spectacular winners from Jermyn. He and Kennedy had put out the second seeds Hilton and Jackson in a closely fought quarter-final, and then Alan Fletcher and Mills were their victims in the semis.

Sandley picked up a second winners trophy when teamed with Alison Gordon to beat Fletcher and Joy Grundy in the mixed. And Miss Gordon partnered Mandy Smith to comfortably defeat women's doubles combination Karen Witt and Melody Hill for her second title.

Once again the Middlesex committee is indebted to our sponsors Levomex Exports and Butterfly Table Tennis U.K. Ltd., without whose support the championships could not have been held. Our thanks are also due to the management of the Picketts Lock Centre for the use of the venue and their help and co-operation. Owing to a bookings misunderstanding some entries had to be returned and National Women's Basketball League players and table tennis players alike were each somewhat disrupted by the other while having to share the hall on Saturday evening. But, this apart, everything went smoothly and thanks are extended to everyone responsible. God (and money) permitting, we look forward to next year's championships.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

C. Preat (IOW) bt D. Johnson (Wa) 9, 20;
P. Bradbury (Bu) bt J. Hilton (La) 18, -16, 19;
D. Hannah (Sco) bt R. Jermyn (He) 14, 16;
I. Kenyon (K) bt D. Barr (Bk) 15, 19.

Semi-finals:

Preat bt Bradbury -20, 17, 16;
Hannah bt Kenyon 16, -19, 16.

Final:

PREAN bt Hannah 10, 17.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

K. Witt (Bk) bt J. Grundy (La) 10, 17;
S. Collier (Bk) bt A. Stevenson (Le) 19, -16, 19;
K. Smith (Le) bt C. Moore (Cv) 11, 17;
L. Bellinger (Bd) bt A. Gordon (Bk) 18, -18, 16.

Semi-finals:

Witt bt Collier 9, 19;
Bellinger bt Smith 12, 12.

Final:

WITT bt Bellinger 19, 7.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Johnson/G. Sandley (Mi) bt Kenyon/D. Wells (Mi) 16, 19;
Jermyn/J. Kennedy (K) bt A. Fletcher/S. Mills (Y) -15, 21, 17.

Final:

JOHNSON/SANDLEY bt Jermyn/Kennedy 9, 23.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

M. Hill (Y)/Witt bt Bellinger/J. Bellinger (Bd) 12, -16, 13;
Gordon/M. Smith (Bk) bt Moore/Stevenson 18, 18.

Final:

GORDON/SMITH bt Hill/Witt 11, 9.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Sandley/Gordon bt Johnson/Hill 12, 17;
Fletcher/Grundy bt S. Andrew (E)/Moore 22, 19.

Final:

SANDLEY/GORDON bt Fletcher/Grundy 24, 14.

Veteran Singles Semi-finals:

P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt W. Brookman (Mi) 8, 17;
D. Schofield (Ch) bt D. Seaholme (He) 12, 13.

Final:

SCHOFIELD bt D'Arcy 13, 15.

at 17-16, it was the Czech pair who applied the pressure to run out winners. In the second although up 6-4 the English pair were quickly overhauled and at one stage were 11-19 down. A quick recovery to 16-19 was to no avail as the Czechs then wrapped it up to equate the scores at 2-2.

Simpson's gamble of trying out Alison Gordon with Douglas failed as Broda and Hrachova, a competent pairing of long standing won easily to put the Czechs in front for the first time.

The match was then lost as Pansky performed the "coup de grace" on Sandley to give the Czechs the match. Finally, Douglas, for the first time this season, won his second singles, despatching Broda in double quick time.

The crowd of just over 400 was a huge disappointment, particularly for Richard Scruton, the Organiser of the event, and there is no doubt that without a major sponsor for these European League matches, a huge loss can be envisaged. Only two to three years ago, halls were virtually full for matches of this nature and, whilst the standard of play has not fallen, it is obvious that spectators have too many other distractions which interfere with Internationals, which is a sad state of affairs. However, the venue, as previously stated, was superb and the co-operation of the Manager and his staff excellent. Plush theatre seating ensured the spectators a comfortable seat and one's thoughts were immediately crystal clear as to how nice it would be to play all our Internationals in venues as good as this. Thank you Harrogate.

RESULTS

G. Sandley bt V. Broda 13, 10.
D. Douglas bt J. Pansky 12, 18.
Miss K. Witt lost to Miss M. Hrachova 16, -23, -17.
D. Johnson/Sandley lost to Broda/Pansky -18, -17.
Douglas/Miss A. Gordon lost to Pansky/Miss M. Hrachova -11, -14.
Sandley lost to Pansky -16, -11.
Douglas bt V. Broda 11, 18.
ENGLAND 3 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 4

SEALINK YOUTH CUP RESULTS

TO COUNT TOWARDS RANKINGS

SEALINK U.K. LTD., Britain's largest car ferry operators, are pleased to announce that the English Table Tennis Association will include results from the finals of the SEALINK YOUTH CUP table tennis event as part of the information used to compile the first Junior and Cadet Lentec Rankings for the 1983/4 season.

This year the SEALINK YOUTH CUP is to be played during the summer with the six Regional Championships at London, Milton Keynes, Bristol, Market Drayton, Bradford and Stirling being held during late May and early June with the finals at the end of June, just in time for the first official ranking list of the new season.

To assist the ETTA, the age levels have been amended to Under 16 (from Under 15 last year) and Under 13 (as previously), which means that youngsters approaching their final year in the junior or cadet ranks who reach the finals of the SEALINK tournament, will have their victories taken into account for national rankings.

HARD BAT TOURNAMENT

The International Table Tennis Club of England is to hold its annual Hard Bat event on Sunday, January 30 at the Barnet Centre. Entries will be accepted on plain paper by Laurie Landry, the Hon. Sec., at 3 Osney Way, Chalk, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2NB ('Phone: Gravesend 534908). Fees are M.S. and W.S. £1.50 each, M.D., W.D. and X.D. £1 per player plus 20p ETTA Fee.

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

Doug Moss reports from . . .

WORCESTERSHIRE

RESOUNDING WIN

The Woodfield Tournament, Wolverhampton saw County players achieving some success. Trevor Washington and Steven Dunning, County Nos. 1 and 2, won the Men's Doubles beating Bellingham and Isaacs in the final. The next day was Murray Jukes' turn when he won the Junior Doubles, partnered by Adrian Dixon, and was runner-up in the singles event.

In the last round of County matches the 1st team had a resounding 9-1 win over Huntingdonshire. Simon Claxton played his first match of the season. He had too much variety for his opponents who were out-classed. Unfortunately the 2nd team match was cancelled as Northants II's could not raise a team! The Veterans beat Oxfordshire 9-0.

The County League is proceeding satisfactorily with each team having played two matches. Kidderminster 'A' are in the lead closely followed by Dudley 'B'. Other teams in the League are Dudley 'A', Malvern, Bromsgrove and Kidderminster 'A'. It is disappointing that Worcester, the biggest league in the County, is not taking part. The usual difficulty of getting someone responsible for the team is the reason.

The County Team K.O. Championships are proceeding satisfactorily. In the handicap competition there have been three close finishes. In the Ledbury 'A' (Rec. 20) match versus MEB Evesham (Rec. 100) the MEB won by 12 points. An even closer finish materialised between St. Wulstans Teds (Rec. 60) and Blackminster 'A' (Rec. 230) with St. Wulstans hanging on to win by 7 points. Dowty Meco, Worcester (Rec. 170), who were runners-up last year, were drawn to visit one of the stronger teams. Stourbridge Institute 'A' giving 130 points start eventually won by 26 points in an 18 game match.

In the Team Scratch Competition, Ledbury 'A' beat Worcester Tennis Club Juniors 6-3. Dean Kloos for the Juniors did very well to beat Neville Meredith. There was a very enjoyable match between Coseley Leisure Centre and Dedditch Roamers which Coseley won 7-2.

The Worcester League is continuing its Golden Jubilee celebrations. On 9th January there is an "Opposite Bat" Tournament, which is causing a great deal of interest. Will the top modern style players still come out on top? The next event is a "Golden Oldies" tournament. This is for the over 50 players, many of whom will have given long service to the League. The Sub-Committee of Molly Hough, Albert Grundy and "yours truly" is working out a programme for 23rd January. Both these events are to be held at Christopher Whitehead Girls' School.

The Kidderminster League, which has always been successful in producing very good juniors, is continuing its good efforts. Brian Selby is one who gives a significant amount of time to coaching. He has a course arranged at the Kidderminster Youth Centre on the mornings of 21, 22 and 23 December. Kidderminster is also to be complimented on having a Mens, Ladies and Veterans team in the Midland League. The ladies team has the services of Louise Davis, Sandra Roden, Lisa Hunt, July Whitefoot and Barbara Jukes to call on.

The County Association is always pleased when its officers/members take on responsibilities outside the County. Doug Young is an important member of the Worcester City and County Committees. This season he has already been Referee of the Midland Open and Woodfield Tournaments and is to be responsible for the Cotswold 'Select'. I know that Doug is also pleased he has been invited to be an Umpire at the Europe Top Twelve, as this is an event in which he has not previously been involved. He is also a member of the ETTA Tournament Committee and Assistant Referee to the County Championships. There is some envy amongst his colleagues because, just as the snow appears and winter is bleak, he is off to South Africa for 2-3 weeks where his daughter is living. Will he be "black listed" if he does any refereeing/umpiring/playing?!

In a previous report I commented on the somewhat disappointing situation with Radio Wyvern but thought persistence may pay off. I am now visiting Radio Wyvern each Wednesday evening to cut a tape, which is broadcast during the Sports programme on Saturday afternoons. With the time allowed the arrangement is to report on one League at a time. Patience has been rewarded!

Leslie Constable reports on the . . .

ST. NEOTS WINTER LEAGUE

Ely are at the top of the Senior Division of the St. Neots Winter League with a clear nine point lead over North Herts 'A' with Northampton 'A' lying third. Wellingborough are also in a good position in fourth place having played only five matches at the time of going to press. Ely, however, to my mind, look good bets for the eventual champions. Lots of things can happen however and I am sure that we shall see some exciting happenings before the end of the season.

Barnet head the Veterans Division with a four point lead over St. Neots 'A' with Cambridge 'A' in third position. These three teams look as if they will be fighting it out at the end of the season for top place. Mike Jackson the Cambridge Umpire tells me that he has now officiated in 13 Expedite sets which is quite good going for modern table tennis.

RESULTS

Veterans' Division

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

My sincere thanks to all those persons who sent messages of sympathy on the death of my dear wife in November.

LEAGUE TABLES

	P	Pts
Senior Division		
Ely	7	48
North Herts 'A'	7	39
Northampton 'A'	6	37
Wellingborough	5	32
Bedford	6	32
Kettering	7	31
Cambridge 'A'	7	28
North Herts	6	25
R.A.F.	4	21
St. Neots	5	20
Peterborough	7	19
Cambridge 'B'	7	18
Northampton 'B'	6	10
Veterans' Division		
Barnet	7	54
St. Neots 'A'	7	50
Cambridge	7	49
Bedford	7	41
North Herts	7	33
Hunts Central	7	31
St. Neots 'B'	7	16
Peterborough 'A'	7	15
Northampton	7	13
Peterborough 'B'	7	13

Colin Taylor reports from . . .

CUMBRIA

WEAKNESS REFLECTED

The Cumbria County sides overall this season are looking very weak and this is reflected in the results up to date. As I write this report only the Veterans have recorded a victory, beating Huntingdon II 5-4. Their other results were a 4-5 loss at Clwyd (having given three sets away due to being a player short through illness) and a 2-7 loss at home to Herts. Ray Carr (W) and Bob Gale (W) have only played one match each and have a singles and a doubles win to their credit. Eddie O'Hara (B) also has a 50% record in his singles winning 3 in 3 matches and has won two mixed doubles with Clarice Rose (W). Charles Usher (W) has played three matches and has a doubles win with Carr to his credit. Clarice Rose has the best record so far with two singles wins out of three and three mixed doubles wins out of three.

The Senior team have won only three sets in two matches. Tim Pachul (M) has featured in all three, winning two singles out of four and a doubles partnered by Neil Smith (M). Their other doubles could easily have gone our way also but they lost 16-21, 22-20, 27-29 against Leicestershire II. Smith and Carr have struggled in the singles and have yet to show top form. The loss of the Vickers S.C. players to the National League seems to have had a bad effect on the Senior squad, where extra motivation could be the missing ingredient. The ladies have had some stiff opposition, especially against Leicestershire II where Debbie Soothill (W) lost 19-21, 16-21 against Julie Revill (England ranked last season) and Mary McPortland (B) did her best but lost 19-21, 21-16, 12-21 against Yvonne Hall. In the 2nd match against Lincs Miss Soothill and Claire May (B) could do little against equally tough opposition.

The Junior I side have only played one match so far, losing 4-6 to Northumberland. Cumbria were superior in the girls' events,

winning both singles and the doubles. Soothill and May recording 2-0 victories in all sets. Soothill in particular was at her best in beating her opposite No. 1 Denise Wilkinson 21-7, 21-12. On the boys' side Ian Sharp (M) recorded the only victory with a 21-19, 21-18 singles win. Stephen Holland (W) showed promise however losing two close sets 21-23, 17-21 and 26-28, 20-22. Chris Brockbank (B) being promoted from the 2nd team ran his opposite No. 3 close, losing 19-21, 19-21.

The Junior 2nd team have now played three matches, all away, and are still looking forward to their first winning set. Not surprisingly the young and inexperienced team are finding the going tough, although Chris Brockbank, Matthew Gale (W), Norman McLeod (B) and Karen Backhouse (B) have extended their opponents to three games on occasions.

On the League scene the Barrow League comprises of 63 teams in five divisions. Out on top of Division One are Vickers S.C. after beating arch rivals Millom F.P. 6-4 early in the season. Alan Fay did the damage with three wins for Vickers. A turning point in the match came when Neil Yardley for Vickers beat Andrew Pachul after being 7-15 down in the 3rd game. Millom F.P. beat Vickers twice last season but still finished 2nd to Vickers mainly because of the new points system where you get 4 points for a 10-0, 9-1, or 8-2 win, three points for a 7-3 or 6-4 win and two points for a draw. The F.P. side failing to get enough four point victories.

The Millom League have been struggling for teams over the past three or four years and are now down to seven teams. The standard of play though is as good now as it ever was, with eight players of past county or town team status playing regularly. It is good to see the all ladies' team of Gail Smith, Elaine Mathie and Pam Bickerdike playing for Millom R.U. 'A'. The R.U. 1st team of James Adams, Alan Fallows and Neil Robertson head the table after their first clash with Millom C.C. who lie second. The 7-3 win for the R.U. gives them a four point advantage now that each set won counts as a point won.

The Westmorland League currently stands at 24 teams in three divisions. Queen Katherine 'A' are on top of division one with 22 points from seven matches but Storeys (Lancaster) lie second with 18 points from five matches. Carl Stebbing (Storeys) leads the averages with 91% closely followed by Kevin Brindle (Natland) 86% and David Hillbeck (Queen Katherine) 85%, Stebbing having fallen victim to young Debbie Soothill (Melling).

In the Wilmott Cup competition Westmorland progressed to the 2nd round beating Carlisle 5-4. Ray Carr was unbeaten for Westmorland with three wins. Carl Stebbing and Dave Hillbeck winning one each.

The Whitehaven League of 14 teams is split into six teams for division one and the remainder for division 2. The Kells Methodists 'A' team who have dominated the League for the past few seasons are once again at the top of the 1st division ably led by Stephen Crosby but the Telecom 'A' side led by Carl Farrer are not to be discounted. The only unbeaten player to date is Jimmy Cummings.

The Workington League's 17 teams are led by Twinames who are yet to be beaten with Workington Town Boys' Club in 2nd

place. Charlie Butler is another stalwart with a 100% record.

At Carlisle the top team out of 38 is Scotby 'A' comprising of George Gray, Ian Brown and Ian Oliver, Gray being the only one so far to lower the colours of averages leader Roger Stewart, who has won 29 out of 30 sets.

Key to Leagues:

(B) Barrow, (M) Millom, (W) Westmorland.

Ron Fosker reports from . . .

ESSEX

SATISFYING WEEKEND

So there we all were, expecting gloomy news from the first County Championship weekend at Salford — no Potton, Jackson or Andrew, still no woman ranked in the England top 40. It looked like last season all over again when we would have to bite our nails over the second weekend to see if we were going to stay in the Premier division.

Fortunately no one told Tony Penny. Newly promoted to No. 4 in the county, and in the absence of the above three (Jackson and Andrew aren't ranked - but see later), the automatic choice for the No. 3 berth in the first match against Lancashire, Tony took both his singles, including a stunning 7, 15 victory over England No. 50 Steve Scowcroft, to give Essex a 6-3 win.

The match against Berkshire was an amazing nail-biting see-saw. As the score reached 4-4, Penny, who had already won one singles, went on to face Andy Wellman, ranked 29 in England, a set we had no right to expect him to win. Again no one told Tony. He waded straight in and registered a thumping 10, 17 victory to give us our second win of the day.

Neither Tony nor Essex could keep up the fairy tale into the second day when Yorkshire put us in our place by 7-2. But there were a number of close games which could just as easily have gone our way.

Overall it was an immensely satisfying weekend. Lisa Hayden, at 13, was not overawed on her senior debut and even took the first game off Melody Hill. Dave Newman and Ian Horsham once more showed their grit in an Essex shirt. And of course we now know what Tony Penny can do. The irony of it is that he shouldn't really have been playing. After months of toing and froing, Skylet Andrew, who opted out of the County Championships last year, decided he was willing to play. But he had left it too late. Although his registration was telephoned to the County Championships committee on the day entries closed, they refused to accept it as it had to be in writing.

Essex officials were, to put it mildly, rather put out by the ETTA's decision not to accept Skylet's registration over the phone. It's the sort of thing that almost any league or county secretary is prepared to do, and it wasn't as if we were trying to sneak him in at the last minute. He wasn't required to play for four weeks!

Still, he's signed on in time for the second weekend. So is Jackson, another who had his differences with the county last year. So even if Potton is not available (and we don't know yet), we should be able to give the rest something to think about.

On the Junior scene, things seem to be going very smoothly. The first team have a sets average of 28-2 after three matches, the second team is unbeaten and the third has lost only once — to the second team!

One thing that isn't smooth is the different ranking lists, veteran, senior, and junior for town, county and country, the county junior (including cadet) is probably the most difficult to compile. One can keep a fairly good eye on seniors and veterans who have been around for some years and whose progress can be gauged in a number of significant matches. But juniors' results are not so prominent and their rate of progress can vary so much that form of just six months previously is not necessarily a guide.

Likewise a town can usually keep track of its juniors from local results and nationally all the top players are known through their tournament results. At county level the evidence is more sparse.

As a result, the county junior secretary gets every Tom, Dick and Harry ringing him up to say his Tommy, Dicky or Harriet has just beaten so-and-so so why isn't he/she ranked above him/her? The only answer, I think, is for each league to bombard the county with information about its players' performances so that every available scrap of evidence can be taken into account.

Tony Carey reports from . . .

SOMERSET

THE LIGHT IS SHINING BRIGHTER

Since my last report on the Somerset scene there has been some encouraging signs of a genuine revival in our fortunes, both in the Juniors and Seniors. A Junior team of Lee Sadler, Mark Nichols, Philip Payne, Melonie Carey and Fiona Stuart travelled to Swindon on Saturday, 16 Oct. and produced a 9-1 win against Wilts II. This, by the score, looks pretty convincing but each point had to be fought for against tenacious opponents who do not give anything away. The reverse happened to the Seniors at Bournemouth when they played Dorset II on the same day, losing 8-2.

On 20 Nov. the Juniors also had a reverse of fortunes against a strong Dorset side, losing by the same score, the team being Lee Sadler, Mark Nichols, Philip Payne, Melonie and Fiona, the two wins being gained by Lee and Fiona.

On the same day, Somerset Seniors were home to Gloucestershire at the fine venue of Nailsea Sports Club with its own little stand along one side, centrally heated into the bargain, which, like good hosts, we allowed the visitors to occupy. On reflection we considered this a good move as the heating caused legs to go to sleep and some players had to stamp their feet to wake them up when play began. We were a bit perturbed at one time that it might disturb the snooker players in the Lounge below, but we had no complaints! The playing area certainly had its share of heating as the match progressed. Our team consisted of Brian Reeves, David Lee, David Wilson, John Hartry, Jill Green, who I am glad to say still has her heart in Somerset and travelled from Alton, Hampshire, to compete, and Judy Craig (nee Woodhouse). This fixture was for us a local Derby, stemming from the days when Somerset extended to the borders of

Gloucester, and the catchment area of players was greater, with Bristol, Bath and Weston-Super-Mare included, which now make up Avon. But now we are developing a new breed of players for the future, we are bridging that gap, especially when the town of Bridgwater can provide alone two juniors sides to play in the first and second divisions of the Somerset and Avon inter-town Junior League and hold our own very well with the larger towns and cities, with good permutations of our Juniors. After some excellent play from Brian Reaves in the anchor position, encouraging the other members to give of their best, ably assisted by an experienced, wily player in John Hartry, Somerset won 7-3.

Having seen all the potentially good juniors who attended the Somerset Training Centre at Chilton Trinity School, Bridgwater, and who are playing in one of the divisions of the weekly League, I can see no reason to worry as to where our next top juniors will come from. This is in no way meant to detract from the fine work which is being carried out at Yeovil, producing Lee Sadler, Paul Brown and David Wooldrige, and Lee's sister, Tina — a fine prospect for the future — and the Billy Kelly squad at Minehead, although this area I hear is in a state of suspension at the present time, due to the unfortunate illness of Bill, who suffered a heart attack recently. However, I am pleased to report that he is now home and recovering well, and through this column I should like to express the good wishes of all the Somerset Table Tennis fraternity to you, Bill, for a speedy recovery to full fitness.

I hope we shall see someone from the Minehead area take up the reins to ensure that all Bill's work is continued and our base of junior players becomes broader. This leads me on to the subject of other areas of Somerset where it is known that table tennis is played in weekly leagues, but no organised coaching takes place or any representatives are sent either to the County Championships or the County Committee Meetings, two specific areas being Mendip and Ilminster.

This, I feel, is not conducive to the well-being of our sport for the following reasons:

1. The youngsters playing in their schools and youth clubs are not being given the opportunity to realise their full potential or to appreciate the complete picture of table tennis and its benefits to themselves in the camaraderie which is developed through the contacts with players from all walks of life and the physical fitness and skill required for competing at all levels.
2. The absence of players from these areas competing in the County Junior and Senior Championships fails to give both the players themselves the opportunity to see how good they are, and also devalues the true meaning of County Champion.
3. Our overall performance as a county against stronger opposition, which we are sure to meet in the future, will be greatly enhanced if our players have proved themselves against all known opposition.

I must apologise to my readers if I have appeared to be getting on a soap box too much with regard to the standards and the optimistic outlook of Somerset's future in the big wide world of table tennis, but I can only say it is because I have a pride in this county and wish to see this reflected in respect of other players throughout the

country, as I am sure it will, in time. I also feel that when table tennis is seen to be played more by the public, the interest will be generated, and we will get the same participation by youngsters and parents which athletics now enjoys because of the Fun Runs and Marathons. Hopefully, then the first item on their Christmas list will be table tennis equipment!

Now back to the nitty gritty. What other achievements have we had around the country? The first is the confirmation of some of our thoughts on the positions of our Cadet Girls after the Ranking Trial at Ipswich. We were right about Sarah Webb getting the leading position, finishing 12th, due mainly to her defeat of Claire Potts and Jenny Ellery which gave her a hatful of points and a firm base from which to play her remaining games in the first group. Melonie Carey consolidated her ranking by moving into 15th position from 18th which, on reflection, taking everything into consideration, was a good performance, and knowing that with a little luck it could have been even better. The disappointment felt by her at the time has been tempered by a greater determination to reverse the results which went against her, which in some cases were only due to nerves and the greater experience of her opponent, and to climb even higher up the ladder by working harder on her strengths and improving her skills. Our third girl, Fiona Stuart, finished in 20th position, which at the time was not even contemplated. This caused some controversy by the County Selection Committee, who were using the Ranking Trial as a guide to the County ranking positions. I should have liked to be a mouse in the corner when they held their meeting! Their decision was to leave the county ranking as determined by the trial held at Yeovil on 12 September, resulting in Melonie No. 1, Fiona No. 2, and Sarah No. 3.

On Sunday 14 Nov. a new tournament for the Somerset calendar was held — an inaugural competition for the Arthur Richens Memorial Shield. I know a lot of readers will have fond memories of the name and I can speak for all in Somerset who knew Arthur when I say that he is sorely missed. This competition was between Somerset towns and teams which support Somerset Table Tennis, Nailsea being one of the stalwarts who, apart from travelling to Chilton School, Bridgwater, at their own expense, also brought a team which provided very strong opposition in both men's and ladies' events. The other teams competing were Taunton, Yeovil and Bridgwater, who provided two teams.

The competition was conducted on a group basis with four groups of five men all playing each other and two groups of five winners of each men's group contesting a semi-final and the winners of the ladies going into a straight final which I myself felt was not quite conclusive a method of deciding a ladies champion, as each group had players who had only lost one match which would have allowed the winner of each group to have played the second in the other group. That is my own opinion, I must add.

The result of the ladies' final was that Shirley Dark from Yeovil beat Fiona Stuart, the count-back winner of Group 1.

The men's semi-finals were between Dave Lee and John Hartry from Bridgwater 'A' team, Dave getting through to

meet the winner of the second semi-final, David Wilson, who beat John Crabtree — both again being members of Bridgwater 'A' team.

The final was a really exciting match to watch with both players giving it all their best shots, the eventual winner over three games being Dave Lee.

After all the points had been totalled up it was fitting on this occasion that the town to which Arthur gave so much of his time — Bridgwater — should be the winner, but I am sure the other town teams will still try as hard in future years to win this trophy. The presentation was made by Mrs. Richens, of whom it has been said has never attended a table tennis tournament in all the years that Arthur has been associated with the sport in his playing, administrative and umpiring capacity. I would say that she is now suitably impressed with the display afforded her on this day.

English Junior Closed Championships

This was the big one for our juniors so far in their careers. It was held at the very good Leisure Centre in Macclesfield, Cheshire. I believe this is the longest distance we have travelled for a tournament so far. The entrants from Somerset were Melonie, Fiona, Sarah and Philip Payne. The atmosphere was quite tense, with the best of England's Cadets and Juniors competing, some hoping to make amends for their untrue form in the trials and climb up the list higher, and others aware that they had to prove themselves in the high positions they held — and this in some cases provided upsets to the seeds.

Our own players had varying degrees of success in the Cadets and Juniors, Philip losing in the 1st round to a more experienced player, Melonie beating her old rival, Jenny Ellery, from Gloucester in the 1st round of the Cadets and then losing against a very good in-form girl from Essex, Juliet Houghton, who went on to reach the final and meet Jill Powis — no mean achievement. Fiona won her first round quite convincingly, then met an up-and-coming cadet from Lancashire, Andrea Holt, who beat her. Sarah won her preliminary round in the third against Sarah Paddley, then had to meet Juliet Houghton and lost. This was the extent of our involvement in the Cadets, but Melonie stayed to compete in the Juniors on the Sunday, and recorded two fine and encouraging wins, the first being against Cary Wickstead in two and then Andrea Holt in three. Her next opponent was Sue Collier, who gave Melonie an insight into the standard which is required to reach her position, winning in two. However, I don't think this deterred Melonie from giving of her best.

Last, but by no means least, I know that many of the readers of this column are veterans and I must apologise for not giving them enough mention in my enthusiasm for the re-building of the Somerset fortunes, as without them there would not be a Somerset table tennis set-up to re-build, and they are still showing the youngsters in competitions that it is not all biff, bang, wallop, but skill allied to patience, anticipation and speed of thought which produces the winner. On that note I should like to close for the present — looking forward to meeting my many friends of the table tennis motoring club in the New Year.

Gerald Green reports from . . .

SHROPSHIRE

NO PROBLEM FOR GROVE

There were no problems for Grove 2 in their National League match against Solihull. The Market Drayton quartet of Peter D'Arcy, Paul Barnett, Stan Deakin and Bill Bridgeman raced to a crushing 8-0 victory in record time. The Birmingham based team of Dunnett, Anderson, Williams and Crutchley had no answer to the experience of D'Arcy and Deakin and the rapidly improving Barnett and Bridgeman.

MIDLAND LEAGUE

Grove Junior 'B' proved too strong for Cheltenham. Steven Meigh retained his 100 per cent record, Andrew Holmes underlined his recent progress with a maximum and Stephen Morrison added two victories to complete an 8-2 success with Cheltenham taking the doubles.

A splendid performance by Colette Soan could not save Grove Ladies 'A' from defeat by a strong Derby side. Soan, in splendid form, beat both Kerry Payne and England Junior to Thuy Dung before losing to Marilyn O'Sullivan. Julie Ballard and Denise Boughey added one each in a 4-6 defeat.

It was tough going for Grove Ladies 'B' against Nottingham. Grove lost 1-9 with Carol Wickstead the sole winner.

Grove Ladies 'C' fell 0-10 to Birmingham and 2-8 to Kidderminster with Anne Barnett and Nicola Thornycroft successful.

Pontesbury lead Division four having taken maximum points from their games so far.

Shropshire's other representative in the Division, Telford, currently lie third from bottom with one 7-3 victory from three games. They lost the other two by 4-6 margins, although all three have been against the Division's top clubs.

COUNTY LEAGUE

Telford 'A' showed their strength in the Senior Division of the Shropshire League, beating Oswestry 'B' 8-1 with Clibborn and Tanner both unbeaten.

Oswestry 'A', Grove 'A' and Telford 'B' share second place. Oswestry 'A' had a 5-4 win over Grove 'A' with Gerry Owen getting their maximum, beating Robert Gould 23-21 in the decider.

Telford 'B' — Maycock, Bailey and Fletcher — proved too strong for Grove 'B', winning 9-0.

The Junior Division is close, with Grove 'A' one point clear of Telford, following a 9-0 success over Grove 'C' with maximums from Steven Smith, Matthew Jeffrey and Anthony Purcell.

Telford beat Oswestry 7-2 with brothers Robert and Nigel Holding unbeaten.

TELFORD TOP TEN

Bill Herbert tops the list in the latest rankings issued by Telford Table Tennis Association.

Top ten:

1 W. Herbert, 2 D. Elkin, 3 G. Cheatham, 4 M. Beaman, 5 M. Langford, 6 G. White, 7 A. Horobin, 8 G. Clibborn, 9 S. Tanner, 10 M. Hughes.

HILTON'S YORKSHIRE TITLE

Grove's John Hilton underlined his return to top form by winning the Yorkshire Open

Championship. The Grove number one accounted for clubmates Phil Bowen and Steve Scowcroft en route before facing Peter McQueen in the semi-final which turned out to be a hard fought encounter. Hilton came through to win and then defeated talented Kevin Beadsley in the final. Meanwhile Malcolm Green showed some good form in the competition before losing by the narrowest of margins to McQueen in the quarter-finals.

RUN ENDS IN QUARTER-FINALS

Colin Wilson and Denise Boughey proved to be Grove's most successful players at the English Junior Closed Championships. They scored a fine win over Gloucester's England Ranked pair Jenny Ellery and Darren Griffin, before losing to the international duo Gary Lambert (Devon) and Jean Parker (Lancashire) in a hard fought quarter-final.

Meanwhile Boughey and Julie Ballard made good progress in the girls singles before losing to internationals Jean Parker and Lisa Bellinger.

Wilson was equally impressive in his singles before losing narrowly to England ranked Michael Thomas of Coventry.

John Robinson reports from . . .

DORSET

DISAPPOINTING WEEKEND

Dorset had a rather disappointing time at the first of the Premier Division weekends at Lancashire on the weekend of Nov. 27/28 losing the three matches they played. But there were some fine individual performances.

In Dorset's first match against Middlesex they went down 1-8 the one set being won by Mark Werner who had the best win of his career in beating England No. 10 Dave Wells. Next we played Lancashire and were defeated 2-7 Dorset's victors being Cherry Creasey who won her singles and Tony Clayton who played brilliantly to defeat England No. 7 Donald Parker. Dorset's final match was against Staffordshire this was a game we were hoping to win, but unfortunately we were narrowly beaten 4-5 Clayton again playing well winning his two singles, Werner winning one and Martin Abbott and Clayton clinching the doubles. So although Dorset were without success they put up a good performance especially as they were without the services of Simon Heaps and Dave Constance.

Dorset's county teams have not met with much success so far this season with the exception of the Junior first team who are unbeaten and favourites for the title. They have only dropped five sets in the three matches played and the team of Graham Plutz, Rodney Thomas, Ray Fairhall, Leanne Harman and Suzanne Hegarty are very confident.

The Junior second team have lost both their matches, but this very young side is getting useful experience which will stand them in good stead in later years. The Senior second team is holding a mid-table position and is finding it very difficult to get ladies to play. In their last match against Avon they were defeated 3-7 in what was a very good game with a lot of good rallies. Both Veteran sides are finding the going very tough, especially the first team who are playing in the Premier division with only Joyce Coop winning consistently.

Dorset's Halex National League side, Jolliffe Poole, are doing well in Division 3 West and are currently in second position. The only match they have lost was to the very strong Chan Construction side. In their last match Jolliffe Poole defeated Pengely Sports 5-3 in a very entertaining and sporting match Poole's match winners were Chris Shetler and Jason Creasey who won both their singles and John Robinson who won one. Unfortunately Chan look unstoppable so Jolliffe Poole's aim is to finish in second position which will be a hard task especially if Trevor Taylor starts playing for Pengely.

Poole who did extremely well to reach the final of the Wilmott Cup last season started this season's campaign with a convincing 5-0 success over Portsmouth, Poole's side of Clayton, Heaps and Abbott proving far too strong.

Roy Williams reports from . . .

NORTH WALES

FOULKES ON TARGET

Steven Foulkes, promoted from Holyhead Sealink 'C' in Div. 2 of the Anglesey League to their first team in Div. 1, caused the sensation of the season by winning all his three sets against Llangefni. Holyhead Sealink, who are in second place behind champions Wylfa have Holyhead club St. Mary's close on their heels in third place.

Wylfa 'B' head Div. 2 with Anglican Chaplains Fellowship, who have shot up the league table, now in second place, Holyhead Sealink 'C' maintaining their third spot.

In the Llandudno League champions Colwyn Bay Cricket Club beat Div. 1 leaders Colwyn Bay TTC to climb into third place but Colwyn Bay TTC surrendered their position to Llandudno Junction who lead by one point. Hotpoint 'A' top Div. 2 whilst Technical College 'B' and Friendship Club 'A' battle for second place. Top of Div. 3 are still Hotpoint 'B' with Colwyn Bay TTC 'B' and Fire Service in contention.

Woodland's School, Hotpoint 'C' and 'D' and Cartref Melys still trail Quinton Hazell 'B' in Div. 4. Clwyd 'A', Prestatyn and Schooner 'A' are all in the hunt in Rhyl's first division with Clwyd just having the edge with John Hook in their team. Prestatyn 'B' have opened up a gap in Div. 2 from Oriol House and Rhyddlan YC.

Justin Evans was the hero for Caerwrlle's top of the table clash in Wrexham's first division to earn a draw for his team. Terry Turner and Neil James each won two for Gwersyllt. In third and fourth place we have Llay BL and Malpas. Wrexham Victoria and rivals Telecomms lead Div. 2 with Milk Marketing Board leading Div. 3 followed by United Gravel, Wrexham OB 'C' and Dunlop 'B'.

GODFREY PARRY CUP

Gwersyllt reached the final of Wrexham's challenge cup beating Malpas in the final set to ensure meeting Llay RBL. Llay beat second division Wrexham Old Boys without losing a set.

NORTH WALES COUNTIES LEAGUE

The 3rd North Wales Counties League session was held at Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay, on Dec. 5, the programme comprising veterans' and women's matches. In the vets category Llandudno with Dave Galley, Les

lones and George Mynott drew with Wrexham and are the only team who can deprive Rhyl of taking the championship. Rhyl had two wins against Anglesey and Rhyl II.

Wrexham ladies, fielding Sheila Rogers, Joyce Jones and Karen Buckle, proved too strong in their matches against Llan/Rhyl and Anglesey. In all seven matches were played during the day.

RESULTS /ets

Llandudno 5 Wrexham 5
Rhyl 10 Anglesey 0
Rhyl 10 Rhyl II 0
Anglesey 2 Llandudno II 8

Women

Wrexham 9 Llan/Rhyl 1
Llan/Rhyl 5 Anglesey 5
Wrexham 9 Anglesey 1

The Llandudno TTC held their closed championships at the Quinton Hazell Dantean, Mochdre on Nov. 27.

RESULTS

Men's Singles:

Glyn Gibbons.

Women's Singles:

Karen Jones.

Veterans' Singles:

Roy Williams.

Junior Singles:

Llion Evans.

Cadet Boys' Singles:

Llion Evans.

The Rhyl handicap tournament was held at the Coventry Co-op Holiday Camp, Kinmel Bay on Dec. 12.

RESULTS

Handicap Singles Cup:

John Hook (-12).

Handicap Singles Trophy:

Roy Williams (-6).

Handicap Singles Plate:

Roy Williams (-6).

FLINTSHIRE CLOSED

Again at Kinmel Bay, on Dec. 19, the Flintshire Closed results were:

Men's Singles:

John Hook bt Roy Williams.

Women's Singles:

Pru Oakes bt Barbara Williams.

Individual Singles:

Mark Kane bt Andrew Harrison.

Veterans' Singles:

Ray Howland bt Roy Williams.

Senior Veterans' Singles:

Roy Williams bt Barbara Williams.

Women's Veterans' Singles:

Barbara Williams bt Perta Williams.

Boys' Singles:

Andrew Harrison bt Craig Thomas.

Girls' Singles:

Janet Manning bt Kath Glendenning.

Cadet Boys' Singles:

Craig Thomas bt Leon Bennett.

Cadet Girls' Singles:

Lesley Hatton bt Donna Howland.

Vic Bennett reports from . . .

NORFOLK

NEW NAME ON TROPHY

The Broadside Sports-sponsored Senior Championships at the University of East Anglia on Dec. 19 could be considered as one of the best held regarding organisation and match play, although the former needed more "hands on deck" to accomplish continuity and probably a little more fair play

by the players in doing their stint at umpiring. However, another grand entry must hearten the effort made by the tournament committee.

The men's singles was a cliffhanger with a new name for the trophy with Martyn Stevenson (4) preventing Doug Bennett (1) notching up his sixth win in this event. The women's singles again went to Wendy Hogg who achieved what Doug failed to do, now with six wins is chasing Betty Cassels' record.

The other singles event was the very competitive veterans and Les Rayment justified his seeding to defeat Stan Honor. The men's doubles with holders Bennett/Durrant in good form winning through against the equally determined Stevenson twins. But for sheer enjoyment at winning went to the North Norfolk ladies Mary Ashmore/Sally Shaw (4) by beating last year's champions Joy Dixon/Glynis Pearson (1) in the semis, then dismissing Ruth and Wendy Hogg in the final.

The mixed saw the twins again in opposition. Martyn with Debbie Brown had a great semi win over holders Durrant/Hogg but failed to make any impression on brother Richard and Joy Dixon in the final. With Martyn's number of points earned, far above anybody else, he was awarded the Victor Ludorum. In conclusion a big thanks to this match controllers who complied with a 9 p.m. finish. Great!

The only County match played in December was the Juniors 'A' and 'B' clash, and what a result with the 'B' squad really putting it together to win 7-3. Dave Honor played some of his best table tennis to beat Simon Steward that helped the team to maintain the challenge at the top of the division.

David Cosway reports from . . .

HAMPSHIRE

FINE PROSPECT

It seems a long time ago but I will test my memory to report first on the Hampshire Senior Closed Tournament held at Redbridge Sports Centre, Southampton last November. Early shocks in the men's singles included the elimination of the top two seeds. Derek Holman, the No. 1, striving for his hat-trick of wins, went out to the Portsmouth junior, Mark Wilding. No. 2 Rhamish Bhalla lost to Miki Sinanan while another seed, Graham Green (No. 8) went out to Steve Snow. At the semi-final stage Chris Shetler had a comfortable 8 and 17 win over Wilding. The other semi produced the best set of the day with Graham Toole narrowly beating Sinanan -19, 18, 15. The final showed all Shetler's fighting spirit and the reason he has been at the top so long in the county — it's 15 years since he won the junior title! He trailed 16-19 in the first game but won the next five points. Graham, however, took the second at 13 and led 10-6 at the change round in the third. There was then a long delay with Chris unable to continue through cramp and with his movement severely restricted, Graham gained his first title at 15. Graham is a fine prospect for Hampshire but if only he could put more consistency into his play. The week before this tournament for instance, he lost all three in a Southampton league match! Tournaments appear to

motivate Graham more at the moment than matches!

In the women's singles a predictable semi-final line-up saw Serina Barfoot beat Avril Waters 11 and 15. Kathy Conlon reversed her trials defeat by Barbara Clark to win 6 and 19. A strange final with neither player really on song, but Serina in the end comfortably gaining her third title 17, -19, 9. Top seeds in the men's doubles, Holman and Bhalla, had a tight passage to the final before beating N. Frost and G. Outtrim -15, 12, 13. Shetler and Snow reached the final with a good 19 and 17 win over Toole and Sinanan. The final a narrow 13, -11, 19 win for Holman and Bhalla, was some consolation for their wounded pride at their early exit from the singles.

Serina Barfoot gained her second title in the women's doubles paired with Tracey Kneller, reaching the final with a 13 and 14 win over K. Lines and H. Frost. Barbara Clark and Mary Clegg had a good 19 and 2 win over A. Waters and K. Conlon to reach the final and took the first game against Serina and Tracey but lost the next two 13 and 12.

Serina reached her third final when as holders with brother Miki they beat G. Outtrim and B. Clark in the mixed semi-final. In the other half Shetler and Kathy Conlon just got the better of Holman and Tracey Kneller 18, -18, 22. Another close final with Chris and Kathy easing out at 15, -11, 18.

Controversy before the start of the Veterans event. Ian Schwartz started the season as a Berkshire player. However, he did not appear to figure in his County's plans and he applied to them for release in order that he may be ranked for Hampshire where he plays some of his table tennis. Unfortunately, he had not been officially "unranked" by the date of the tournament, although a phone call to Berkshire by Hampshire officials confirmed that they would release him. So what could referee Peter Thorne do? The rules state that players registered for another county are not eligible, but was he still registered? The common sense course of action was taken and Schwartz was allowed to play. He promptly beat No. 1 seed, Ray Lush, -19, 16, 9, and went on to beat Paul Wilding 12 and 21 in the semi. In the other half Ron Powell beat Maurie Shave -12, 17, 14 to reach the final where, perhaps to the relief of the organisers, he beat Schwartz -13, 18, 13.

So another poorly supported tournament ended with hard working Hampshire officials, including organiser Harold Albery and referee Peter Thorne to contemplate whether it is all worth while.

County matches since my last report are a bit of a mixture. I could not believe the result against Wiltshire who have, to be honest, had slightly the better of recent encounters, but the two teams looked quite evenly matched. The 0-10 defeat one can, therefore, only describe as a disaster. The 'B' team had a good 7-3 win over Cornwall with Shetler and Christine Davies unbeaten in the singles. The Junior 'A' team's 6-4 win over Avon was a team effort with all five players recording wins and Richard Waters winning two. The Junior 'B' team lost 4-6 to Warwick with Nigel Davenport and Dominic Evans winning two sets each, but the team were handicapped by being a player short. Shave won the only set in the Veterans 'A' team's 1-8 defeat by Sussex 1. The Veteran

'B' team beat Sussex II 5-4 with Norman Stagg winning two singles and Ron Powell and Mary Clegg each winning a singles and combining for the mixed.

In the Halex National League it looks as if Generation 2 have blown their chance of promotion after two successive defeats. Against Cardiff, Ian Kenyon, Des Charley and Tony Clayton each won a singles but Mark Oakley lost both his in a 3-5 reversal. There followed a disappointing 3-5 defeat at home to Tarmac Wolverhampton with Kenyon winning two including a two-straight win over Jill Parker, and Clayton one. Oakley and Charley each failed to win. The absence of Carl Preen from both these matches was clearly the deciding factor.

Against Cardiff I understand he was rested but for the Wolverhampton match he was on International duty in France.

Southampton's 50th Anniversary International between England and Federal Germany in the European Super League will be played at Fleming Park Sports Centre on Wednesday, March 9th. Tickets are now available from Chris Sims, at Woodbury, Bakers Drove, Rownhams, Southampton priced at £3 and £4, including programme.

It would appear I have trod on a few ETTA toes with my reports! I have already written to Keith Ponting apologising for any implied criticism regarding the VRS report. Like any reporting, I am dependent upon the few that bother to give me information for my reports and rely on them for the accuracy. However, I still consider it unfortunate that the change of rules made relating to the entry in European competitions was not well publicised and the inclusion of the original rules in the ETTA diary definitely did not help. With regard to Tony Wickens letter, it is also unfortunate that letters by me to the then secretary of the tournaments committee in January and April of last year were not replied to. Until criticised in print, little help seems forthcoming and then the only response is defensive. However, one thing that does encourage me from these letters — it proves someone reads my reports!

Happy New Year to all my readers.

Les D'Arcy reports from . . .

YORKSHIRE

MEASURES IMPERATIVE

With the recession and other factors causing a decline in membership of the leagues throughout the county which fits into the national pattern it is imperative that measures be taken to change the situation before it is too late. To stop players and officials leaving the game is part of the problem which a better financial climate will improve. To bring more young people into the game is well within our power, if we use our coaching resources to the full. To do this the county, for coaching purposes, has been divided into three regions with an honorary regional coaching officer for each region — Michael Wilcockson - N.E. Yorkshire and part of Humberside; Rowden Fullen - West Yorkshire; and Tom Musgrove - South Yorkshire. The new county coaching format was explained by National Coach, Donald Parker, at an excellently attended county planning meeting at Moor Grange School.

Donald and his wife, Jill, were in action at Batley Sports Centre recently where they gave a demonstration of strokes and an inspiring table tennis exhibition. England Schools TTA Chairman, John Arnold; President, Tom Matthews and Kirklees P.E. Organiser, John Oxley, presented the programme which included a demonstration by John Arnold and some of his pupils on how to play table tennis with improvised equipment. Miss Jill Tickner, Sports Council Liaison Officer, introduced the course for teachers and pupils in which Nicky Jarvis and Steve Mills also took part.

Wakefield Sports Centre Manager, Alec Thompson, an ailrounder whose main sports are athletics and weight lifting must have a soft spot for table tennis. In recent weeks four different types of coaching courses have been organised at the Centre — a teachers/club coaches award course for sports centre staff and teachers organised by Mr. Roger Rothery on behalf of the Wakefield Education Authority was one of the successful courses taken by Donald Parker assisted by YTTA coaches.

When I spoke to Donald about this new venture at the Centre, he said that he was impressed with the co-operation he had received from everyone involved and hoped that other Education Authorities would follow Wakefield's approach in developing table tennis. Another coaching first was Rowden Fullen's Regional Course for girls 8 to 13 years. Rowden, who was assisted by Pat Bassano (nee Dainty) former international, and other county coaches, was agreeably surprised at the abundance of talent drawn from six different areas. Debbie Toole, Normanton Middle School — Joanne Shaw's old school, was particularly impressive and according to Rowden has the right qualities for reaching the top. Joanne Shaw's former school coach, Roger Vasey must be particularly pleased with Rowden's assessment of Debbie's potential, in view of his correct prediction about Joanne who

this season has moved from her former England No. 1 Cadet ranking to an amazing No. 16 in the Women's class.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE LEAGUES

Doncaster

Doncaster's junior/cadet contingent did particularly well in the Yorkshire junior trials with eight players finally ranked No. 8 or better. Of these, five were recalled to Moor Grange to Area 5 play-off, Nicky Carr doing exceptionally well dropping only one game to win the cadet boys' event with Martin Smeaton 5th; Jane Roberts was third in the girls' section. Nicky Newton and Dean Lake finished 5 and 6 in the junior boys' event. As a result of these positions all five were eventually invited to make their first attendance at the English Junior Ranking Trials at Shotley Gate, Ipswich, and joined already ranked No. 6 girl Melanie Seaton in battling for positions.

Dean Lake and Nicky Newton became the first Doncaster junior representatives for some years to be called on to play for the county — in their Junior II match against Durham and in a second fixture against Leicestershire.

In the Yorkshire Closed Championships Doncaster entrants did particularly well, providing both finalists in the veterans event in seasoned campaigners Mick Dainty and John Walton with Mick proving the stronger. The junior boys' title came to Doncaster for the second successive year, this time, when in another all Doncaster final Dean Lake beat Nicky Newton. Doncaster pair Melanie Seaton and Jane Roberts contested the final of the women's doubles but were beaten -19, -19 by Sheffield pairing of Lesley Broomhead and Josette Ryalls.

Wakefield Newcomer

Cleve Judson (Profile)

With the build and bearing of a Roman Gladiator, Cleve Judson, newcomer to Wakefield stands head and shoulders, in



Left to right: Donald Parker congratulating MICK WILCOCKSON, ROWDEN FULLEN and TOM MUSGROVE on their appointments as Regional Coaches.

size and ability over most of his opponents as he powers his way from one victory to another in the top table tennis divisions of Wakefield and Dewsbury. Cleve recently moved into the district with his family and joined the City W.M.C. for their first team's matches in Wakefield and Dewsbury. His wife, Carol, is also outstanding at table tennis and has partnered Cleve in numerous mixed doubles championships successes and gained county honours, she has also joined the same squad.

After being taught table tennis as a nine year old by his brother Harold in Sheffield, Cleve gained his first major title when playing for the city youth teams, taking the Yorkshire League Youth Championship in 1958 and the National Youth Clubs team Championships in 1959. From then on it was one success after another as he moved round the country with his work in the Civil Service. After being a member of the Yorkshire County Squad in 1962 he played regularly at county level for the next 13 years: Oxfordshire 1963-66; Devon 1966-70; Lincolnshire 1970-75 and Nottinghamshire 1975-76. One of his most impressive inter area achievements was when Cleve represented Oxford against Lieden in Holland, won all his matches in the team event and went on to win an open Dutch Individual Championship in this twin city tournament.

Perhaps Cleve's greatest test came when, as a member of a four man team, he became a world record breaker in 1969. He and his team smashed the then existing World Record for non-stop table tennis by over 13 hours when they established a new time of one hundred hours and thirty minutes. One point played by Judson and his partner, Peter Hayfield, lasted thirty minutes in a game which went on for almost four and a half hours. Shortly after the marathon test of endurance which was organised to raise £500 for charity and the local league in Exmouth, Cleve completed the five hundred and twenty miles round trip back to his home in Sheffield where he lived prior to coming to Wakefield. He works in a branch of the Civil Service of which he has been National Champion three times.

Now, after over thirty years of very successful endeavour which has produced more than a hundred individual and team championships wins for Cleve and a considerable number for his wife, Carol, this formidable family pair play mainly for fun. Even so, this table tennis superman who is too busy to practice, has a hundred per cent record against Wakefield League Champions, Pretoria WMC and the Dewsbury League Champions, Batley Sports Centre 'A'. Carol won two of her three singles in her recent match in the Wakefield Premier, and had similar success when playing for Wakefield Women's Team against Harrogate. Cleve is registered with Sheffield for Yorkshire League Matches this season, but should he decide to join Wakefield next year the City's Men's and Veterans' teams would be in with an excellent chance of taking two of the County's major titles for the first time in the Wakefield League's history. No one is going to attempt to twist Cleve's arm — he's too big, but should he chance to read this, who knows?

Dewsbury

One of the leading leagues as far as building for the future is concerned with three divisions in the junior and cadet league — a number of the cadet teams

comprising of eight and nine years olds. New Dewsbury League Press Secretary, Mr. C. Roberts in a well presented newsletter asks for help in organising these young teams and providing transport for away matches. If you can help please contact League Coaching Secretary, Mr. Ray Burch Mirfield 495696. Although the emphasis is on young players, coaching is available for all age groups, another plus for Dewsbury and I'm sure for many other leagues, but not all where many of the older players feel neglected in this respect and would like coaching secretaries and organisers to think of them when planning their new coaching programmes. Ray suggested to me that he would like to see a day or week-end coaching seminar organised to bring coaches up to date with new developments. Please send your programme ideas to me if you are interested.

We join the Dewsbury League in congratulations to the following members:

Rachel Brook (Carlinghow), after a very successful England Ranking Trial at Ipswich is now No. 9 nationally ranked junior girl and has recently earned a place in the Dewsbury Senior Yorkshire, Division 3 team to probably become the first junior girl to break through into what has until now been regarded as male territory in Dewsbury. Senior, Lynne Barras is the only other female playing in the otherwise Yorkshire Men's League. This is possible only when the league wishing to play a woman in their senior team/s has no women's team in the Y.L.

Michael O'Driscoll, on becoming Cleveland 2-Star Select U-11 Champion. At the same event with Nicky Ryder, losing finalists in the U-14 boys' team event and also together reached the last eight of the U-14 boys' doubles.

Michael's sister, Deborah on becoming W. Yorkshire closed doubles champion, partnered by Bradford's Michael Stead, and finalist in the junior girls.

Bevan Walker on his appointment as non-playing captain to the county's junior teams.

Chris Clemson on qualifying as a county umpire and to Bob Ryder on becoming an ETTA 1-Star Diploma Coach.

Finally, well done to the Dewsbury Junior Yorkshire Premier Division Squad (R. Lightowler, D. Page, G. Marshall, B. Rowlands and Rachel Brook) on recent wins against Bradford and Barnsley.

England Junior and Cadet Rankings

The following Yorkshire players appear in the latest Lentec Junior Ranking List.

Junior Boys: 15 Steven Sharpe (6), 23 David Rook (11), 34 Martin Firth (29), 36 Jeffrey Thatcher (—).

Junior Girls: 7 Melanie Seaton (6), 9 Rachel Brook (—), 15 Josette Ryalls (9), 20 Joanne Shaw (23).

Cadet Boys: 18 Jonathon Bult (14), 19 Michael O'Driscoll (—), 20 Nicholas Carr (—).

Cadet Girls: 11 Allison Evans (12), 24 Helen Broomhead (20), 28 Jane Roberts (—), 29 Hazel Kavanagh (—).

Previous ranking in brackets.

ARTHUR BOWERS, General Secretary, Bradford Table Tennis League

Arthur Bowers does not stand out in a crowd. Physically he is Mr. Average. It is only when one looks at Arthur's service to table tennis in general and to the Bradford

TT League in particular does it become obvious that he is a veritable giant. Another unusual feature about Arthur is that he did not learn to play table tennis until he was nearly thirty years of age and hated the game in the early years of its development as 'ping pong'.

At the end of the 1949/50 season Arthur had the good fortune to team up with another talented worker for table tennis, Ron Hart. Together they did much of the early spade work in setting up and developing what is now one of the finest table tennis clubs in the county and possibly in the country— Hermits TTC, Bradford. At the end of last season, Johnny Leach, opened a new extension to the club premises. At a ceremony on that occasion, Arthur, Ron and another great worker for table tennis, Hermits Chief, Richard Coulson, had rooms named after them. Arthur regards this honour as the crowning point of his association with the Club which, so far, has lasted thirty two years — twenty eight of them as General Secretary. During all that time Arthur has been a team captain and, astonishingly, has not missed a match in which his team has been involved. At the end of season 1981/82 he had played in 820 league matches and with his teams had won five divisional championships and promotion on seventeen occasions.

One of the most popular annual events at the Hermits TTC is a Youth Tournament which Arthur founded and financed in 1974. It has gone on from strength to strength and last season the prizes to be won totalled about £300. Next season a sponsor and an additional annual trophy has been found for what promises to be the Club's best tournament so far.

Arthur's association with the Bradford League Management Committee started in 1966 as General Secretary and he has attended every single meeting since then and cannot recall having missed an AGM since 1949. Five years after joining the Bradford Management Committee Arthur's enthusiasm compelled him to become a helper at Bradford and Yorkshire tournaments held in the City since 1954. In between times he qualified as an umpire and officiated up to international level, acting as ticket salesman for county matches in his spare time.

In spite of all his work for table tennis Arthur still found time to improve his playing standard. He was finalist or semi-finalist in the veterans' singles at the Bradford Closed Championships for eleven consecutive years and won the event in 1962. He also reached the final of the veterans' singles in the West Yorks Closed two years later. His talent was soon recognised at Yorkshire League level where he captained Bradford Veterans on several occasions when they won the Yorkshire League Vets Championship after winning all their matches. Arthur went on to play for Bradford Vets for several seasons after that and at sixty six is still playing in the Bradford 3rd Division, usually with three juniors serving their apprenticeship with him before moving to higher divisions and honours. One very junior player who started playing in division 13 came to Arthur the following season in division 3 and helped them to take the title. He presented Arthur with one of his most cherished possessions — his match bat — as a mark of esteem, before leap frogging into the 1st Division.

Looking at this cheerful super veteran it

is obvious that the talented youngster's bat is not the only gift he has received from a life rich in friendships and the satisfaction from work well done. Arthur who is quick to praise his wife Florence for her help and encouragement which she has given him says 'I have enjoyed every minute in table tennis'. We say, 'Keep on doing so, Arthur, and long may you prosper'.

Pauline Long reports from . . .

NORTHUMBERLAND

NEW RANKINGS

The December County ranking lists were recently issued, and these are as follows (previous positions in brackets):

Men

1 Chu Van Que (1), 2 Ian Robertson (2), 3 Andrew Clark (3), 4 Neil McMaster (5), 5 Martin Young (6), 6 Fred Short (4), 7 Tom Trehitt (7), 8 Ronnie Scott (14), 9 John Burke (9), 10 Dave McAllister (13), 11 Martin Moore (8), 12 Peter Whiteman (11), 13 Micky Grimes (—), 14 Glen McCardle (10), 15 Alan Matthewson (16), 16 Phil Stewart (15), 17 Malcolm Aitchison (—).

Women

1 Clare Mouzon (1), 2 Christine Burke (2), 3 Caron Buglass (3), 4 Pauline Long (5), 5 Julie Land (6), 6 Shirley Laver (7), 7 Susan Norris (8), 8 Olive Drapkin (9), 9 Daphne Russell (—), 10 Gail Curry (—).

Boys

1 McMaster (1), 2 Peter Curry (2), 3 Stephen Pearce (4), 4 Tom Blackman (3), 5 Eddie Smith (6), 6 Stephen Waugh (5), 7 Jonathan Miller (9), 8 P. Walters (8), 9 Wasim Shakoor (10), 10 Dave Watson (11), 11 Keith Patterson (12), 12 Rob Hall (14), 13 Andrew Drapkin (15), 14 John Fairbairn (13), 15 Darren Shaw (—), 16 Damien Linskill (16).

Girls, Cadet Boys and Cadet Girls

No change.

Both the County senior teams were beaten in their matches on Nov. 20. The first team were decimated by the late withdrawal of Chu Van Que and Ian Robertson when they visited Staffordshire II, and consequently lost 4-6 to a team which they would almost certainly have beaten. Andrew Clark and Martin Young both won one set each in the men's sets, while Clare Mouzon won her singles and combined with Christine Burke to win the women's doubles.

The second team had to bring in Martin Moore and Glen McCardle for their home match against the strong Leicestershire II side, and were easily defeated 2-8. Tom Trehitt was the only singles winner, and, in partnership with McCardle, also won the men's doubles.

The juniors, however, managed to beat Cumbria II 6-4 at Millom. All of their sets were won by the boys, with Peter Curry and Stephen Pearce each winning both their singles, and Tom Blackman one. Pearce and Blackman also combined to take the boys' doubles.

In the Hallex National League, the City of Newcastle team's slump continued when they lost to Dunlop Sports by 2-6, even though they were able to call on the services of Chu and Robertson, neither of whom had been available for the County match on the previous day. Chu beat Ian Horsham and Peter McQueen won the other

set, but the Birmingham side had little difficulty in making sure of the two points.

Byker were without Dave Godbold and Cliff Olsson for their National League match against bottom club Vickers at Barrow. Reserve Martin Moore was also unavailable and team manager Jimmy Scope was eventually forced to turn out. After a disastrous start, when Neil McMaster lost to Alan Fay, and Nigel Jobling was beaten by Andrew Murphy, Jimmy Scope and Martin Young beat Neil Yardley and Alan Manson respectively to square the match. Byker then gained three consecutive victories to put themselves in an unassailable position, and eventually won the match 5-3 to preserve their unbeaten record.

A weakened Northumberland League side entertained the Sunderland League in the first round of the Wilmott Cup. Robertson had to withdraw from the team with a leg injury, and his place was taken by Young. With Chu Van Que no longer playing in the League, the side was led by Clark, with McMaster playing only his second Wilmott Cup match. Fortunately Sunderland are no longer as strong as they used to be, and they also had to make a late change, bringing in Chris Blake to replace Robert Reed. Young gave Northumberland an excellent start by beating Durham County player Tony Gelder 20 and 7, Clark defeated Dave Bissett, and McMaster accounted for Blake. Clark and Young both recorded their second win as Northumberland went on to win 5-1.

Following their successes at Leeds in the junior and cadet regional trials, Neil McMaster, Clare Mouzon and Dave Watson all took part in the England trials at Ipswich, and had some measure of success. The Lentec Computer ranking list for December has recently been issued, and all three have been given a ranking. Neil McMaster is placed at No. 32 in the boys, Clare Mouzon has risen to No. 13 in the girls, and Dave Watson appears at No. 27 in the cadet boys' list. Congratulations to all.

NORTHUMBERLAND CLOSED

The Closed tournament was held at Scotswood Sports Centre on Saturday, Dec. 11, and attracted an entry of nearly 100 players.

Chu Van Que was attempting to win both the men's singles and doubles for the third year running and succeeded in doing so in the singles. His opponent in the final was McQueen, playing for the first time in this tournament since his return to the North-East, and despite some sterling defence by McQueen, Chu's powerful hitting and accurate placing of the ball won the day. However, McQueen gained partial revenge in the men's doubles, when, partnered by Robertson, he was involved in a final victory over Chu and Clark. For good measure, he also won the Premier/Div. 1 handicap singles from a "scratch" marking.

The women's singles event attracted what must have been an all-time low entry of seven players, with nearly half the women's ranking list being conspicuous by their absence. Admittedly, one or two had good reasons for being unable to enter, but there are four places in the two senior County teams to play for, and presumably those who wish to be ranked are interested in competing for those places. The interest, however, does not seem to be there in great abundance when support cannot be given to their own Closed tournament. Clare

Mouzon retained her women's singles title with an even more convincing victory over Christine Burke in a repeat of last year's final, and, partnered by Pauline Long, also retained her women's doubles title. For good measure, she achieved her first ever "hat-trick" when she and Cliff Olsson put out last year's champions McMaster and Christine Burke to win the mixed title.

The veterans' event was won by Arnold Warents, who overcame Pat Tindale in the final — with a broken left wrist! Arnold had a fall in an earlier match and injured his wrist, but it was not until the next day that he revealed that it was broken. Tom Robson became the second player to win a handicap event from "scratch" when he gained final success over young Anthony Black.

A new event was introduced in the form of a "hard bat" competition, and this was won fairly comfortably by regular hard bat player Pat Tindale. However, credit must be given to Alan Matthewson, who normally plays with a modern bat, for reaching the final at the expense of some strong opposition.

RESULTS

Men's Singles:

CHU VAN QUE bt P. McQueen 19, 15.

Men's Doubles:

McQUEEN/I. ROBERTSON bt Chu/A. Clark 13, 23.

Women's Singles:

C. MOUZON bt C. Burke 12, 11.

Women's Doubles:

MOUZON/P. LONG bt Burke/M. Cooper 17, 11.

Mixed Doubles:

C. OLSSON/MOUZON bt N. McMaster/Burke 9, 20.

Veterans' Singles:

A. WARENTS bt P. Tindale 16, 18:

Hard Bat Singles:

TINDALE bt A. Matthewson 13, 10.

Premier/Div. 1 Handicap:

McQUEEN (scr) bt D. Williamson (+8) 18, -16, 14.

Div. 2/3/4 Handicap:

T. ROBSON (scr) bt A. Black (+6) 17, 20.

OBITUARY - MICHAEL BIRLEY

The County Association officials and players were shocked and saddened to learn of the tragic death of Mike Birley, who collapsed and died at Byker Community Centre in November whilst playing in his last game of the evening in a Div. 3B league match. Mike, who was only 47, had played for various Civil Service teams over the years before joining Byker Community Centre, and at one time was a keen tennis player with the DHSS Tennis Club. Our sympathies are extended to his widow Sheila and daughters Denise and Alison at this time.

Philip Reid reports from . . .

LEICESTERSHIRE

LOCAL 'PLUG'

There are no county matches to report, so I'll start giving the local leagues a 'plug', well at least the two who have contacted me — after mentioning that the "Leicestershire Closed" will this season be sponsored for the first time — Withers Sports are to be our beneficiary and I sincerely hope local people will flock to Bob Wither's sports shop in Market Street.

In the Midland League the veterans of

Leicester seem to have taken on a new lease of life particularly Geoff Aldwinckle whose maximum was largely instrumental in their gaining a 7-3 win over Gloucester — and all in straight games. In the Leicester League there are only five teams with a 100% record — Knighton Park (1), Groby Community College (14), Leicester Polytechnic (16), Newarke (18), and University (2).

Chris Rogers as expected is the only First Division player unbeaten and he — and his team Knighton Park — will certainly take some beating! Surprise packets in Div. 2 are University. They have been re-inforced by the inclusion of John Roberts, late of Southampton. Older players may remember John's father, Bill, who used to perform for Loughborough Brush. Goons lead Div. 3, but this is a team effort, having no player in the top four of the divisional averages.

Jointly lead by Mike Juett (University) and Terry Highton (LBS), Bentley Engineering are heading Div. 4, a division topped by Peter Strong (Loughbro' Cranby). In the Individual Averages, Knighton Park are leading Div. 5, but Alan Chapman (RTH) leads the division averages, having won 14 of the 25 sets his side have gained. Leicester Building Society, led by top of the averages Bob Jordan, are top of Div. 6, whilst Div. 7 sees the Building Society leading again, with Nigel Dunford (Magna Travellers) topping the averages. Gynsill top Div. 8 with Dave Roche (Rolls Royce) still 100%. The ninth division sees Kirkby Muxloe top whilst Chris Sedman leads the averages.

Leicester Gas and John Melia (LBS) head Div. 10 whilst in Div. 11 Jones and Shipman top the chart despite a 100% record from Peter Harris (University). Another 100% individual record is held by veteran Derek Noon (British Rail), but Epworth currently lead the Div. 12 chart. Thirteen isn't proving unlucky for Abbey, or indeed for Alex Mason (St. Cuthberts), both topping the chart whilst in Div. 14. Andrew Briggs of Groby Community College, with a 96% average, leads his team to the top of the chart. Div. 15 sees Guthlaxton Y.C. at the head of the chart, with Stu McPhee (Glen Parva Sports) a like place in the averages.

Leicester Polytechnic, as stated previously, lead Div. 16 where there are two other 100%ers. In the individual averages, these being Brian Leeson (County Hall) — who incidentally are languishing in bottom but one place, and Steve Coates (Leics Poly). Div. 17 finds another Poly player in first spot with a 100% record in Sean Lucas, but in this case Polebrook House top the chart. Div. 18 sees the easiest winners of all in Newarke — only five sets conceded out of 100 — with Nilesh Jadauji (Newarke) and Simon Cripps (Rolls Royce) two others with 100%.

Meanwhile over at Hinckley, John Shade keeps me regularly up to date with their magazine, the "Hinckley Loop". In Division One, Hinckley M.C. are surprise leaders with both A. James and the Evergreen John Iliffe 100%. Ashby Parva head Div. 2 whilst another village team — Croft — lead Div. 3 with Eileen Shaler and Malcolm Shield 100%. Ashby Parva are walking away with Div. 4, thanks to C. Scrine. That seems to be it. Next month I'll revert mainly to the County teams — hopefully.

John Prean looks beyond . . .

THE ISLE OF WIGHT

I have travelled quite a few thousand miles since my last notes.

The main talking point among administrators is the membership crisis, among players impending rubber legislation. According to some there is a connection. Others blame the recession.

On the Isle of Wight the combination bat is no issue. The recession, although we feel it, has closed no clubrooms. There is ample opportunity for everyone to play league Table Tennis at a very low cost, often less than other Sports. Yet we have lost nine teams from a total of 81 in one season.

In the Thirties too, there was a recession, but Table Tennis gained new players and supporters. Television was unimportant and represented neither a competitor for our time nor a publicity opportunity which has propelled Snooker and Darts to a place in the sun whilst our shadows grow longer.

Table Tennis is going through a tough time, having to live with the recession and the realities of the market place. There is competition from other Sports with larger budgets, particularly Television exposure and the publicity opportunities that result.

Above all, there is a crisis of confidence and people who are devoted to the Sport will wonder in private whether Table Tennis has a future on any but a minor scale, whether it is not, after all, poor to watch except for a small band of experts who can make sense of the often short rallies and still feel interested. We then part company as much blame is attributed to the 'funny' rubbers of combination bats, one side fairly fast, one slow. My view is the opposite: It is the fast, not the slow rubbers that are ruining the Game, not the twiddling defender but the 3rd ball robot. Descending on the wrong scape-goats will make our plight worse.

There is only one way of overcoming the crisis and that is to regain lost confidence. That is precisely what happened in Grimsby. Consider the facts. The Grimsby Association had never staged an International Match. What they got was not a 'main event'. It was a friendly that follows at times a European League Match the night before. England fielded what was in effect a 'B' Team of young players. It was not an easy match to promote and 'sell', but that was not the way Bill Moran and his team looked on it. When a week or two before the event they had sold only a couple of hundred tickets they went out into the clubs on practice evenings, on match nights and SOLD the tickets. In the end there were nearly 600 people around the arena. There was an enterprising involved Sponsor. There was tremendous atmosphere. There was a masterly performance on the mike by Mike Watts which added another dimension to the evening. There was excellent press and some local TV coverage. Above all, there was a great match with many fine Rallies. The players responded, as players always will, to their surroundings. The eight matches went on till after 11 and practically everybody stayed till the end. Applause was almost continuous, the large audience enthralled and absorbed.

This is what Table Tennis is all about. That is the difference between the 30's and today. The recession then was worse, but

all over England the Hungarian Musketeers Barna, Bellak and Szabados played to large and enthusiastic audiences. There were local associations prepared to stage such events, to do the work and then to reap the rewards of a better, more glamorous Sport. There was more local and national pride.

Table Tennis, in the end, can only give us back what we put into it and if we feel the current scene is less than it should be, we need not look beyond ourselves to place the blame. We get the Sport we deserve.

Grimsby (and of course others) have shown the way. Let more Associations produce glittering occasions like these. It CAN be done and Table Tennis will be the winner and on the way to being a great Sport once again.

Carl returned from the Italian Open with a victory against Andrzej Grubba to his credit, a stirring battle in which he won the first two games, lost the next two, was 9-3 down in the fifth and then won. His best so far, as Grubba has a win against World Champion Guo to his credit.

A Bronze Medal in the Team Event (with Nigel Eckersley and Phil Bradbury) was another notable achievement, including victories against the Italians Bisi and Constantini, world-ranked last year.

A remarkable spell continued in the International Friendly at Grimsby where Grubba was beaten again as was Stefan Drysel. Both were fine matches making the theory that combination bats ruin rallies look foolish indeed. Only two types of players ruin rallies — very good ones, especially Chinese, who can hit almost anything and very bad ones for equally obvious reasons. All this brought an invitation as a substitute to the Norwich Union Trophy at Brighton, a considerable act of faith by the organisers in a boy of 15, ranked No. 14 in England at the time. At the other end Ulf Bengtsson, sole European semi-finalist at the Yugoslav Open which otherwise proved the usual Chinese take-away. Carl lost -18, -18. He could have won.

It was good to see a local boy being given a chance and much pre-match publicity concentrated on him as the media like new faces. It was an impressive event in a splendid setting, but there is a case for 'match-making' on such occasions as in boxing promotions rather than drawing everything out of a hat.

No local boy, alas, apart from Desmond Douglas, in the ETTA's annual Reunion of Golden Oldies the "Lambert & Butler". When Mikael Appelgren pulled out, another Swede was called in. I was sad to see Graham Sandley sitting in the auditorium. On some evidence he would have given Des a better game than the assembled continental elders. Are we really saying that, D.D. apart, we do not have a single player the British public might want to see?

Erica has, of course, made this point in National Council (long before Carl had any contact at this level). The answer appears to be that British viewers, so it is said, prefer to see foreign players play each other, i.e. the mixture that has brought declining viewing figures since the World Championships 1977. All the evidence points in the opposite direction and indicates that the British public wants to see their own players in action and our limited success as a TV spectacle is due in part to

our neglect of our own talent, both in developing this and in publicising it. That is bad marketing, bad selling and bad business.

Despite these grumbles, however, it was a good show and most people liked it on TV on Grandstand. The "Norwich Union" event was less of a show-piece, but the playing standard was higher. The Chinese presence made sure of that — the melancholy gap between their best and ours seems to grow larger. I enjoyed both events.

Our County Team resumed the battle against the drop into the 'dreaded' Division 4 of the County Championships. I had been taken to task for my pessimism after victory in our first match, but unfortunately I was not wrong.

We lost 6-4 at **Gloucester** where we won two doubles sets in addition to Carl's two. Jill Fothergill and Janice Badcock won the first game in their respective ladies' singles, but in neither case the next two and we left both points to our hosts' excellent young team.

The same fate befell us in Maidenhead where **Berkshire II** won 7-3. This time we lost the ladies' doubles in three, whilst the men (Jim Daly and Carl) stood firm in their doubles and we won the same two singles. Jim and Rodger Hookey went to three against Jim Samuels who bestrode the scene like a latter-day Dave Barr. In the end we were well beaten.

My predictions about our local league, Division 1, are proving more accurate than last season. Sandown and Ryde have shaken off their challengers, though Ryde dropped a point to Rookley for whom League Secretary Pete Urry is having his best ever season, a young man playing with a hard bat! Sandown and Ryde parted all square at 5-5 (Daly three). So Sandown stay on top. Columbia are somewhere near the bottom — points come easier when Carl plays, but his commitments seem to get more numerous. Columbia's 'B' Team are well ahead of the pack in Div. 2 with Philip Nicholls effortlessly making the transition from Div. 5 and lower down Columbia have another good prospect in Stephen Jarvis who looks the best Island boy of his age (12) since you-know-who. Both are enthusiastic readers of this Magazine.

The English Junior title stayed on the Island as our 'man' kept it for the 3rd time. We did not embark with excessive optimism. A very long journey, the selected ball, an uncomfortable hotel and an enforced late night on the Saturday (when some Finals were put on far too late) made us extremely apprehensive. Because of the distance it again meant time off from School and work on both the Friday before and the Monday after and that is precisely NOT the way that Junior Table Tennis should be organised. When Table Tennis clashes with School to that extent (as it does on so many other occasions) many potential competitors or their parents will opt for the education of their children rather than the tournaments and further loss of interest, of membership becomes inevitable. Two days are really long enough to enable everybody to get there and home at a sensible hour and any tournament that does not do this and instead develops into an endless marathon renders our Sport a poor service.

What is the alternative? Smaller, regional-

ised tournaments in which the competitors play for the right to play in the big, national events in which there should be a restricted entry. The vital target: To put what now goes to the oil companies and the hotel-keepers into the game. I see the future in smaller less expensive venues, much shorter tournament hours that avoid hotel costs, but higher entry fees, in short a financial picture that leaves both the competitor and the Sport better off.

That requires a system, a ladder of clearly defined steps to the top. I see no future in the present set-up that has turned into a long rat-race. The tournament scene is due for a drastic re-think — like so many things.

Apart from the wear and tear of incessant travel too much money that should stay in the game is going out. That trend can and must be reversed.

Dennis Millman reports from . . .

NORTHANTS

POTENTIAL CONFIRMED

Northants No. 1 Junior Graeme McKim confirmed his true potential, when he took the Men's Singles title at the County Closed, after a superb final against his Northampton club colleague Brian Wooding. Although McKim eventually took the first end 24-22, he was having difficulty with Wooding's service, and this became more apparent in the second game, when Wooding raced into an early lead he never looked like surrendering, especially when his high top spin returns forced McKim into a series of errors.

McKim was still unsettled at the start of the third, but he fought tooth and nail, and eventually his greater weight of shot began to take its toll, and his opponent was unable to return some ferocious forehand kills. As McKim forged ahead, his confidence grew, and he finally ran out a clear and deserved winner.

In the semi-finals, the new champion had completely outplayed Steve Lyon, while Wooding had extracted ample revenge for last year's defeat at the hands of Romano Gallo, while Gallo had also had his moments, when in accounting for Keith Jones in the quarters, he had saved the seeding committee some anxious moments.

As anticipated, Mandy Wallis proved too experienced and too talented in the Women's Singles, for using her forehand loop to excellent effect she had no difficulty in cruising through all her sets to take the title for the fourth time in five years, with Dorothy Marsh proving a game runner-up. However for the third successive year, the dominant lady doubles player was Northampton's Margaret Maltby, who used her unorthodox chop and occasional flashing forehand to take the Women's Doubles in partnership with a dependable Joyce Porter, and the Mixed event in the company of Keith Jones.

Jones, too, had an excellent day, but in the end too much success was his probable undoing, for he was rarely off the table during the last four hours, and this left him vulnerable against Gallo in the Men's Singles. However he did win another title when he disposed four times champion John Palmer, in a match which to umpire Mike Jackson's chagrin and Palmer's disadvantage, actually started with the expedite rule in force. Jones, a past master at

this play, was quickly in front and stayed there to take the Veterans' Singles at the first time of asking.

The former Middlesex cricketer, with his Abington Nomads partner Brian D'Hooghe, also reached the final of the Men's Doubles, after a close semi-final clash with Ian Hawes and Steve Kendall. However final opponents McKim and Chris Handshaw were determined to prove their viability as a top level doubles pairing, and this they did, for playing every point on its merit, they always had points in hand during the opening game. The defensive skills of Jones and D'Hooghe kept them in closer contention in the second, but the younger pair were not to be denied, and they eventually ran out worthy winners.

It was obviously going to be McKim's big day, and his wise selection of events was fully justified, when he made it three out of three in the Boys' Singles, by easily accounting for his arch-rival and early season conqueror Ian Hawes by an impressive 12, 9 margin, to leave no doubt as to Graeme's current superiority, and giving optimism for further progress on his present 42nd place in the ETTA's Lentec Junior Ranking List.

For once the Girls' Singles proved as entertaining as any other event of the day, for despite an entry of only five, each entrant had a point to prove and none more so than Sue Nannery who lived dangerously as early as the first round, before beating Anne Nicoll 14, -17, 13, then played at the top of her form to beat County No. 1 Maxine Shears 19, -17, 13 and finally came from behind to account for Julia Kendall, who had also excelled herself by eliminating the second seed Donna Furniss.

There was further satisfaction for Miss Nannery, for together with her vanquished singles final opponent, she added the doubles crown to her honours, with the victim none other than the top County-ranked duo Maxine Shears and Donna Furniss.

The absence of McKim from the Boys' Doubles, left a vacancy which was capably filled by the very competent partnership of Richard Bashford and Nigel Metcalfe, who took the final by accounting for Hawes and Robert Allen in straight games.

Andrew Trott was on target for the second time in the Cadet Boys' Singles, this time without surrendering an end, although his final opponent Ian Bird, and his penultimate victim Richard Ambrose look outstanding prospects for the future.

For once the Weavers Sports Hall at Wellingborough was at its best for the occasion, with conditions this year much improved by the provision of eight Dunlop Tournament Tables and accompanying surrounds, provided specially for the occasion by the County President Alan Hydes, the former English International, and presently Table Tennis Products Manager at Dunlop, who continues to take a keen and helpful interest in the game he once graced with his exceptional expertise.

The low entry had one beneficial side effect, for the finals were played in front of an appreciative audience, which stayed to the very end of a day, which saw Tournament Organiser Mick Morris, and Wellingborough League Chairman Arthur Palmer, demonstrate that there is no substitute for hard work, and so, due in no small measure

to their combined efforts, the 1982-3 County Closed should go down as the best ever to be staged by the Wellingborough League.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

Steve Lyon bt Ashley Bennett 14, 9;
Graeme McKim bt Steve Kendall 11, 13;
Romano Gallo bt Keith Jones 10, 15;
Brian Wooding bt Ian Hawes 15, 21.

Semi-finals:

McKim bt Lyon 12, 11;
Wooding bt Gallo 20, 12.

Final:

McKIM bt Wooding 22, -12, 14.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

Mandy Wallis bt Joyce Porter 16, 19;
Dorothy Marsh bt Donna Furniss 8, 12.

Final:

WALLIS bt Marsh 16, 9.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

D'Hooghe/Jones bt Hawes/Kendall
17, -12, 12;

McKim/Handshaw bt Brian Harradine/Phil
Snelling 12, 14;

Final:

McKIM/HANDSHAW bt D'Hooghe/Jones
14, 22.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Porter/Maltby bt Nannery/Kendall 16, 14;
Jane Nicoll/Wallis bt Marsh/Christine Price
13, 17.

Final:

Porter/Maltby bt Nicoll/Wallis 18, -18, 19.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Gallo/Wallis bt Wooding/Marsh 13, 13;
Jones/Maltby bt Kendall/Kendall 9, 18.

Final:

JONES/MALTBY bt Gallo/Wallis 17, 16.

Veterans' Singles Semi-finals:

John Palmer bt Dorothy Marsh -21, 13, 16;
Keith Jones bt Joyce Porter 11, 12.

Final:

JONES bt Palmer 9, 13.

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

McKim bt Nigel Metcalfe 10, 9;
Hawes bt Andrew Trott 9, 15.

Final:

McKIM bt Hawes 12, 9.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

Sue Nannery bt Maxine Shears 19, -17, 13;
Julia Kendall bt Donna Furniss -17, 15, 18.

Final:

NANNERY bt Kendall -13, 11, 9.

Boys' Doubles Final:

RICHARD BASHFORD/METCALFE bt
Hawes/Rbt. Allen 19, 17.

Girls' Doubles Final:

NANNERY/KENDALL bt Shears/Furniss
-15, 12, 13.

Boys' Cadet Singles Semi-finals:

Trott bt R. Jacobs 20, 15;
Ian Bird bt Richard Ambrose 10, 17.

Final:

TROTT bt Bird 10, 16.

Girls' Cadet Singles Final:

J. PARRETT bt C. Perkins 6, 10.

At the half-way stage in the Northampton Premier Division, A.C.C. 'A' with a pool of players including McKim, Wooding, John Sanders and the London based P. Richardson lead the table by nine points from Abington Nomads, who rely on Keith Jones, Tim Chamberlain and Brian D'Hooghe, with Barclaycard occupying third place.

	P	W	D	L	P
A.C.C. 'A'	11	10	1	0	94
Abington Nomads	11	10	0	1	85
Barclaycard 'A'	11	7	1	3	70
U.T.C. 'A'	11	5	1	5	58

Leading Averages:

1 John Sanders (A.C.C. 'A') 28-29=96.6%
2 Keith Jones (Abington) 30-32=93.8%

3 Romano Gallo (Barclay) 26-30=86.7%
4 Brian Wooding (A.C.C. 'A') 22-26=84.6%
5 Brian D'Hooghe (Abington) 27-32=84.4%
6 Brian Dangerfield (Timken) 22-30=73.3%

Northampton made progress in the Wilmott Cup, when Banbury fell 8-1 in the first round. Ashley Bennett and John Sanders won three each and Kevin Squires two, to earn a second round away tie against Birmingham on Jan. 8, and realistically the chance of a good result is less than that of the Cobblers soccer team which entertains Aston Villa on the same day.

After a promising start in the St. Neots Winter League all three local sides have fallen on hard times, with Northampton's 8-1 success over Cambridge the only bright spot. In this match Sanders and D'Hooghe registered hat-tricks and Bennett won twice but the joy was short lived as Bedford dished out a 7-2 defeat. Despite good performances from Steve West of Kettering and Hawes of Wellingborough, Kettering went down to Cambridge and Bedford and Wellingborough to North Herts all by the same 6-3 scoreline.

Alf Peppard reports from . . .

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

SIGN OF THE TIMES

With the Christmas and new year festivities now well behind us, thoughts of plum puddings, cake and generally what have you, will now have disappeared and we can pick up the threads of the second half of the season and proceed forthwith.

A very happy new year to all players, indeed to those who use freaky bats, dead pan rackets, wonky rubber ones, and a very dear old friend of mine in Gloucester City who still uses a Barna that he bought for about five bob (to young readers that's 25p) at least twenty five or so years ago. And he has the original rubber still on the blade, and gets good results. Some contrast in the price of a bat today, even the rubbers purchased separately cost a small fortune these days.

I must retrace steps to last November, when a former English International from Gloucester (NO NOT BRYAN), kindly consented to be interviewed by me on Local Independent Radio Severn Sound. The person in question suffered a very serious illness in 1976. He survived this illness by virtue, I think, of many combined factors, "A loving and caring Wife", whose name is Judy, his own ability and a desire to live plus, of course, that inevitable thing in life that we all have to have, a little bit of 'LUCK'. He was, as a junior, once ranked No. 1 in England, and at the height of his table tennis career No. 6 in England as a senior.

This season for the first time since his illness he is back playing quietly in the City League. In his own words, "Just for a social night out with the boys and the Wife" (Yes she plays as well).

Thank you, Roy Morley for agreeing to come on the air and do that seven minute broadcast, it's great to have you back again, and looking so well.

Too late for this month's edition, Bryan Merrett has invited me to travel with him to the Welsh Open, let's hope that weather conditions are more favourable than when we came back from the English Open at

Crawley last year. Weather wise that was a nightmare.

I read TTN from front to back, its the only way to learn just what's going on throughout the length and breadth of the Country in general and besides it's also the only way to get ones full 60p's worth of value, and indeed it is value for the ardent table tennis enthusiast.

I note that Murray Corbin's "This & That" in Surrey might be calling it a day. A pity I've never met him but nevertheless always appreciated and enjoyed his outright manner of reporting.

Talking about reporting, ours is such a small County, League-wise that is to say, one often has to get outside to get that little bit of added news in ones reporting. Gloucestershire now only has three Leagues, The City, Cheltenham & Stroud, that's all?. Now I know for a fact that several Tewkesbury players filter to the Cheltenham & Gloucester Leagues simply because there is no table tennis League for them in their own home town. Equally players willingly travel from Cirencester to play in one of the three aforementioned Leagues, but why oh why cannot Cirencester and Tewkesbury get up an organised League of their own? The demise of Gloucestershire as a County of any size really came about in 1974 with the County boundaries changes, prior to that year a large slice of Gloucestershire consisted of Bristol, perhaps Bristol indeed offered us a rough third of our initial size. Now that Bristol players are classed as Avon it certainly tailors our former size to a small measure.

I have been reporting quite a lot provisionally upon the proposed "County Premier League", both in TTN and the local press. This was to be a SUPER DUPER League where upon the best players in the County would play each other. The League was scheduled to commence in early November of last year. To current date of writing, "All is silent on The League's Western Front", little news is filtering through, rightly or wrongly your Scribe has formed his own opinion and thinks that The CPL will yet again for another season go into the airing cupboard complete with Woolworth's moth balls. A great pity though.

SOUTH WEST REGION DEVELOPMENT CONFERENCE

On Saturday, Nov. 27, Peter Cruwys of Cheltenham and I travelled down to Torquay to attend the above. The Conference Chairman was Mike Lewis of Avon, and the agenda was as follows.

Assembly: Welcome by the Conference Chairman.

Communications: Probably the weakest link in our development. Speaker: Gordon Steggall (The Association's Coaching Administrator).

Sponsors: Obtaining a sponsor, and how to keep him/her. Speaker: Jim Evans. The Future of English Table Tennis. Speaker: Tom Blunn, Chairman, ETTA.

Coaching: Strategy for coaching, S.W. coaching into the 1990's. Speaker: Gordon Steggall.

Local Authorities: Liaison, their work, structure, and the help that they can give. Speaker: Someone from the Plymouth County Council, or City Council.

Owning your Own Headquarters: Planning, Converting / Building / Finance / Help. Speaker: Mike Lewis.

Getting into Schools: The Speaker unfortunately was not available.

Development: Speaker: Rob Oldfield, The ETTA's Development Officer.

As a representative of Gloucestershire along with Peter both of us found the Conference highly informative and exceedingly interesting. On the journey home we discussed the pro's and con's of most that was said and thought that we had indeed had a useful day out. "Now to the other side of the coin". All the above might appear to the average table tennis player as completely unattractive, and of no direct consequence whatsoever, BUT OF COURSE THIS IS SIMPLY NOT TRUE. All matters that were discussed at the Conference have some relative bearing on improving the game. Example: trying to make it more attractive, how to initiate more players into the game, or how to cope with expenses and yet keep members affiliation fees to as low a medium as possible and yet find the necessary cash flow to pay the ETTA's financial way. Table Tennis today requires great modern demands being made upon it. For example the recent exhibition match by the French No. 1 Jacques Secretin beamed over English T.V. The Video of this match could not be purchased anywhere in England. One very well known lady at the Conference told us this, and added that she had in fact gone to Germany to acquire one. The burning question mark was this: Why was the Video available over there and not in England? Nobody at the Conference really seemed to know.

Table Tennis today is having to compete with a mass of other very popular indoor sports, Squash, Snooker, Badminton, are just three sports to mention, I could speak of many more but that would be repetitive.

Sadly as a sport our game is not at the moment doing very well, other contributions to this magazine have indeed said very much the same thing. I will conclude on this topic by saying again, if more people already in table tennis were to take a far greater interest not only in playing, but especially the older player to become more administratively orientated, then table tennis would very soon attain the mantle of respect that perhaps is only just around the corner.

COUNTY MATCH

All matches played, whether they be singles or team events at any level, from Club to International are but occasional excursions into the realms of profound happiness, or object misery. The difference between the elation of being a winner or the sadness caused by losing. Such feelings I know existed in the Gloucestershire County Team when they played Somerset at Nailsea in November. This was the last scheduled match of 1982, and it did not go our way at all. We lost 3-7 simply because Somerset on the night were a far better team. Andrew Golding at No. 3 won all his singles, and Paul Jackson at No. 2 playing the last set of the night won it two-straight 15 and 17. The rest of the visitors were, I'm afraid, JUST NOT WITH IT. But we must give credit where credit is due, Somerset played very well indeed.

Two Gloucestershire disabled players have faced the microphone this season. They were Glynn Lloyd of the Gloucester League, he was interviewed in company with Richard Coates of the Stroud League. Both of Richard's hands are severed at the wrists. He now plays very well I'm told

with steel artificial hands. Both were featured in photographs in the November edition of TTN. And both were at Stoke Mandeville for the disabled Championships last September. The sheer courage and determination of these men (and indeed) many like them, makes one feel very humble at times.

It gave me great pleasure to interview former English International Molly Hawkins (nee Jones) on local Independent Radio. She and her husband, John, are very old friends of long standing and as Molly admitted over the air, she is now a somewhat sprightly Senior Citizen of ??? years old, once ranked No. 2 in England, and still turns out most weeks for her weekly League match, and further more is winning far more than she loses. Molly is doing St. Johns voluntary work now, being fully retired from work. For a lady who in her day did exhibitions with the great Victor Barna, and has played in front of hundreds of people I find it amazing that the desire to continue still prevails. Truly players of Molly's calibre are the salt of the table tennis world.

I conclude these notes with a quip from Les Bridges of Somerset (made at the South West Regional Conference at Torquay), Les says that the sole reason for Somerset's prominence these days is because so many Londoners have immigrated to that part of the world. He was only joking of course. "The late Arthur Ritchens would have loved that gag Les".

John Woodford reports from . . .

SUSSEX

LAST LAUGH

Adrian Moore had the last laugh when he landed without much trouble the first of the three Sussex events — the East Sussex Championships. The East Sussex is the only closed event sponsored this season and it was the well-travelled Moore brothers who managed to boost their mobility fund by a total of £115.

The brothers, still moving up the England rankings, also captured the men's doubles and met in the men's singles final.

The final stages of the event were severely affected by the withdrawal of Malcolm Francis after he had reached the men's doubles final and held match point in the singles quarters against Nicky Standen. The all-Sussex champion had to depart for a pre-arranged professional engagement in Kent complaining that he was told the tournament would be completed by 6 p.m.

However, on the credit side Rachel Mackriell, still fighting to gain her Sussex No. 1 rating from Crawley surprise packet Sally Weston, took the East Sussex women's title for the third and probably the last time against strong opposition that included Diane Griggs and Carol Hewett, the former Sussex champions who combined to lift the women's doubles trophy.

Looking forward to this hopefully Happy New Year, the West Sussex championships are imminent with Crawley hoping to sweep the board in the absence of Littlehampton's Peter Pudduck who is now competing at a high standard of darts, skipping table tennis for at least a season.

Further ahead on March 6, the all-Sussex championships will be staged at a new venue, the Lancing Sports Centre, still on

16 tables on one day: Both singles champions Francis and Mackriell will be defending their crowns and should win again, especially with the Moore brothers fighting hard for Dolphins in the Halex National League on the same day.

Jon C. Clarke reports from . . .

LINCOLNSHIRE

SIMON AND JEAN ON TARGET

Simon Pullen and Jean White took the major honours in the Lincolnshire County Closed the results of which were:

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

D. Skerratt bt N. Parkin 19, 10;
S. Worrall bt K. Adlington 16, -20, 15;
S. Pullen bt B. Allison -17, 18, 19;
A. Thompson bt M. Sheader 18, 18.

Semi-finals:

Skerratt bt Worrall 15, -13, 19;
Pullen bt Thompson 21, 12.

Final:

PULLEN bt Skerratt 27, -17, 16.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

G. Sharpe bt J. Wingad 12, 21;
J. White bt S. Radley 17, 13.

Final:

WHITE bt Sharpe 16, -14, 17.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Allison/Sheader bt B. Edlington/Adlington 17, -17, 20;
Skerratt/Thompson bt I. Rudley/A. Walker 11, 11.

Final:

ALLISON/SHEADER bt Skerratt/Thompson 17, -16, 18.

Women's Doubles Final:

WHITE/WINGAD bt K. Fisher/C. Moran 15, 14.

Boys' Singles Final:

I. WALKER bt A. Kelly 10, 20.

Girls' Singles Final:

J. SHIPPEY bt R. Pickwell 15, -16, 25.

Veterans' Singles Final:

SHEADER bt Allison 17, 26.

U-21 Singles Final:

S. WORRALL bt Skerratt -20, 17, 19.

Mixed Class Singles Final:

M. EAST bt S. Brophy -18, 17, 17.

INTER-LEAGUE TABLES

HAIGH CUP (MEN)

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Scunthorpe	4	2	2	0	30	10	6
Grantham	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Gainsborough	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Grimsby	2	1	1	0	13	7	3
Lincoln	3	0	2	1	12	18	2
Louth	4	0	1	3	11	29	1
Boston	3	0	1	2	9	21	1

BUTLIN CUP (WOMEN)

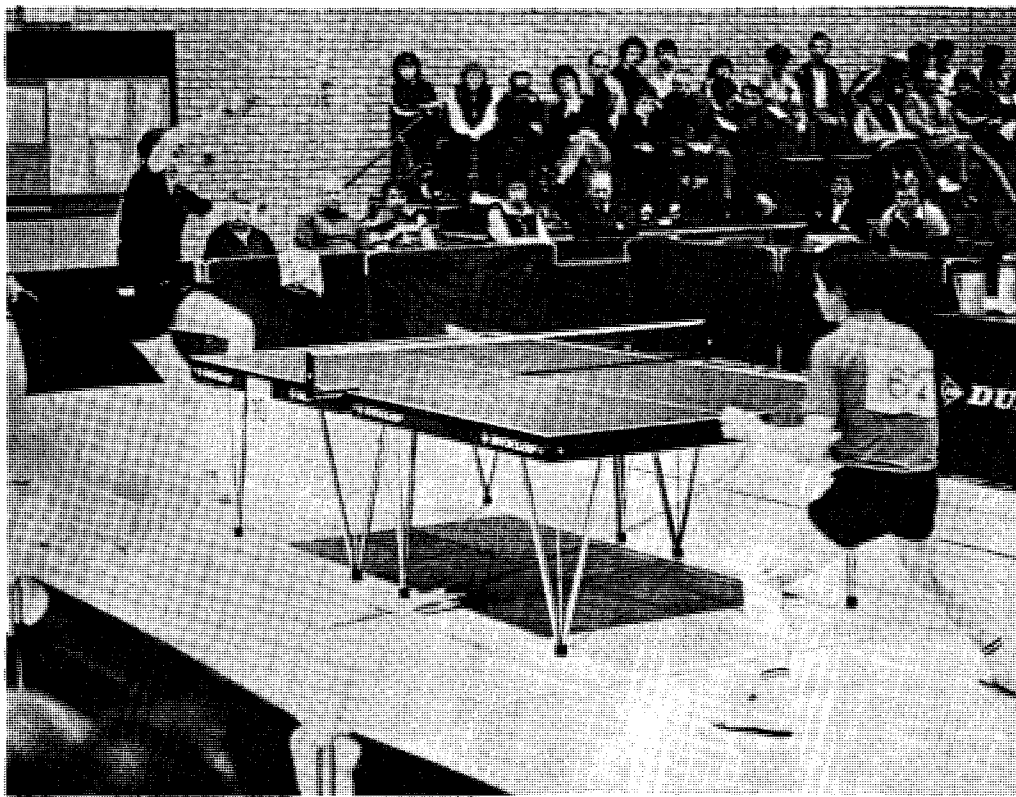
Grimsby	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Lincoln	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Grantham	5	1	0	4	21	29	2
Rasen	3	0	0	3	7	23	0
Scunthorpe	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

VETERAN CUP

Grimsby	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Lincoln	2	2	0	0	20	0	4
Boston	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Louth	3	0	0	3	1	29	0

BUTCHER CUP

Gainsborough	5	3	2	0	36	14	8
Lincoln	4	3	1	0	32	8	7
Boston	5	3	0	2	31	9	6
Grantham	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Grimsby	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Scunthorpe	5	2	0	3	18	32	4
Rasen	4	0	1	3	10	30	1
Mablethorpe	4	0	0	4	7	33	0
Louth	3	0	0	3	4	26	0



Carl Prean in action against Alan Cooke in the Boys' Singles semi-finals.

it looked as if the holders and number one seeds, Carl Prean (Isle of Wight) and Billy Gleave (Cheshire) would retain their title but with sheer grit and determination the number two seeds, Alan Cooke (Derbyshire) and Nicky Mason (Surrey) triumphed by the narrowest of margins.

GIRLS' DOUBLES

Helen Bardwell (Hertfordshire) and Nina Tsakarisianos (Gloucestershire) were the second number two seeds to fall, beaten by Fiona Elliott (Staffordshire) and Amanda Judd (Cambridgeshire) -10, 10, 13 in the quarter-finals, but this pair were finally beaten by the number one seeds, Lisa Bellinger (Bedfordshire) and Jean Parker (Lancashire) in the final.

MIXED DOUBLES

To complete the procession, number one seeds Alan Cooke and Lisa Bellinger were the winners of the Mixed Doubles, beating Billy Gleave and Helen Bardwell in a very one-sided final.

Sunday saw the Under-17 singles take over the proceedings, but here we saw an even bigger dominance by the top seeds.

In the **BOYS' SINGLES**, six of the top eight seeds fought their way through to the quarter-finals, the unlucky two being Gary Lambert (Devon) beaten in the fourth round by Philip Huggan, a combination bat player from Lancashire, and Andrew Sexton beaten by Cadet Andrew Syed in the second round. All four top seeds then proceeded to the semi-finals where top seed and holder Carl Prean beat Billy Gleave easily and Nicky Mason had an excellent win over Alan Cooke. In the final battle of the top two seeds Carl emerged the winner of this event for the third consecutive season, but England's future looks secure, with the four semi-finalists all looking impressive.

The **GIRLS' SINGLES**, predictably, went to Lisa Bellinger over Jean Parker, completing a hat-trick of wins for Lisa at this tournament.

An audience in excess of 200 watched

ENGLISH JUNIOR CLOSED

Three in a row for Carl

by MIKE WATTS

Macclesfield Leisure Centre was the venue for this season's English Junior Closed played over the weekend of the 4th/5th December 1982 and, despite the original fears of the Championships Committee on the location, it proved to be a superb centre with first class co-operation from the Sports Centre Management.

Support from the Macclesfield Borough Council also helped with the cost of the venue being sponsored and the Association were indebted to the Council for their help as well as the usual support from Dunlop's, who provided all the equipment.

Saturday, the 4th December, was reserved for the three doubles events and the two Cadet singles, and almost without exception the tournament failed to provide any major upsets in the seedings.

CADET BOYS

An entry of 78 boys competed with the top seeds, Berkshire's Andrew Syed (No. 1) and Jimmy Stokes (No. 2) contesting the final. Certainly our future in the Cadets category looks good as both boys played some great rallies, Andrew coming out on top.

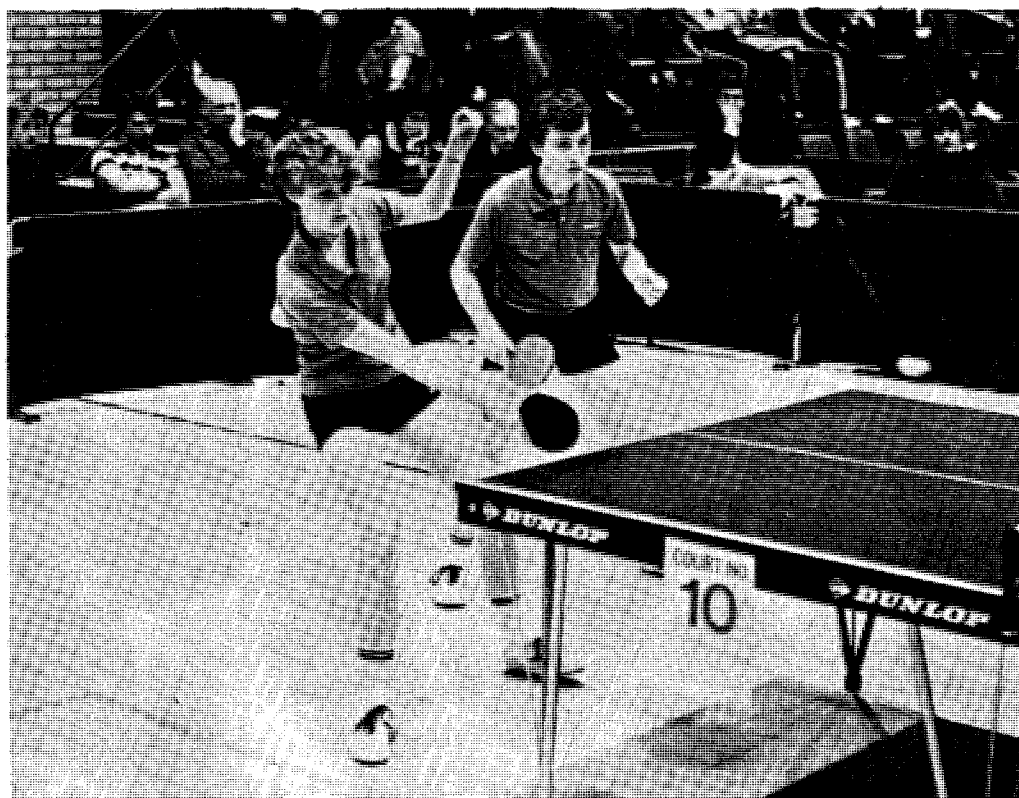
CADET GIRLS

This season has seen the emergence of Jill Powis from Staffordshire as our number one Cadet girl, and there can be no doubt that she is in a category of her own in this event. Jill sailed through the tournament

without any difficulties, although full marks should be given to young Juliet Houghton (Kent) who put up an excellent fight in the final before losing to the number one seed. This was one of the few events where the top seeds failed to reach the final with Lisa Hayden (Essex), the number two seed, losing to Juliet in the Quarter-finals -14, -20.

BOYS' DOUBLES

The Boys' doubles produced few shocks but the Saturday night audience of around 150 were treated to a great final struggle between the top two pairs. For long periods



Lisa Bellinger and Alan Cooke en route to victory in the Mixed Doubles.

Sunday's finals and presentations were made by Councillor Jack Thompson, Deputy Mayor of Macclesfield, and Tom Blunn, Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Round 4:

C. Preat (IOW) bt D. Griffin (Gs) 12, 12;
 P. Gunn (Wa) bt D. Blackburne (Du) 14, 10;
 P. Hoggon (La) bt G. Lambert (Dv) 17, 17;
 B. Gleave (Ch) bt J. Thatcher (Y) 11, 11;
 A. Cooke (Dy) bt M. Thomas (Wa) 11, 15;
 S. Sharpe (Y) bt M. Ellett (Dv) 12, -17, 19;
 S. Dettmar (E) bt A. Syed (Bk) 11, 32;
 N. Mason (Sx) bt S. Craggs (Cv) 10, 7.

Quarter-finals:

Preat bt Gunn 11, 13;
 Gleave bt Huggon 11, 11;
 Cooke bt Sharpe 11, 18;
 Mason bt Dettmar 9, 18.

Semi-finals:

Preat bt Gleave 10, 10;
 Mason bt Cooke -14, 13, 13.

Final:

PREAN bt Mason 16, 12.

Girls' Singles Round 3:

L. Bellinger (Bd) bt M. Holmes (Y) 7, 11;
 T. Lightfoot (Ch) bt To Thuy Dung (Dy) -19, 15, 13;
 F. Elliot (St) bt R. Brook (Y) 17, 18;
 S. Collier (Bk) bt M. Carey (So) 12, 7;
 H. Bardwell (He) bt J. Ryalls (Y) 6, 12;
 N. Tsakarisanos (Gs) bt J. Shaw (Y) 13, 19;
 L. Goldsmith (Mi) bt M. Seaton (Y) 12, -11, 17;
 J. Parker (La) bt J. Powis (St) 13, 6.

Quarter-finals:

Bellinger bt Lightfoot 12, 9;
 Collier bt Elliot 9, -13, 17;
 Tsakarisanos bt Bardwell 13, 16;
 Parker bt Goldsmith 17, -16, 18.

Semi-finals:

Bellinger bt Collier 13, 12;
 Parker bt Tsakarisanos 17, -16, 14.

Final:

BELLINGER bt Parker 18, 10.

Boys' Doubles Quarter-finals:

Gleave/Preat bt R. Darnell (E)/Dettmar 11, 10;
 Ellett/Lambert bt Sharpe/Thatcher -15, 17, 17;
 D. Rook (Y)/A. Sexton (Sy) bt J. Bult (Y)/P. Fisher (Sp) 13, 10;

Cooke/Mason bt J. Singh (Wa)/Thomas 10, 16.

Semi-finals:

Gleave/Preat bt Ellett/Lambert 13, -12, 18;
 Cooke/Mason bt Rook/Sexton 19, 11.

Final:

COOKE/MASON bt Gleave/Preat 17, -15, 19.

Girls' Doubles Quarter-finals:

Bellinger/Parker bt M. Hams (Sy)/T. Moore (Sx) 11, 11;
 Lightfoot/Ryalls bt Brook/Shaw 6, 12;
 Powis/L. Souter (Mi) bt Collier/Goldsmith 16, 18;
 Elliot/A. Judd (Ca) bt Bardwell/Tsakarisanos -10, 10, 13.

Semi-finals:

Bellinger/Parker bt Lightfoot/Ryalls -21, 11, 16;
 Elliot/Judd bt Powis/Souter 9, -20, 17.

Final:

BELLINGER/PARKER bt Elliot/Judd 11, 17.

Mixed Doubles Quarter-finals:

Cooke/Bellinger bt A. Dixon/A. Hegarty (St) -14, 8, 14;
 Lambert/Parker bt C. Wilson/D. Boughey (Sp) 16, 13;
 Gleave/Bardwell bt C. Guest (Y)/Ryalls 10, 11;
 Mason/Collier bt M. Firth (Y)/Shaw 12, 13.

Semi-finals:

Cooke/Bellinger bt Lambert/Parker 18, 15;
 Gleave/Bardwell bt Mason/Collier -14, 18, 23.

Final:

COOKE/BELLINGER bt Gleave/Bardwell 7, 10.

Cadet Boys' Singles Round 4:

A. Syed bt K. Lawrence (St) 13, 13;
 G. Barden (K) bt Bult -13, 11, 16;
 P. Amos (K) bt P. Fisher (Sp) 15, 16;
 M. Syed (Bk) bt A. Bolton (Ng) 19, 16;
 A. Dixon (St) bt D. Holland (E) 13, 7;
 Craggs bt N. Carr (Y) 16, 13;
 J. Ferguson (K) bt D. Smedley (Dy) -17, 11, 20;
 J. Stokes (Bk) bt I. Gerrard (Ch) 13, 13.

Quarter-finals:

A. Syed bt Barden 11, 13;
 M. Syed bt Amos 19, -19, 13;
 Craggs bt Dixon 13, 12;
 Stokes bt Ferguson 13, 16.

Semi-finals:

A. Syed bt M. Syed 11, 7;

Stokes bt Craggs 17, 7.

Final:

A. SYED bt Stokes 12, 12.

Cadet Girls' Singles Round 3:

Powis bt T. Scott-Pawson (Do) 6, 9;
 A. Evans (Y) bt A. Shufflebotham (Ox) 12, 11;
 A. Sanders (St) bt K. Rogers (St) 17, 11;
 H. Perrott (Av) bt H. Kavanagh (Y) 13, 12;
 L. Davis (Wo) bt D. Soothill (Cu) 19, 19;
 A. Holt (La) bt F. Stuart (So) 15, 17;
 J. Houghton (K) bt M. Carey (So) 10, 5;
 L. Hayden (E) bt H. Lower (St) 14, 20.

Quarter-finals:

Powis bt Evans 10, 9;
 Sanders bt Perrott 15, -18, 17;
 Holt bt Davis -17, 18, 13;
 Houghton bt Hayden 14, 20.

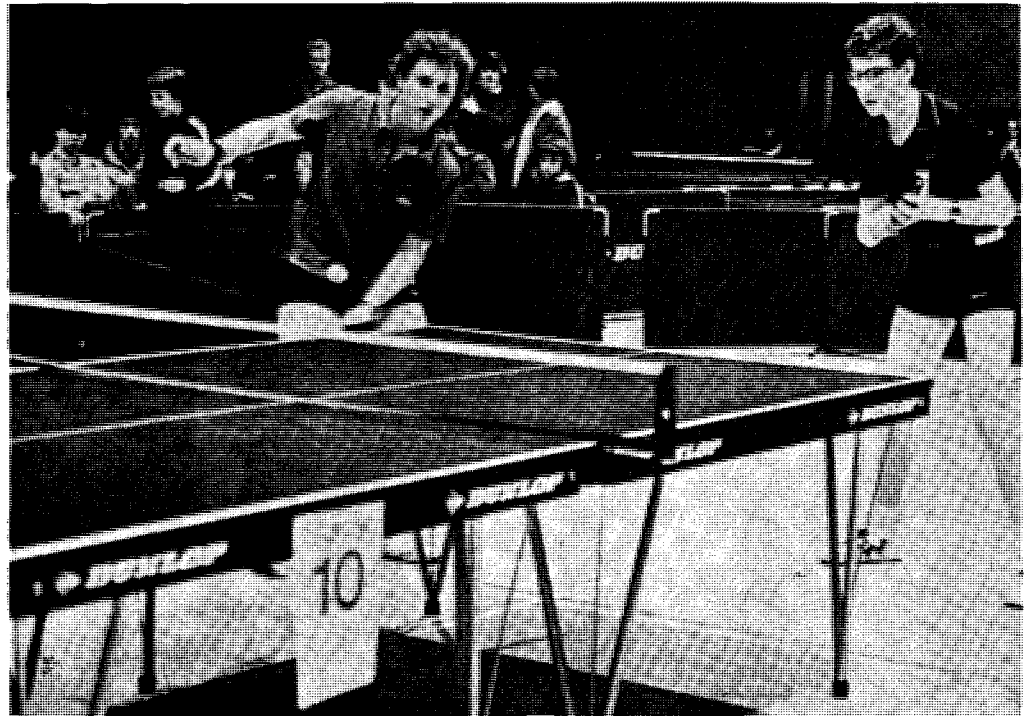
Semi-finals:

Powis bt Sanders 18, 14;
 Houghton bt Holt 13, 16.

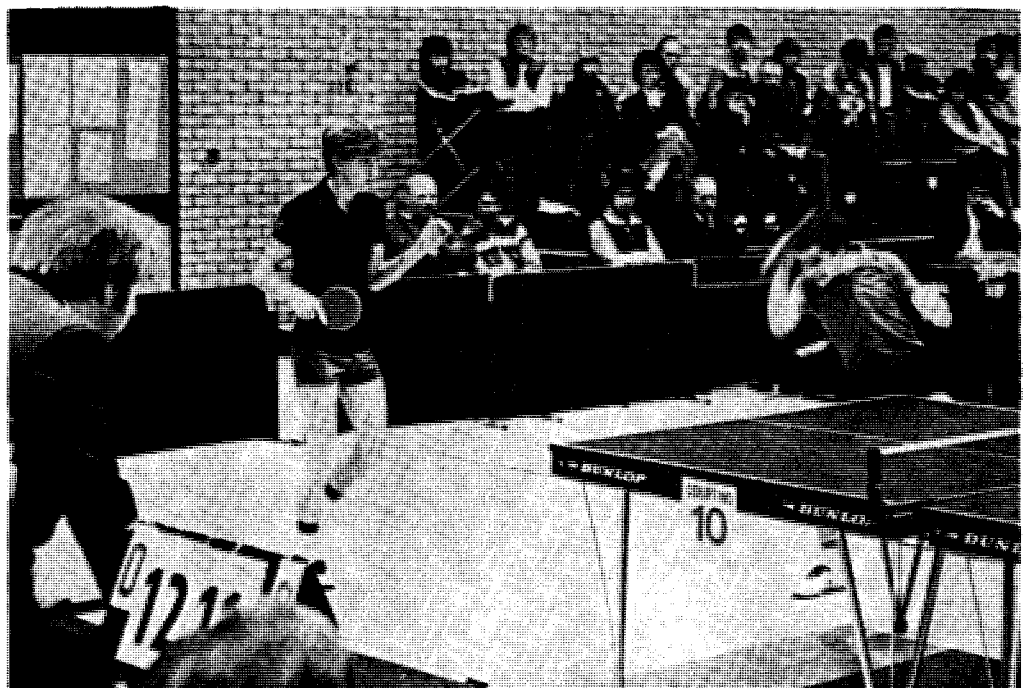
Final:

POWIS bt Houghton 19, 14.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE BY
 M. J. GRIFFITHS**



Billy Gleave and Carl Preat, the top seeds in the Boys' Doubles but beaten in the final by Alan Cooke and Nicky Mason.



Cooke and Mason in final victorious action against Preat and Gleave in the Boys' Doubles.



Lisa Bellinger (1) and Jean Parker winners of the Girls' Doubles title at Macclesfield, with Peter Charters, Chairman of the ETTA's Selection Committee.

TOTALLY IN SUPPORT

I find myself totally in support of John Prean when he expresses his views about equipment in the December issue. A great deal of ill informed nonsense is being printed both in the table tennis press and the national press on this particular subject. Very few people in this country are even qualified to express an opinion. How many have the necessary technical background to express any opinion of what the problems are when one attempts to produce top quality sponges and rubbers to suit the needs of players at every skill level. How many understand what it is like to work 24 hours at a time without rest let alone sleep in order to solve some technical problem in the laboratory.

The quality standards needed in a factory producing table tennis sponges and rubbers have to be amongst the very highest in the rubber industry. Ask the Japanese manufacturers, they will tell you that producing such consistent quality takes even their national ingenuity. We have our very able and respected General Secretary of the Association publishing his own article in the same issue of the magazine, the opening paragraph of which states "table tennis as it used to be played before the "twiddlers" took over, was enjoyed by the audience".

I am sorry Albert, good friend of mine though you are, that paragraph coming from the General Secretary of the Association is "Twaddle" not "Twiddle"! **When did you last pick up a table tennis bat in anger** Albert? The difficulty is that many statements of this kind are being published in-advicably in my opinion. Ignorance may be bliss but this kind of bliss can wreak rather unnatural havoc.

The official magazine of the Association has often had cause to congratulate Carl Prean, John's son, on his many achievements, quite rightly so. I am sorry to say Albert, that Carl is one of the few bat 'twiddlers' that we have, whatever that expression may mean. In effect what it does mean is hours and weeks and months and years of patient constructive effort to improve technique in order to compete at the highest possible level. It means discovering the best ways in which Carl can exploit the type of game which best suits him and his own particular style and way of play and his own personal character and make-up and mental view point. Do the people who continually write such rubbish about equipment really appreciate what goes in to the production of an International Table Tennis player. The total dedication that is required, the nerve, the skill level, the psychological preparation; choosing the correct equipment is of the highest possible importance, it can make several points difference even at International level and that's the difference between winning and losing.

When Carl proudly won his hard fought victory in Europe, I am sure none of us really questioned the way in which he won or the equipment he used. The glory quite rightly went to John and Carl plus all those who had helped him through his career. Carl has already generously acknowledged in the press his gratitude for that help.

Our establishment seem to live in ethereal circles rather like moving in Valhalla! The table tennis players I mix with in the main

are the grass roots of the game. The club players who play week in and week out quite frankly are interested in having fun and enjoying their table tennis and, above all, using their limited skills to the best of their ability — they want to win a few matches. There is no joy in continually losing in any sport, they want to improve their game the best way they possibly can. They haven't got the advantage of being trained by a National Coach, their coaching usually consists of advice and help from someone who plays a little better than they do!

One of the fascinations of table tennis to them is their ability to use to their own particular personal advantage, any equipment that comes on the market which they think will give them an extra edge. This attitude adds zest to the sport and doesn't detract from it in any way. It provides an interest that otherwise would not be there — whether it is to the ultimate advantage of the manufacturer or not is quite beside the point; it costs the manufacturers a lot of blood, sweat and toil and finance to produce these rubbers and sponges and bat blades and so far nearly a 100% of that business has gone to Japan! The average player is only faintly interested in what happens at world level. How many of our affiliated membership will be going out to Tokyo for example? — not 1%, how many to the European Championship? How many support their own city tournaments, what audience of interested table tennis players, does a one star, two star or three star tournament draw if we are honest? The average club player likes to see his chosen sport appear on television from time to time but he is not greatly disturbed if it does not.

The fate and future of table tennis will not be decided in the gilded banquet halls of China, Japan or Europe or by a group of top officials however able and honest they may be, sitting in endless meetings. The acid test of every sport is, Do I enjoy playing? Do I get fun and value out of it? Does it satisfy my competitive nature? Does it generate enough personal interest in one way or another that gives me the continual enthusiasm to stay in the sport. The percentage of bat twiddlers about whom Albert talks with such vivid scorn is such a small percentage as to readily indicate the absurd proportions to which this question of equipment is being blown. It is not long ago that the magic loop was going to destroy table tennis for all time, no one even gives it a mention in these more enlightened days. Take away some of the great interest which specialised equipment has brought to the game and quite frankly some of the play generated by the old type standardised equipment would be totally boring. We are all being asked now to play table tennis in such a way that it satisfies the viewing public on a TV programme. When I play my table tennis at my modest standard, the British public and TV are very far from my mind and let's be honest, that applies to 90% of the people playing table tennis.

What John says in his letter is absolutely correct — over 90% of the people playing table tennis are "Attackers". We only hear isolated opinions in the press because the majority of players can't be bothered to write in their true opinion, they just shrug their shoulders and say "let the Top Brass get on with it". I would suggest the Top Brass starts taking more notice of what the

average player thinks, not the gifted few. I can assure them they would be in for some surprises. The official view does not always reflect grass roots thinking. The Chinese are rather contemptuous of the whole business. They say that any table tennis player worthy of his salt should learn to play using any technique available and should equally learn to play against any technique that is thrown at him or her. Sensible and to the point. With this logical view, the Chinese keep winning one world championship after another while we go on our moaning way losing all the fame and all the titles, there must be a lesson in that somewhere!

We will continue to do what we think we are beginning to do well, compete with the Japanese on sponges, bats and rubbers and anything else we can do to further the sport of table tennis and hopefully we as a company will supply the table tennis public with what they require. If they didn't want it they wouldn't buy it, and if they didn't buy it we wouldn't make it. Please spare a thought for a small company in the middle of this argument trying to compete with both the Chinese and Japanese in this high technical end of table tennis equipment. Please don't add to our troubles by continually making such ill informed statements.

We are publishing a Manual on equipment in the New Year in order to assist all table tennis coaches. A "jungle" becomes a much more civilised and acceptable area when one has an experienced guide. With John I ask our officials at all levels "Think Again".

S. T. LENTON,
Managing Director (Lentec),

Eagle Street,
Coventry CV1 4GJ.

FURTHER THREAT

Attempting to publish and/or edit table tennis magazines is a hazardous business. Following the "death" of "Table Tennis" I have so far, resisted the temptation to appear in this column with all the old familiar names like Alan Shepherd with my hundred or so words that might take others a thousand or so to put across.

I am pleased that Alan found my material astonishing. I agree that I am also breathless with amazement that youngsters like Nicky Mason and Gary Lambert can find the time and the energy to travel so far and so often and to play well when they get there. I cannot remember the last time I agreed with Alan Shepherd on so many issues . . . yes, of course the idea of playing two matches in the Halex National League during one week-end makes sense.

We now know, that with very few exceptions, Halex National League crowds are small or in some cases almost non-existent; many of us can now see that the starting up of second and third divisions is nonsense and a further threat to the existence of the County Championships. I repeat, if the Championships are to live on, it can only be at a central venue, two week-ends a season basis in all divisions. If the Halex National League is to make any further progress after this season, it should be two divisions only.

JOHN WOODFORD,

7 Carroll House,
53 Selwyn Road,
Eastbourne, Sussex.

OPEN LETTER TO THE E.T.T.A. AND 'TABLE TENNIS NEWS'

At a recent meeting of the Reading Management Committee the matter of the ETTA's abandonment of the Master Points scheme was discussed. My Committee has asked me to write expressing the Association's concern: the scheme was discussed at the 1982 Reading AGM when a proposal to opt out of the scheme was defeated by a vast majority. I do not recall the Reading Association ever being consulted before the arbitrary decision to abandon the scheme was made. On a personal level I have been approached by quite a few of our lower division players who have expressed their disappointment — some of them have been collecting the certificates for more than fifteen years and haven't made Club Master yet! — a typical comment being:

"What do we (i.e. the lower standard players), get out of being members of the ETTA? — we appear to do all the paying whilst all the attention and money is spent on the top players".

As I am unable to answer them I would be grateful if the ETTA could. Can it be possible that the National powers that be have lost touch with the grass roots of the game in the seemingly endless pursuit of ever bigger sponsorship and National and International competition? In the November issue of 'Table Tennis News' Tom Blunn quite rightly showed his concern at the drop in the number of registered players. The quote I received recently from a local 6th Division player of some twelve years' experience was:

"the ETTA doesn't give a toss about us as long as they get our subs".

See paragraph 1 of Tom Blunn's article: need I say more. My advice to the ETTA is to make each and every player — irrespective of playing standard — feel that he or she belongs and is wanted. I dare say that someone will quickly quote the small number of leagues that have recently participated in the Master Points scheme as a reason for abandoning it. I would ask when anyone ever saw any publicity for it in 'Table Tennis News'. Not in the last ten years to my knowledge!

To my next point: a few Saturdays ago we had table tennis on television, and a final contested by two Chinese world-ranked players. Now some months ago we umpires were asked to 'stamp out' stamping. In the Royal County we have tried to do so — especially in County and representative matches. You can imagine my surprise on the aforementioned Saturday afternoon when the British sports watching public were treated to a virtuoso performance of stamping unhindered (as far as I could see) by International Umpire intervention. I have since been approached by several young Berkshire ex-stampers who have informed me that I must have a bee in my bonnet — it must be alright to stamp as they have seen it on television! I had the feeling that I wasn't believed when I told them that, in fact, the stars weren't stamping (i.e. cheating) but were either warming their cold feet or disposing of the odd off-season stray mosquito! I would be interested to hear the official ETTA view.

Finally, looking through 'Table Tennis News', I must point out the following with regard to Mandy Reeves:

1 Mandy has NEVER been a Berkshire ranked player.

2 Mandy may live in Berks or Bucks, but

for table tennis purposes she lives in Bucks.

3 We are reliably informed that Mandy is registered for Middlesex. No offence, Mandy!

Having read through my letter it looks like a chapter of complaints. I suppose it is, in a way, but I hope that it will be taken as constructive rather than destructive. I am the last person to knock people who give their time and energy — unpaid — to the sport that has given me so much pleasure.

ROBIN LOCKWOOD,
Chairman, Reading & Dist. T.T.A.
(also Chairman of the Royal County
of Berkshire T.T.A.),

35 Send Road,
Caversham,
Reading RG4 8EH.

TIMES REMEMBERED

I was sorry to read of the death of Hymie Lurie. I remember him as a player with Grove House, Manchester before the war, but my first sight of him was at Belle Vue, Manchester in the winter of 1936/7 when with Adrian Haydon, Birmingham, and Andy Miller, Manchester YMCA, he represented England against the Hungarian team of V. Barna, M. Szabados and L. Bellak — result a win for Hungary 9-0.

Barna and Szabados then played a demonstration set which Barna won 2-1. Hymie known as "the pocket Barna" also played at my club Rylands & Sons and came up to my home town Ashton-u-Lyne representing the Manchester League against the Ashton League, together with Benny Casofsky, Les Cohen and Freddy Cromwell. Harry Renshaw and Co., hardly got a look in.

ARNOLD SHEPHERD,

38 Bromley Road,
Beckenham, Kent
BR3 2JD.

CHALLENGE OFFERED

I read with interest, in the November issue, of the success and achievement of Chesterfield's Bradley Billington. I have followed the fortunes of the Billington family, at table tennis for many years, and nowadays have the pleasure of working with Den Billington, Bradley's grandfather.

I would like to offer, on behalf of Den, a challenge to any of their generation family to a match of the usual nine singles and a doubles, son (Bradley), father (Maurice) and grandfather (Denis). May I even suggest a heart of England venue at Kenilworth?

ERIC TEALE,

23 Priory Road,
Kenilworth,
Warwickshire.

CALLING DIETER GELLER

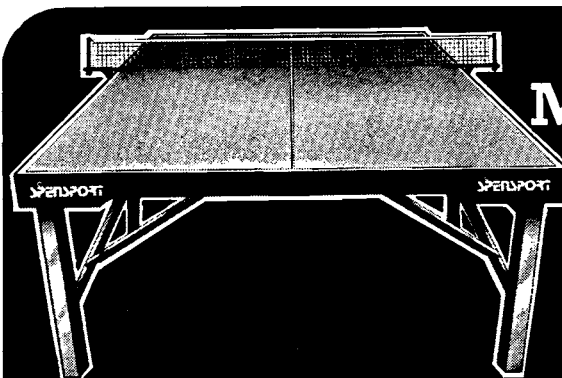
I wonder if I may use your columns to try to make contact with Dieter Geller, a former member of the South-West Sussex Table Tennis League. Dieter won the League Men's Singles Championship in February, 1981 and later moved away from Littlehampton, unfortunately without remembering to return the cup for the event to the Trophy Secretary. So, if you see this, Dieter, kind regards from all your old friends in the League and please may we have our cup back.

B. POWIS, Chairman.

46 Marshall Avenue,
Bognor Regis,
W. Sussex PO21 2TR.

IRIS MOVES

Iris Moss, General Secretary of the Middlesex TTA and a Vice-President of the ETTA has changed her address to 7 Hillside Court, Holders Hill Road, Hendon, London NW4 1EL. 'Phone: 01-203 4476.



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'LENTEC' COMPUTER RANKINGS

JILL LOSES No. 1 SPOT

by Robert Oldfield

Jill Hammersley-Parker, who has dominated Women's table tennis in England for over a decade, has lost her No. 1 ranking for the first time since 1977 in the latest set of Lentec ranking lists. The former Berkshire player, Karen Witt, who now lives in Preston to get top-class practice, is the new No. 1. Hammersley-Parker is No. 2, just one point above the 15-years-old prodigy, Lisa Bellinger, from Dunstable, Bedfordshire.

It is the first change of major consequence that has occurred since the decision to put the National ranking lists on computer, sixteen months ago. They are produced for the ETTA by the Coventry-based firm, Lentec, whose corporate slogan is "Where Sport and Technology meet".

As Peter Charters, Chairman of the England Selectors and Ranking Panel, explained, "We are not saying that Karen is a better player than Jill but Karen has gained a lot of points by winning three top 3-Star Open tournaments (Humberside, Midland and Middlesex), while Jill has missed them all. Normally, Jill would have kept her ranking by wins over international players but she has not played in any foreign Opens this season.

However, she was due to play in the Cleveland and the Norwich Union Welsh Open this month; then the Europe Top 12

in February; so we expect her to be No. 1 in the next ranking list.

The computer system has also shot the 15-years-old Carl Preat up 11 places to No. 3. The European U-14 champion, who won the Levomex Middlesex Open is one point ahead of the England Internationals Graham Sandley and John Hilton. The complete list reads (previous positions in brackets):

MEN

	Points
1 Desmond Douglas (Wa) (1)	633
2 Duggie Johnson (Wa) (2)	612
3 Carl Preat (IOW) (14)	598
4 Graham Sandley (Mi) (3)	597
5 John Hilton (La) (4)	597
6 Donald Parker (La) (7)	489
7 Skylet Andrew (E) (6)	488
8 Paul Day (Ca) (5)	482
9 Nigel Eckersley (Ch) (8)	446
10 Steven Mills (Y) (11)	429
11 Philip Bradbury (Bu) (15)	420
12 David Wells (Mi) (10)	419
13 Ian Kenyon (K) (18)	411
14 Mark Mitchell (Mi) (12)	409
15 Kenny Jackson (E) (9)	400
16 Colin Wilson (Mi) (16)	386
17 David Constance (Do) (13)	374
18 David Barr (Bk) (25)	351
19 Richard Jermyn (He) (19)	346
20 Steven Turner (La) (20)	343
21 Chu Van Que (Nd) (17)	341
22 Chris Rogers (Le) (22)	338
23 Max Crimmins (Sy) (21)	325
24 Ian Horsham (E) (23)	314
25 John Souter (Mi) (27)	314
26 Kevin Beadsley (Y) (26)	309
27 Alan Cooke (Dy) (53)	300
28 John Kitchener (Sk) (24)	296
29 Barry Johnson (Wa) (31)	273
30 Alan Fletcher (Y) (30)	271
31 David Tan (Mi) (28)	269
32 Andy Wellman (Bk) (29)	259
33 Lindsay Taylor (Cv) (34)	255
34 Kevin Satchell (Wi) (32)	253
35 David Newman (E) (42)	237
36 Barry Hayward (Wa) (33)	222
37 Peter McQueen (Nd) (38)	222
38 David Reeves (Bk) (35)	210
39 Billy Gleave (Ch) (39)	210
40 Joey Kennedy (K) (36)	209
41 Tony Sanderson (Y) (52)	209
42 Nicky Mason (Sy) (40)	203
43 Malcolm Francis (Sx) (44)	201
44 Keith Paxton (Du) (37)	200
45 Stephen Scowcroft (La) (50)	191
46 Andrew Bellingham (St) (43)	188
47 Keith Richardson (Ca) (41)	187
48 Paul Randall (Le) (45)	168
49 Adrian Moore (Sx) (49)	164
50 Peter Taylor (He) (46)	159
51 Mick Harper (Ca) (48)	153

52 Tony Clayton (Do) (57)	152
53 Brian Johns (Ch) (47)	151
54 Carl Morgan (Wa) (70)	145
55 Mark Oakley (Sy) (51)	140
56 John Payne (Mi) (56)	140
57 Babs Agedayo (Sy) (58)	139
58 David Dodd (K) (71)	126
59 Stephen Moore (Sx) (64)	121
60 Shaun Browne (La) (54)	120
61 Andrew Creed (Av) (87)	119
62 Desmond Charley (E) (55)	117
63 Iain Fullerton (Bk) (83)	107
64 Martyn Smith (Av) (59)	98
65 Phillip Bowen (La) (63)	93
66 Anthony Boasman (Ch) (60)	92
67 Simon Heaps (Do) (61)	88
68 Paul Namdjou (K) (62)	88
69 Mark Hankey (Ch) (69)	88
70 Keith Williams (La) (65)	86
71 Gary Lambert (Dv) (67)	83
72 Steven Holloway (Sy) (84)	83
73 Johnathan Proffitt (He) (81)	82
74 Phillip Smith (Sx) (66)	80
75 Paul Whiting (Dv) (68)	78
76 Tony Penny (E) (—)	77
77 Andy Rich (St) (74)	75
78 Michael Browne (Wa) (72)	72
79 Michael Hammond (Sy) (75)	72
80 Ian Robertson (Nd) (73)	68
81 Derek Munt (Wa) (76)	67
82 Paul Rainford (La) (80)	65
83 Tony Isaac (St) (82)	59
84 Kevin Green (Cv) (86)	59
85 Steven Sharpe (Y) (77)	58
86 Stuart Palmer (Sk) (78)	56
87 Andy Withers (Ca) (79)	54
88 Malcolm Green (Sp) (85)	53
89 Robert Watson (Ng) (—)	52
90 Paul Barenett (St) (—)	50
91 Greg Hallam (St) (89)	48
92 Percy Collino (Mi) (92)	46
93 Roger Chandler (Sx) (88)	42
94 Les Eadie (E) (—)	42
95 Mark Werner (Do) (—)	41
96 Derek Schofield (Ch) (—)	40
97 Paul Jackson (Av) (—)	39
98 Derek Holman (Ha) (90)	38
99 Mark Illingsworth (Y) (94)	38
100 Mike Stead (Y) (—)	37

WOMEN

	Points
1 Karen Witt (Bk) (2)	353
2 Jill Hammersley-Parker (La) (1)	275
3 Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (7)	274
4 Alison Gordon (Bk) (3)	199
5 Anita Stevenson (Le) (5)	198
6 Joy Grundy (La) (6)	197
7 Carole Moore (Cv) (4)	168
8 Jackie Bellinger (Bd) (16)	164
9 Susan Collier (Bk) (20)	128
10 Karen Smith (Le) (8)	125
11 Melody Hill (Y) (11)	105
12 Mandy Smith (Bk) (13)	105
13 Angela Mitchell (Mi) (10)	93
14 Jean Parker (La) (9)	84
15 Jill Harris (St) (25)	77
16 Karen Groves (Wa) (23)	75
17 Mandy Reeves (Bk) (14)	69
18 Suzanne Hunt (Li) (19)	68
19 Sarah Sandley (Mi) (21)	60
20 Helen Williams (Mi) (12)	58
21 Carol Butler (Dv) (—)	57
22 Jenny Collins (Bk) (39)	52
23 Claire Maisey (Wi) (26)	49
24 Christine Peacock (La) (17)	48
25 Helen Shields (Y) (22)	44
26 Joanne Shaw (Y) (15)	42
27 Laura Goldsmith (Mi) (35)	42
28 Julie Revill (Le) (18)	35
29 Elaine Sayer (E) (—)	34
30 Nina Tsakarisianos (Gs) (37)	29
31 Nicola Hamilton (He) (27)	29
32 Lesley Broomhead (Y) (—)	26
33 Sandra Peakman (Wa) (24)	25
34 Janet Parker (Wi) (44)	24

JUNIORS AND CADETS

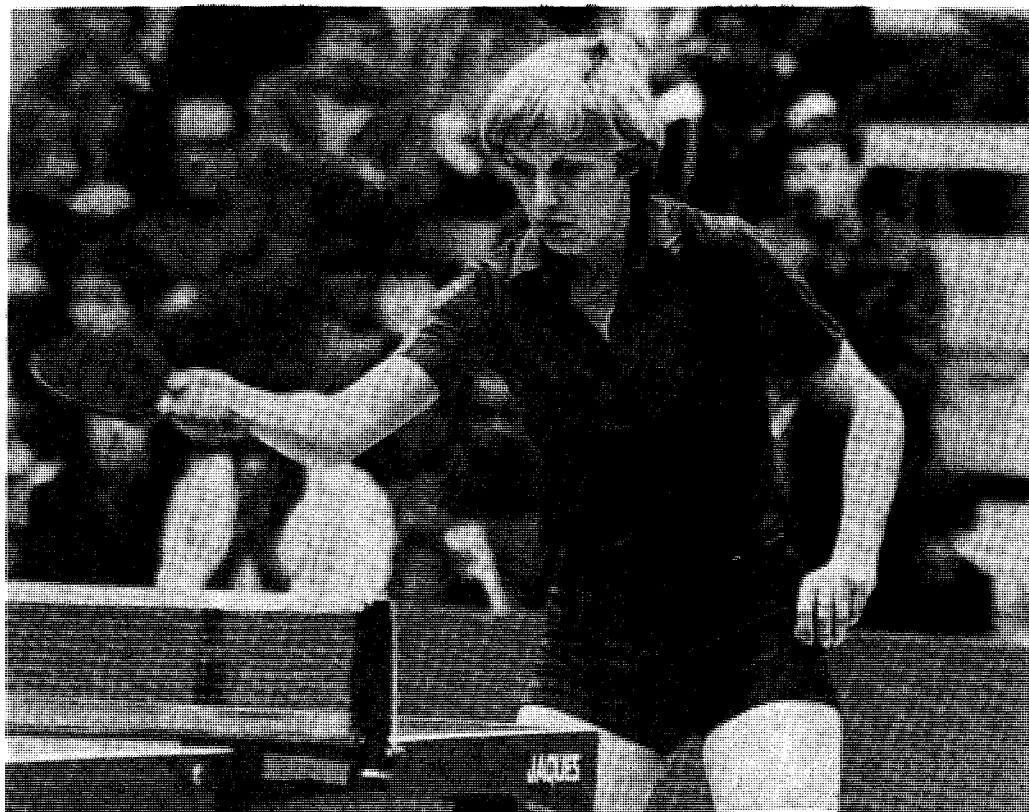
The winners in the English Junior Closed at Macclesfield Leisure Centre head all four lists but, surprisingly, the Junior No. 1, Carl Preat, is only 2½ points in front of Nicky Mason, who he beat in the national final. Mason has been playing all round the country collecting computer points while Preat has concentrated on establishing himself at senior level.

Unless Preat plays in the next important Junior event — the Cotswold Junior Open at Gloucester on Jan. 29/30 — he could lose the No. 1 junior spot to the 17-years-old Mason, who now lives in Bexhill, Sussex.

The new lists (previous positions in brackets) are:

BOYS

	Points
1 Carl Preat (IOW) (1)	370.5
2 Nicky Mason (Sx) (2)	368
3 Billy Gleave (Ch) (3)	268
4 Alan Cooke (Dy) (4)	265
5 Steven Sharpe (Y) (15)	234
6 Gary Lambert (Dv) (5)	230



Jill Hammersley-Parker, who, after a decade, steps down to No. 2.

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec, London SW17.

7 Philip Huggon (La) (18)	221
8 Philip Gunn (Wa) (7)	210
9 Steven Dettmar (E) (9)	192
10 Andrew Sexton (Sy) (8)	184
11 Dipak Topiwala (Mi) (14)	182
12 Jeffrey Thatcher (Y) (36)	181
13 Phillip Logsdon (Nk) (6)	178.5
14 Andrew Dodd (K) (12)	178
15 Andrew Cunningham (K) (21)	175
16 Darren Griffin (Gs) (11)	173.5
17 Mark Ellett (Dv) (17)	171
18 Richard Hayward (St) (25)	169.5
19 Richard Tilford (Ng) (31)	168.5
20 Michael Thomas (Wa) (13)	168
21 Darren McVitie (Du) (16)	168
22 Murray Jukes (Wo) (10)	166
23 Andrew Syed (Bk) (32)	166
24 Stuart Worrall (Li) (19)	165
25 Chris Bartram (K) (22)	159
26 David Blackburne (Du) (41)	156
27 Martin Firth (Y) (34)	151
28 Gary Wilson (Dv) (20)	148.5
29 Keith Samuels (Bd) (24)	146
30 Mark Randle (Wa) (35)	146
31 David Rook (Y) (23)	142
32 Neil McMaster (Nd) (26)	142
33 Paul Ashcroft (La) (27)	140
34 Philip Aspinall (La) (28)	140
35 Philip Cole (Hu) (29)	139
36 Jimmy Stokes (Bk) (33)	134
37 Julian Wheel (Ca) (30)	127
38 Jaskaran Singh (Wa) (50)	124
39 Lee Neil (Ng) (40)	123
40 David Dewsbury (Sy) (38)	112
41 Rodney Thomas (Do) (37)	109
42 Richard Darnell (E) (39)	106
43 Anthony Wattis (Cv) (45)	100
44 Kevin Cartwright (St) (47)	87.5
45 Graeme McKim (Np) (42)	85
46 Adrian Dixon (St) (43)	85
47 Peter Bannister (K) (44)	82
48 Clifford Grant (Wa) (48)	70
49 Peter Holliday (Ca) (49)	70
50 Chris Metcalfe (Cv) (—)	64

GIRLS

	Points
1 Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (1)	328
2 Jean Parker (La) (2)	272
3 Susan Collier (Bk) (3)	257
4 Nina Tsakarisianos (Gs) (10)	203
5 Jill Powis (St) (5)	188
6 Tracy Lightfoot (Ch) (4)	185.5
7 Helen Bardwell (He) (6)	183.5
8 Fiona Elliot (St) (8)	166
9 Melonie Seaton (Y) (7)	155.5
10 Laura Goldsmith (Mi) (17)	140
11 Josette Ryalls (Y) (15)	133.5

12 Rachel Brook (Y) (9)	132
13 Claire Mouzon (Nd) (18)	130.5
14 Amanda Hegarty (St) (14)	127
15 Joanne Shaw (Y) (20)	122
16 Amanda Judd (Ca) (22)	119.5
17 Teresa Moore (Sx) (12)	119
18 Louise Davis (Wo) (26)	119
19 To Thuy Dung (Dy) (11)	117
20 Nikki Hamilton (Bu) (13)	107
21 Michele Hams (Sy) (16)	104
22 Debbie Soothill (Cu) (19)	93
23 Alison Boxall (He) (21)	92
24 Angela Sanders (St) (—)	84
25 Lisa Hayden (E) (23)	77
26 Tracey Spencer (St) (24)	76
27 Debbie Simmons (Sy) (25)	74
28 Rachel Knight (Mi) (27)	73
29 Leanne Harman (Do) (28)	70
30 Alison Barker (Sp) (29)	67
31 Jane Mills (Sy) (30)	65
32 Lesley Popkiewicz (Sy) (31)	64
33 Sarah O'Leary (Dv) (32)	61
34 Jane Barella (Sy) (33)	55
35 Mary Denbow (Ox) (34)	46
36 Ruth Hunter (Nk) (35)	43
37 Julie Shippey (Li) (36)	41
38 Alison Clemens (Co) (37)	41
39 Vicki Bellingham (St) (38)	40
40 Sally Weston (Sx) (39)	37

CADET BOYS

	Points
1 Andrew Syed (Bk) (1)	309.5
2 Jimmy Stokes (Bk) (11)	244.5
3 Matthew Syed (Bk) (3)	199
4 Stuart Craggs (Cv) (7)	181
5 Paul Amos (K) (6)	167.5
6 Adrian Dixon (St) (2)	165.5
7 Michael Oxley (Wi) (4)	131
8 Karl Ball (K) (13)	127
9 Michael Rutherford (K) (5)	126
10 Tony West (E) (9)	122
11 Bradley Billington (Dy) (14)	119
12 Greg Barden (K) (17)	119
13 Sion Simon (Wa) (8)	117
14 John Ferguson (K) (16)	115
15 Simon Jones (Ch) (10)	114
16 Kevin Lawrence (St) (12)	113.5
17 Jonathon Bult (Y) (18)	112
18 Michael O'Driscoll (Y) (19)	110
19 Nicholas Carr (Y) (20)	103
20 Matthew Harvey (St) (15)	91
21 Tim Shepherd (Ng) (24)	74
22 Damian Holland (E) (25)	68.5
23 Sean Gibson (La) (21)	67
24 Paul Gooding (Sk) (22)	67
25 Jonathon Goole (Mi) (23)	65
26 Ian Neate (Wi) (26)	58

27 David Watson (Nd) (27)	49
28 Raymond Powell (Wi) (28)	46
29 Leon Jose (Co) (29)	45
30 Neil Pickard (Nk) (30)	42
31 Paul Fisher (Sp) (—)	38
32 Kevin Gray (St) (—)	37
33 Adrian Bolton (Ng) (—)	36
34 Aleric Bassano (Y) (—)	36
35 Peter Galica (Sy) (—)	32
36 Mark Lang (Y) (—)	31

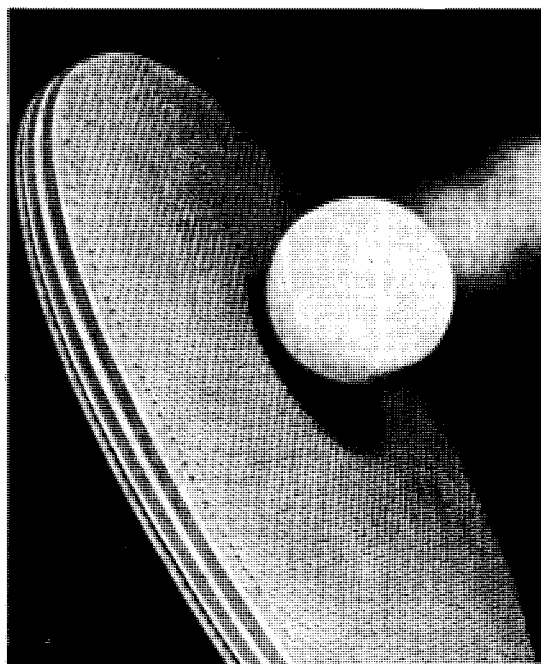
CADET GIRLS

	Points
1 Jill Powis (St) (1)	344.5
2 Louise Davis (Wo) (6)	209
3 Juliet Houghton (K) (9)	202.5
4 Angela Sanders (St) (8)	187
5 Lesley Souter (Mi) (3)	174
6 Debbie Soothill (Cu) (2)	168.5
7 Claire Potts (Ch) (4)	163
8 Lisa Hayden (E) (5)	146
9 Lisa Robins (Bd) (16)	146
10 Alison Evans (Y) (11)	142
11 Helen Perrott (Av) (10)	137.5
12 Andria Holt (La) (14)	136.5
13 Rachel Knight (Mi) (7)	126
14 Sarah Hammond (Ha) (13)	123
15 Amanda Shufflebotham (Ox) (25)	96.5
16 Sarah Webb (So) (12)	95
17 Melanie Carey (St) (15)	90.5
18 Dawn Wickstead (Sp) (19)	78
19 Karen Wilde (Sy) (17)	75
20 Jenny Ellery (Gs) (18)	70
21 Helen Lower (St) (22)	68
22 Fiona Stuart (So) (20)	67
23 Tanya Holland (E) (21)	67
24 Hazel Kavanagh (Y) (29)	65
25 Angela Wattis (Cv) (26)	60
26 Karen Rogers (St) (23)	58
27 Helen Broomhead (Y) (24)	58
28 Jane Roberts (Y) (28)	57
29 Joanne Cooke (E) (27)	46
30 Sarah Padley (Dy) (—)	38
31 Katrina Baker (Mi) (30)	36
32 Ruth Bray (Y) (—)	36
33 Andrea Wood (Dy) (—)	36
34 Kerry Hall (Dy) (—)	31
35 Debbie Ballard (Sx) (—)	28
36 Tracey Scott-Pawson (Do) (—)	16

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

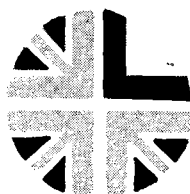
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halex National LEAGUE

by **ROBERT OLDFIELD**

TENSION MOUNTS IN PREMIER

The tension in the Halex National League now increasing with every match, Ormesby fulfilled at least one New Year's resolution on January 2nd when they came home with both points from Unity, instead of the draw which resulted at the beginning of the season. In this latest match, as before, it was the Norwich Union Irish Trophy champion, Skylet Andrew, who provided most of Unity's resistance and an indication of his phenomenal improvement with Unity is shown by comparing his two results against the England No. 2, Dougie Johnson. At the beginning of the season Andrew won 29-27 in the third. This time it was 16 and 16!

So, with just six matches remaining, Ormesby are still clinging to the lead. But only thanks to having played one extra match and Thorn-EMI Ellenborough have the far superior sets average.

"Everyone's writing off Soham" says club secretary, Chris Everitt, "It's ridiculous! The league championship still rests on three matches and I don't know anyone in this area that would take bets against us". He could be right as 17-year-old Nicky Mason, who commutes from Sussex for matches, is beginning to show some spectacular form. Mason, currently ranked No. 42 in the Lentec lists beat both Ian Horsham ("playing some of the best table tennis he had ever played") and Barry Hayward, when Dunlop Birmingham entertained Hassy Soham recently. Only Steve Mills was able to score for the home club.

At the other end of the league, Wamdsad and Newcastle, having postponed the crucial relegation battle to the 3rd April, have little to celebrate. Newcastle's first point, gained against Letchworth Corporation, is not nearly enough to make their position secure but is some compensation for their No. 1, Chu Van Que, who has had personal success but no team reward. At Unity he put the 'Geordies' 2-3 up and they lost the rest. At least Pete McQueen and Andrew Clark gave him some support against Letchworth to grab the draw.

PREMIER DIVISION Current League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Ormesby	8	7	1	0	47	17	15
Trorn EMI-Elfenborough	7	6	1	0	45	11	13
Hassy Soham	6	5	0	1	34	14	10
Unity	8	3	2	3	33	31	8
Letchworth Corporation	9	3	2	4	33	39	8
Dunlop Birmingham	8	2	1	5	21	43	5
Newcastle	7	0	1	6	12	44	1
BWF Wamdsad	7	0	0	7	15	41	0

JAQUES BOUNCE BACK TO BURY GROVE

Jaques Generation, leading the First Division a month ago by one set over Grove and two sets up on Tarmac Wolverhampton found a second match without Carl Prean brought them a second defeat. This time, on 19th December, Prean was on international duty at the French Open, and Tarmac's Tony Rich was in no mood to grant any special favours. Rich won two while Ian Kenyon had only one set in support (from Tony Clayton) and Generation ended at the wrong end of a 3-5 result.

However, with Prean back at No. 1, they bounced back to destroy Grove's title contention on 2nd January. John Hilton had a revenge win over Ian Kenyon, Steven Scowcroft took a game from Prean, then it was two-straight all the way to 1-7. Easy. Apart from Clayton v Scowcroft.

Meanwhile Tarmac turned over Wamdsad, MBS St. Neots beat Butterfly Cardiff in a middle of the table match, and TCB Dolphins gained their first victory by a 5-3 home win over Ormesby II. Paul Rainford won two for the visitors but then it was Moore, Green, Brown, Moore, Moore, Green to add some colour to Brighton's New Year. BWF Wamdsad II, somewhat masochistically experiencing two 7-1 thrashing over this festive time, are competing with their first team to see who will have relegation confirmed first.

FIRST DIVISION Current League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Tarmac Wolverhampton	8	7	0	1	45	19	14
Jaques Generation	8	6	0	2	45	19	12
Grove	8	6	0	2	42	22	12
Butterfly Cardiff	8	3	2	3	35	29	8
MBS St. Neots	8	3	2	3	34	30	8
Ormesby II	8	1	2	5	22	42	4
TCB Dolphins	8	1	1	6	20	44	3
BWF Wamdsad II	8	1	1	6	13	51	3

BEWARE THE SIDE OF MARCH

Hermits, still the leaders in Second Division North, won the Christmas derby match against South Yorkshire on December 19th by 5-3 and Kevin Beadsley, their top player, remains the only player in the division who is undefeated. They had another local derby at Bradford's Nabwood Sports Centre the following match and went 0-5 in the lead before Unity's Jeffrey Thatcher beat David Rook.

On the same day Trevor Washington won his first maximum for Tarmac Wolverhampton — surprisingly against Target Gold Salford. Salford were without Shaun Browne, and had to bring in Ian Matts, and a vital point was lost.

"Shaun went down with flu on New Year's Day", explained Salford boss, Harry

Shaw, "and we could not get hold of Nigel Hollows because he was away on holiday. We had to field our young player, Ian Matts, and it was asking a lot for him to win. It was his first match and both times he was under pressure because the previous set had gone against us".

Salford are not worried by this setback. "We still think we can win it" said Shaw confidently, "Hermits and South Yorkshire are no trouble. We won't beat Beadsley but we are very strong at 3 and 4, especially now that Tony Boasman has dropped down because of his national ranking. Mind you, I think March are the key team now that Davis is back. We feel that they are capable of beating any team in the League. Anyone that's going to win the Division has got to beat March. We play them next match".

SECOND DIVISION NORTH Current League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hermits	8	6	1	1	44	20	13
TG Salford	8	6	1	1	39	25	13
South Yorkshire	8	6	0	2	45	19	12
March Halex	7	2	4	1	29	27	8
RB Lincoln	7	3	1	3	31	25	7
Unity II	8	1	2	5	24	40	4
Tarmac Wolverhampton II	8	1	2	5	20	44	4
Riversley Insurance	8	0	1	7	16	48	1

SATCHELL v CONSTANCE, BATH v READING

A Second Division South showdown is not planned for consecutive weekends in March when Gillette Reading and SIB Bath are involved in a two leg which could decide the title. Bath's leading player, Kevin Satchell, has only dropped one out of fourteen and Dave Constance is undefeated. However, Reading's bottom half are none too sharp and even lowly Cranfield Colours Gwent held them to a draw just before Christmas; Andrew Evans playing Santa Claus for the Welsh club.

Elsewhere, Dagenham FC and SIB Bath were sharing the points with no chance of extra time. Both bravely chose the opportunity to bring in the left handed looper, Kevin Edwards, and, with the score poised at 4-3, he inflicted the second of Steve Dettmar's defeats by 26-24, 18-21, 17-21.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH Current League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
SIB Bath	7	6	1	0	42	14	13
Dagenham FC	8	6	1	1	39	25	13
Gillette Reading	7	5	2	0	35	21	12
Gunnersbury Triangle	8	1	4	3	29	35	6
Larkhall	8	2	2	4	28	36	6
Graham Spicer	8	2	1	5	29	35	5
CC Gwent	8	1	2	5	24	40	4
Lansdown Medway	8	1	1	6	22	42	3

UNHAPPY NEW YEAR FOR BYKER

Byker, leading Third Division North a month ago suffered two defeats over the

Christmas break at the hands of first Hermits II and then Grantham. Though Martin Young won both his against Hermits, there was only Nigel Jobling in support and, the following match, even Young went down — losing his first set of the season to Grantham's Maurice Newman.

Hermits are therefore top for the time being — with a home match v Byker to decide the division at the end of the season. Though their Bradford rivals, Unity III, are not so well placed, Unity captain, Hans Soova, is happy with their progress. "Like the second team, we're using the Thirds to develop young players and the girls are gaining valuable experience every match", he said.

Unity, as I mentioned last month, raffled a holiday, donated by Intasun, to raise money for their three national league teams and lucky supporter, Peter Flanagan from Bingley, is now studying the Intasun catalogue to decide where to take his 7 nights for two people. Greece beats Grimsby any time of year I'm told.

THIRD DIVISION NORTH Current League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hermits II	8	6	2	0	48	16	14
Grantham	8	6	1	1	49	15	13
Byker	8	6	0	2	45	19	12
South Yorkshire II	8	3	2	3	32	32	8
Ormesby III	8	3	2	3	31	33	8
Unity III	8	2	0	6	22	42	4
Halex Crusaders	8	1	1	6	14	50	3
Vickers	8	0	2	6	15	49	2

CHAN IN CONTROL — GUNNS BLAZING

With a degree of inevitability, Chan Construction finished the first half having only lost eight sets and are now four points clear at the top of Third Division West. Though Carl Morgan is their only undefeated player, the two Gunns, Philip and Ian, have given excellent support, along with Lester Bertie. Their latest match was a local derby against Westminster Woolwich Solihull. At least Solihull prevented the whitewash.

Another local derby was the Pengeley Torbay/Launceston Kernow match on December 19th and Torbay kept in touch with second place by a 5-3 win. Trevor Taylor and Paul Whiting had few problems for the home side and only the Cornish veteran, John Bassett, won two for Kernow.

THIRD DIVISION WEST Current League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Chan Construction	8	8	0	0	55	9	16
Grove II	8	6	0	2	45	19	12
Pengeley Torbay	8	5	1	2	40	24	11
Jolliffe Poole	8	4	2	2	41	23	10
Launceston Kernow	8	2	2	4	29	35	6
Tarmac Ladies	8	1	2	5	21	43	4
WW Solihull	8	1	1	6	13	51	3
Cowbridge Bridgend	8	0	2	6	12	52	2

COLNE SLIP TO SECOND

Dunlop Coles Waveney, despite their position in Third Division East, inflicted a rare shock to the division favourites, Colne Valley, when they took a trip down the A12 on 19th December. Colne, without Nicky Standen but with Malcolm Francis winning two, lead 3-2, before David Smith and Russell King snatched a draw.

So, Abeng, one of three clubs to agree terms with Halex recently, are the current leaders. Playing at the Crystal Palace Sports Centre they were saved from an unusual defeat by Paul Colvin on 2nd January when he ruined Mark Butler's debut with the score at 3-4 in Cippenham's favour.

THIRD DIVISION EAST Current League Table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Halex Abeng	6	4	1	1	28	20	9
Colne Valley	5	3	1	1	25	15	7
Jaques Generation II	5	3	0	2	20	20	6
Cippenham	6	2	1	3	23	25	5
Dunlop Waveney	6	1	2	3	21	27	4
MBS St. Neots II	6	1	1	4	19	29	3

RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

5th December 1982

Letchworth Corporation 5 BWF Wamdsad 3

David Wells lost to David Barr -17, -17.

Max Crimmins lost to Philip Bradbury -18, -19.

Richard Jermyn bt Ian Fullerton 18, 11.

Joey Kennedy lost to Andrew Wellman -11, 18, -17.

Wells bt Bradbury 16, -15, 20.

Crimmins bt Wellman 16, 13.

Jermyn bt Barr 14, 15.

Kennedy bt Fullerton 17, 11.

19th December 1982

Dunlop Sports Birmingham 2 Larkhall 6

Steven Mills bt Max Crimmins -13, 18, 12.

Ian Horsham bt David Wells -16, 18, 18.

Barry Johnson lost to David Dodd -18, -18.

Barry Hayward lost to Richard Jermyn -16, -14.

Mills lost to Wells -16, -10.

Horsham lost to Jermyn -24, -21.

Johnson lost to Crimmins -19, 10, -20.

Hayward lost to Dodd -19, -13.

Unity 5 Newcastle 3

Steven Turner bt Ian Robertson 17, 14.

Chris Rogers lost to Chu Van Que -16, -19.

Billy Gleave bt David Svenson 16, -19, 16.

David Indriks lost to Andrew Clark 15, -13, -19.

Turner lost to Chu Van Que -11, -17.

Rogers bt Clark 15, 13.

Gleave bt Robertson -9, 12, 16.

Indriks bt Svenson 10, 8.

2nd January 1983

Unity 3 Ormesby 5

Skylet Andrew bt Donald Parker -17, 14, 14.

Steve Turner lost to Duggie Johnson -7, -8.

Chris Rogers bt Lindsay Taylor 10, 16.

Billy Gleave lost to Richard Yule -17, 12, -10.

Andrew bt Johnson 16, 16.

Turner lost to Yule -14, -16.

Rogers lost to Parker 17, -13, -11.

Gleave lost to Taylor -15, 10, -14.

BWF Wamdsad 2 Thorn-EMI Ellenborough 6

Philip Bradbury lost to Mark Mitchell

-15, 22, -12.

David Barr lost to Graham Sandley -16, -8.

Andrew Wellman bt David Tan 13, 15.

Ian Fullerton lost to John Kitchener -18, -3.

Bradbury lost to Sandley -15, -8.

Bar bt Kitchener 11, 17.

Wellman lost to Mitchell 13, -16, -17.

Fullerton lost to Tan -20, -19.

Dunlop Birmingham 1 Soham 7

Steve Mills bt John Souter 20, 17.

Ian Horsham lost to Keith Jackson

18, -10, -18.

Barry Johnson lost to David Hannah

-24, 15, -8.

Barry Hayward lost to Nicky Mason -15, -12.

Mills lost to Jackson -12, -16.

Horsham lost to Mason 21, -9, -12.

Johnson lost to Souter -14, -19.

Hayward lost to Hannah -17, -17.

Newcastle 4 Letchworth Corporation 4

Chu Van Que bt Richard Jermyn 11, 11.

Peter McQueen lost to David Wells -12, -17.

Ian Robertson lost to David Dodd -13, 15, -9.

Andrew Clark lost to Joey Kennedy -17, -18.

Chu Van Que bt Wells -17, 17, 14.

McQueen bt Kennedy 16, 15.

Robertson lost to Jermyn -13, -16.

Clark bt Dodd -17, 21, 17.

FIRST DIVISION

19th December 1982

Jaques Generation 3 Tarmac W'hampton 5

Grove 7 Ormesby II 1

Butterfly Cardiff 7 BWF Wamdsad II 1

TCB Dolphins 3 MBS St. Neots 5

2nd January 1983

Tarmac W'hampton 7 BWF Wamdsad II 1

Grove 1 Jaques Generation 7

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Ormesby II 3 TCB Dolphins 5

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

19th December 1982

Tarmac Wolverhampton II 4 March 4
Hermits 5 South Yorkshire 3
Riversley Insurance 3 TG Salford 5
Unity II 1 RB Lincoln 7

2nd January 1983

Unity II 2 Hermits 6
Riversley Insurance 2 South Yorkshire 6
Tarmac Wolverhampton II 4 TG Salford 4

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

5th December 1982

Lansdown Medway 2 Graham Spicer 6

19th December 1982

Larkhall 4 Gunnersbury Triangle 4
Dagenham FC 4 SIB Bath 4
CC Gwent 4 Gillette Reading 4

2nd January 1983

Larkhall 2 Dagenham FC 6
CC Gwent 0 SIB Bath 8
Graham Spicer 2 Gillette Reading 6
Gunnersbury Triangle 3 Lansdown M'way 5

THIRD DIVISION NORTH

19th December 1982

Crusaders 0 Grantham 8
South Yorkshire II 7 Vickers 1
Unity III 1 Ormesby III 7
Byker 3 Hermits II 5

2nd January 1983

Unity III 6 Crusaders 2
Byker 2 Grantham 6
Ormesby III 7 Vickers 1
South Yorkshire II 0 Hermits II 8

THIRD DIVISION WEST

19th December 1982

Chan Construction 8 Cowbridge Bridgend 0
Tarmac Ladies 2 WW Solihull 6
Pengeley Torbay 5 Launceston Kernow 3
Grove II 6 Jolliffe Poole 2

2nd January 1983

Grove II 6 Tarmac Ladies 2
Chan Construction 7 WW Solihull 1
Pengeley Torbay 6 Cowbridge Bridgend 2
Jolliffe Poole 4 Launceston Kernow 4

THIRD DIVISION EAST

19th December 1982

Colne Valley 4 Dunlop Waveney 4
Abeng 6 Jaques Generation II 2

2nd January 1983

Abeng 4 Cippenham 4
MBS St. Neots II 4 Dunlop Waveney 4

FIXTURES

January - February, 1983

PREMIER DIVISION

6th February 1983

BWF Wamdsad v Hassy Soham

27th February 1983

Ormesby v Newcastle
Thorn-EMI Ellenborough v Letchworth Corp.
Unity v Hassy Soham
BWF Wamdsad v Dunlop Birmingham

FIRST DIVISION

6th February 1983

MBS St. Neots v BWF Wamdsad II

27th February 1983

Jaques Generation v Ormesby II
Tarmac Wolverhampton v TCB Dolphins
Grove v Butterfly Cardiff

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

20th February 1983

RB Lincoln v March Halex

27th February 1983

Hermits v BR Lincoln
South Yorkshire v March Halex
Unity II v TG Salford
Riversley Insurance v Tarmac W'hampton II

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

27th February 1983

Dagenham FC v Gunnersbury Triangle
SIB Bath v Lansdown Medway
Larkhall v Gillette Reading
CC Gwent v Graham Spicer

THIRD DIVISION NORTH

27th February 1983

Halex Crusaders v Ormesby III
Grantham v Vickers
Byker v South Yorkshire II
Unity III v Hermits II

THIRD DIVISION EAST

27th February 1983

Tarmac Ladies v Jolliffe Poole
WW Solihull v Launceston Kernow
Grove II v Cowbridge Bridgend
Chan Construction v Pengeley Torbay

THIRD DIVISION WEST

30th January 1983

MBS St. Neots II v Cippenham

27th February 1983

Cippenham v Jaques Generation II
Abeng v Dunlop Waveney
Colne Valley v MBS St. Neots II

COLD SHOULDER

The European Top 12 Tournament, the most exciting and prestigious Table Tennis event to be held in Britain since the '77 World Championships, is **NOT** to be given National television coverage.

The Top 12, which is being played at Thornaby Pavilion in Cleveland on the 4-6 February, 1983, was felt to be an ideal competition for extensive television coverage.

An amazed and disappointed Tournament Organiser, Alan Ransome said, "With Desmond Douglas and Jill Hammersley-Parker playing amongst the leading 12 men and 12 women in Europe, including both European Champions, with high prize money, European ranking and their own prestige at stake, the play on offer must be better than any other Table Tennis event for several years. We had hoped that our tournament would build up Table Tennis's TV viewing figures once more.

The tournament is played on six courts. Every match on every court all weekend is the equivalent of a normal international tournament final and the TV Producer could have taken his pick of the matches rather than just praying that the comparatively small number of games played in some other televised tournaments would produce the goods.

Television has missed a gem and unfortunately Table Tennis is the loser".

Also disappointed are Cleveland County Council Leisure Services, who are the tournament promoters. They had hoped to put on an event which the whole country could enjoy as well as Eurovision. Now only the 1300 or so spectators at the Pavilion

itself will be able to witness the action.

Table Tennis is not the only sport to lose out in this way. In recent months both Squash and Badminton have staged World events and have been turned down by the TV companies.

Cover Picture

ETTA SIGNS £80,000 AGREEMENT

WITH DUNLOP AND JAQUES

A four year adoption contract worth £80,000 has been agreed between the English Table Tennis Association and equipment manufacturers Dunlop Sports and John Jaques & Son Ltd.

Under the new agreement, Dunlop and Jaques will supply, on an equal basis, tables, nets and posts, surrounds, scoring machines and umpires' tables for all major ETTA events for the next four years. In addition, Dunlop Super 3 Crown balls will be used in half the events.

Equipment for the junior ranking trials, non-league international matches and various exhibitions will also be provided.

Mr. Tom Blunn, Chairman of ETTA, said: "We are delighted with this agreement which guarantees the ETTA first class equipment and which further extends the long and happy relationship we have enjoyed with Dunlop and Jaques".

The photograph shows Tom Blunn (right), chairman of the ETTA, and Peter Wycherley, General manager of Dunlop Sports Company, putting their signatures to the new four year adoption contract. Looking on is Dunlop table tennis manager Alan Hydes.

PRIZES TO THE VALUE OF £5,000

The prizes for the SEALINK YOUTH CUP are in the form of Butterfly equipment for the Regional competitions and for the runners-up in the National finals, whilst the winners will receive a weeks' free coaching at TEES SPORT SUMMER SCHOOL. In all, the prize fund will be valued at £5,000.

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World Table Tennis Championships for Paraplegics & Amputees

STOKE MANDEVILLE - ENGLAND

by TED INGE

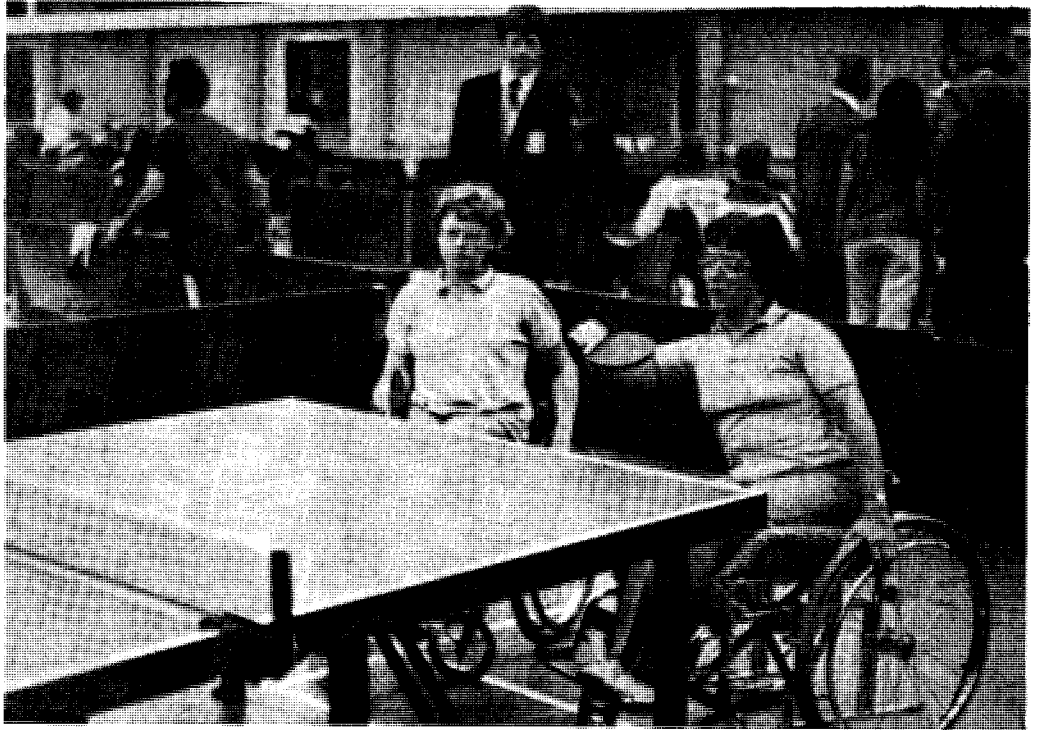
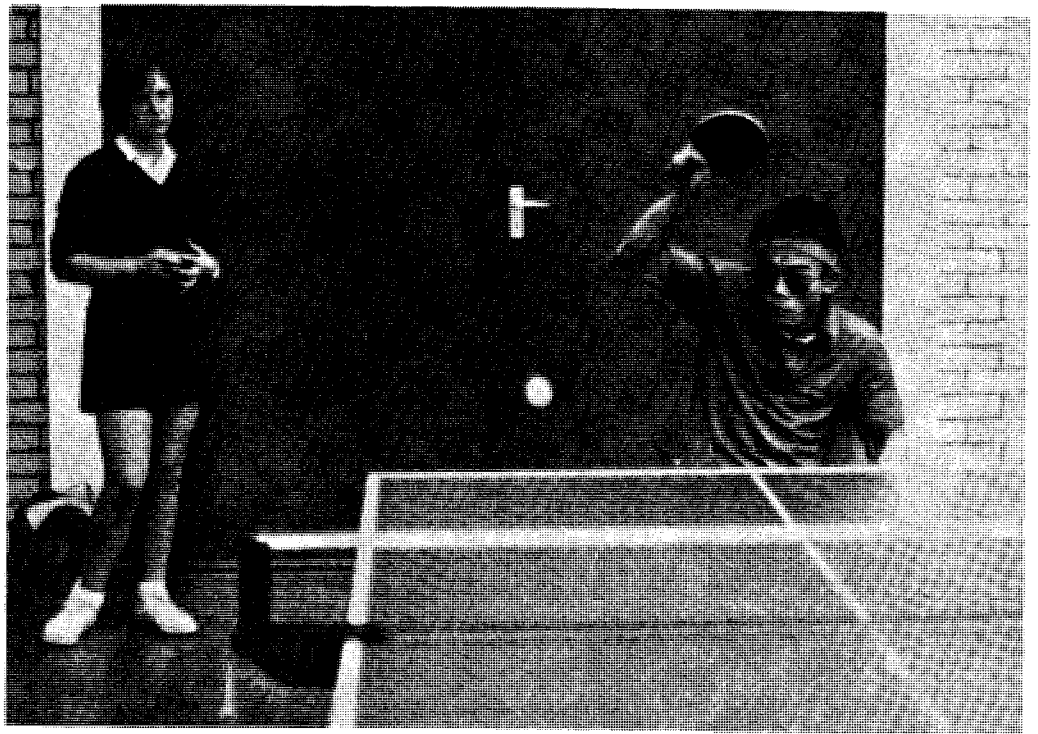
On Sept. 29, 1982, at the Ludwig Guttman Sports Centre for the Disabled, Stoke Mandeville, Aylesbury, Bucks, competitors from 15 countries gathered to compete in the first World Table Tennis Championships for paraplegics and amputees.

Over 200 competitors, 147 paraplegics playing from a wheelchair, and 54 amputees, took part in some exciting competition, which ensured the success of these championships, which must be considered a milestone in the field of disabled sport. Following the success of the European championships in England in 1979 and Basle, Switzerland in 1981, which have now become a part of the International calendar, it was decided by the International committee of the Stoke Mandeville Games Federation, to stage these championships, and, with their success, it has been decided to stage them on bi-annual basis. The next world championships will be held in Illinois, U.S.A., as part of the Disabled Olympiad in 1984 and Australia have asked to stage the 1986 World Championships in Brisbane.

The Championships, which were kindly sponsored by Butterfly (UK) Ltd. who supplied the tables, surrounds, and scoring machines, and by Stiga Ltd. who supplied the official Nittaku ball, were officially opened on the Tuesday evening before competition commenced, by Jill Hammersley-Parker, who, after a few words of welcome, toured the practice halls chatting with the competitors. I understand she was quite surprised by the very high standard of play achieved.

Play began on the Wednesday morning, with the paraplegic team events, which is played on Corbillon Cup lines - 2 per team. Great Britain scored in the Ladies events, with a gold medal in Class 3, a silver in Class 4, and a bronze in Class 2. The men did not fare so well but scored a very creditable bronze medal in the Class 2 event which, internationally is very strong indeed. In the amputee section Germany proved too strong for everyone, by winning all 4 gold medals, but the G.B. amputee players did us proud by taking 2 silver and a bronze.

After two days of team events the individual class events were staged, and Jane Blackburn, our dynamo from Crawley, Sussex, proved to be our only gold medal winner, in the Ladies Class 1 event. Jane, who has won the past two 'Olympic' titles, coasted home without losing a game, and beat Christine Droux of Switzerland in the final 13, 19. Janet Swann, from Newcastle took the Silver in the Ladies Class 3 event, losing out to Andre of France 17, -17, -19. Our only other medalist in the individual events was Arnie Chan from Chingford who took the bronze in the Men's Class 2 event. Arnie, with his team mate Billy Leake from Wakefield, had already won a bronze in the team event, and they both won through to the semi-finals of the individual event. There



British Competitors in action at Stoke Mandeville.

they met the formidable duo from Austria, Altendorfer and Mandl. Hopes ran high for Arnie, as he had beaten them both in the Team match semi-final (which they lost 3-2), but unfortunately it was not to be, with Billy losing to Mandl -6, -17, and Arnie losing to Altendorfer 21, -13, -15. Arnie beat Billy in the play off for the bronze 14, -16, 19.

In the amputee individual events Ann Smith took the gold, to add to her 'Olympic' medal by winning the Ladies class A2 event. Our only other medal winners were Geoff Feint (silver) and B. Jocelyn (silver) in their classes. Germany, as in the team, dominated the individual events with 4 gold medals out of a possible 7.

On Saturday, the 'Open' events started.

This is an event where class disability is ignored and all 'go into the hat' together. This obviously favours the lower lesions (Class 4) but some very notable performances were put up by the lower lesion classes, and of course to the arm amputees as opposed to the leg amputees. In the Ladies open, Caz Walton, from Croydon gained a silver medal losing to Ruth Lamsbach -17, -16 in the final. Barbara Gibbs of Coventry, our other hopeful in this event, went out to Elizabeth Bisquolm of Switzerland in the quarters -16, 16, -16. In the Men's event, Arnie Chan was again our shining light, who, with some tremendous table tennis reached the semi-final, with an incredible win in the quarters over Peter Starl of Austria the Men's Class 3 champion. It was here, however, that he met Mike

Dempsey of the USA, the current Class 4 'Olympic' champion, who went on to win the event. Arnie lost to Mike two-straight 13 and 19. Arnie then lost to Werner Dorr of Germany in the play-off for the Bronze. Considering that Arnie is only a Class 2 lesion his performance in these championships was of the very highest order indeed.

In the amputee events Ann Smith kept the flag flying and won the gold with a win over Samuelsson of Sweden in the final. The men did not fare too well, but it was nice to see the name T. Heaps in the draw. There's a good table tennis name for you, Tim being the youngest of the family that has graced English table tennis over the years.

After the presentations by Mr. Horace Poole of the British Paraplegic Sports Society, and Mr. Colin Bance of the British Sports Association for the Disabled all adjourned to just a little rave up which went well on into the early hours, which cemented the 'family' relationship which exists among this band of disabled table tennis players.

My thanks go to Stu Dane, the Hon. Referee for the championships, and a 'special' thank you to Doreen Stannard and her band of ETTA umpires who gave their services which made the championships such a success. It was very nice indeed to see our able-bodied counterparts helping us out, and long may it continue. Roll on 1984.

13th Europe Top Twelve Tournament

by ALAN RANSOME

THE PLAYERS

A new generation of young stars, little known eighteen months ago, have taken over as favourites to lift the Men's title in the EUROPE TOP 12. The holder and European Champion, Mikael Appelgren, will wear the No. 1 player's shirt for the first time at Thornaby, whilst his even younger Swedish team mate, European Silver Medalist, Jan-Ove Waldner (famous for his back to the table service, which some members of the ITTF hope to ban this year), leaps into 2nd place. If a repeat of the European Men's Singles final in Budapest last year is seen at Thornaby, then the fans will be in for a real treat.

Zoran Kalinic of Yugoslavia is the second player to leapfrog up the new European rankings to 3rd position. The tall left-handed penholder has over-taken for the first time the Yugoslav Master, Dragutin Surbek.

In terms of the official rankings, DESMOND DOUGLAS of England, who keeps his No. 4 position in the latest list, leads the established players. Des has always done well in the TOP 12, it is his kind of tournament but so far he has never won the title. Cleveland is his big chance . . . he now has both the game and the experience, and will have his British fans behind him.

The other "establishment" players are Istvan Jonyer, Surbek, Milan Orlovski and

Stellan Bengtsson, all former World or European Singles champions, and all well capable of teaching the youngsters a thing or two. With almost £7,000 worth of prize money on the table, there will be no lessons for free!

The last four places in the Men's event have been snatched by a second batch of young pretenders, all with their ambitions firmly fixed on unseating Appelgren. Erik Lindh of Sweden is the most dynamic. On form he is brilliant, as Jonyer experienced in Budapest. Jindrich Pansky of Czechoslovakia is the quiet, hard worker who has now overtaken Josef Dvoracek. Andrzej Grubba of Poland is always good value. Thornaby is a happy hunting ground for him as he won the World Student Championship there just eighteen months ago. The 12th man and the 5th Swede is Ulf Bengtsson. He is the newest on the international scene, having only just broken into the top bracket this Christmas.

Jaques Secretin is the 13th man on the new E.T.T.U. Classification list, but with all the players keen to gain their best European ranking before the World Championships in April, only an extreme case of sickness or injury will allow the Frenchman onto the courts. Klampar, Gergely, Kucharski and Dvoracek have all been unable to win a place in this year's prize tournament, such is the strength of the Top 12.

Last year's final set in the Women's section in Nantes was the best of the weekend. **Jill Hammersley-Parker** just failed at "deuce" in the 3rd to take the title against Bettine Vriesekoop of the Netherlands. The match kept all four thousand spectators in the large French stadium enthralled until after the final point. Early reports indicate that Mrs. Parker's training is shaping up well and as the World Championships are so heavily Asian dominated that that title realistically is beyond her grasp, her main goal of her final season will be the Top 12. Let's hope that Jill can take it for the fourth time on home ground!

The women's competition is, however, by no means a two player event. Valentina Popova from the USSR, the former European Champion now ranked No. 3 in Europe, is well capable of winning the Top 12. With Popova in the line-up will be two other Soviet youngsters, Fliuva Bulatova and Inna Kovalenko, neither of whom can be discounted for the title either. Unfortunately the Hungarian challenge is weakened by the withdrawal of Edit Urban, although Zsuzsa Olah and Gabriella Szabo will proudly carry the Hungarian colours as they did in the team event in Budapest. An outsider for the title is the talented Rumanian youngster, Olga Nemes. She has threatened to do very well in big tournaments of late and just needs that little extra to come through into the very big time.

Marie Hrachova (Czechoslovakia), Branka Batinic (Yugoslavia), Marie Lindblad and Ann-Christin Hellman of Sweden complete the women's line-up for the Top 12 and one would be creating folly indeed to write any of these girls off for the title, so keen is the competition.

In Nantes twelve months ago, Appelgren came from nowhere to win. This year the championship is also wide open. Who'll be standing on the rostrum to receive the acclaim at Thornaby? I'll be there to see the excitement and fierce competition, WILL YOU?

SYSTEM OF PLAY

The Top 12 is the only major individual tournament played on the round robin, all-play-all, system. Men play the best of 5 games while the women the best of 3. The Referee will not issue the order of play for the later rounds until it can be clearly seen who are the likely winners. It is intended to keep the leading players away from each other until the end, so creating a climax.

Programme

Friday, 4th February
6.00 p.m. Entertainment.
7.00 p.m. Opening Ceremony.
7.15 p.m. First Session: 2 rounds Men's and 2 rounds Women's matches.
Saturday, 5th February
9.30 a.m. - 12 noon Second Session:
2 rounds Men's and 2 rounds Women's matches.
1.30 p.m. - 5.30 p.m. Third Session: 3 rounds Men's and 3 rounds Women's matches.
p.m. Dinner Dance and Disco -
Tickets available.
Sunday, 6th February
9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Fourth Session:
2 rounds Men's and 2 rounds Women's matches.
2.00 p.m. - 4.30 p.m. Final Session: 2 rounds Men's and 2 rounds Women's matches.
4.30 p.m. Closing Ceremony.
p.m. Farewell Dinner (Invitation only).

DONALD PARKER COACHING PACKAGE

A special package is being organised for coaches who are interested in increasing their knowledge of international standard play. The ETTA National Coach and Junior Team Captain, Donald Parker, will conduct seminars and discussions between and after sessions.

VIDEO

Although there is to be no television coverage for the Top 12, the Newcastle-based Tyne Video Company are making a video film of the event which will be available for sale in the U.K. later this year. It is hoped that there will be two separate films, one of the event itself, and the other for use as a coaching aid.

TEES SPORT STAND - COME AND VISIT US!

Tees Sport have the sole equipment selling rights for the Top 12 Tournament and will have an equipment stand there all weekend. Included will be a display of blades and rubbers, clothing and shoes, plus an opportunity to inspect some of the lower priced Butterfly tables, aimed at the club, home and sports centre market. There will be a bat making service on the stand, and full details of the TEES SPORT TOUR TO TOKYO for the World Championships and TEES SPORT SUMMER SCHOOL will be available.

SOCIAL EVENTS

With Saturday evening being free from play, two social events have been planned for the visitors to the Top 12:

1. **Dinner & Dance** at the Golden Eagle Hotel in Thornaby for players, coaches, officials, guests and any other visitors who may be interested. This will also be an ETTA "100 CLUB" Dinner with the usual "100 Club" draws.

Contact: Jose Ransome for further information.

2. **Disco.**

Contact: David Hutchinson for further details.

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FINALS

**Saturday, 26th February, 1983
commencing 12.45 p.m.**

Entrance Fee for spectators:

Thursday: £1.00 Children & OAP's 50p

Friday: £2.50 Children & OAP's £1.50p

Finals: £2.50 Children & OAP's £1.50p

TIMES OF COMMENCEMENT OF PLAY:

Thursday - 16.00 Friday - 09.00

The Draw will be presented at
Norwich Union offices, 51-54 Fenchurch St.,
London EC4 on THURSDAY, 27th Jan., 1983
commencing 10.00 a.m.

Referee: C. Wright (NR)

Asst. Referee: G. A. Taylor (NR)

Organiser: H. J. Webb

Asst. Organiser: C. A. Oakman

Press Officer: R. E. Oldfield

Championship Committee:

Mrs. D. M. Stannard (Chairman); H. J. Webb

(Secretary); G. James; L. C. Pilditch;

C. A. Oakman; G. A. Taylor; M. D. Watts;

C. Wright; J. M. Wright; R. E. Oldfield.

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YORKSHIRE 2-STAR OPEN

WAKEFIELD WIN FOR HILTON

by Rea Balmford

John Hilton won the men's singles at the
Yorkshire 2-Star Open at Wakefield on Dec.
12 with a final victory over Kevin Beadsley
after edging home in a semi-final thriller
against Peter McQueen.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Hilton (La) bt S. Scowcroft (La) 12, 14;

P. McQueen (Nd) bt M. Green (Sp) -20, 19, 15;

K. Beadsley (Y) bt W. Spivak (Aus) -14, 19, 19;

A. Sanderson (Y) bt S. Mills (Y) -17, 19, 16.

Semi-finals:

Hilton bt McQueen 21, -17, 22;

Beadsley bt Sanderson 6, 17.

Final:

HILTON bt Beadsley 17, 18.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

A. Stevenson (Le) bt C. Peacock (La) 6, 18;

J. Speight (Y) w.o. A. Goodwin (La);

L. Broomhead (Y) bt K. Groves (Wa) 15, 19;

M. Hill (Y) bt G. Sharpe (Li) 14, 16.

Semi-finals:

Stevenson bt Speight 7, 20;

Hill bt Broomhead 12, 20.

Final:

HILL bt Stevenson -15, 16, 16.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

P. D'Arcy (Ch)/Scowcroft bt T. Donlon/D. Schofield (Ch)

-18, 16, 19;

Beadsley/McQueen bt P. Bowen (La)/Hilton 10, 20.

Final:

BEADSLEY/McQUEEN bt D'Arcy/Scowcroft 11, 20.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Hill/Stevenson bt J. Harden (Wa)/H. Shields (Y) 20, 10;

Peacock/Sharpe bt C. Moran (Li)/D. Schofield (Ch)

-20, 16, 9.

Final:

HILL/STEVENSON bt Peacock/Sharpe 14, 8.

Mixed Class II Singles Quarter-finals:

C. Morgan (Wa) bt A. Thompson (Li) 10, 11;

M. Emmerson (Y) bt M. Dainty (Y) 20, 19;

M. Corking (Cv) bt Schofield 13, 19;

A. Creed (Av) bt S. Brunskill (Cv) 20, 15.

Semi-finals:

Morgan bt Emmerson 8, 17;

Creed bt Corking 16, 20.

Final:

CREED bt Morgan 10, 18.

Geoff Waters reports from . . .

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

OBITUARY

It is with great sadness that I have to
report the death of Peggy Constable, the
wife of the County President Leslie
Constable. After a short illness, Peggy
passed away in Addenbrookes Hospital,
Cambridge, on Friday, Nov. 26. Peggy did
a great deal of work for table tennis helping
Les to run nine Wesley teams in the Cam-
bridge League and helping with typing for
the many duties that Les has fulfilled in
table tennis, including these notes which he
wrote for many years.

In addition Mrs. Constable was always
willing to offer her home for the Cambridge
League meetings and provide food and
drink as officials deliberated over league
affairs.

She will be sorely missed by all the table
tennis fraternity and we offer our deepest
sympathy to Les at this sad time.

Dick Turner reports from . . .

CHESHIRE

BRIGHT NOTE

Our senior team entered the New Year
on a bright note by recording their first win
of the season over the previously unbeaten
Lancashire II side. The return of Billy
Gleave helped us greatly as Billy won both

his singles and the men's doubles with
Mark Hankey who also won both his singles
to assist in a 7-3 Cheshire victory. On the
same day the Juniors had a resounding 10-0
win over Lincolnshire. Derek and Doreen
Schofield again excelled themselves and it
is worth noting that Doreen has not lost a
County Veterans singles set for three
seasons.

Jack Chalkley reports from . . .

STAFFORDSHIRE

WELL DONE ALAN

Congratulations to Alan Burgess on gain-
ing his County Umpires Badge. Alan is the
second from Stafford this year to achieve
this standard, the other being our general
Secretary, Derek Sherratt, and brings the
number of 'active' umpires from Stafford to
five. Derek Carson, our umpires secretary,
tells me that apart from these five he can
only rely on one other to support the
County Championship programme — and
here of course I refer to the loyal and hard-
working Colin Pearce from Wolverhampton.
League officials all over the County are well
aware that I am always canvassing for more
umpires and I am pleased to say that mem-
bers of the Potteries League are at last
beginning to 'have a go' and two are taking
the written paper. Good luck to them!

Brian Halliday reports from . . .

BERKSHIRE

CAUSE FOR CELEBRATION

Berkshire has good cause to celebrate.
There cannot have been many times when
a county have their top three cadets at
the head of the country's ranking list. We
are often asked how these three lads have
achieved their success. The easy answer is
of course, dedicated parents, individual
coaching, practice and competition against
better players and an infinite capacity for
hard work.

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

Published each month from October to May.
Postal subscriptions £6.00 for eight issues (U.K.),
Europe (including Eire) £10.00, Overseas airmail
£12.50.

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