



TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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EDITED BY GEORGE YATES

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SHE STOOPS TO CONQUER

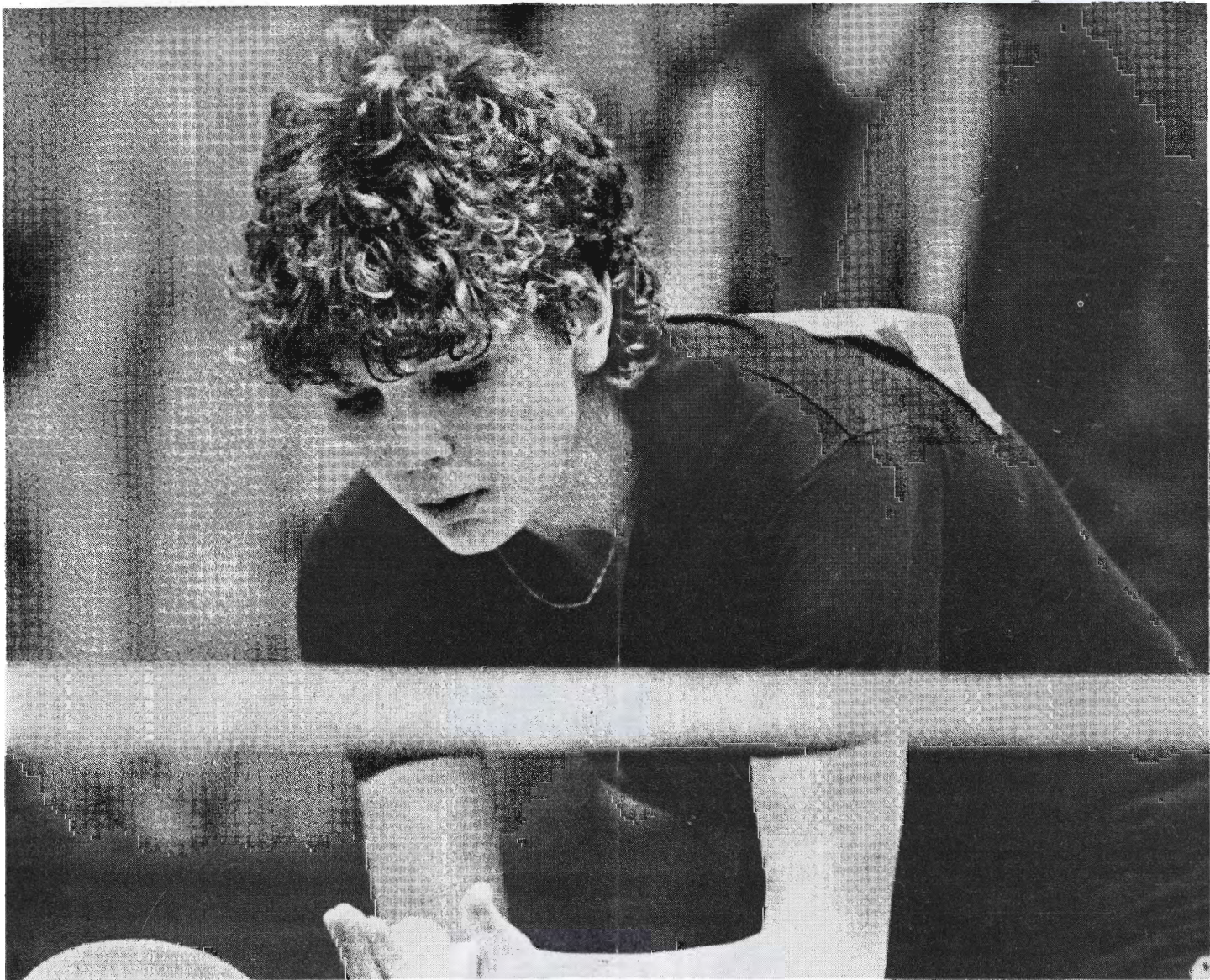


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NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CLOSED

RECORD EQUALLED

by George R. Yates

In equalling the record of Denis Neale in winning the Norwich Union English Closed men's singles title six times, Warwickshire's **Desmond Douglas** showed his undoubted class, over the period Feb. 24/26, in cruising to a final 3-1 win over Graham Sandley.

Only twice, in six sets, did Douglas drop a game — the other to John Hilton — in disposing of Glenn Baker, Alan Cooke, Dave Barr, Hilton and, in the semis, Carl Prean.

Last year it was Sandley who stretched the English champion to a fifth and deciding game in a nail-biting finale at Basingstoke, but on this more recent occasion it was Douglas who was in command even allowing for Sandley's third game success albeit 22-20.

Karen Witt won the counterpart women's event, adding to her five 3-Star successes this season, by ousting the defending champion, Carole Moore (nee Knight) in the semis and seven times winner, Jill Hammersley-Parker, in the final but neither without great effort.

Expecting a baby in October, **Jill Hammersley-Parker**, now aged 31, could well have contested her last final at this level and, if she carries out her intent, Mrs. Moore will no longer bring her power play into action following her retirement announcement to the press. Rather sad this!

Not all the action at Woking Leisure Centre was confined to match play for there

was an affray, which started on a practice table, involving Kent players Joey Kennedy and Paul Beck, which ended up with Beck in hospital and Kennedy charged with grievous bodily harm and due to make an appearance before Woking magistrates in early March.

One further controversy was the threatened withdrawal of the men's quarter-finalists following the scratching of Kenny Jackson when he failed to report for his set against Prean. His subsequent reinstatement, following young Carl's agreement to play, took the heat out of the matter but what carryings on and a black mark to Kenny for his match was timed in the programme. It was no time to be in the cafeteria!

Douglas and **Paul Day** won the men's doubles for the third consecutive time beating the surprise finalists Mick Harper and Peter Taylor who, on paper at least, beat Sandley and Nigel Eckersley in the semis, the latter being due to fly off to Federal Germany on the Saturday morning.

On the Friday evening **Eckersley** renewed Commonwealth acquaintance and success with **Joy Grundy** to win the mixed doubles title with a final victory over Skylet Andrew and Carole Moore whilst the women's doubles title was claimed by **Jill Hammersley-Parker** and **Karen Witt** who,

LITTLE KUDOS

Notwithstanding the extraordinary events that took place at Woking Leisure Centre during the period of the Norwich Union English Closed little kudos was attaching to the championships themselves, more especially the finals.

Possibly because of there being no play at all — other than a knock-out competition for umpires — on the Saturday morning most of the non-committed players had taken their leave of Woking on the Friday night.

Consequently their presence at the final session on Saturday afternoon was sadly missed and so indeed was the atmosphere that had been so prevalent at Basingstoke twelve months previously.

Could it be that the Secretin/Purkart frolic added that extra incentive for spectators at Basingstoke for certainly the ingredients of this more recent occasion produced little to enthuse an audience.

More in keeping with a cathedral atmosphere the play itself, apart from the interminable interruptions, was in the main, uninspiring. What can be done to improve this supposed showpiece of our season must rate high priority being in need of a powerful stimulus.

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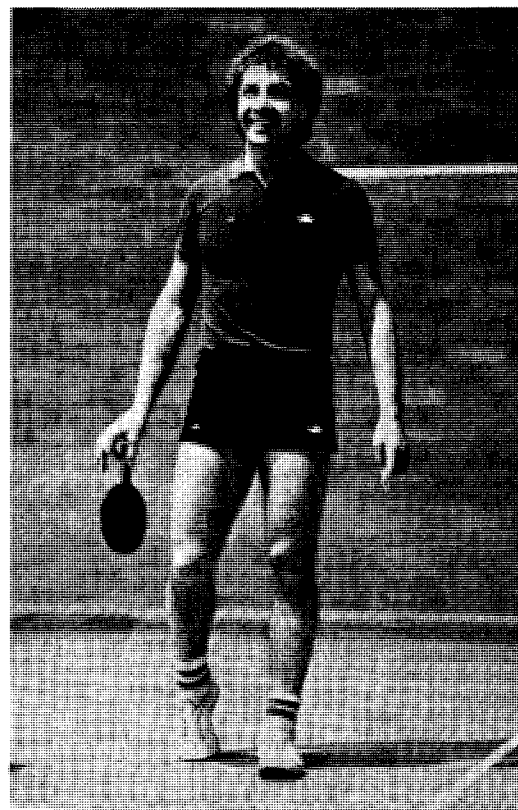
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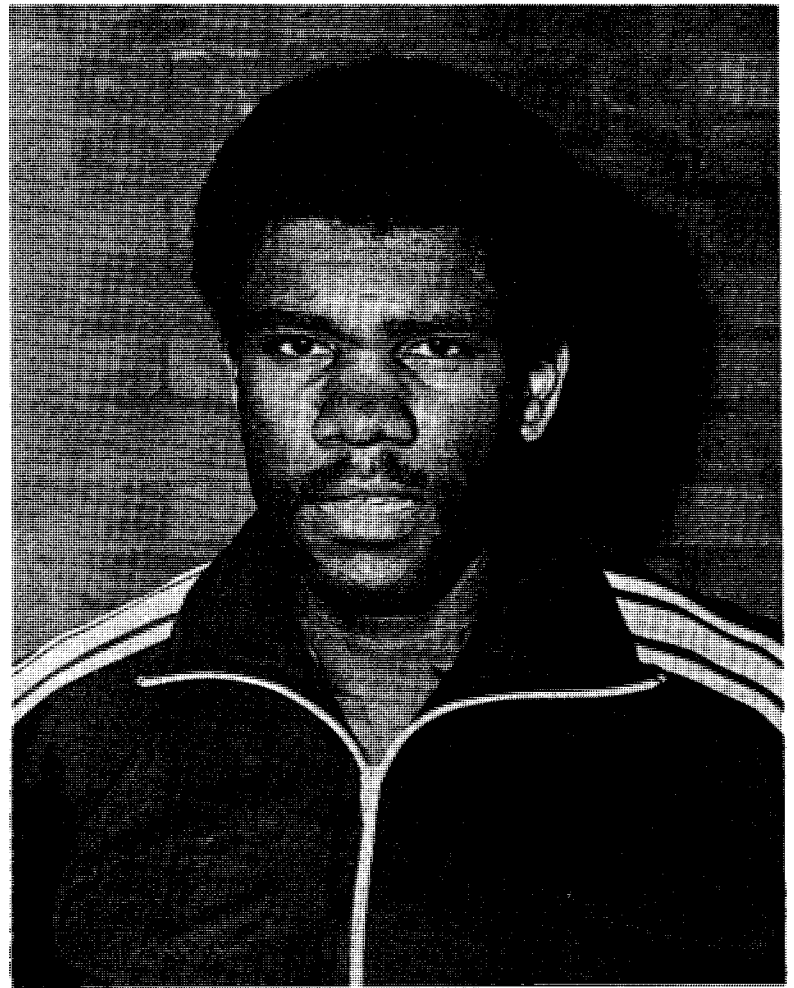
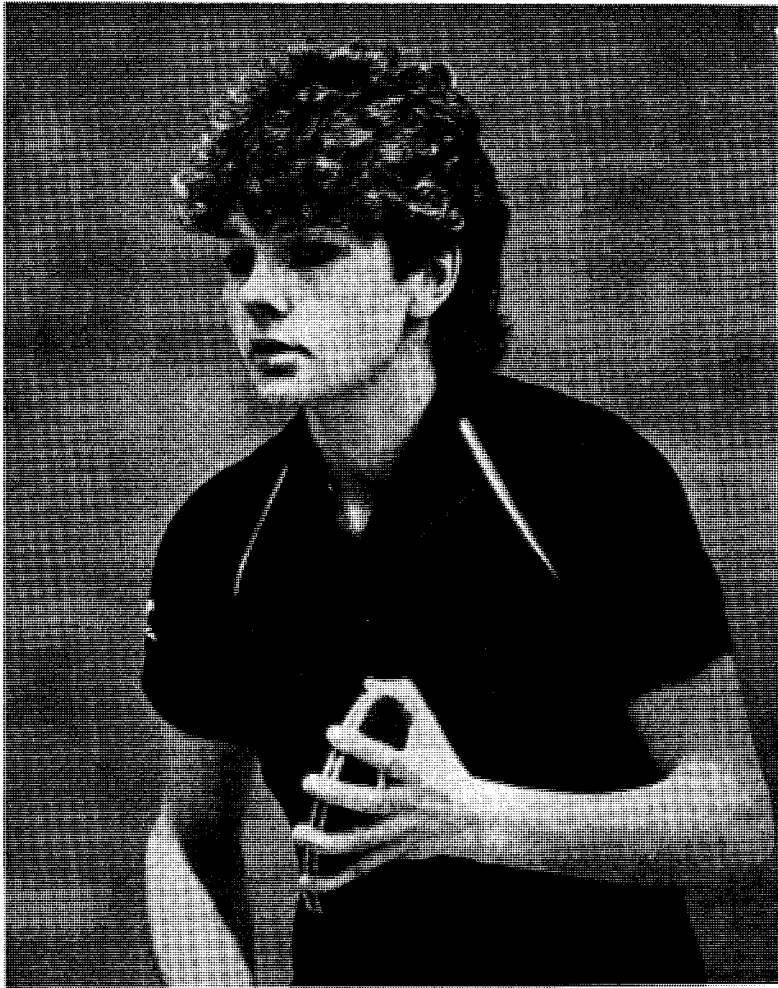
Carole Moore's victory salute after her win over Lisa Bellinger.



Sorry about that would appear to be the unspoken thoughts of John Hilton in play against Desmond Douglas.

(continued on page 5)

THE VICTORS — KAREN WITT AND DESMOND DOUGLAS



somewhat embarrassingly at times, beat Mandy Reeves and Helen Williams.

Overall the finals were disappointing with the audience hardly being roused and far too many interruptions both in play and between sets. Not a particularly good advertisement for the game in general and the finals in particular. Where was the enthusiasm, so evident at Thornaby but so lacking at Woking?

But back to the men's singles in which the three main seeds present — Duggie Johnson, the No. 2, being absent with 'flu — all reached their allotted semi-final placings. Chris Rogers was the player to come through in Johnson's quarter and what an impressive run he had.

Starting off with a win over Alan Fletcher, the Leicester player — victor over Prean in the Martin Essex 3-Star — subsequently beat Ian Kenyon, Mark Oakley and, in the quarters, Skylet Andrew — a player striving for a place in the English squad bound for Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo!

Rogers went out in the semis to Sandley but not before the Middlesex boy had been taken to a fifth game decider. In the counterpart women's event much interest was taken in the progress of Carole Moore, the unseeded title holder, intent on making a comeback.

Carole began comfortably enough with a straight games win over Suzanne Hunt but was forced to pull out all the stops in disposing of Angela Mitchell before taking on the English junior champion, Lisa Bellinger, in the quarters. This too was a five game

with Carole coming back from a 0-2 deficit to beat the Dunstable girl 18 in the fifth.

Again, in the semis, against Karen Witt, the Cleveland girl clawed her way back to a 2-all situation from being 1-2 down but her stamina ran out in the decider. In the other half of the draw Jill Hammersley-Parker had it all very easy in disposing of Gail Davies (5, 6, 6), Mandy Reeves (19, 14, 5) and Jackie Bellinger (13, 12, 5) before dropping her first game -21 to Joy Grundy in the semis.

Notable absentees in the women's event were Anita Stevenson, Melody Hill (broken arm — jousting with her husband (!)) — and Jean Parker. But there were few absentees in the veterans' singles with the holder, Peter D'Arcy, beaten by Matt Shearer who lost, in the quarters, to the beaten finalist Stan "The Bat" Battrick.

Kent's **Henry Buist** was the ultimate victor bringing a little more respectability to the county of Kent after the antics of Messrs. Kennedy and Beck.

The championships coincided with the impending retirement of John McDonnell, Public Relations Manager of Norwich Union Insurance Group whose last championships these were in his present capacity. A suitable presentation was made to John by the ETTA Chairman, Tom Blunn, at the after finals reception, and a bouquet of flowers was also presented to John's wife, Linda.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Round 2:

D. Douglas (Wa) bt A. Cooke (Dy) 17, 15, 13;
D. Barr (Bk) bt L. Bertie (Wa) -21, 7, 7, -20, 19;
D. Tan (Mi) bt C. Morgan (Wa) 17, 18, 19;

J. Hilton (La) bt S. Mills (Y) -16, 15, 23, 20;
D. Wells (Mi) bt P. Day (Ca) 14, 12, -19, 19;
K. Jackson (E) bt A. Wellman (Bk) 19, 11, 12;
J. Souter (Mi) bt M. Francis (Sx) 5, 4, 5;
C. Prean (IOW) bt M. Crimmins (Sy) 7, -10, 14, 15;
G. Sandley (Mi) bt D. Newman (E) 13, 11, 9;
P. Taylor (He) bt A. Moore (Sx) 12, 17, 23;
I. Horsham (E) bt C. Wilson (Mi) 18, 15, -19, 16;
D. Parker (La) bt R. Jermyn (He) 21, 19, 11;
S. Andrew (E) bt B. Johnson (Wa) 16, -16, 8, 11;
B. Hayward (Wa) w.o. J. Kennedy (disqualified);
C. Rogers (Le) bt I. Kenyon (K) -18, 13, -14, 20, 18;
M. Oakley (Sy) bt R. Bole (Sy) 12, 18, -14, 19.

Round 3:

Douglas bt Barr 6, 12, 2;
Hilton bt Tan -19, 16, 21, 20;
Jackson bt Wells -17, 11, 16, 14;
Prean bt Souter 19, 12, 17;
Sandley bt Taylor -18, 18, 9, -20, 18;
Parker bt Horsham 11, 19, -11, -16, 12;
Andrew bt Hayward 11, 15, 14;
Rogers bt Oakley 9, 16, 10.

Quarter-finals:

Douglas bt Hilton -21, 8, 7, 12;
Prean bt Jackson 17, 8, 17;
Sandley bt Parker 18, 15, -17, 16;
Rogers bt Andrew 15, -14, 10, 20.

Semi-finals:

Douglas bt Prean 19, 12, 10;
Sandley bt Rogers 13, -17, 17, -20, 15.

Final:

DOUGLAS bt Sandley 16, 16, -20, 9.

Women's Singles Round 2:

K. Witt (Bk) bt S. Collier (Bk) 11, 10, 15;
S. Sandley (Mi) bt J. Barella (Sy) 16, 11, 11;
C. Moore (Cv) bt A. Mitchell (Mi) 18, -10, 5, -19, 18;
L. Bellinger (Bd) w.o. M. Hill (Y) and J. Parker (La) scratched;
A. Gordon (Bk) bt M. Smith (Bk) -17, 7, 13, 17;
J. Grundy (La) bt J. Harris (St) 13, 14, 16;
J. Bellinger (Bd) bt L. Goldsmith (Mi) 14, 16, 20;
J. Hammersley-Parker (La) bt M. Reeves (Mi) 19, 14, 5.

Quarter-finals:

Witt bt Sandley 13, -21, 11, 8;
Moore bt L. Bellinger -15, -17, 15, 20, 18;
Grundy bt Gordon 16, -16, 12, -14, 12;
Hammersley-Parker bt J. Bellinger 13, 12, 5.

Semi-finals:

Witt bt Moore -21, 10, 11, -9, 6;
Hammersley-Parker bt Grundy -21, 11, 21, 16.

Final:

WITT bt Hammersley-Parker 18, 16, -13, 19.

Men's Doubles Quarter-finals:

N. Eckersley (Ch)/Sandley bt Kenyon/Wells 13, 21;
M. Harper (Ca)/Taylor bt Parker/Wilson 17, 19;
Andrew/P. Bradbury (Bu) bt A. Fletcher (Y)/Mills
-17, 7, 31;
Day/Douglas bt D. Charlery (E)/J. Payne (Mi) 19, 12.

Semi-finals:

Harper/Taylor bt Eckersley/Sandley 17, 15;
Day/Douglas bt Andrew/Bradbury 12, 15.

Final:

DAY/DOUGLAS bt Harper/Taylor 16, 14.

Women's Doubles Quarter-finals:

Hammersley-Parker/Witt w.o. Mitchell/Sandley scr;
Grundy/Moore bt S. Hunt (Li)/K. Smith (Le) 19, 16;
Gordon/M. Smith w.o. Harris/R. Russe (Av) scr;
Reeves/H. Williams (Mi) bt Bellinger/Bellinger 11, 17.

Semi-finals:

Hammersley-Parker/Witt bt Grundy/Moore 17, -17, 16;
Reeves/Williams bt Gordon/Smith -26, 14, 22.

Final:

HAMMERSLEY-PARKER/WITT bt Reeves/Williams 17, 10.

Mixed Doubles Quarter-finals:

Wellman/J. McLean (Y) bt P. Savins (Bk)/K. Lines (Ha)
6, 9;

Andrew/Moore bt Wilson/Williams -16, 14, 18;
Eckersley/Grundy bt Rogers/Hunt 18, 17;
Sandley/Gordon bt Horsham/K. Smith 14, 16.

Semi-finals:

Andrew/Moore bt Williams/McLean 18, 16;
Eckersley/Grundy bt Sandley/Gordon -15, 18, 13.

Final:

ECKERSLEY/GRUNDY bt Andrew/Moore 19, 11.

Veteran Singles Quarter-finals:

S. Battrick (E) bt W. Brookman (Mi) 15, 19;
M. Shearer (Li) bt R. Norton (Hu) 14, 15;
H. Buist (K) bt T. Adams (K) 18, 16;
D. Schofield (Ch) bt F. Hams (Sy) 11, 19.

Semi-finals:

Battrick bt Shearer 17, 21;
Buist bt Schofield 20, -15, 21.

Final:

BUIST bt Battrick 15, 17.



Jill Hammersley-Parker awaits service in the final against Karen Witt.

Consolation Singles Quarter-finals:

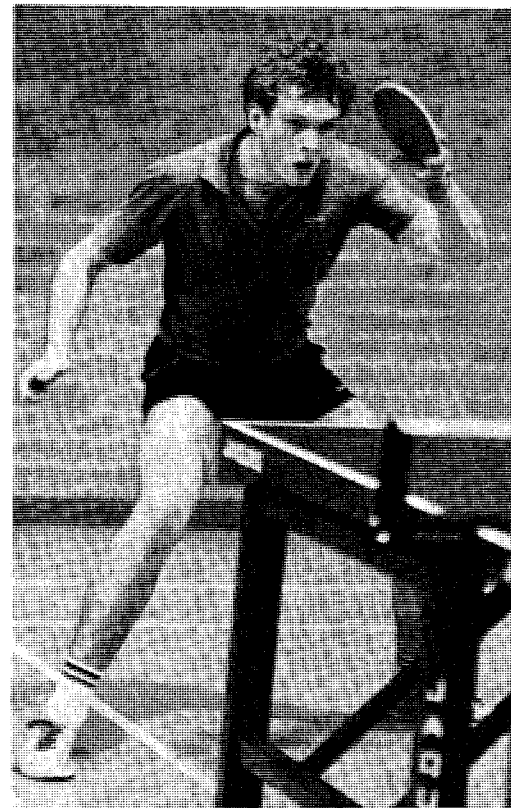
Wilson bt G. Baker (Sy) 20 9;
N. Mason (Sy) bt L. Taylor (Cy) 11, -18, 8;
G. Spencer (K) bt R. Tanner (Wa) 14, -20, 19;
M. Hammond (Sy) bt D. Sharpe (Bd) 14, 22.

Semi-finals:

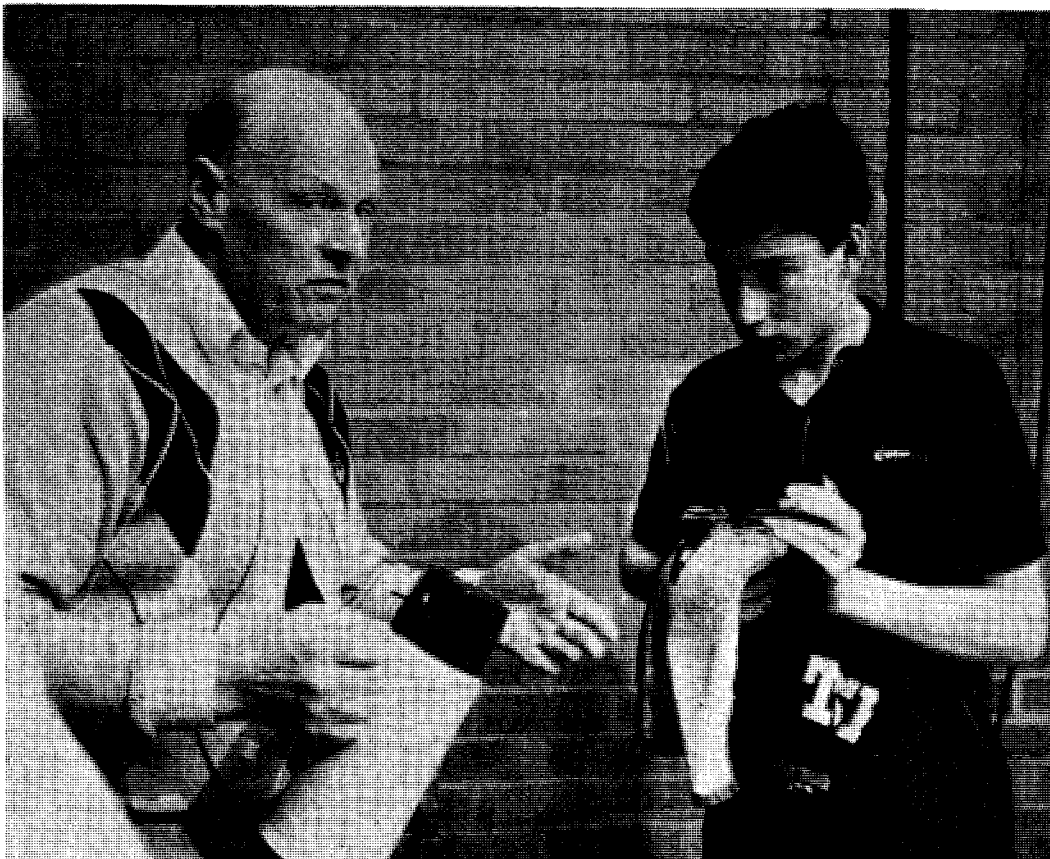
Mason bt Wilson 15, -17, 17;
Hammond bt Spencer -17, 17, 23.

Final:

MASON bt Hammond 7, 14.



Graham Sandley a beaten finalist for the second season running.



"This is what you have to do" is the instruction given by John Preat to his son Carl.

NOT TO TRAVEL

Skylet Andrew is the player dropped from the original squad of 6 men chosen for the Commonwealth and World Championships. Likewise Joy Grundy is now nominated as the non-travelling reserve for the women's squad but should Jill Hammersley-Parker receive a thumbs down after medical examination Joy will go in her place.



Welsh Corner

by H. ROY EVANS

THE GLAMORGAN OPEN

Nigel Thomas showed that his tournament form is still good when he won the Glamorgan Open, beating 10th-ranked Englishman Steve Mills in his semi-final, and then getting home 22-20 in the third game of the final against Alan Fletcher. The latter win was especially meritorious as he was 14-17 down in the decider.

In Fletcher's half Steve Scowcroft eliminated Gary Wilkins, and then went out to Alan in the quarters. Mark Thomas beat Tony Healan, and then met Alan in the semi-final. Mark took the first game against Alan, but fell away badly in the next two.

Lesley Tyler beat Shirley Cain in the women's final, but there was little outside opposition. Jayne Sully played well to beat Heidi Cotter before going down to Lesley, whilst Shirley Cain didn't seem to have trouble beating Evelyn Wright in her semi.

Wilkins and Andrew Jones, good tournament performers last season, hadn't done particularly well up to now, but they played quite well to beat Mills and Scowcroft before losing to Fletcher and Pat Glynn in the final. The latter had an easy win against a spiritless Mark and Nigel Thomas.

Youngsters Heidi Cotter and Jayne Sully won a tight match against No. 1 seeds Lesley and Shirley Cain.

Nigel Tyler won the boys' event very convincingly, reversing an earlier defeat by Kevin Davies. Nigel disposed of David Griffiths in his semi-final, whilst Kevin beat the ever improving John Ellis.

Evelyn Wright took the girls' event with a good win over Heidi Cotter, and followed this with a crushing win against Jayne Sully, who appeared to make little effort to penetrate Evelyn's defence.

Ellis took the cadet boys' event without much trouble, but runner-up Kelvin Roberts had a hard battle with Anthony Jones. Evelyn Wright dropped a semi-final game to Somerset's Melanie Carey in the cadet girls', but easily beat Joanne Lee in the final.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

A. Fletcher bt M. Thomas -16, 16, 17;
N. Thomas bt S. Mills 15, 13.

Final:

N. THOMAS bt Fletcher 19, -16, 20.

Women's Singles:

L. Tyler bt S. Cain -21, 12, 13.

Men's Doubles:

Fletcher/P. Glynn bt G. Wilkins/A. Jones
19, 17.

Women's Doubles:

H. Cotter/J. Sully bt Tyler/Cain 20, 19.



Sheer determination is epitomized in this shot of Carole Moore of Cleveland.



No less determined is Lisa Bellinger of Beds.

FUTURE ISSUES

Having regard to the Editor journeying to Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo for the Commonwealth and World Championships (Apr. 15 - May 10) and in compliance with 8 issues of

this magazine per season there will, henceforward, be a June issue in addition to the April/May publication. Copy for the June issue should be in the hands of the Editor by May 10.

Junior Boys' Singles:
N. Tyler bt K. Davies 16, 16.
Junior Girls' Singles:
E. Wright bt Sully 7, 9.
Cadet Boys' Singles:
J. Ellis bt K. Roberts 7, 13.
Cadet Girls' Singles:
F. Wright bt J. Lee 7, 9.

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE

Butterfly Cardiff, after some disappointing results which have deprived them of a chance of promotion, came back with a bang after the Norwich Union Welsh Open, starting with a good 5-3 win over Dolphins, with Mark Thomas beating the two Moores.

Then, able to field their full team for some time, they trounced second placed Grove 7-1, with Mark Thomas beating England's World Championship team member John Hilton, and Andrew Bellingham. Nigel Thomas lost to Hilton but beat Scowcroft, Gary Wilkins accounting for Scowcroft and Malcolm Green, and Tony Healan beating Bellingham and Green.

This was followed by another fine win against Tarmac Wolverhampton who came to Cardiff with Jill Hammersley-Parker, who had taken toll of both Mark and Nigel Thomas in the earlier match. This time, after a good opening win by Nigel over Andy Rich, Mark settled down to a sensible top-spinning game and deservedly beat Jill two-straight. Wilkins, far from well, lost the first game to Hallam, but came back strongly to win the next two, and Healan accounted for Tony Isaacs in good style. Jill Hammersley stopped the slide momentarily with a two-one win over Nigel Thomas, who came near to victory but was always having problems with Jill's bat.

Mark beat Isaac without much trouble, but Gary went down to Rich, and later went home ill. Healan completed a fine 6-2 win with a dreary game against Hallam.

Meanwhile Cranfield Colours, threatened with relegation from Division 2, also began to claw their way back. They picked up a valuable point beating Larkhall 11, Brian Jeanes winning two, and Angie Evans doing a captain's job by also winning two. Jeff Morgan and John Bloomer lost both theirs.

Then came another draw, this time against Graham Spicer at home, but this time the visitors paid the penalty of arriving one man short, and Cranfield should have taken greater advantage of this. Jeanes beat Hammond but lost to Holloway, Morgan lost to Holloway, but beat Haley, whilst Bloomer and Evans took only the events won on default.

The Gwent side journeyed to Gunnersbury Triangle, and made relegation only a forgotten factor when they won 5-3. Jeanes was in fine form to beat both Phil Smith and Jon Proffitt, whilst Morgan beat Jon Proffitt, but lost to brother Simon. Andrew Evans won one and lost one, whilst Kevin Phillips, after losing to Simon Proffitt, played very well to beat Walter Mascarenhas 19 in the final game to bring a Gwent victory.

JUNIOR INTERNATIONALS

The long journey from Wales to Stirling brought reward to the Boys and Girls against Scotland.

The Boys won 6-2, and the Girls 5-3.

For the boys Nigel Tyler, David Griffiths and John Ellis won two each, and surprisingly Kevin Davies was beaten twice.

Evelyn Wright and Heidi Cotter won both

their sets, Jane Sully won one and only narrowly lost the other, whilst Rachel Roberts only lost 19 in the third in both hers.

SCORES

Wales

Boys

Tyler bt Martin Crawford 17, -20, 12;
bt Brian Wright 14, -15, 10.
Griffiths bt Martin Burke 16, 13;
bt David Thomas 18, -17, 23.
Davies lost to Wright -17, -8;
lost to Crawford 14, -19, -11.
Ellis bt Thomas 17, 13;
bt Burke 16, 13.

Girls

Wright bt Lynne Johnston 15, -15, 13;
bt Diane Grieg 10, 11.
Cotter bt Janet Smith 14, 18;
bt Alison Cooke 22, 13.
Sully bt Grieg 17, 18;
lost to Johnston 19, -17, -19.
Roberts lost to Cooke -18, 17, -19;
lost to Smith -17, 19, -19.

John Ellis at Selby

The North Wales cadet reached the semi-final of the boys' event, defeating two seeds en route, and only lost to England-ranked No. 4 Stephen Sharpe in the final.

WELSH RANKING LISTS

The Welsh Association issued amended lists as at 1/1/83.

Men

1 Alan Griffiths, 2 Mark Thomas, 3 Nigel Thomas, 4 Gary Wilkins, 5 Dave Welsman, 6 Tony Healan, 7 Andrew Jones, 8 Nigel Tyler, 9 Brian Jeanes, 10 David Kenefick, 11 Trevor Manning, 12 Jeff Morgan, 13 Andrew Evans, 14 John Hook, 15 David Chan, 16 Kevin Phillips, 17 Kevin Davies, 18 David Griffiths, 19 Ceri Phillips, 20 Nick Williams, 21 Byron Davies, 22 Jeremy Hobbs, 23 Jeff Rigby, 24 Robert Morgan.

Women

1 Lesley Tyler, 2 Evelyn Wright, 3 Shirley Cain, 4 Jayne Sully, 5 Rachel Roberts, 6 Heidi Cotter, 7 Vicky Skeats, 8 Cathryn Jones, 9 Cheryl Jewells, 10 Linda Leggett, 11 Pamela Grant, 12 Debbie Coulthard, 13 Chantal Nicholls, 14 Karen Buckle, 15 Helen Sellick, 16 Joanne Lee.

Boys

1 Nigel Tyler, 2 Kevin Davies, 3 David Griffiths, 4 John Ellis, 5 Paul Griffiths, 6 Brian Kerley, 7 Peter Champion, 8 Jeff Turner, 9 Anthony Jones, 10 Anthony Hopkins, 11 Christopher Nash, 12 Kelvin Roberts, 13 Stephen Davies, 14 Andrew Henn, 15 Timothy Turner, 16 Llion Evans, 17 Nigel Davies, 18 Peter Capper, 19 Jonathan Sully, 20 John Case.

Girls

1 Evelyn Wright, 2 Jayne Sully, 3 Rachel Roberts, 4 Heidi Cotter, 5 Chantal Nicholls, 6 Karen Buckle, 7 Helen Sellick, 8 Joanne Lee, 9 Theresa Petty, 10 Catrin Owen, 11 Claire Whyman, 12 Sonia Sanghani.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

TITLE RETAINED

Yugoslavia, despite being beaten 4-3 away to Sweden, have retained their Super Division championship title on games ratio — 74-43 to Czechoslovakia's 77-46 and **France** gained promotion from Division 1 following their 6-1 win over Norway coinci-

dent with Russia's defeat by the Netherlands.

RESULTS

Super Division

Poland 4 Hungary 3
Denmark 1 Czechoslovakia 6
Sweden 4 Yugoslavia 3
England 1 Federal Germany 6

Division 1

Netherlands 4 USSR 3
Finland 3 Belgium 4
Norway 1 France 6
Austria 3 Italy 4

Division 2

Switzerland 5 **Ireland** 2
Spain 4 Luxembourg 3
Turkey 2 **Scotland** 5
Portugal 0 Spain 7

TABLES

Super Division

	P	W	L	F	A	P
YUGOSLAVIA	7	6	1	34	15	6
					(74-43)	
Czechoslovakia	7	6	1	34	16	6
					(77-46)	
Sweden	7	5	2	34	15	5
Poland	6	3	3	21	21	3
Hungary	7	3	4	20	29	3
Federal Germany ...	6	2	4	19	23	2
England	7	2	5	22	27	2
Denmark *	7	0	7	5	44	0

* demoted

Division 1

FRANCE †	7	6	1	35	14	6
U.S.S.R.	7	6	1	37	12	6
Netherlands	7	4	3	22	27	4
Italy	7	4	3	21	28	4
Austria	7	3	4	21	28	3
Belgium	7	3	4	21	28	3
Finland	7	2	5	22	27	2
Norway *	7	0	7	17	32	0

† promoted * demoted

Division 2

SPAIN †	7	6	1	33	16	6
Scotland	7	5	2	32	17	5
Turkey	7	5	2	31	18	5
Luxembourg	7	5	2	31	18	5
Switzerland	7	4	3	27	22	4
Ireland	7	2	5	19	30	2
Wales	7	1	6	19	30	1
Portugal *	7	0	7	4	45	0

† promoted * demoted

Guernsey, winners of Division 3, become eligible for promotion to Division 2.

ENGLAND "SLAMMED"

by Mike Watts

On Wednesday, Feb. 9, in Gottingen, Federal Germany suffered their most humiliating defeat of the season, losing 7-0 to Sweden with only Georg Bohm showing any resemblance of form, taking both Jan-Ove Waldner and Eric Lindh to close 3 games. The German Press Corps crucified the team's efforts and coach Istvan Korpa, the ex-Yugoslav International, came in for much criticism as to his team's performance. The papers even suggested that Korpa should be replaced. So something had to be done and done quickly.

We saw the answer at Eastleigh on Wednesday, March 9, exactly one month after the February humiliation, when Federal Germany answered all their critics with a resounding triumph over an England team that was outclassed in almost every depart-

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 8)

ment. Only one set escaped the rampant Germans, who looked sharper and far more determined to win than England. Even the usually confident Douglas looked jaded as he suffered his heaviest singles defeat for some time at the hands of Bohm.

The German selections showed two changes from that expected to make the journey. Jurgen Rebel, more renowned for his doubles play, was preferred to Ralf Wosik and Kirsten Kruger, who had had a disastrous Closed Championships the week-end before, was left out for Susanne Wenzel. Both selections worked. Rebel and Miss Wenzel, who won the Norwich Union Welsh Open Mixed title in Cardiff, combined to beat Douglas and Karen Witt and Susanne Wenzel also took the Women's Singles.

The match opened in sensational style. Bohm, a 20-year-old who defected from the Rumanian team at the 1980 European Championships in Berne and firmly chose Federal Germany as his place of residence, has been quietly gaining confidence whilst serving his two-year residential qualification period. During this time he has campaigned vigorously to obtain the release of his family from Rumania and recently he was finally successful. His brother Josef now plays with Georg for ATSV Saarbrucken, current leaders of the German Bundesliga. The stability which Georg now has in his home life is beginning to show dividends. He won the German Closed for the second year running (March 4/6) and showed how well he is playing when he took the first game off Douglas 21-11. In the second Douglas still found difficulty holding Bohm, who built up an early lead content to allow Douglas two or three hits in each rally before leaving him flat-footed with swift counter-attacks wide down both wings. Douglas looked down and out at 13-17. However, Douglas at last began to put his shots together more successfully and suddenly he was ahead at 19-17. Then followed an electrifying rally of devastating speed as both players taking the ball on the half volley strived to win one of the most important points of the game. Bohm won it and the match albeit at 22-20, and the delight in the German camp was obvious for all to see. Douglas, almost invincible this season in the Bundesliga, had been beaten and Germany were in front.

Peter Stellwag, three times winner of the German National title, now opposed Graham Sandley. Stellwag's form resembles a "Jekyll and Hyde" situation. At Cardiff in January he was one game up and 20-7 ahead in the second against Istvan Jonyer yet somehow lost it, so England hopes were high for a Sandley win. And this is how it seemed as Graham raced to an impressive 21-9 win in the first game. Back came Stellwag, slowing the game down, causing Graham to overhit and the second went to Stellwag 21-13. The writing was now on the wall with the German gaining confidence with every ball and it came as no surprise when he also took the third to give Federal Germany a 2-0 lead.

What a situation for young Lisa Bellinger, making her home European League debut on her 16th birthday with England relying heavily on her young shoulders to pull the team back into the match. Earlier this year she had beaten Miss Wenzel in the Team Event at the Welsh and therefore started slight favourite. Wenzel also became the

German Women's National Champion the week before but was immediately put under pressure by Lisa who played in the first game with considerable poise and confidence for one so young. Lisa kept well ahead throughout this game but maybe should have taken more warning of the come-back that Susanne made towards the end. In the second it was Miss Wenzel who made the running combining steady loop drives to both wings with subtle drop shots and lightning flat hits once the ball was up to kill and she soon levelled at one-all. The third was tight all the way but Miss Wenzel was now the more confident and although Lisa tried hard it was the German girl who just made the winning post.

The Men's Doubles was lost in under 10 minutes, Bohm and Stellwag combining to take out Sandley and Johnson two-straight with comparative ease to give the Germans a winning lead.

Whilst Douglas and Karen Witt held Jurgen Rebel and Susanne Wenzel at one game all the third became a procession as England crashed once again to become 0-5 down. Finally, success! Douglas gained England's only win to stop a "whitewash", beating Stellwag in straight games.

Then, in the final set of the evening, Sandley gave a good account of himself but went down 2-1 to Bohm.

The match, sponsored by IBM United Kingdom Limited and part of the 50th Golden Jubilee Celebrations of the Southampton Table Tennis Association, was well presented. About 600 spectators filled the Fleming Park Sports Centre at Eastleigh to see the match. David Cosway, Chairman of the Southampton TTA said later that he was pleased with the overall organisation although the match itself had been disappointing. The Mayor of Eastleigh, Councillor Peter Molyneux, welcomed both teams and officials at the reception given in the Centre after the match.

SCORES

D. Douglas lost to G. Bohm -11, -20.
G. Sandley lost to P. Stellwag 9, -13, -15.
L. Bellinger lost to S. Wenzel 17, -14, -19.
Sandley/D. Johnson lost to Bohm/Stellwag -18, -14.
Douglas/K. Witt lost to J. Rebel/Wenzel -16, 12, -10.
Douglas bt Stellwag 17, 18.
Sandley lost to Bohm -12, 16, -10.

County Championships Round-up

by AUBREY DRAPKIN

FREE VENUE

The second Premier Division weekend has now been played and is the subject of a report elsewhere. Unfortunately it was not concluded and the destination of the title is still not known. One consolation for the counties involved is that the ETTA obtained a free venue at Bristol and the financial benefit will be shared between those counties. The second junior weekend is almost upon us at the time of writing and

no doubt there will be some excellent table tennis played at St. Neots. Let us hope that this event runs smoothly, but then the Junior weekends usually do!

DIVISION 2A

Staffordshire II 5 Cambs 5
Leics 9 Cheshire 1
Lancs II 3 Derbyshire 7
Yorks II 8 Northumberland 2
Northumberland 8 Cheshire 2

Another big win for Leicestershire keeps them on top of the table and they must now be favourites to take the title. Cheshire's defeat by them followed by yet another reverse at the hands of Northumberland puts them in deep trouble, and their home match with Staffs is now of vital importance. Lancashire II who started with three successive wins lost for the second time in succession by a score of 3-7.

DIVISION 2B

Surrey 6 Sussex 4
Wiltshire 7 Devon 3
Bedfordshire 4 Middlesex II 6
Hants 5 Kent 5

Another win for Surrey although they had a close call against Sussex and with Devon and Kent both losing ground they now need only two points from their last two matches to become champions. Relegation is now staring Bedfordshire in the face.

DIVISION 3A

Warwicks II 10 Cumbria 0
Leics II 5 Notts 5
Derbyshire II 3 Lincs 7

Warwicks flattened Cumbria to win the division, their visit to Northumberland now being of academic interest only from their point of view. Only change in positions is that Lincs move up one place after their success in Derbyshire.

DIVISION 3B

Dorset II 5 Hants II 5
Cornwall 4 Gloucs 6
Avon 10 Isle of Wight 0
Somerset 7 Berks II 3

Only one point separates the top five counties here! Another drawn match for Hants yet it was enough to lift them into top spot, albeit on games difference from Somerset. Berks slip from first to fourth as a result of their defeat. Avon boosted their tally of sets at the expense of the Isle of Wight and this could be an important factor at the end of the day.

DIVISION 3C

Hunts 5 Wilts II 5
Northants 7 Hereford 3
Bucks 1 Worcs 9
Oxon v Glamorgan — result not received

The battle between the two top sides ended in a runaway victory for Worcestershire who now head the table on set difference from Northants. Hunts picked up their first point of the season and must have an outside chance of retaining the third division status. Why the silence from Oxon?

DIVISION 3D

Kent II 5 Surrey II 5
Suffolk 9 Cambs II 1
Herts 1 Essex II 9
Norfolk 6 Sussex II 4

Suffolk still 100% but have yet to play their nearest challengers Essex II and their neighbours Norfolk. Important point for Kent which leaves Cambs stranded at the foot of the table.

DIVISION 4

Sir Clwyd 8 Northants II 2

Only four sides in this division means that only four matches have been played and they have all resulted in an 8-2 scoreline. Norfolk II and Sir Clwyd now meet in their final match and this will decide who wins the division.

JUNIOR DIVISION 2A

Staffs 9 Leics 1
Northants 5 Worcs 5
Lancs 4 Yorks II 6
Durham 5 Lincs 5

Good win for Staffs who go to the top of the table due to Warwick's surprisingly dropping a point. Staffs have lost only one point so far and that was in their previous match with Durham. My apologies to Durham for recording the result as a win to Staffs in last month's round-up! Having drawn with the leaders, Durham went on to draw their next match — this time with the bottom team, Lincs!

JUNIOR DIVISION 2B

Gloucs 2 Berks 8
Middlesex II 2 Essex 8
Wilts 4 Herts 6
Glamorgan 6 Kent II 4

There seems to be no stopping Essex who have maximum points and have won 45 sets out of 50 played. Their last two matches, which are both at home, should be closer affairs as both of their opponents are also unbeaten.

JUNIOR DIVISION 3A

Cumbria 3 Cheshire 7
Lincs II 0 Derbyshire 10
Cumbria II 5 Cleveland II 5
Notts 6 Northumberland 4
Cumbria 9 Cleveland II 1

Leaders Notts were given a fright by Northumberland but scraped home 6-4. Wins for Derbyshire and Cheshire, who both have games in hand, kept them in the running. The two bottom teams shared the spoils to gain their first points.

JUNIOR DIVISION 3B

Warwicks II 6 Bucks 4
Worcestershire 6 Hants II 4
Oxon v Dorset II postponed.

Close win by Warwicks who inflicted first defeat on Bucks. Warwicks need only a draw against bottom county Dorset II to clinch the title.

JUNIOR DIVISION 3C

Wilts II 5 Avon 5
Somerset 5 Bucks II 5
Cornwall 7 Hants 3

Surrey II 5 Dorset 5

Three draws on one day in a division which had had only one drawn match previously. The draws included the top of the table battle between Surrey II and Dorset, but the former are currently top because of a better games difference. Hants, the only county to lose, lost ground on the two leading sides but play Surrey in their next match.

JUNIOR DIVISION 3D

Sussex II 4 Norfolk 6
Cambs 7 Suffolk 3
Essex III 6 Herts II 4

Essex II remain top of the division from Norfolk II and Essex III despite not having a match. The strength of junior table tennis in Essex is very apparent from the fact that their first team appear destined to return to the Premier division whilst their seconds and thirds occupy two of the top three places in this division. Hants have withdrawn from the division and their record has been deleted.

VETERANS PREMIER DIVISION

Kent 5 Lincs 4
Middlesex 6 Essex 3
Cheshire 8 Dorset 1
Notts 5 Hants 4
Notts 6 Dorset 3

Last season's champions, Cheshire, are still 100%, as they were last year, and appear determined to hold on to the title. Kent and Lincs change places behind them and Dorset are still looking for their first point.

VETERANS DIVISION 2A

Worcs 3 Leics 6
Cheshire II 6 Bucks 3
Northants 5 Oxon 4
Herts v Avon — result not received

Leics still unbeaten and with matches to come against Northants and Oxon they should win this division. Herts are in 2nd place and may be only two points behind Leics if they have beaten Avon but they are keeping the result to themselves. Narrow win for Northants over Oxon means that they change places above the bottom team Bucks.

VETERANS DIVISION 2B

Berks 6 Bedfordshire 3
Sussex 9 Dorset II 0
Kent II 6 Hants 3
Essex II 5 Middlesex II 4
Essex II 6 Kent II 3

Sussex, Berks and Essex II all level on points at the top but with Sussex having their noses in front on set difference. The

match between Berks and Sussex on the final day of the season probably holds the key to the eventual winners, although Sussex also have a tough match away to Middlesex II.

VETERANS DIVISION 3A

Herts III 3 Hants II 6
Wilts v Cumbria — postponed

Herts lost their chance to clinch runners-up spot to Sir Clwyd. It is possible for either Cumbria or Wiltshire to overtake them on set difference but it would have to be a big win for either of them to do so.

Wilts II 5 Herts II 4
Somerset 9 Sussex 0
(claimed by Somerset)

First win for Wilts means that Hants II win the division no matter what the result of their final match with Berks II. Somerset claim fortunately has no bearing on the top positions.

LATEST POSITIONS**DIVISION 2A**

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Leicestershire	5	4	1	0	40	10	9
Yorkshire II	5	3	1	1	31	19	7
Lancashire II	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Cambridgeshire	5	2	1	2	23	27	5
Derbyshire	5	2	0	3	23	27	4
Northumberland	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Staffordshire II	5	1	1	3	16	34	3
Cheshire	5	1	0	4	17	33	2

DIVISION 2B

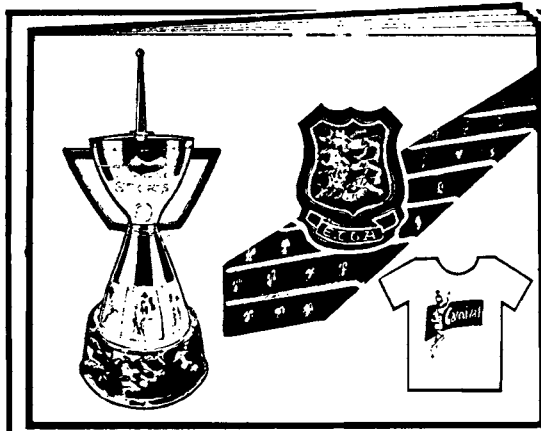
Surrey	5	5	0	0	34	16	10
Kent	5	3	1	1	29	21	7
Devonshire	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Middlesex II	5	3	0	2	25	25	6
Wiltshire	5	2	0	3	28	22	4
Sussex	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Hampshire	5	1	1	3	19	31	3
Bedfordshire	5	0	0	5	13	37	0

DIVISION 3A

Warwickshire II	5	5	0	0	43	7	10
Nottingham	5	2	2	1	23	27	6
Leicestershire II	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
Lincolnshire	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Northumberland	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Cumbria	4	1	0	3	9	31	2
Derbyshire II	4	0	0	4	9	31	0

DIVISION 3B

Hampshire II	5	2	3	0	28	22	7
Somerset	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
Avon	5	2	2	1	31	19	6
Berkshire II	5	2	2	1	27	23	6
Gloucestershire	5	2	2	1	25	25	6
Dorset II	5	1	1	3	22	28	3
Cornwall	5	1	1	3	21	29	3
Isle of Wight	5	1	0	4	18	32	2



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DIVISION 3C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Worcestershire	5	4	0	1	37	13	8
Northamptonshire	5	4	0	1	30	20	8
Buckinghamshire	5	3	0	2	29	21	6
Wiltshire II	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Herefordshire	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
Glamorgan	4	1	1	2	14	26	3
Oxfordshire	4	1	0	3	18	22	2
Huntingdonshire	5	0	1	4	12	38	1

DIVISION 3D

Suffolk	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Essex II	5	4	0	1	37	13	8
Norfolk	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Surrey II	5	2	2	1	22	28	6
Hertfordshire	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Sussex II	5	1	1	3	25	25	3
Kent II	5	1	1	3	19	31	3
Cambridgeshire II	5	0	0	5	9	41	0

DIVISION 4

Norfolk II	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Clwyd	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Worcestershire II	2	0	0	2	4	16	0
Northants II	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

JUNIOR DIVISION 2A

Staffordshire	5	4	1	0	35	15	9
Warwickshire	5	3	2	0	35	15	8
Yorkshire II	5	3	1	1	31	19	7
Durham	5	2	2	1	27	23	6
Lancashire	5	2	0	3	28	22	4
Northamptonshire	5	1	1	3	20	30	3
Leicestershire	5	1	0	4	12	38	2
Lincolnshire	5	0	1	4	12	38	1

JUNIOR DIVISION 2B

Essex	5	5	0	0	45	5	10
Berkshire	5	4	1	0	35	15	9
Hertfordshire	5	4	1	0	34	16	9
Glamorgan	5	2	0	3	20	30	4
Gloucestershire	5	1	1	3	15	35	3
Kent II	5	1	0	4	18	32	2
Middlesex II	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Wiltshire	5	0	1	4	16	34	1

JUNIOR DIVISION 3A

Nottingham	7	5	1	1	43	27	11
Derbyshire	5	3	2	0	36	14	8
Cheshire	4	3	1	0	32	8	7
Staffordshire II	4	3	0	1	29	11	6
Northumberland	5	3	0	2	27	13	6
Lincolnshire II	7	3	0	4	27	43	6
Cumbria	6	2	0	4	33	27	4
Cleveland II	5	0	1	4	14	36	1
Cumbria II	7	0	1	6	9	61	1

JUNIOR DIVISION 3B

Warwickshire II	4	4	0	0	26	14	8
Buckinghamshire	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Worcestershire	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Hampshire II	3	1	0	2	16	14	2
Oxfordshire	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Dorset II	3	0	0	3	9	21	0

JUNIOR DIVISION 3C

Surrey II	5	4	1	0	36	14	9
Dorset	5	4	1	0	36	14	9
Hampshire	5	3	0	2	29	21	6
Avon	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Cornwall	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Somerset	5	1	1	3	22	28	3
Berkshire II	5	0	2	3	17	33	2
Wiltshire II	5	0	1	4	11	39	1

JUNIOR DIVISION 3D

Essex II	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Norfolk II	5	4	0	1	30	20	8
Essex III	5	4	0	1	28	22	8
Cambridgeshire	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Norfolk	5	2	0	3	21	29	4
Sussex II	4	1	0	3	18	22	2
Suffolk	5	1	0	4	19	31	2
Hertfordshire II	4	0	0	4	9	31	0
Huntingdonshire	withdrawn - record deleted						

VETERANS PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Cheshire	5	5	0	31	14	10
Kent	5	4	1	26	19	8
Lincolnshire	5	3	2	31	14	6
Nottinghamshire	5	3	2	20	25	6
Middlesex	5	2	3	24	21	4
Essex	5	2	3	22	23	4
Huntingdonshire	5	1	4	18	27	2
Dorset	5	0	5	8	37	0

VETERANS DIVISION 2A

Leicestershire	5	5	0	33	12	10
Hertfordshire	4	3	1	27	9	6
Cheshire II	5	3	2	22	23	6
Avon	3	2	1	15	12	4
Worcestershire	4	2	2	22	14	4
Northamptonshire	5	2	3	14	31	4
Oxfordshire	5	1	4	17	28	2
Buckinghamshire	5	0	5	12	33	0

VETERANS DIVISION 2B

Sussex	5	4	1	34	11	8
Berkshire	5	4	1	30	15	8
Essex II	5	4	1	24	21	8
Kent II	5	3	2	22	23	6
Middlesex II	5	2	3	24	21	4
Hampshire	5	2	3	17	28	4
Bedfordshire	5	1	4	16	29	2
Dorset II	5	0	5	13	32	0

VETERANS DIVISION 3A

Clwyd	4	4	0	24	12	8
Hertfordshire III	4	2	2	18	18	4
Huntingdonshire II	4	1	3	18	18	2
Cumbria	3	1	2	11	16	2
Wiltshire	3	1	2	10	17	2

VETERANS DIVISION 3B

Hampshire II	4	4	0	26	10	8
Hertfordshire II	5	3	2	29	16	6
Berkshire II	4	2	2	17	19	4
Somerset	5	2	3	21	24	4
Sussex II	5	2	3	20	25	4
Wiltshire II	5	1	4	13	32	2

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

SENIOR PREMIER DIVISION

by Ian Whiteside

An unfortunate problem with the floor conditions meant that what should have been the final phase of the Senior Premier Division fixtures left one set of matches unplayed — and the Championship and relegation issues wide open.

A recent treatment of the Sports Centre floor (to accommodate roller skating) meant that its characteristics had changed considerably since inspection, but with the help of the sports centre staff, conditions were improved sufficiently for the evening session to start on time, but the afternoon matches had to be abandoned.

In the evening session, Middlesex saw off Lancashire without too much trouble and could even afford the luxury of having to concede a set due to Angela Mitchell becoming unwell. Jill Harris recorded the only success for Staffordshire against Essex whilst Mark Abbott did likewise for Dorset v Warwickshire. Meanwhile, it was Berkshire who stole the show with a deserved but unexpected win over Yorkshire. With six ties needing a decider, it was nail biting stuff with the highlight a tremendous duel between Steve Mills and David Barr, eventually won by the Berkshire defender; a match which had the gallery enthralled — if anyone thinks that table tennis cannot be a spectator sport, then they should have seen this match.

On Sunday morning, Tony Clayton started with a good win over Kevin Beadsley but

apart from another defeat for Mills, also at the hands of Clayton, that was all Dorset could manage. Essex and Warwickshire played out their almost compulsory 5-4, although when Kenny Jackson, making a welcome return to the team, beat Barry Johnson to make it 5-3 the match was over. Not that David Newman and Carl Morgan saw it that way for with everyone waiting for lunch, they played a marathon last game which ended at 36-34 in favour of Morgan. Middlesex shot into a winning position against Berkshire but Staffordshire made Lancashire work hard for success, an attribute which has won them many friends over the two weekends.

In the last session, initially all eyes were on the table where Middlesex and Yorkshire were locked in combat. After Mills had beaten Colin Wilson, and Alan Fletcher had just edged out John Souter, things looked black for the champions, but a superb display by David Wells against Beadsley pulled them back into the match, and with the potentially vulnerable doubles under their belt, Middlesex took a firm grip on the game. Warwickshire made a bad start against Lancashire, but at 3-4 could have entertained hopes of a win. However, Donald Parker and Steve Turner with two easy wins killed off any such prospects. Essex were always in total control of their encounter with Dorset; a first win for 14-year-old Lisa Hayden helping them to relegate the south coast county. Staffordshire and Berkshire faced each other in the final session and if Berkshire won, it would mean that they were safe and their opponents would return to Division 2. Staffordshire though had other ideas and despite two early setbacks from Barr and Wellman, they stuck to their task to run out comfortable winners with Andy Bellingham having a particularly fine victory over Barr.

So, all is set for three very tense local derbies. Essex entertain Middlesex with the winners sure of the title. At the other end, things are not so clear cut. Warwickshire can mathematically be relegated but realistically it lies between Berkshire and Staffordshire to see who leaves the Premier Division along with Dorset. Berkshire in fact have to play Dorset so their task looks slightly easier than Staffordshire's who take on Warwickshire. If both win, then Staffordshire have to improve their games difference by more than 2 over Berkshire to avoid the drop.

Finally, thanks are due to Mike Lewis and his helpers at Bristol — none of the floor problems could have been envisaged and certainly were not in any way the fault of the local associations.

Latest Table

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Middlesex	6	5	1	38	16	10
Essex	6	5	1	34	20	10
Lancashire	6	4	2	31	23	8
Yorkshire	6	3	3	33	21	6
Warwickshire	6	3	3	29	25	6
Berkshire	6	2	4	21	33	4
Staffordshire	6	2	4	20	34	4
Dorset	6	0	6	13	41	0

RESULTS

Middlesex v Lancashire

- M. Mitchell lost to D. Parker -18, 15, -15; bt S. Browne 7, 6.
- C. Wilson bt Browne 14, 19; bt S. Turner 20, 18.
- D. Wells bt Turner 17, 15; lost to Parker -17, 18, -12.

Wilson/A. Mitchell conceded to Browne/
J. Parker.
Wells/M. Mitchell bt D. Parker/Turner
20, -19, 20.
A. Mitchell bt J. Parker 18, 13.

Staffordshire v Essex
A. Rich lost to K. Jackson -17, -8;
lost to D. Newman -16, -18.
G. Hallam lost to Newman -17, -17;
lost to J. Horsham -13, 16, -16.
A. Bellingham lost to Horsham 16, -18, -18;
lost to Jackson -15, 19, -10.
C. Bakewell/J. Harris lost to Newman/
L. Hayden 19, -16, -10.
Bakewell/Bellingham lost to Jackson/
Horsham -19, -17.
Harris bt Hayden 15, 12.

Dorset v Warwickshire
J. Robinson lost to B. Johnson -18, 18, -22;
lost to P. Glynn -19, -11.
M. Abbott bt Glynn 15, 14;
lost to D. Munt -7, -12.
T. Clayton lost to Munt -20, -16;
lost to Johnson -15, -7.
J. Reading lost to K. Groves -15, -16.
Robinson/Reading lost to Glynn/Groves
-14, -22.
Clayton/Abbott lost to Johnson/Munt -18, -8.

Yorkshire v Berkshire
K. Beadsley lost to D. Barr -18, 18, -11;
bt J. Samuel 12, 10.
A. Fletcher bt Samuel 10, 10;
bt A. Wellman 16, -23, 12.
S. Mills lost to Wellman -22, 14, -14;
lost to Barr -19, 17, -16.
H. Shields lost to M. Smith -13, -11.
Beadsley/L. Hrysko lost to Wellman/Smith
-14, 12, -24.
Mills/Fletcher bt Barr/Samuel 8, -17, 15.

Yorkshire v Dorset
Beadsley lost to Clayton 12, -20, -16;
bt Robinson 10, 21.
Fletcher bt Robinson 14, 18;
bt Werner 13, 19.
Mills bt Werner 17, 14;
lost to Clayton -18, -14.
Shields bt Reading 12, -19, 18.
Beadsley/S. Smith bt Robinson/Reading
14, 18.
Mills/Fletcher bt Clayton/Abbot 12, -20, 16.

Essex v Warwickshire
Horsham bt Johnson 20, 14;
bt Munt 17, 15.
Newman bt Munt 12, 16;
lost to C. Morgan -17, -34.
Jackson bt Morgan 15, 18;
bt Johnson 15, 16.
Hayden lost to Groves 19, -23, -14.
Newman/Hayden lost to Morgan/Groves
-15, -23.
Horsham/Jackson lost to Munt/Johnson
-17, 18, -19.

Berkshire v Middlesex
Wellman lost to Wells 18, -19, -15;
bt J. Souter 14, -8, 12.
Samuel lost to Souter -9, -6;
lost to Wilson -15, -17.
Barr lost to Wilson -18, -9;
bt Wells 17, 11.
Smith lost to S. Sandley 13, -17, -19.
Wellman/Smith lost to Wilson/Sandley
-16, -20.
Barr/Samuel lost to Mitchell/Wells
-18, 20, -14.

Lancashire v Staffordshire
Turner lost to Bellingham 15, -14, -19;
bt Rich -15, 13, 17.
S. Scowcroft bt Rich 9, 13;

bt Bakewell 7, 18.
Parker bt Bakewell 19, 11;
bt Bellingham 15, 16.
A. Goodwin lost to Harris -17, -12.
Scowcroft/Goodwin lost to Bellingham/
Harris -11, -18.
Parker/Turner bt P. Barnett/W. Bridgeman
-19, 22, 13.

Middlesex v Yorkshire
Wilson lost to Mills -7, 16, -8;
bt Fletcher 18, 13.
Souter lost to Fletcher -18, 19, -19;
lost to Beadsley -18, -11.
Wells bt Beadsley 20, -21, 17;
bt Mills 20, -24, 19.
Sandley bt Shields 13, 18.
Wilson/Sandley bt Beadsley/L. Smith
-12, 14, 9.
Souter/Wells bt Mills/Fletcher 18, 13.

Warwickshire v Lancashire
Munt lost to Parker -14, -11;
bt Scowcroft 19, -13, 14.
Glynn lost to Scowcroft -13, -19;
lost to Turner -17, -13.
Johnson lost to Turner -15, 18, -17;
lost to Parker -11, -16.
Groves bt Goodwin 19, 12.
Glynn/Groves bt Scowcroft/Goodwin 14, 15.
Johnson/Munt lost to Parker/Turner -13, -11.

Dorset v Essex
Werner lost to Jackson 18, -19, -18;
bt Newman 19, 19.
Abbott lost to Newman 15, -10, -12;
lost to Horsham -12, -16.
Clayton lost to Horsham -16, -14;
lost to Jackson -13, -11.
Reading lost to Hayden 21, -21, -5.
Werner/Reading lost to Newman/Hayden
15, -16, -22.

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Clayton/Abbott lost to Horsham/Jackson
-19, -19.

Staffordshire v Berkshire

Bakewell lost to Barr -13, -18;

bt Samuel 15, 16.

Rich bt Samuel 4, 13;

bt Wellman 13, 14.

Bellingham lost to Wellman -13, -17;

bt Barr 14, 15.

Harris bt Smith 17, 13.

Bellingham/Harris bt Samuels/Smith 20, 18.

Bridgeman/Barnett bt Barr/Wellman

-19, 13, 17.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Les Smith

JUNIOR PREMIER WEEKEND

The second Junior Premier Division weekend held at the St. Neots TTC, over the weekend of 12/13 March saw Yorkshire take the title with Middlesex in 2nd place.

The two leaders after the first weekend, Yorkshire and Middlesex, clashed in the 1st session, finishing all-square, although Nigel Tyler, the Welsh No. 1, won his 2 singles for Middlesex, in his only appearance of the weekend before going on to the Welsh Trials. The evening session saw both Yorks and Middlesex winning, Yorkshire 10-0 over bottom-placed Bedfordshire, and Middlesex 7-3 against Surrey, and with Devon having their 2nd success, the positions at the end of the 1st day had Yorkshire leading with 9 pts., and both Middlesex and Devon level with 8 pts.

The highlight of Sunday morning should have been the clash between Yorkshire and Devon, but once Yorkshire's David Rook had seen off Gary Lambert 10, 15 in the 1st set, Devon were never in with a chance, going down 1-9.

Both Yorkshire and Middlesex finished the weekend unbeaten, the Middlesex draw with Kent in the 1st weekend proving decisive.

The drama of the last session was between Bedfordshire, already doomed to the 2nd division next season, and Cleveland, Cleveland only needing a draw to avoid the big drop, seemed to be well in command, leading 4-2. But then Bedfordshire struck back to take the lead 5-4 after Lisa Robins had beaten Angela Wattis, 6, 8. Cleveland's fate was saved by Stuart Craggs in the final set against Neil Stanley when he won 12, 10, so pushing Sussex down into the 2nd relegation position.

RESULTS

1st Session

Bedfordshire 1 Devon 9

Middlesex 5 Yorkshire 5

Kent 7 Surrey 3

Sussex 4 Cleveland 6

2nd Session

Surrey 3 Middlesex 7

Cleveland 3 Kent 7

Devon 6 Sussex 4

Yorkshire 10 Bedfordshire 0

3rd Session

Kent 7 Sussex 3

Bedfordshire 0 Surrey 10

Middlesex 8 Cleveland 2

Yorkshire 9 Devon 1

4th Session

Cleveland 5 Bedfordshire 5

Devon 6 Kent 4

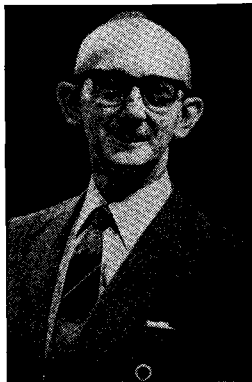
Surrey 2 Yorkshire 8

Sussex 3 Middlesex 7

Final Positions

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Yorkshire	7	6	1	0	59	11	13
Middlesex	7	5	2	0	48	22	12
Devon	7	5	0	2	40	30	10
Kent	7	4	1	2	42	28	9
Surrey	7	3	0	4	39	31	6
Cleveland	7	1	1	5	19	51	3
Sussex	7	1	0	6	21	49	2
Bedfordshire ...	7	0	1	6	12	58	1

T.V. or not T.V.?



by TOM BLUNN
Chairman, ETTA

That is the question. I only wish I knew the answer! We have been accustomed over the past thirty years or so, to expect our top events to be televised as a matter of course.

The failure to get the recent Top 12 televised indicated some measure of resistance and we are now only ten months away from the Norwich Union English Open in 1984 and have not obtained any agreement for television coverage. It is not just a loss of interest by the television companies but the congested European calendar makes it very difficult to fit in our events just when we want them.

We cannot expect the television companies to be benevolent and rearrange their long range programmes to suit us. Like sponsors, the television companies want value for money and they must produce a balanced programme with both indoor and outdoor events. Some very important events take most of the afternoon's coverage and probably all the available camera crews.

Like all businesses, the shortage of cash determines policy and the cost of camera crews is a major factor in determining where and when they operate.

Whilst we have some idea of traditional dates for other events in Europe, we do not get the official calendar until April of each year. We are also concerned with the German Bundesliga fixtures as these Sunday matches take many of the top European players.

The importance of television to the ETTA can be seen by the figures involved. The total income generated by all these television events is in the region of £50,000 — television fees, sponsorships and the use of table tennis equipment. There is also the income from the gate and entry fees and from all this we have to stage the events to the satisfaction of those who have put up the money. The sponsors and the trade want their name displayed on the screens, the television companies want their viewing

numbers to be increased or even maintained, the spectators want exciting competition and the players want first class conditions and hospitality.

Without television and the income it generates we could not possibly do justice to any of those requirements and doubts would be drawn as to the possibility of running these events at all.

So, what is the answer? We must make certain that the game remains attractive, not only to the players but also to those who watch it. A recent Sports Council survey shows over 2 million people are interested in playing table tennis. It is still very convenient to set up and play at a reasonable cost. Regional Sports Councils and local authorities have money available to provide facilities and coaching and these should be exploited as fast as possible. So far, table tennis has received less than 5% of the money available from these sources. It is there for the taking, but it requires planning and working to obtain it.

Letters to the Editor

VIYING FOR SPACE

Having read your Editorial in the February/March issue of "Table Tennis News", and as both a Pressman and great lover of table tennis, was one who did not attend at Cleveland, I wonder if I might express one or two pertinent comments from my side of the fence.

We of the Press in this economic crisis day and age, are under at least as much pressure as the ETTA, or for that matter TV to make ends meet, whether or not we might actually favour any particular sport, we are ultimately forced to remain economically viable.

In practice this means that despite those Pro Journalists' or people like myself's preference, we are asking Editors for time, money for not inconsiderable hotel and travelling expenses, and most importantly space in those publications that by and large over a weekend can fill their pages easier and appreciably more cheaply via single afternoon events.

Soccer and Rugby are just not, like it or not, our National sports, but are also many times less expensive to cover, being held all on one afternoon which via the stringer (freelance) and telephone become far more cost effective to London or even Manchester based journalists than losing their valuable staff for several days in Cleveland.

For a moment, speaking personally, the hard fact is that despite having covered many foreign European and World Championship Table Tennis events, and my own as stated leaning towards your sport, such coverage has always lost money, a factor that could be afforded and off-set against more profitable events in better times, but certainly not today.

It is in essence a vicious circle and in no way do I imply criticism or fail to appreciate the overall diary problems that the ETTA with its many amateur officials must face, but to tempt the media and most particularly TV back, overall ETTA policy should perhaps be reconsidered, i.e. by deliberately holding those major events both during mid-week dates and over a shorter duration.

Certainly a look at that weekend's overall incredibly sporting calendar, let alone the time of Winter year for the chosen period of Cleveland, decided myself and I would suspect many others, that if I was going to lose money, I could do so far easier and much closer to home.

Equally, the TV companies would well know in practice that cheap TV or not, their vital outside broadcast cameras would be desperately needed elsewhere on the Cleveland Saturday, so therefore probably sacrificing the whole tournament in preference to recording part, rather than the whole.

I hate personally to admit it, but TV is vital for the game for if I am honest, it generates the greater public (and potential sponsorship) awareness that then hopefully allows such as myself to successfully put up a well-reasoned case for editorial space. Remember therefore, that for whatever reasons, we all want to see Table Tennis as a healthy sport, but that it might

more successfully be got by not vying for space with the big boys.

DON MORLEY,

**International Sports Press Agency,
235 Hillcross Avenue,
Morden,
Surrey SM4 4BU.**

VIEWES WELL KNOWN

The views of Alan Shepherd regarding the County Championships versus National League debate are well known. I admire Mr. Shepherd's efforts in keeping the County Championships structure intact but his attacks on the National League are regretfully misplaced and uninformed.

Several of the statements in his letter (TT News, December) are rather unintelligent. He describes the second and third divisions of the National League as unnecessary competitions. Unnecessary to who? Unnecessary to him evidently, but

unnecessary to the players whose pinnacle of achievement is to appear fourteen times a season in matches of unparalleled competitiveness in excellent venues and presented in a manner unlike any other competition? Like a business satisfying a market table tennis must be organised for the benefit of players and not for the benefit of misguided administrators. Without players there is no table tennis and the players want the National League.

Not just our top players or even our county standard players. Good local league players, who can expect only half a dozen close matches a season in their domestic competition, thrive on the chance to play in the National League as evidenced by the interest shown by players wishing to join my club. Table tennis is influenced by the laws of supply and demand and the swift increase in National League membership substantiates that there is a demand for this type of competition.

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Mr. Shepherd expresses a desire to influence the Calendar Working Party to schedule two National League matches in one week-end. Has he considered the effects of travelling in the top two national divisions? Has he considered that the National League at present gets a raw deal when it comes to scheduling with the possibility of, say, three consecutive Sundays followed by five blank weeks? One of the benefits to our sport derived from the National League is the publicity attracted. But it is necessary to distinguish between national and local publicity. The latter, which must account for 99 per cent of the total our sport enjoys, requires regular week by week reports, not in fits and starts, to achieve maximum effectiveness. To take full advantage the National League calendar should be scheduled more evenly throughout the season rather than the opposite.

And on the subject of publicity what county can boast one thousand, four hundred and sixty-five column inches (yes 1,465) of space in local newspapers during last season. Cippenham can, and that was just the National League venture without considering our normal allocation from local competitions. To attract sponsorship to the County Championship will require this sort of effort in publicity and also match presentation. Unfortunately for them the National League, with its more local appeal through each team staging matches at one rather than several venues, has a format more likely to succeed in this respect.

The County Championships set up is fine for juniors, veterans and some ladies (because many are not interested) but for senior men the National League has so much more to offer. There are more matches in a season and these are played between teams with greater equality of standard. Freedom of choice is a key factor — players can choose which club they represent and clubs can choose which players they engage. There are no county type eligibility rules so players form themselves into units where they fit best, and their chances are not prejudiced by living in a strong rather than a weak county.

In every sense a National League club is a unit, not supported by membership subscriptions into a central fund but an innovative fund raising enterprise in which, like a private business, the administration is tackled with greater enthusiasm and a new sense of pride. More so than in the county set-up the venture is organised for the players and by the players.

I hope the County Championship can reassert itself as a prestigious competition but before that can be achieved there must be re-established a sense of pride in representing one's county. This I believe to be the main criteria for success.

"Currency degrading" (ref. Mr. Shepherd's letter) is not a subject I aspire to know much about. I do know that much pleasure is derived by many people from a competition which "has been allowed to get out of hand". I eagerly await the enhancement of life offered by the advent of Mr. Shepherd's better alternative.

GRAHAM TRIMMING,
Secretary, Cippenham TTC,
Chairman, Slough & Dist. TTL.

61 Salt Hill Way,
Slough,
SL1 3TS.



THE OTHER HALF

ETTA Chairman Tom Blunn signs the agreement reached with equipment manufacturers John Jaques & Sons Ltd., and Dunlop Sports — an adoption contract worth £80,000 over the next four years. Chris Jaques (left) and John Jaques make up this triumvirate the previous one involving Peter Wycherley, General Manager of Dunlop Sports Company and Alan Hydes, table tennis manager, having been features in the Jan./Feb. issue.

'PRESERVATION ORDER'

The County Championships are the heritage of the English Table Tennis Association and must receive a 'Preservation Order' despite recent correspondence in Table Tennis News which suggests they are out-of-date!

I do not feel that it would require great changes to bring about a revitalisation of the Competition, and I feel two small alterations would enhance the Competition, smaller divisions and higher computer points.

Firstly smaller divisions would reduce the travelling and other costs which are a drain upon County resources, and less fixtures would ease the congested programme of events. Less teams in each Division would mean more Divisions, therefore more Promotion and Relegation.

I play in a Lawn Tennis League with six teams in a Division. At the end of each season two teams are promoted and two are relegated — every match is vital, and interest is high throughout the season.

Less travelling may encourage some Counties to enter extra teams and that again could swell the number of Divisions and increase the promotion and relegation interest.

My second suggestion of higher Computer Points is to encourage players to want to play in the Competition again. As a Competition, which should be the Premier Competition of the English Table Tennis Association, the Computer points should reflect that status.

My second suggestion is only an after-

thought to the first one, as I believe that the added interest from more promotion and relegation together with less fixtures may encourage the leading players to once again WANT TO PLAY in the County Championships.

MALCOLM ALLSOP,

12 Abbey Hill Road,
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COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

Alf Peppard reports from . . .

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

CREDIT TO ANDY

Andy Browett, Gloucester City's hard-working secretary has brought out his second news letter of the season. I am sure that Andy will not take umbrage when I say that it is not quite up to the standard of Gill Smith's, 'Nett & Edge', in Cheltenham, but nevertheless it's new, it's welcome, and credit to the man that has made a start on what I feel is most important to table tennis today NEWS MEDIA. To make a greater success of this news letter I would tentatively suggest that Andy tries to get more helpers to assist with editing instead of perhaps doing it all himself?

Nina Tsakarisianos who flew out to Japan on the last day of 1982 for a proposed two month stay of intensive training/coaching, is now proposing to extend her stay there to cover the Worlds in Tokyo, and will not return home until mid-May, Lucky Girl!

Computers seem to rule our lives these days. It's the order of the day to have them in schools and many a youngster is far more at home twiddling the knobs and perusing the screen than probably learning the basic rudiments of the three R's. Funny, I seem to recall the words of a well known National Councillor who, quite a long time ago, said to me, "Alf, the day will come when we will run Town, City and County Associations by the aid of one man or woman AND A COMPUTER. I wonder if the computer, at the press of a button, can move table tennis tables around? It is quite possible that computers will become a household name in local table tennis, my guess is perhaps sooner than some people think.

Paddy Jackson the County Coach still requires help at his coaching sessions. It's the old story, far too many eager youngsters awaiting coaching and not enough coaches to go around. It all sounds very familiar to me, I witnessed the same trend in the early 60's when coaching in the City myself. It's the old adage of too many redskins and not enough Chiefs.

We all tend to moan and groan about the apparent lack of help at club and tournament level and almost everything in our sport that requires helpers dragging themselves away from the Goggle box, a nice fire and a comfortable chair. Yet that important tournament or that club event always seems to go with 100% success. Could it be that we delude ourselves with false pre-ideas, or do a really small amount of very willing and helpful workers who are doing two people's work CARRY THE DAY? Quite honestly I'm still searching for the answer to this one.

One of the most important things in our sport at all levels is communications. How often have we heard the following, "I would

have entered the championships, but I didn't get notified by the secretary". Perhaps the old Sec. was to blame, 'Perhaps not'. And perhaps the Tournament was already mentioned in the handbook but then some players only look at their handbooks once a week to see where their match is being played. Only last week (at the time of writing) a well known City player asked me, when Finals night was this year. I told him it was stated very clearly in the handbook, I was met by a look of utter amazement and a confession. It was, I only look at my handbook for the weekly match! Not the Sec's fault there, a good conscientious Club Secretary is worth his weight in gold.

It is a well known fact that table tennis is at the moment going through a somewhat sticky period, more so at grass roots level, i.e. the apparent lack of clubs to provide suitable playing facilities, and when here and there these facilities become available, in some instances a sad lack of players. There are plenty of suggestions, why this should be. HERE'S ANOTHER, Sports Centres have ended the tyranny of time and season by bringing most games indoors, and on an all year round basis. To many they are more accessible — no need to join a club, just pay your hourly fee — and they fuel the boom which brought them about in the first place. Do some players (non-League orientated) just wander along to the local Leisure Centre for a couple of hours bash per week, where as in pre-Leisure Centre days they would have to join a club to get their table tennis. I am not levelling criticism at Leisure Centres, indeed they are a very essential part of our sporting life, and further more for the big one, National or International tournament they are invaluable. But, in all sincerity, I wonder if they don't rob clubs of potential players. Early this year I did a survey on the Gloucester Leisure Centre, there they provide five or six tables for public use. Mr. Paul Teasdill one of the L.C. Supervisors told me it was possible to have about fifty people playing T.T. each week. He did,



LAWRENCE SYMONDS
in action at the Cotswold 'Select'.

however, emphasise that Schools were included in these figures. It does give food for thought doesn't it.

Richard Russell, Gloucestershire's No. 3 Senior reached the semis of the singles and doubles in the British Universities Championship at Essex, and has been selected to play for the British Universities National team. Well done Richard.

The Gloucestershire Junior Closed, organised by Andy Browett and run on four tables at Saintbridge School, had a sad lack of entries. However one set above all stood out, in the quarters of the Under-17's. Dale Saunders of Cinderford, a 6th Div. player in the City League, beat Tony Wilson of the Gordon League six in the third. Wilson plays 2nd Division in the City League. The Boys U-15 final was won by Lawrence Symonds he beat Wilson 11, 10.

The Boys' U-17 final, as expected, went to Darren Griffin of the Gordon League, who beat Aaron Beckett -17, 15, 12. The U-13's final was won by Dale Saunders who beat Garry Thomas 10, 14. In the Girls' U-17, Heather Colwill of Newent beat Clare Symonds of Strollers 21 in the 3rd to take the title.

And now to what must be the highlight of the National scene locally this year. The Cotswold Junior 'Select', although advertised in official handbooks and the ETTA's calendar of events, up until the end of Oct. '82 we were not sure that it would take place at least in Gloucestershire. During the first week of November it came as a great relief to hear that the County Association had indeed secured a firm guarantee from Gloucester City Council who were sympathetically minded that such a prestigious event must go on, and indeed should not be allowed to go out of the precinct of the County where it has been run for the past four years. The City Council stood as our guarantors and I think that we have to thank Mr. Jack Reeves for this, his liaison with the powers that be I'm sure proved highly successful in more aspects than one.

The rest of this year's Cotswold is history. A lot of work went into it by Les Smith the Head Organiser, and his many helpers, Ray Westbury, John Cooper, Peter Cruwys and Jack Reeves, and no end of volunteer typists got the Tourney started. Jack Reeves and Bryan Merrett went down to Mike Lewis's at Bristol to get the tables (and returned them) while Doug Young of Worcestershire kindly acted as Head Referee. There were, in all, about 360 entries and really there's not much more to say than to give the end results, which were:

U-12 Boys' Singles:

B. Billington (Dy) bt D. Holland (E)
16, -21, 17.

U-12 Girls' Singles:

C. Potts (Ch) bt A. Holt (La) 10, -21, 13.

U-14 Boys' Doubles:

J. Stokes/A. Syed (Bk) bt A. Dixon (St)/
M. Syed (Bk) 7, 10.

U-14 Girls' Doubles:

J. Powis (St)/L. Souter (Mi) bt R. Knight
(Mi)/E. Wright (Wal) 15, 10.

U-14 Boys' Singles:

A. Syed bt Dixon 17, 21, 11, 16.

U-14 Girls' Singles:

Powis bt L. Davis (Wo) 11, 9.

U-17 Boys' Doubles:

N. Mason (Sy)/A. Cooke (Dy) bt C. Preat
(IOW)/W. Gleave (Ch) 12, 20.

U-17 Girls Doubles:

L. Bellinger (Bd)/J. Parker (La) bt
L. Goldsmith (Mi)/A. Boxall (He) 13, 19.

U-17 Girls' Singles:

Bellinger bt Parker 15, 16.

U-17 Boys' Singles:

Prean bt G. Lambert (Dv) 10, 11.

Geoff Waters reports from . . .

CAMBRIDGESHIRE**THIRD CONSECUTIVE**

Mick Harper won the men's singles for the third consecutive year at the John Jaques Cambridgeshire Closed, which was held at the Kelsey Kerridge Sports Hall, Cambridge, on Jan. 22. He beat Robert Swift, who was champion in 1980 in a closely contested three game final with only two points separating the pair in all three games.

Robert won the first, coming back from 17-19 down to win 21-19, then led all the way in the second until 16-16, when Mick eased home by the same score. The March lad again took an early lead in the third and led 10-6 when they changed ends. However, Harper rallied and led 20-16, before Swift saved four match points and then went down -20.

Top seed Keith Richardson, who hadn't played for a month, still had a very swollen middle finger but nevertheless reached the semi-finals, before losing to Swift -20 in the third game. In the final game, Keith trailed 20-14, took the next six points, but then lost at "deuce".

Joanne Palmer won the women's singles for the first time, after so many near misses, with a very convincing straight games win over reigning champion Mandy Judd.

Joanne took control from the start, led throughout both games and the scores of 11 and 14 showed her superiority on the day.

Mandy has appeared in 17 finals in the last four years and this was only her second defeat in that period. A truly remarkable achievement! She did have some consolation for losing her women's title, by regaining the girls' from Ruth Hunter, who beat her last season. The Ashman family had an excellent tournament, walking off with four titles. Father John won the Veteran's title, while elder son Tim won the boys' and restricted singles and younger son Nick won the Cadet boys.

Tim beat reigning champion Julian Wheel, who was making his return after an appendicitis, 19 in the third of the boys' final.

The Restricted singles was a new venture and allowed only players who had not represented the county at senior level. It proved a great success with a great number of entries from the average club player. It was good to see the old Impington player Jimmy Parkin, now playing in the Wisbech League, back in Cambridge and how well he played in this event. He reached the final only to be beaten 14, 20 by Tim Ashman.

Nicky Ashman was another player to topple a reigning champion in yet another close final. He beat Wisbech's Nicky Rayner 20, 21. Father John had a fairly easy passage to the veterans' final, where he again beat Bassingbourn's Rob Trigg in straight games.

Louise Ward, the daughter of County Coach Geoff Ward, won the Cadet girls with

a straight games win over Denise Hinks, from Kedington. This was Denise's first tournament and as a reward for her efforts she won the Pye Telecom Merit Award for the best newcomer.

The doubles events went as expected with the top seeds winning in each case. Harper and Keith Richardson won the men's doubles for the seventh consecutive season.

RESULTS**Men's Singles Semi-finals:**

R. Swift bt K. Richardson 12, -11, 20;

M. Harper bt A. Withers 14, -20, 8.

Final:

Harper bt Swift -19, 19, 20.

Women's Singles:

J. Palmer bt A. Judd 11, 14.

Boys' Singles:

T. Ashman bt J. Wheel 16, -19, 19.

Cadet Boys' Singles:

N. Ashman bt N. Rayner 20, 21.

Girls' Singles:

Judd bt R. Hunter 14, 13.

Cadet Girls' Singles:

L. Ward bt D. Hinks 12, 20.

Veteran Singles:

J. Ashman bt R. Trigg 10, 9.

Men's Doubles:

K. Richardson/Harper bt Withers/G. Jordan 8, 13.

Women's Doubles:

Judd/Palmer bt A. Edge/Hunter 17, 16.

Mixed Doubles:

Judd/Harper bt Palmer/B. Richardson 19, 15.

Restricted Singles:

T. Ashman bt J. Parkin 14, 20.

Handicap Singles:

J. Collins (28) bt Y. Driver (27) 41-34, 36-41, 41-34.

Hassy Soham made it eight wins out of nine in the Halex National League with 5-3 victories over both Letchworth Corporation and BWF Wamsdad.

In the Letchworth match, Paul Day followed up his fine performance in the Welsh Open on the previous day, when he reached the men's doubles final with Alan Fletcher, by winning two singles. However, it was the first of Nicky Mason's wins which earned Soham their two points. Nicky trailed Joey Kennedy 8-1 and 15-10 in the third but clawed his way back to win 22-20 in a set which had he lost could have resulted in Soham losing a vital point in their championship race.

In their match against struggling BWF Wamsdad, Soham were 3-2 down after Philip Bradbury had beaten both Day and Kenny Jackson. John Souter had twice levelled the scores, when Soham were behind, with wins over David Barr and Iain Fullerton but his efforts appeared to be in vain when Jackson trailed 20-17 in the third game of the seventh set. However, he rallied to win 23-21 and David Hannah clinched the points by beating Fullerton.

Ely kept their unbeaten record in the Newmarket Construction League with a 6-3 win over Haverhill. Barry Sore, Tony Everitt and County Secretary Peter Diver won two each, while Andy Withers won his usual three for Haverhill. Andy also played a lone role in the match against Cambridge when Haverhill again lost 6-3. Cambridge's six were shared by Kevin Gray, David Oates and Kevin Kent. Cambridge with a completely different team went down 5-4 to Wisbech. Tim Vine had a good win over Wisbech's Jamie Frost -20, in the third and he also beat John Blyth. Neil Burgess was just

pipped by Frost -20 in the third but beat Blyth and Paul Jackson.

Jeremy Williams reports from . . .

CORNWALL**ENCOURAGING ENTRY**

Despite the increase in travelling distance, virtually all of Cornwall's top table tennis players attended the county closed championships held for the first time at Launceston College over the weekend of Feb. 5/6. Even more encouraging was the number of entries — around 150 with 70 in the Men's Singles, nearly double last season's entry. With so many games to be played, the Men's Singles final was not played until 10.45 p.m. — most spectators could have been forgiven for going home but such was the interest in this professionally-staged tournament that over 100 people were present in the hall when the competition ended.

At the finish, St. Ives veteran John Bassett regained his position as Cornwall's top player by winning the Men's Singles, Veteran Singles and the Men's Doubles, with clubmate Nigel Cock, despite vain attempts to stop him. Number 2 seed Bassett, winning the Men's Singles for the 12th time had to overcome stiff resistance from Falmouth's County players Ian James and Jeremy Williams before facing top seed Barry Cornelius in a repeat of last year's final. Bassett, edging home 18 in the third and with arms aloft has now been beaten just the once this season in Cornwall by Truro's Roger Jacobs.

Alison Clemens (Camborne) will best be remembered at this tournament for the shocks in which she was involved in the Ladies' events. Cornwall's nationally-ranked Junior girl was expected to retain her Girl's Singles title with the minimum of trouble and this seemed to be the outcome until Alison was faced with Bude's Esme Stephenson in the final. The latter earned a standing ovation from the home crowd by winning the Girls' title with a 21-19 victory in the 3rd game. After that defeat, few would have given Alison much chance in the Women's Singles. With the narrowest of victories over Shirley Collins (Callington) in the semi-final, reigning champion Sharon James (St. Ives) seemed a different proposition in the final. However another shock occurred as Alison romped to a 21-9 3rd game victory, much to the dismay of Miss James, and combined with Jeremy Williams to win the Mixed as well.

Despite indifferent performances in the Senior events Cornwall's top boys Mark James and Grantham Reed both reached the final of the Boys' with the former gaining a fairly comfortable victory. Jon Woollins (Launceston) crowned a good season for him by winning the intermediate Singles with fine straight games wins over James and Williams. It was also a successful weekend for the Broczeks with Karen and Marie winning the Under-14 and Under-12 singles respectively.

RESULTS**Men's Singles:**

J. Bassett (St. Ives) bt B. Cornelius (St. Austell) 21, -13, 18.

Women's Singles:

A. Clemens (Camborne) bt S. James (St. Ives) -16, 11, 9.

Intermediate Singles (U-21):

J. Woollins (Launceston) bt J. Williams (Falmouth) 16, 11.

Veteran Singles:

Bassett bt D. Williams (Falmouth) 12, 8.

Men's Doubles:

Bassett/N. Cock (St. Ives) bt Cornelius/J. Williams 20, 13.

Women's Doubles:

S. James/S. Collins (Callington) bt S. Rapsey/B. Rapsey (Truro) 17, 18.

Mixed Doubles:

Williams/Clemens bt Cock/James 15, 18.

Boys' Singles:

M. James (Camborne) bt G. Reed (Helston) 20, 11.

Girls' Singles:

E. Stephenson (Bude) bt A. Clemens -16, 19, 19.

Cadet Boys' Singles:

L. Jose (Camborne) bt A. Hunt (Launceston) 17, -16, 15.

Cadet Girls' Singles:

K. Broczek (Launceston) bt L. Jewell (Falmouth) 18, 16.

U-12 Boys' Singles:

D. Ly (Launceston) bt S. Appleby (St. Ives) 5, 20.

U-12 Girls' Singles:

M. Broczek (Launceston) bt T. Logg (Launceston) 14, 17.

Junior Team Final:

Camborne 'B' bt Camborne 'A' 3-2.

Entries are now beginning to arrive for the 3rd T.S.B. Cornish Junior Open (2-Star). With so many 'open' tournaments going to the wall it is fortunate that our financial commitments have been met by the generous sponsorship of the Trustee Savings Bank, so that a top class tournament can once again be ensured.

It is hoped that a number of players from the London area and Midlands will be lured to the tournament. Holder of the Boys' Singles for the past two years is Gary Wilson (Plymouth) while Carol Butler (Plymouth) and Rebecca Russe (Weston) were winners of the Girls' Singles. Entry forms can be obtained from the organiser John Crocker, 'Falaise', Cliff View Road, Camborne, Cornwall. The tournament will be held on Saturday, 19th March at Carn Brea Leisure Centre, Camborne.

Colin Taylor reports from . . .

CUMBRIA

NOT HEALTHY

With no County matches since Jan. 8th the main news from the last County Committee meeting was that due to the increase in the number of matches played this season, the County finances are not in a healthy position. Certain measures are being taken to help the situation and it is hoped for a good entry in the Cumbria Closed Tournament.

On the League scene at Carlisle, Scotby 'A', last season's Division One Champions are still out on top with 32 pts. from 17 matches. Ian Brown and Ian Oliver however will be without the services of George Gray for the last seven matches. But with past County player and City champion David Kirkpatrick taking his place it seems they will retain the championship. Civil Service 'B' are in second place with 24 points from 15 matches and Racecourse 'B' have 23 points from 15 matches in 3rd place. Racecourse's Roger Stewart, current City cham-

ption is still leading the averages with 44 wins out of 45.

In Division 2, leaders News 'A' have maximum points from 15 matches with nearest challengers Telesport on 23 points.

The Westmorland League Division One leaders are Storeys led by Carl Stebbing. They have won all their 8 matches and have 29 points. Queen Katherine 'A' lie second with 27 points from 9 matches.

Division Two leaders Queen Katherine 'B' with 30 points from 8 matches look certain of promotion, their nearest challengers Windermere 'A' having 21 points from six matches. Queen Katherine 'D' are leading Division Three by a wide margin of 13 points having won 10 out of 10. Second placed Cartmel 'A' have 22 points from 8 matches.

The Millom League for the second season running has received a welcome boost from British Nuclear Fuels Ltd. The B.N.F.L. Knock-Out competition has reached the semi-final stage and it could turn out to be either an all Millom C.C. or all Youth House final. The draw is Millom C.C. 'A' v Youth House 'A' and Youth House v Millom C.C.

The League shows Millom R.U. holding a slender lead over Millom C.C. but the loss of Millom R.U.'s top player James Adams, due to work commitments, may prove crucial on the run-in.

Malcolm Allsop reports from . . .

DERBYSHIRE

CONVINCING WINS

The girls are leading the way in the Junior Division of the Derbyshire Inter-Town league, with Chesterfield 2nd being the early pace-setters after three rounds of matches.

Kerry Hall, Julie Billington and Andrea Wood gained a 10-0 win over Eastwood Juniors, and then with Sarah Padley replacing Miss Wood they thrashed the Chesterfield 1st team by an equally convincing scoreline.

Surprisingly Eastwood Juniors have been involved in 10-0 results in all their three matches, once as winners but twice on the losing end. The boys of Chesterfield 1st have won their other two matches, so the girls 10-0 performance is even more impressive.

Eastwood juniors won 10-0 against Alfreton although a number of sets had close scorelines, whilst Burton juniors gained a 7-3 win over Matlock juniors, but Amanda Coles and Kate Windsor winning a fine doubles set 17-21, 21-19, 21-19 for the Matlock team.

In Division One, Geoff Gill and Stuart Morris won two sets each and combined to win the doubles for Alfreton 1st, but Mick Thorley and Dave Fearn won two sets each, and Tony Gregory gained one win as Matlock 1st forced a 5-5 draw.

In Division Two, Eastwood 2nd gained their first win at the expense of Matlock 2nd, with M. Pinegar winning three and two each from D. Greaves and P. Chambers in an 8-2 scoreline, with only D. Lee scoring in reply.

After two wins each, Derby 2nd and Burton 2nd clashed, with Paul Harvey starring with three wins for Burton and Pat Hall and Mick Fisher gaining one apiece. Neil Russell and Paul Druce won two each and

combined to win the doubles to give Derby a share of the spoils in a 5-5 draw.

Congratulations to Alan Cooke upon his selection for the England senior team to play in Israel, and he thus becomes Derbyshire's first resident senior England International. I am sure that I will be joined by all Derbyshire supporters in wishing Alan a long and successful International career.

The Derbyshire Closed Championships will be held at the Alfreton Leisure Centre on Sunday, 20th March, 1983. When Alan Cooke retains his Men's Singles Title, he will be the first to do so since the 1960's!!! The Honorary Referee will be Colin McLean; I just hope that the Seedings are better than last year for which the Referee, yours truly, was blamed!

The County 1st team went to Northumberland, and went down 4-6, but Marilyn O'Sullivan and To Thuy Dung won the three ladies events. When did the ladies last win 3 sets for the County 1st team?

Eighteen year old Martin Simpson made his debut for the County 2nd team away to Nottinghamshire, winning his opening set and combining with Steve Yallop to win the doubles. Yallop and David Hinchliffe added singles victories but the girls had no reward and they also went down 4-6.

The Juniors were the only team to return victorious from the trip to Barton-under-Needwood, virtually a home match for Nigel Adams! Andrew Henry, back in the number one place, and Nigel Adams won 2 singles each with David Rhodes gaining one win; but Joanne Weightman answered her critics with a vital and fighting 13-21, 23-21, 21-6 win over Angela Sanders, at the stage of the match when Staffordshire had fought back from 0-3 down to level at 3-3. Well done Joanne. What a shame that the critics have not seen her play this season, especially in this match.

Gerald Green reports from . . .

SHROPSHIRE

NATIONAL LEAGUE — GROVE WIN AT A CANTER

Grove handed out a severe thrashing to BWF Wamdsad, winning their latest National League match 8-0. John Hilton, at his best, gave an entertaining display to beat Martin Smith and Ian Fullerton and set the tone for the afternoon. Steve Scowcroft, in determined style, accounted for Sue Collier and Fullerton. Andy Bellingham outclassed Sid Montgomery and gave a splendid display to beat Smith. The most pleasing aspect of the match however was the return to form of Phil Bowen, who showed his full range of strokes in demolishing both Collier and Montgomery.

Shropshire gained sweeping success in the regional finals of the English Schools' tournament. Three schools from Market Drayton were top of their section and Mary Webb, Pontesbury also won through to the next stage.

Top of the bill for Mary Webb were the U-13's of David Morris, Simon Cooper, Justin Goodall and Garry Pountney.

The Grove's quartet of Dawn Wickstead, Stephanie Thorneycroft, Julie Bloore and Victoria Boyd were never seriously troubled in the girls' U-13 event.

The evenly balanced Grove's U-19 Team

of Alison Barker, Colette Soan, Denise Boughey and Carol Wickstead were in similar form. Meanwhile the Alexandra Road Junior School boys U-11 Team of Neil Martin, Steven Eaton, Ian Holdcroft and Simon Stones were equally impressive.

It was a day of surprises in the Shropshire Schools championships held at Mary Webb, Pontesbury.

Pick of the bunch was Colin Wilson (New College, Telford) who topped the No. 1 seed Ivan Smith (Shrewsbury Tech.) in a nail biting U-19 final. Smith dominated the first game and Wilson had to save three match points in the second. The game then swung Wilson's way in the third when he ran out a 21-14 winner.

Another upset took place in the girls U-16 final when Alison Barker (Grove) was beaten by Julie Ballard (Orleton Park, Telford). Julie lost the first -17 but battled back to win a close clash 19, 18. The boys' U-16 event also produced a shock when Peter Thomas (Mary Webb) and David Williams (Grove) faced each other. Thomas, with his counter hit style swept aside his rival in straight games 14, 14. Alison Barker did win the U-19 girls' title, beating schoolmate Carol Wickstead in a close final.

Dawn Wickstead, showing her class, dominated all her matches in the U-13 girls' event until reaching the final when she had a close call before beating another Grove player Julie Bloore 19 in the third. The boys' U-13 final was an all Mary Webb clash between Simon Cooper and his close rival and friend Justin Goodall. Simon won 12, -16, 12. The boys and girls U-11 event was another same school affair, with the four finalists all coming from Market Drayton Junior. Johanna Dyke was head and shoulders above the opposition to win the girls, beating Sarah Cook in the final.

Steven Eaton was in splendid form to win the boys' U-11 event without dropping a set. He beat club colleague Ian Holdcroft in the final.

Harry Hunt emerged victorious from a close final against Wayne Richards to win the Telford Table Tennis Association's restricted tournament at Lilleshall Sports Centre. Hunt took the final 17, 10 after disposing of John Holding 14, 20 in his semi-final. Richards had beaten Chris Tarr -14, 13, 17 in the other semi.

The W. Owen Handicap was held on the same day, with 66 entries. In the semi-finals M. Hughes played last year's winner S. Cullis in a hard-fought match with Hughes coming out on top -16, 18, 11. G. Phillips did like-wise in his semi against J. Farr, winning 12, -9, 15. With only a two point difference in the handicap the final was decided in the third game of a match where fortunes swayed first one way then the other. Hughes took the first 16. Phillips the second 17 and then, from being five points behind in the closing stages of the third, Hughes made a brilliant come back to win 20.

Telford's 'A' and 'B' teams are still on a repeat course in the Shropshire County League — last year they finished first and second and look set for a similar placing this time.

The 'A' team have won all their matches and their last game is away to Grove 'A'.

The 'B' have lost only one game — to their 'A' side — and also have one game remaining, against Grove 'A'.

In their last match the 'B' side of R. Fettes, N. Maycock and J. Holding beat Oswestry 9-0 although six sets went to three.

TELFORD RANKINGS — TOP TEN

Telford's February ranking list again shows changes, with Bill Herbert going back to the top.

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

Dick Turner reports from . . .

CHESHIRE

NO MATCH

A weakened Cheshire Senior side were no match for Leicestershire, Tony Taylor's win over Newman being the sole success in the 9-1 defeat. The Juniors and the two veteran sides were all successful and the Veterans 1st side are surely now national champions.

Some Cheshire Leagues have staged their Closed Championships. Derek Schofield was the runner-up in both the Stockport and Hyde tournaments men's singles, losing to Roger Hampson in Stockport and surprisingly to Dave Hamilton in Hyde. Newcomer to Cheshire, Nigel Jobling from Durham, is the new Crewe Town Champion following his victory over Paul Steele and in Mid Cheshire Ian Johns re-emerged to defeat Ian Mathers. Paul Griffiths won the men's singles in Chester beating Steve Green in the final by three games to two.

The Cheshire Closed Tournament is to take place on Sunday, April 17th at Neston Recreation Centre in the Wirral and entry forms are available from Mike Freeman of 24 Parkfield Drive, Whitby, South Wirral, L65 6SN.

At a recent county meeting concern was expressed over the present state of the County Championships. One idea put forward and meriting some support was that men and women should play in separate county teams and that this could help to give more sets per player per match and also help to overcome the transport problem of 5 players and one driver in a car.

Dennis Millman reports from . . .

NORTHANTS

PROBLEMS ALL ROUND

Administrative problems, together with non-availability of leading players, did little to enhance Northants prospects in the January series of County Championship matches, and it was not surprising that all three were lost, with the Firsts defeat at the hands of Wiltshire Seconds the most damaging.

Fortunately former player, and Northants Schools' official Dave Marsh stepped into the breach as Match Secretary, and by the time the February games were scheduled, the position had been stabilized. Even the late withdrawal of Gary Alden — an influenza victim — was overcome, and the Firsts duly obliged against Herefordshire, with their fourth win of the season, and now wins in the remaining two fixtures should give them promotion.

County Champion Graeme McKim acquit-

ted himself well in the No. 1 position, and he received sound support from Keith Nicoll and Brian Wooding, while Mandy Wallis and Dorothy Marsh proved much too strong for their respective opponents.

McKim had earlier been in action at the Doddridge venue, teaming up with Ian Hawes to share the five wins in the drawn match with Warwickshire Juniors, with both Northants players getting the better of nationally ranked junior Mark Thomas, and Nigel Metcalfe coming close to increasing the tally.

The Seconds had a fruitless trip to North Wales, where Clwyd, and particularly Manning the home No. 1, proved too strong for a young county side, captained by Chris Handshaw on his debut. However the experience gained could prove invaluable for the future, and Jane Nicoll with a singles victory and a doubles success shared with Donna Furniss must have been well satisfied with the outcome.

The Veterans enabled the County to finish on the credit side, when singles wins for Joyce Porter, Keith Jones and Dennis Millman, and doubles from the Porter/Jones and Millman/John Palmer combinations gave Northants a five-four win over Oxfordshire despite an Alf Davies double and the squandering of a five-one lead.

The latest senior ranking lists gives some indications of the selectors' problems, with many of those listed unavailable for selection, but they make interesting reading and seem likely to create much speculation and numerous talking points.

Rankings - March

Men

1 Gary Alden, 2 Keith Nicoll, 3 Graeme McKim, 4 Keith Jones, 5 Brian Wooding, 6 Steve Lyon, 7 John Sanders, 8 Ian Hawes, 9 Romano Gallo, 10 Brian D'Hooghe, 11 Brian Dangerfield, 12 Steve West, 13 Ken Nicoll, 14 Chris Handshaw, 15 Steve Kendall, 16 John Palmer, 17 Mark Nannery, 18 David Gallo, 19 Tim Chamberlain, 20 Alan Hawes.

Women

1 Mandy Wallis, 2 Anne Wallis, 3 Celia Panter, 4 Dorothy Marsh, 5 Glennis Hooper, 6 Joyce Porter, 7 Jane Nicoll, 8 Maxine Shears, 9 Barbara Gibbs, 10 Christine Price, 11 Donna Furniss.

Despite Northampton 'A's fine win over St. Neots with Brian D'Hooghe (3), John Sanders (2), and Ashley Bennett contributing to a six-three scoreline, it is Wellingborough with Graeme McKim, Ian Hawes, Chris Handshaw and Steve Kendall, which emerges as the side most likely to figure in the final reckoning after a good win against Kettering, for whom Ken Nicoll has recently discovered some of his old form. Nevertheless Wellingborough's defeat at the hands of Ely, ensures the cathedral city representatives major honours in the St. Neots Winter League and it is the minor placings that now remain unresolved.

In the Northampton Premier Division, the two horse race seems to be going the way of A.C.C. 'A', who beat close rivals Abington Nomads for the second time this season, despite two defeats for Graeme McKim and two wins for Abington's Keith Jones.

In a match in which all six players won at least once, but no-one gained a maximum, Brian Wooding and John Sanders both won twice for A.C.C., with Wooding and McKim taking the crucial doubles after

single successes for Brian D'Hooghe and Tim Chamberlain had put the Nomads back in contention.

Leading Positions

	P	W	D	L	P
A.C.C. 'A'	17	16	1	0	141
Abington Nomads ...	17	15	0	2	134
Barclaycard 'A'	16	10	1	5	100
Timken 'A'	15	9	2	4	90

Leading Averages

- 1 Sanders (ACC 'A') 43-47=91.5%
- 2 McKim (ACC) 32-35=91.4%
- 3 Jones (Abington) 45-50=90%
- 4 D'Hooghe (Abington) 42-50=84%
- 5 Wooding 36-44=81.8%
- Gallo 36-44=81.8%
- 7 Dangerfield 35-45=77.8%
- 8 Chamberlain 30-41=73.2%

McKim is also on course for title honours in Kettering, where Kettering Town 'A' lead the Premier table, but still have Wellingborough Town and Rothborough 'A' to play. Wellingborough must beat the leaders if they are to deprive McKim, Chris Handshaw, John Palmer and Dennis Millman of the honours.

Leading Positions

	P	W	D	L	P
Kettering Town 'A' ...	13	13	0	0	117
Rothborough 'A'	15	10	0	5	94
Wellingborough Town	11	10	0	1	89
Electricity 'A'	13	9	0	4	86

Leading Averages

- 1 McKim (Town 'A') 38-39=97.4%
- 2 Palmer (Town 'A') 31-33=93.9%
- 3 Handshaw (Town 'A') 36-39=92.3%
- 4 Hawes (Wellingborough) 30-33=90.9%
- 5 West (Electricity) 30-36=83.3%
- 6 Ken Nicoll (Rothborough 'A') 35-45=77.8%

Finally to Wellingborough, where a defeat for Chapmans at the hands of Steve West, Ken Nicoll and Mark Cole of Electricity has put Wellingborough Town back in the picture after all had seemed lost.

Pauline Long reports from . . .

NORTHUMBERLAND

TOP INTERNATIONALS AT GATESHEAD

The highlight of the month was undoubtedly the Gateshead Challenge at the town's Leisure Centre on Jan. 17. Players from England, Poland, Denmark, Czechoslovakia, Canada and USA contested this international invitation event, and produced some entertaining and exciting table tennis.

With eight competitors taking part, the competition was run on a straight knock-out basis, and as expected, Milan Orlowski (Czechoslovakia), John Hilton (England), Eric Boggan (USA) and Andrzej Grubba (Poland) came through to contest the semi-finals, although Grubba was made to fight all the way against England's Graham Sandley before winning in three ends.

The semi-finals brought together the favourite Orlowski, and the former European champion Hilton, and to the delight of the spectators, Hilton eventually won in two close games to go through to the final. In the second semi-final, Grubba, who had won the Cleveland 3-Star Open tournament the day before, was expected to end off the challenge of Boggan, but he found the hard-hitting of the American too much for him on this occasion. The final proved to be fairly even until halfway through the third

game, when Hilton appeared to lose his concentration and suddenly found himself 7-16 down. However, he gradually pulled himself back into the match but unfortunately his effort was not quite enough and he lost at 19.

All in all the evening was a great success, and ETTA officials Tom Blunn and Aubrey Drapkin were extremely pleased with the efforts made by the Leisure Centre in bringing this standard of table tennis to Gateshead.

Newcastle have been having a lean time in the Halex National League this season, and are currently second bottom of the Premier Division, with Chu Van Que's excellent efforts unfortunately not being quite sufficient to produce the desired results. In the recent match against Soham, he beat both Paul Day and Kenny Jackson, but the team still lost 2-6. He also beat Day in the Cleveland 3-Star Open to reach the last 16, but lost at that stage to the Canadian Joe Eng.

Byker continued their revival in Div. 3 with an 8-0 win over Unity III, although six of the eight matches needed a third end to decide them. Neil McMaster, Martin Young, Martin Moore and Alan Matthewson all gained maximums.

McMaster also turned in a good performance when he won the junior boys' event at the Pontefract 1-Star Tournament. Peter McQueen reached the men's singles final, but lost to Yorkshire's Kevin Beadsley, although he gained partial compensation by partnering his conqueror to victory in the men's doubles event.

The latest available League averages show that in the Premier Division, the numbers 2, 3 and 4 ranked players in the County are currently leading the field, with Ian Robertson having lost only two sets (93.3%), Andrew Clark three sets (90.9%) and Martin Young four sets (87.9%), although Robertson has played one match less than the other two players. Other current leaders and runners-up are as follows: Div. 1 Malcolm Lusk (88.9%) and Arnold Warents (88.5%). Div. 2A Tony Brabbs (95.0%) and Anthony Ainley (91.7%). Div. 2B Pat Tindale (100%) and Bill McMaster Jr. (87.2%). Div. 3A Steven Pearce (84.8%) and Simon Montague (83.3%). Div. 3B Trevor Burns (80.8%) and Wasim Shakoor (77.3%). Div. 3C Jim Thompson (100%) and Dave Shiell (85.7%). Div. 4A Andrew Drapkin (95.8%) and Bill McMaster Sr. (85.7%). Div. 4B David Hughes (93.9%) and David Brown (90.5%).

NORTHUMBERLAND JUNIOR CLOSED

The Northumberland Junior Closed Championships were held at Scotswood Sports Centre on February 12, and it was good to see so many young hopefuls taking part — especially in the girls' events, where the entry was double the number received for the Senior Closed.

As expected, top juniors Neil McMaster and Clare Mouzon dominated the boys' and girls' singles events respectively, although McMaster had a difficult early match (18 and 20) against Martin Schapira before coming through to win his final fairly comfortably against the much-improved Eddie Smith. There was a surprise in the cadet boys' singles final when Darren Shaw outlasted ranked junior Dave Watson to win in three close games, and a very tense

and exciting mixed doubles final which McMaster and Karen Wilkinson only just won at 20 in the third over left-hander Thomas Blackman and Clare Mouzon. Otherwise, most of the other finals went pretty much as expected, and were won in straight games.

RESULTS

Boys' U-17 Singles:

N. McMaster bt E. Smith 15, 13.

Girls' U-17 Singles:

C. Mouzon bt D. Campbell 13, 5.

Cadet Boys' U-14 Singles:

D. Shaw bt D. Watson 18, -15, 17.

Cadet Girls' U-14 Singles:

T. McMaster bt L. Dunn 11, 7.

U-11 Singles:

M. Karczewski bt P. McKenna 14, 6.

Class 2 Singles:

A. Black bt A. T. Drapkin 5, 9.

Boys' Doubles:

Smith/P. Curry bt J. Miller/M. Schapira 24, 15.

Girls' Doubles:

Mouzon/D. Wilkinson bt McMaster/M. Cooper 15, 4.

Cadet Doubles:

Shaw/D. Selig bt D. and G. Fairbairn 13, 11.

Mixed Doubles:

McMaster/K. Wilkinson bt T. Blackman/Mouzon -19, 17, 20.

Philip Reid reports from . . .

LEICESTERSHIRE

TWO IN THE PREMIER!

Leicestershire to have two teams in the Premier Division! This is the exciting possibility following the Senior and Veterans' wins. The Senior 1st team trounced Cheshire 9-1 and there is no doubt who was the star — David Gannon walloped both Wayne Percival and Ron Bevan easily and if he could always play like this what a team Leicestershire would be!

The Veterans beat Worcestershire 6-3 to more or less clinch their chances of Premier Division status next season. I recall, a couple of years ago, having to 'phone round and plead with people to play and back Brian Mayfield — for so long a lone figure in the county ranks. The team were languishing at the lower end of the lowest division — how things have changed! Sorry I haven't got the scores for this match — John Iliffe didn't bother to get them! The second Senior team drew with Notts and ironically it was the Leicester Closed champion, Robert Watson, who proved the thorn in the Leics flesh, winning his two singles. Last minute selection Keith Fellows excelled, winning two for the Hunting shire.

The Juniors are finding it hard going and went under to Staffs 9-1, Paul Bumpus preventing the "whitewash" by winning the last set.

SCORES

Leicestershire 9 Cheshire 1

C. Rogers bt W. Percival 21, 15;
bt T. Taylor 14, 21.

D. Gannon bt Percival 11, 13;
bt R. Bevan 6, 16.

M. Newman lost to Taylor -17, -20;
bt Bevan 19, 18.

Mrs. K. Smith bt Miss J. Deakin -21, 16, 19.

Miss Y. Hall bt Miss A. Deakin 12, 11.
Rogers/Newman bt Percival/Taylor

19, -16, 16.
Smith/Hall bt Deakin/Dakin 16, -17, 10.

Leicestershire II 5 Nottinghamshire 5

P. Smith lost to R. Watson 20, -10, -18;
bt N. Bailey -14, 18, 8.
M. Pickles lost to Watson -20, -21;
bt T. Kerry -19, 17, 18.
K. Fellows bt Bailey 19, 16;
bt Kerry -18, 14, 12.
Miss J. Revill lost to Miss C. Buttery
-13, 11, -19.
Miss Y. Hall bt Miss P. Simpson 23, 17.
Fellows/Smith lost to Bailey/Kerry
21, -21, -15.
Revill/Hall lost to Buttery/Simpson
-15, 13, -14.

Leicestershire Vets 6 Worcestershire Vets 3

J. Iliffe bt M. Wood;
lost to B. Belcher.
C. Truman bt Wood;
bt B. Thompson.
G. Aldwinckle bt Belcher;
lost to Thompson.
Mrs. P. Kilsby lost to Mrs. J. Hunt.
Truman/Aldwinckle bt Wood/Belcher.
Iliffe/Kilsby bt Thompson/Hunt.

Leicestershire Jnrs. 1 Staffordshire Jnrs. 9

D. Aldwinckle lost to M. Hayward -16, -16;
lost to K. Cartwright -14, 23, -13.
P. Bumpus lost to Hayward -10, -18;
bt M. Harvey 25, 18.
M. Bellot lost to Cartwright -14, -8;
lost to Harvey -14, -14.
Miss J. Murray lost to Miss F. Elliot -8, -8.
Miss T. Clark lost to Miss J. Powis -13, -10.
Aldwinckle/Bumpus lost to Hayward/
Cartwright -19, -7.
Murray/Clark lost to Elliot/Powis -11, -9.

In the delayed Leics Town League cadets final Leicester beat Loughborough 6-3. The Rose Johnson Bowl — the team handicap tournament — continues to produce thrills. Knighton Park drew with Loughborough side Barrow-on-Soar 294 pts. each. Other close matches — Knighton Pk. II 335 Leics Tele Area II (rec. 206) 336 — Post Office (76) 318 Hinckley M.C. 319. They don't come much closer than that!

In the excellent Hinckley magazine, "The Hinckley Loop" (which John Shade continues to send me) I notice Hinckley M.C. lead Div. 1 but old warrior John Iliffe (Kingscroft) is still unbeaten. Earl Shilton Albion lead Div. 2, with Gordon Jones topping the averages. Div. 3 is led by Barwell Liberals with the 4th Div. being led by Ashby Parva, Chris Scrine topping the averages.

The Leics Closed held at the palatial Granby Halls was an outstanding success. My stars were the army of workers who made this tournament run smoothly. Geoff Aldwinckle and Ian McKelvey, who organised matters beforehand, Pat Pickles, Eileen Shaler and Jose Rogers who worked incessantly on the day, and Terry Yeoman-son who arranged the transportation of the tables. It was good, too, to see so many 'young' veterans there. Ernest McLeish, Arthur Cross — and — yes — from Nottingham, the legendary Johnny Burraston.

Nice too to see that Mike Jackson made the trip from Cambridge especially for this event but — alas — no expedites. "Not my scene" said a disgruntled Mr. Jackson of John Iliffe's successful hitting against Colin Truman.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

C. Rogers bt K. Fellows 7, 12;
D. Gannon bt G. Hall 9, 17.

Final:

Rogers bt Gannon 17, -17, 16.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

K. Smith bt J. Revill 22, -18, 11;
Y. Hall bt E. Shaler 21, -18, 19.

Final:

Smith bt Hall 21, 15.

Boys' Singles:

P. Bumpus bt D. Aldwinckle 6, -20, 6.

Girls' Singles:

J. Murray bt T. Clark -22, 4, 17.

Veteran Singles:

J. Iliffe bt C. Truman -19, 9, 16.

Cadet Singles:

Miss Murray bt M. Laywood 14, 17.

In the Leicester League 100% Chris Rogers spearheads Knighton Park's challenge for Div. 1 honours whilst in Div. 2 there are also two 100%'s — John Roberts, and his club, University.

John Prean looks beyond . . .

THE ISLE OF WIGHT

Division 4 looms large. Beaten 6-4 at home by Somerset when Jim Daly and Carl Prean were our sole winners, points again proved elusive. They proved more than that on our visit to Bristol where Avon sank us without trace by 10-0. We were without Carl, on duty in the Czechoslovak Open, but could have no other excuses. Our hosts played extremely well and our team stuck to their task. No point was surrendered without a fight and no-one can ask for more.

We did well enough in the old Div. 3B and 5 matches, one felt, were enough. For us a County Match was an occasion. The new system was not good for us. Seven matches and a total travel bill of around £200 are too much. The pyramid system is reasonable (at least till something better replaces it) but divisions of 8 are too large in relation to the English Calendar which is so crowded that it sometimes appears based on aversion therapy techniques.

If you eat too much of your favourite food you get sick and that sums up my feelings about Table Tennis just now. Supporters of County Table Tennis complain about the National League with its 14 matches and then add their own 7 matches to produce 21 matches between them. To which are then added 6 3-Star and 15 2-Star tournaments, numerous other greater or lesser occasions, all enshrined in our Ranking System, so that, as you enter your sanatorium, you at least know that your nervous break-down brought you many computer points.

The English system is one of complete lunacy. It is no coincidence that our best player had the good fortune to get out years ago.

I liked the letter to the Magazine (Table Tennis News Jan./Feb.) by Ian Whiteside Chairman of the County Championships Committee). Let me say at once that the Counties are fortunate in their Administration and particularly that I am a strong supporter of the County Championships. If I were not, I would remain silent as so many others have done and nothing ever gets better that way. For us, even now when we seem to lose a lot, a County Match is still a high spot.

Where I would like to see a little more movement is among the delegates to the County Championships Conference. I urge the Committee to give a lead towards a

livelier, more progressive set-up. Let me try to be constructive. This is what I would like to see in order of preference:

1. The idea first publicised by Jose Ransome of a big Festival of Table Tennis, a long weekend (Easter would be ideal) when ALL matches, all divisions would be played at a central venue, possibly in conjunction with the English Closed, Senior and Junior. What a weekend that would make! It would NOT cost more collectively than we all spend individually right now.

2. The Bob Bridges Plan, a sort of league cup, starting with groups of 5 or so, two progressing to the next round towards the knock-out stages ending in a Cup Final which could be played in conjunction with the English Closed. Certainly this format HAS worked in other Sports and the CUP FINAL is probably something we could sell to the media.

3. We can continue as we are, but we must reduce the number of matches. Keep the pyramid system by all means, but cut the divisions to 6 teams.

That would be a contribution towards relieving the fixture chaos of the moment. There can be no question that the National League must follow suit and adopt a format that reduces matches from 14 to a maximum of 10.

These notes would be too long if I added my thoughts on the tournament situation, but here too rationalisation and regionalisation must replace the totally crazy rat-race of the current English season, sanctified by our Computer Ranking System which, despite superficially technological overtones, is itself highly unsatisfactory.

Philip Nicholls is our new Junior Champion, spotted earlier in these Notes. It was a big day for him because he won our "Intermediate" (Divisions 2-7) as well and the doubles event with Howard Downer. In the Singles final Philip beat Mike Gallop in what I hear was a very good match. Encouraging entry in the Junior if not Senior Event. Carl Prean absent at the Essex 3-Star (unlucky Number 2 — seeded 2 and out in Round 2). No problems about catching the boat this time.

Mathew Kittle won the Cadet event for the 2nd year running as well as making his way up the divisions in the league. His win was never in doubt.

Katherine Brooks won the Junior Girls beating Amanda Will yet again. I look forward to the Island Closed to see whether the girls can challenge the Seniors.

The highest Junior Entry for some years (over 30) may be the start of a revival. The lowest ever entry in the Intermediate tells the other side of the story.

For our leading player it has been a dizzy month or two. He won his first Senior 3-Star when he took the Middlesex in December. In the French Open he beat H. Van Spanje (Dutch No. 1 — Bob Potton permitting) and V. Broda (the left-handed Czech twin) but lost to Pansky (yet again) and Jonyer (anti-loop and fast glue on one side) who took him to the cleaners.

Their paths crossed again in the Czech Open. This time the score-line was respectable, as Carl took a leg and had a 14-10 lead in another. Plenty of hope for a future sensation. Again Pansky was too good, but Carl beat the Rumanian Florea and the American Mike Bush.

He was not in the official English Party for the Welsh Open and so had to battle through the qualifiers. This he did and then beat Patrick Renverse (France) whom I saw beat Jonyer a few years ago at an English Open and then the giant Czech Josef Dvoracek in 5 games after being 9-4 down in the decider. The Czech had lost to John Hilton in the final of the 1980 European Championships and won the German Open in 1982 and his 'hammer grip' backhand loop was particularly impressive. Any weakness that previously appeared against combination bats has been overcome. It was a very hard match. Carl went out in the last 16 to Kriston, a frustrating match as the Hungarian's return of serve (on this occasion) was primitive and after doing most things right Carl hit too many clinching kills off the table.

It was a splendid tournament and the Welsh Association deserve warm applause for having assembled this super show. The Men's Final and Semi-finals were quite stunning.

As I said, it was a dizzy spell that ended in a European Senior Ranking, the No. 3 English Senior and No. 1 Junior Spots. They may not be easy to hold, not least because no-one can play all the time which our system demands.

Despite some success I make no secret of my small regard for the English Ranking System of the present day. Carl tells me that he got fewer computer points from winning the Cotswold Junior 'Select' than Gary Lambert who he beat in the final. I was delighted to see Gary back after a long, discouraging spell that would have killed off most players. He stuck it and deserves the success that came his way.

Once again we were grateful to the Referee and Organisers. Thanks to them we were on that last boat and fresh on the Mock 'O' level trail the next morning. That is why we support the 'Cotswold'. The people at Gloucester have always treated us well.

Roy Williams reports from . . .

NORTH WALES

MAYBE A DOUBLE

Clwyd's victory at home against Northants in Div. 4 of the County Championships leaves just one match, away at Gt. Yarmouth against Norfolk, and a chance for a double for the Welsh county.

Trevor Manning, the Clwyd captain, was in complete control against Northants being well supported by John Hook and Terry Turner. Sue Roberts seemed to lack match practice but Karen Buckle played very well on her senior debut.

Clwyd 'A' again had a drawn match against Malpas in the North Wales Club Championships semi-finals replay. They meet again and to settle the tie games and points will count in the event of another draw.

Lansdowne (Llandudno) beat Wylfa P.S. in their semi-final by 6-4. Glyn Gibbons, Ken Jones and Max Shone winning two sets each for the Anglesey team. Don Hobbs won his three and shared in a doubles success.

The **North Wales Closed** was held at Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay on Feb. 6. Terry Turner retained his men's singles title but

Sue Roberts was beaten in the final of the women's singles by veteran Sheila Rogers.

Results:

Men's Singles:

T. Turner bt N. James.

Women's Singles:

S. Rogers bt S. Roberts.

Veteran Men's Singles:

D. Hobbs bt J. Bishton

Veteran Women's Singles:

S. Rogers bt B. Williams.

Boys' Singles:

P. Griffiths bt L. Evans.

Girls' Singles:

K. Buckle bt J. Manning.

Cadet Boys' Singles:

L. Evans bt J. Tapp.

Cadet Girls' Singles:

K. Ashton bt L. Hatton.

The **Wrexham Closed** was held at Plas Madoc Leisure Centre on Feb. 13 when Terry Turner won the men's singles and former international Julie Ralphs won the women's. Results:

Men's Singles:

T. Turner bt N. James.

Women's Singles:

J. Ralphs bt S. Rogers.

Veteran Singles:

J. Bishton bt P. Williams.

Junior Singles:

P. Griffiths bt K. Buckle.

Cadet Singles:

J. Tapp bt S. Harris.

The **Rhyl Closed**, played at Coventry Cop Holiday Camp on March 6 had a record 20 events and lasted almost 14 hours. John Hook and Barbara Williams retained their singles titles, main results being:

Men's Singles:

J. Hook bt R. Williams.

Women's Singles:

B. Williams bt P. Oakes.

Veteran Men's Singles:

M. Williams bt R. Howland.

Veteran Women's Singles:

B. Williams bt P. Williams.

Senior Veteran Singles:

R. Williams bt B. Williams.

Boys' Singles:

L. Jackson bt M. Williams.

Girls' Singles:

J. Manning bt K. Glendenning.

Consolation Boys' Singles:

C. Thomas bt L. Bennett.

Consolation Girls' Singles:

L. Hatton bt D. Howland.

The **Llandudno Handicap** was held at Quinton Hazell Mochdre on Feb. 26. Roy Williams (scr) won the open singles from an entry of 52. Junior winner was Ian Jones (+15).

Philip Reid reports on the . . .

EAST MIDLANDS CADET LEAGUE

In the latest matches in the East Midlands Cadets League, Chesterfield and Nottingham illustrated their superiority by keeping 100% records in their respective groups. In Group A Nottingham are spearheaded by Tim Sheppard who still has a 100% record. Chesterfield II have illustrated their strength in depth by being runners-up in this group, Kerry Hall starring in their match with Coventry I. Lincoln, spearheaded by Martin Burnell and Peter Wilkinson have clinched their spot from Burton, who continue to rely

on Ian Stewart. Robert Scott-Birchall is giving some impressive displays for Derby II, whilst Coventry — in the process of rebuilding after years at the top — have their hopes on the future in Richard Todd, David Thomas and Craig Davies. Loughborough have only one of last year's team available — Richard Grimley, and he continues to play brilliantly.

In Group B Bradley Billington, with a 100% record, leads Chesterfield's quest for honours but newcomers Worksop are providing a real threat, particularly if Kay Mayall can maintain her present form. Leicester have Joanne Murray and Mark Laywood to thank for finishing in third position, just ahead of Derby I and Stratford, William Hollingsworth is playing well for Derby whilst Daniel Gauntlett continues to improve for Stratford.



BRADLEY BILLINGTON
100% in Group B

Group A

Burton 2 Nottingham I 8
Lincoln 9 Loughborough 1
Coventry I 4 Chesterfield II 6
Derby II 3 Burton 7
Nottingham I 10 Gainsborough 0
Loughborough 4 Coventry I 6
Gainsborough 0 Derby II 10
Lincoln 6 Coventry I 4
Burton 3 Chesterfield II 7

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Nottingham I ...	7	7	0	0	64	6	14
Chesterfield II ...	8	4	3	1	48	32	11
Lincoln	7	4	2	1	45	25	10
Burton	8	4	1	3	46	34	9
Derby II	8	3	3	2	45	35	9
Coventry I	8	3	1	4	43	37	7
Loughborough .	8	2	2	4	37	43	6
Leamington	5	0	0	5	2	48	0
Gainsborough .	7	0	0	7	0	70	0

Group B

Grantham 3 Nottingham II 7
Leicester 7 Nuneaton 3
Coventry II 3 Chesterfield I 7
Derby I 8 Grantham 2
Nottingham II 1 Leicester 9
Worksop 9 Coventry II 1

Leicester 5 Derby 1 5
 Nuneaton 5 Nottingham II 5
 Grantham 2 Chesterfield 1 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Chesterfield I ...	8	8	0	0	67	13	16
Worksop	7	6	0	1	52	18	12
Leicester	8	5	1	2	53	27	11
Derby I	8	5	1	2	49	31	11
Stratford	5	2	0	3	21	29	4
Nottingham II ...	8	1	2	5	20	60	4
Nuneaton	7	1	1	5	25	45	3
Grantham	8	1	1	6	21	59	3
Coventry II	7	0	2	5	22	48	2

Leading Combined Averages
 (Qualification - 4 matches)

	P	W	%
Tim Sheppard (No) ...	21	21	100
Bradley Billington (Ch)	18	18	100
Anthony Parkin (Wo) .	18	17	94
Ian Stewart (Bu)	23	21	91
Adrian Bolton (No) ...	21	19	90
James Lawson (Ch) ...	18	16	89
William Hollingworth (De)	18	15	83
Robert Fearn (No) ...	21	17	81
Peter Wilkinson (Li) ...	21	17	81
Martin Burwell (Li) ...	21	17	81
Kay Mayall (Wo)	15	12	80
John Cauldwell (Ch) .	15	12	80

John Woodford reports from . . .

SUSSEX
ROCK ON!

Any player who practices regularly and tries to keep in top form by constant match-playing should **not** read on!

Graham Gillett (Bexhill) picked up a bat twice between Christmas and the all-Sussex championships on March 6th where he captured the county men's singles for the second time!

Gillett's main interest is in the field of rock music. He runs a group and plays bass guitar. He hit his highest notes so far at a new venue Lancing Leisure Centre dropping Eastbourne champion Paul Rowden in the quarters, Uckfield professional Malcolm Francis in the semis and then managed to capsize Burgess Hill "giant" Keith Horton -16, 10, 18 in the final.

All eight men's seeds reached the quarters and the top four reached the semis. Then the fun began. Both the top seeds went under, including Roger Chandler losing for the first time in twenty years to Horton, whose triumphs this season included a triple in the Wilmott Cup over the Moore brothers and Gillett and winning the West Sussex title.

Rachel Mackriell, following in the footsteps of Brighton Polytechnic students before her, took the Sussex women's crown for the third year in succession and for good measure secured the women's doubles with Angela Maskell and the mixed with Francis.

True, the tournament was robbed of five certain seeds by the National League clash, but Gillett made up for this with a memorable match against Francis. The controversial Uckfield man was dethroned -13, 14, 20. Gillett led 20-15 in the third but Francis brilliantly snatched five in a row. A huge jump in the air by Francis was premature — seconds later he lost 22-20, the end of the line for the England No. 47.

A few miles away at Portslade, Dolphins were being lashed 8-0 by Jaques Generation, a promotion bound team of Prean,

Kenyon, Oakley and Charlery that would seem to have the power to drop a number of heads in the next premier division campaign.

Haywards Heath remains the present hotbed of junior talent, led by Paul Elphick the Sussex No. 1 junior. It is significant that the mid-Sussex league could be the first to open a six-table table tennis centre with help from The Sports Council in a venue at Burgess Hill. Crawley and Hastings both have schemes in mind, Hastings have saved up a substantial sum of money to show the Sports Council, it remains to be seen if Haywards Heath can show the colour of their cash first and therefore win the race.

Mary Rose reports from . . .

WARWICKSHIRE

SOUNDLY THRASHED

In the second round of the Carter Cup, Stratford were away to Wolverhampton who are probably one of the strongest teams in the country. Although soundly thrashed 9-0 they were not completely disgraced.

The Cotswold Ladies League saw Stratford at home to Swindon "B" but with only Pat Cockerill recording a well-deserved win they were beaten 9-1.

Town's veterans visited Kidderminster 'A' and in a very hard-fought match won 6-4. This was mainly due to the efforts of David Noakes who won all his 3 sets, his first maximum for the Town. Two wins for Ron Keyte and one from Dave Williams made up the rest of the score.

AROUND THE LEAGUES

Stratford

The gap at the top of Division 1 closed a little when FISS only managed a draw with MEB and Peak beat the leaders ERC. Peak 'A' had an excellent 7-3 win over Evesham Rowing Club and an 8-2 win over Luddington 'A'.

In Div. 2 the local derby between Luddington 'D' and Luddington 'C' resulted in a good draw for the 'D' side which reduces the chance of Dave and the two Chrisses catching second team Kenilworth St. Nicholas. Dave Gillibrand had a useful maximum here.

The position in the middle of Div. 3 has been changed due to two good wins by Alcester Owls. The first was a 6-4 victory over PMSA with a maximum coming from Bryan Kirkman followed by another 6-4 win over Peak 'C'.

Nuneaton

Favourites Genesis 'A' winners of Div. 1 for the past two years are on course to complete a hat-trick of titles. Their formidable trio of Peter Muir, Alan Harrold and Greg Saville proudly boast a 100% record and a 2 points lead over nearest challengers Boys' Club 'A'.

The Park House Club have strengthened their squad by signing Town champion Dick Jenkins. Adrian Wogan leads the chase for individual honours with just one defeat from 20 sets.

In Div. 2 leaders Albion Press have put together 10 consecutive victories since losing their opening fixture to Nalgo 'B'.

Coton Methodists are looking particularly good in Div. 3 with a faultless record after 9 matches. Their only danger could be Ajax Wolvey 'C' whom they have to play twice.

With a point lead over Rowden 'A', Genesis 'F' command a strong position in Div. 4. The Park House lads emulating their 'A' side with an impeccable record after 11 matches.

HALEX NATIONAL LEAGUE

Dunlop Sports (Birmingham)

In the Premier Division match against Ormesby on Jan. 23, it was generally expected that the Ormesby side who are in second place would be too strong for a Dunlop team without the services of Ian Horsham, but we did not take into account the great fighting spirit of Dunlop who were represented by Barry Johnson, Steve Mills, Derek Munt and Barry Hayward.

The first set saw Mills playing some fast exciting table tennis to beat England-ranked Donald Parker in straight games, but then Duggie Johnson beat brother Barry to level the score. Hayward lost in the third set to Taylor but Munt after losing the first game to 10, fought back strongly to beat Richard Yule 15, 7, a great performance Derek.

In a very close set Mills lost to Duggie Johnson by 15 in the third. Barry Johnson then beat Yule in great style 7, 7 and Parker made up for his defeat in the first set by beating Hayward, thus giving Ormesby a 4-3 lead. Then it was Munt's turn again. He had to play Taylor in the deciding set and as of old Derek came through with flying colours winning 18 and 12 to give Dunlop a deserved draw.

Dunlop's last two home matches are against Unity on March 8th and Newcastle on March 27th. Come along and support them.

Vic Bennett reports from . . .

NORFOLK

JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Although entries slightly down on previous years, the standard of play did not suffer in the Junior Championships, sponsored by Barclays Bank, held at Dereham High School. Star of the event was no doubt Susan Jenkinson who was a three time finals loser last season, became a three time winner with the U-17 Singles, against Karen Burkett, but oh so close; U-15 against Carolin Chamberlin and the Girls' Doubles. The U-13 boys saw a very attractive match with Neil Pickard just holding on to his title against Lee Diggins who shows great promise.

Phil Logsdon could do no more than retain for the third year the U-17, but failed in the Boys' Doubles with David Pickard in the semis against Neil Pickard and David Honor, who then were KO'd by Simon Steward/Chris Moffett in the final. Steward, recent winner of Wymondham League Senior Championships took the U-15 convincingly against Paul Rich.

Trophies presented by Mr. A. Rix (Barclay Bank) and County President Mr. T. D. A. Felton.

RESULTS

U-17 Boys:

P. Logsdon bt C. Rayment 2-0.

U-17 Girls:

S. Jenkinson bt K. Burkett 2-1.

U-15 Boys:

S. Steward bt P. Rich 2-0.

U-15 Girls:

S. Jenkinson bt C. Chamberlin 2-0.

U-13 Boys:
N. Pickard bt L. Diggins 2-0.
U-13 Girls:
S. Everitt bt N. Savage 2-0.
Boys' Doubles:
Steward/Moffett bt N. Pickard/Honor 2-1.
Girls' Doubles:
Jenkinson/Burkett bt Wilson/Jones 2-0.
Mixed Doubles:
Cutting/Burkett bt Logsdon/Wilson 2-1.

Tony Carey reports from . . .

SOMERSET

DEDICATION + EFFORT = SUCCESS

Once again Somerset's hordes descended on the Exeter 1-Star Junior Open to test their mettle against some making the long trek from Kent.

Taking a broad view I think most parents and coaches will agree that everyone played to the best of their ability and in some cases excelled themselves. There were disappointments and rejoicings intermingled with a few tears which is a natural relief reaction from the tension. There were some upsets, especially in the girls' events when Helen Perrott of Avon played some wonderful table tennis to take two titles and then partner Sarah Hammond of Hants to win the girls' doubles. They are a formidable combination when on song. Well played, both of you! Lisa and Jackie — watch out!

One week's rest and then all roads led to Chilton Trinity School for the Somerset Closed. But as a curtain raiser some of our Seniors and Juniors were in action on the Saturday in county matches. And what a day this proved to be for Somerset. The first match was against Berkshire Junior 2nds who included No. 5 England cadet Matthew Syed.

The first set was between Mark Bryant and Syed which went, as expected, to Matthew 16, 10, although the score did not reflect the true quality of the play produced by Mark. The next set between Payne and Hodder went to Philip -12, 11, 19. This levelled the score and with our No. 1, Lee, to play next, we had high hopes of a lead, but it was not to be, with P. Savins getting the verdict 14, -16, 13. But our girls, Melanie and Fiona, put us level by beating J. Norman and R. Watts. The fifth set was the boys' doubles with Lee and Mark against Matthew and Savins, the first game going to 24-22 to Berkshire. But the second was an anti-climax with Berkshire winning 21-8. Mark restored the balance by beating Hodder 11, 9 and Melanie then proceeded to tip the scales our way with a convincing win 13, 6 against R. Watts. Then came the "crunch" set between Lee and Matthew, a classic confrontation between a fast looper and a skilful defender. The atmosphere was electric as the set progressed with the first going to Matthew, 14, and the second to Lee, 17. In the third, Matthew was racing away and at 19-16 it looked all over, but Lee fought back to make Matthew sweat before losing -19. The next set between Sarah and Julie resulted in a win for Sarah 11, 11. Well played, Sarah, in your first County match! The last set was very tight between Philip and Savins, the result going to Savins 20, 20. This made it a creditable draw and a boost to Somerset's hopes for the future.

Somerset Closed

The day dawned bright and sunny, as

players of all ages made their way to Chilton School, Bridgwater, for our biggest domestic competition of the season. Some came with confidence, some with hope and some with trepidation, but all with determination. Proceedings started with the U-13 events. These produced some very competitive matches but no upsets, the top seeds, Melanie Carey and Mandy Williams, meeting in the final and won by Melanie. Paul Smith and Paul Fowler contested the other final with the winner being the No. 1 seed, Paul.

The next events were the U-15's with the major upset being the win by David Woolbridge of Yeovil over Paul Burley in the quarters. This prevented a second meeting of Paul and Murray within 3 weeks which, if it had been like the previous one, would have been quite explosive, as whenever these two have met in the past, it has been a case of light the blue touch paper and stand clear.

In the Girls' event, there were no upsets with Sarah, No. 1, Melanie, No. 2, Fiona, No. 3, and holder Wendy Payne making a welcome return to reach the semis. This stage went to form with Melanie beating Fiona and Sarah putting out Wendy. The final was a triumph for Melanie, who put the disappointment of losing the U-15 final behind her to take the title with her hopes for the senior mixed events. Firstly the doubles, with David Lee, and then with Judy Craig. The first semi-final brought together Dave and Melanie against Jill Green and Philip Payne. This resulted in a win for Jill and Philip who met John Crabtree and Judy Craig in the final, John and Judy winning. The second doubles, for which Melanie was teamed with Judy, led to her 4th final in which they met the No. 1 seeds, Jill and Fiona, who proved too strong winning 16, 15.

This leads me on to describe an event that in my opinion does not get much publicity because of its title — the Veterans. Perhaps we ought to re-name it the Masters, as is now done in athletics and which in this sport would be more appropriate, because of the wonderful table tennis produced by these older players.

The No. 1 seed was Colin Feltham, the No. 2 Joe Garland, with Peter Butterworth and Colin Allsopp 3 and 4. But like all competitions there are jokers in the pack and two in particular were Chris New and Rebecca's dad, Tony Russi, who both had hard battles with Butterworth and Feltham respectively to reach the top half semis, the bottom half going to form with Colin meeting Joe. These two matches were hard-fought affairs with the eventual winners being Colin and Tony. This pairing produced a wonderful final as could be expected with Tony winning and coming into the Somerset fold once more. Welcome back Tony, and thanks for the Chilton advert!

Interspersed between the Veterans' matches, the Men's and Women's Premier titles battles were underway. In the women's, Jill Green was No. 1 seed with Judy Craig No. 2, Melanie No. 3 and Fiona No. 4. This also produced its upsets with Sarah Webb beating Fiona and Shirley Dark from Yeovil beating Melanie and Wendy Payne putting out Judy. Jill quite confidently came through against Sarah and Shirley had to fight a bit harder to beat Wendy. In the final, Jill showed her versatility to win the title again. Thanks for the demonstration,

Jill, and I hope our up-and-coming girls learned something from watching.

We now come to the main event of the day (as far as the men were concerned), and this is where the shocks started for our established County players who, on paper, looked certain to reach the last four. But we did not take into account the "jokers" again, mainly due to the fact that one of them, Dean Sully, played more like the Dean we knew two years ago before he had his bad accident to his knee. Welcome back, Dean! Ian Dicker and Les Sadler also really came good.

The line-up for the quarters was Brian Reeves v Russi Captain; John Crabtree v Ian Dicker; John Hartry v Dean Sully and Lee Sandler v David Lee. These pairings produced some wonderful matches and I think most people thought that eventually the seeding would be proved correct, but once again the unpredictability of Table Tennis won and the semi-final line-up featured Reeves v Dicker and Sully v Sadler. Yeovil deserve all credit for getting two of their small but tenacious contingent to this stage. But hopes of an all-Yeovil final disappeared as Brian proved too experienced for Ian. But they still had reason to celebrate as the new Somerset Junior champion, Lee, trod in the same footsteps which our previous champion, David Lee, trod two years ago, to reach the final where he gave a determined fight to Brian as they contested every point, the match going to 3 before Brian retained his title at 19. If it had been the best of 5, the floor would have been swimming with their sweat, and it could still have gone to either player. But Lee's turn will come, I am sure.

At the end of the day it was a success for Table Tennis and also for the organisers who kept the show rolling throughout the long day from before 9.00 a.m. until 9.30 in the evening, with hardly a break. Well done Mike and your team!

Doug Moss reports from . . .

WORCESTERSHIRE

JUKES DOMINATES

The County Closed Championships were played at the Perdiswell Sports Centre, Worcester on Feb. 13. There were 12 tables in use and play continued over a 12 hour period. The Championships were dominated by 14-year-old Murray Jukes who won the Men's Singles, Men's Doubles and Mixed titles. He is also the County Boys' Singles and Junior Doubles Champion! A clean sweep and a marvellous performance by Murray, who has two more years as a junior. To complete the dominance by junior players there was also a brilliant performance by Louise Davis, (13-years-old) who won the Women's Singles Championship beating Lynda Reid (the current holder) and Mandy Mytton, who are County Nos. 1 and 2. Louise also won the Mixed, partnered by Jukes, and she also is the County Junior Singles and Doubles Champion. What a marvellous season for these two junior stars!

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

N. Bottomley bt T. Washington 19, -21, 20.
M. Jukes bt S. Claxton 21, 18.

Final:

JUKES bt Bottomley 8, 16.

Women's Singles:

L. DAVIS bt M. Mytton 17, 13.

Men's Doubles:WASHINGTON/JUKES bt Claxton/
Bottomley -9, 9, 8.**Women's Doubles:**J. HUNT/D. HOUGH bt S. Roden/Davis
17, 19.**Mixed Doubles:**JUKES/DAVIS bt K. Walton/L. Reid
21, -21, 15.**Veteran Singles (Men):**

M. WOOD bt M. Dicks 17, 12.

Veteran Singles (Women):

J. HUNT bt B. Jukes -15, 13, 17.

Veteran Doubles:WOOD/J. E. SMITH bt B. Thompson/Dicks
8, 24.

The County 1st team is in a position to win the Championships of their Division. Northants having surprisingly been beaten leaves Worcestershire and Bucks level on points and games average. The County team visits Bucks on Feb. 19 and the result of the match will be vital.

Les D'Arcy reports from . . .

YORKSHIRE**FLU VICTIM**

,With your correspondent just recovering from an attack by an insidious 'flu' bug 'Yorkshire Notes' will for once be unusually brief.

Wilmott Cup: Ian Duxbury of Leeds proved to be much too good for county trio Mike Stead, Bob Shutt and Mike Stephenson of Bradford the current Premier Division Yorkshire Champions when Leeds unexpectedly won the match 5-3. Ian won his three sets in straight games with no player scoring more than 16 points against him in any game. Keith M'Kandla added the other two winning sets. The Bradford trio each registered one win over Leeds Singles' Champion Paul Sanderson.

David Rook was unbeaten in Bradford Boys' 5-2 win over Liverpool in the Carter Cup. Martin Firth (1) and Peter Meer (1) completed Bradford's score.

Alan Hanson and Cleve Judson did a rescuing act for Wakefield newly promoted to the top division of the Yorkshire Veterans' League, when they each won three singles to defeat defending unbeaten Champions, Rotherham. Wakefield, who have won all their matches so far, have opened a two point gap at the top of the table. Alan and Cleve made the team when three of the regular Wakefield Squad were not available. Cleve's story appeared in the Jan./Feb. issue of T.T. News.

Congratulations to Nigel Pennock seen receiving the Harrogate Men's Singles Trophy from Mr. David Brook. Story and full results next issue along with 'Spotlight' on Castleford's Super Veteran, 71-year-old, George Simpson; Selby League's progress and other topics which have had to be held over for the next edition of 'Yorkshire Notes'.

Finally, if there are any keen table tennis players in the Whitby area who are interested in developing the game in that area or who would like to qualify as a Club Coach, please contact Reg Cammidge (0947) 880564 who will be pleased to hear from you.

**YORKSHIRE CLOSED
CADET CHAMPIONSHIPS**

by REA BALMFORD

Those on the County circuit who may have been tending to write off Yorkshire during a recent period of rebuilding which, judging by results at the Senior and Junior Premier weekends, is approaching successful completion, should have attended the County Cadet Closed Championships at

Moor Grange High School, Leeds on Sunday, Feb. 13.

Their thoughts may then have drifted along the lines of where, in future years, would the challenge to the White Rose county come from, for over a hundred youngsters, competing at U-14 and U-12 level, turned on a sizzling display which must have reassured County Championships Secretary ERIC HILL and his committee that their needs in playing strength will be covered well into the 1990's.

And what a pleasure to see the enthusiasm, skill and, above all, sportsmanship displayed — I do not remember hearing a complaint, but recall vividly seeing losers shake hands sincerely and walk off the table with their heads held as high as those of the winners.

Thinking in terms of groups rather than individuals, it is still difficult to pick out highlights, but what about the young Dewsbury boys, led by exciting 12-year-old left-hander MICKEY O'DRISCOLL, winner of the U-12 singles and losing finalist in both events at Cadet level; Wakefield's rising star ALARIC BASSANO, shock winner of the Cadet Boys' Singles who, of course comes from the right stable with mother Pat (nee DAINTY) and uncle Mick both former County stars; the Hull girls, who occupied six out of the eight places in the three Girls' finals and have no less than three of their number in the National List; the Doncaster lads bidding to take the railway town back to the days of the MICK DAINTY's and PETER DUNCOMBE's; Selby, relatively new in this field, but with the enthusiasm to come on apace; plus others, too numerous to mention.

Two final thoughts with which to close. As I watched the Cadet Boys' final between BASSANO and O'DRISCOLL, I saw two fine players with very personal and individual styles — what an excellent job their coaches have done — please, in the future do not coach out these styles and turn the players into predictable automatons.

After all, who was more individual than DENIS NEALE and Denis was to Yorkshire table tennis what FREDDIE TRUEEMAN, described by then Prime Minister HAROLD WILSON as the greatest living Yorkshireman, was to Yorkshire cricket.

Secondly was it not great to see Yorkshire junior RACHEL BROOK and her Dewsbury team colleague DEBBIE O'DRISCOLL doing a first class job as part of a three girl 'desk' team with parent Mrs. JACKIE RYDER, and putting something back into the sport which has already given them much enjoyment. Others please take note.

RESULTS**Cadet Boys' Singles:**

Alaric Bassano (Wakefield) bt Michael O'Driscoll (Dewsbury).

Cadet Boys' Doubles:

John Bult (Hull)/Nicky Carr (Doncaster) bt O'Driscoll/Nicky Ryder (Dewsbury).

Cadet Girls' Singles:

Alison Evans (Hull) bt Ruth Bray (Hull).

Cadet Girls' Doubles:

Evans/Hazel Kavanagh (Hull) bt Helen Broomhead (Sheffield)/Jane Roberts (Doncaster).

U-12 Boys' Singles:

O'Driscoll bt Neil Simms (Doncaster).

U-12 Girls' Singles:

Paula Hookem (Hull) bt Kerry Jackson (Hull).



Harrogate Closed

NIGEL PENNOCK receiving Men's Singles trophy from Mr. David Brook.

14th DUNLOP LANGASHIRE 2-STAR JUNIOR OPEN

SHARPE RETAINER — DOUBLE FOR JILL

by George R. Yates

Staffordshire's **Jill Powis**, not only proved herself as the top seed by winning the Cadet girls' singles title but, for good measure, as the No. 3 seed in the girls' singles succeeded the home county's Jean Parker to become a double title holder.

In the girls' event Miss Parker, the top seed, was ousted in the quarters by Josette Ryalls whilst Susan Collier, the second seed, fell in the semis to the Wolverhampton wonder girl. Not once was Miss Powis taken to three games leaving in her wake Sarah Hurry of Scotland, Andea Holt (La), Tracey Spencer (St), Sue Collier and, in the final, Fiona Elliot also of Staffs.

Likewise in the cadet event Miss Powis romped home in straight games beating Jane Roberts (Y), Claire Potts (Ch), Debbie Soothill (Cu) and, in the final, Angela Sanders, also of Wolverhampton who, in the semis, knocked out the second seed Louise Davis.

Top seed in the boys' singles was the controversial Billy Gleave who reached the final after twice being taken to three games, firstly by Martyn Campbell (Wa) and then, in the semis, by Philip Gunn (Wa).

In the final, however, he came up against the defending title holder, **Steven Sharpe** of Wakefield, and although winning the first game the Cheshire boy eventually went under to the sheer grit and determination of the Yorkshire lad.

Philip Huggon, seeded No. 3, after an early morning journey from Bristol fell to James Murdoch the up-and-coming Cheshire lad who also got the better of Richard Tilford (Ng).

Winner of the Cadet boys' singles was **Michael Oxley** from Swindon seeded No. 2, who beat the top seed, Stuart Craggs of Ormesby in a hard-fought final.

Gleave and **Gunn** combined well to win the boys' doubles their final victory being over the Tyke combine of Martin Firth and David Rook, after the Yorkshire lads had knocked out the No. 2 seeds Sharpe and Jeffrey Thatcher.

Jean Parker and **Melanie Seaton** won the counterpart girls' event to spike the guns of the Wolves pairing of Fiona Elliot and Jill Powis.

It proved a long hard day at the Bolton Institute of Higher Education where thermal underwear was the order of the day to combat the cold, cold atmosphere.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

B. Gleave (Ch) bt J. Thatcher (Y) 14, 17;
P. Gunn (Wa) bt J. Hook (Wi) 10, 11;
J. Murdoch (Ch) bt R. Tilford (Ng)
19, -12, 17;

S. Sharpe (Y) bt M. Oxley (Wi) 7, 4.

Semi-finals:

Gleave bt Gunn 12, -20, 18;
Sharpe bt Murdoch 15, -19, 11.

Final:

SHARPE bt Gleave -13, 20, 19.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Ryalls (Y) bt J. Parker (La) 13, 19;
F. Elliot (St) bt T. Lightfoot (Ch) 15, 18;
J. Powis (St) bt T. Spencer (St) 12, 16;
S. Collier (Bk) bt M. Seaton (Y) 17, 12.

Semi-finals:

Elliot bt Ryalls -17, 19, 12;
Powis bt Collier 18, 14;

Final:

POWIS bt Elliot 19, 12.

Cadet Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

S. Craggs (Cv) bt S. Gibson (La) 14, 17;
T. West (E) bt S. Miller (Cv) 10, 17;
M. Oxley bt A. Bolton (Ng) 13, 16;
B. Billington (Dy) bt M. O'Driscoll (Y)
17, -9, 19.

Semi-finals:

Craggs bt West 16, 19;
Oxley bt Billington 4, 17.

Final:

OXLEY bt Craggs 13, -18, 14.

Cadet Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

Powis bt C. Potts (Ch) 15, 14;
D. Soothill (Cu) bt A. Holt (La) 11, 11;
A. Sanders (St) bt S. Hurry (SCO) 17, 11;
L. Davis (Wo) bt H. Lower (St) 14, 19.

Semi-finals:

Powis bt Soothill 9, 13;
Sanders bt Davis 20, 20.

Final:

POWIS bt Sanders 16, 13.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Gleave/Gunn bt L. Neil (Ng)/Tilford
-15, 14, 17;
M. Firth/D. Rook (Y) bt Sharpe/Thatcher
-21, 17, 18.

Final:

GLEAVE/GUNN bt Firth/Rook 10, 18.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Elliot/Powis bt Collier/Ryalls 18, 18;
Parker/Seaton bt H. Cotter/E. Wright
(WAL) 20, -5, 17.

Final:

PARKER/SEATON bt Elliot/Powis 13, 16.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND 2-STAR JUNIOR OPEN

TRIP WORTHWHILE

Yorkshire's David Rook made his long journey down to Woking worthwhile when, over the weekend of Jan. 15/16, he won the boy's singles title and shared in a boys' doubles success with Andrew Sexton of Surrey.

Helen Bardwell of Hertfordshire was the winner of the girls' singles her final opponent being Fiona Elliot of Staffs who had earlier distinguished herself by ousting her Wolverhampton teammate Jill Powis.

The Syed brothers from Berkshire, Andrew and Matthew, each notched a triumph, the former in the Cadet boys' singles and the latter in the U-12 boys' singles.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

G. Wilson (Dv) bt A. Dixon (St) 16, 20;
D. Rook (Y) bt A. Cunningham (K) 19, -17, 20;
A. Dodd (K) bt M. Syed (Bk) 17, 12;
S. Dettmar (E) bt R. Darnell (E) 13, 13.

Semi-finals:

Rook bt Wilson -16, 20, 17;
Dodd bt Dettmar 19, -19, 18.

Final:

ROOK bt Dodd 19, 16.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Powis (St) bt A. Boxall (He) 14, 12;
F. Elliot (St) bt D. Simmons (Sy) 15, 13;
T. Moore (Sx) bt L. Goldsmith (Mi) 20, 21;
H. Bardwell (He) bt A. Judd (Ca) 14, -12, 13.

Semi-finals:

Elliot bt Powis 12, -17, 19;
Bardwell bt Moore 19, 15.

Final:

BARDWELL bt Elliot -19, 9, 18.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Rook/A. Sexton (Sy) bt M. Ellett/G. Lambert (Dv)
-19, 27, 15;
C. Bartram (K)/Dodd bt A. Syed (Bk)/Syed 20, 20.

Final:

ROOK/SEXTON bt Bartram/Dodd -8, 13, 16.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Boxall/L. Popkiewicz (Sy) bt Powis/T. Spencer (St)
18, 19;
L. Hayden (E)/R. Knight (Mi) bt J. Houghton (K)/
K. Wilde (Sy) 18, 19.

Final:

BOXALL/POPKIEWICZ bt Hayden/Knight 21, 19.

Cadet Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

A. Syed bt D. Fulton (K) 10, 13;
Dixon bt M. Oxley (Wi) 11, 9;
K. Ball (K) bt P. Amos (K) 21, 13;
M. Rutherford (K) bt M. Syed -16, 17, 16.

Semi-finals:

Syed bt Dixon 17, 13;
Ball bt Rutherford 12, 17.

Final:

A. SYED bt Ball 14, 8.

Cadet Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

Powis bt Hayden 17, 12;
Knight bt Houghton 17, 12;
H. Perrett (AV) bt M. Carey (So) -20, 15, 18;
L. Souter (Mi) bt L. Davis (Wo) 19, -18, 13.

Semi-finals:

Powis bt Knight 19, 13;
Souter bt Perrett 19, 15.

Final:

POWIS bt Souter 13, 10.

Cadet Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Syed/Syed bt Ball/C. Nash (K) 16, 18;
Dixon/D. Holland (E) 17, 21.

Final:

DIXON/HOLLAND bt Syed/Syed 20, 20.

Cadet Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Powis/Souter bt Hammond/Perrett -19, 19, 10;
Davis/A. Sanders (St) bt Holland/A. Shufflebotham (Ox)
19, -19, 9.

Final:

POWIS/SOUTER bt Davis/Sanders 19, 14.

U-12 Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

M. Syed bt Fulton 12, 16;
B. Billington (Dy) bt M. Pernet (Sy) 6, 6;
Holland bt K. Caudwell (Dy) 9, 12;
Rutherford bt A. Houghton (K) 11, 17.

Semi-finals:

Syed bt Billington -9, 18, 13;
Holland bt Rutherford 14, -9, 18.

Final:

M. SYED bt Holland 20, 15.

U-12 Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

K. Hall (Dy) bt J. Billington (Dy) 17, 7;
M. Williams (So) bt L. Coulson (Bk) 18, 9;
J. Norman (Bk) bt C. Buckley (Bd) 4, 17;
T. Scott-Pawson (Do) bt E. Hurling (He) 7, 15.

Semi-finals:

Hall bt Williams 12, 18;
Scott-Pawson bt Norman 13, 12.

Final:

SCOTT-PAWSON bt Hall 20, 17.

GOTSWOLD JUNIOR 'SELECT'

LISA AND CARL SUPREME

Both **Lisa Bellinger** and **Carl Prean** lived up to their top seedings in the main singles events at the Cotswold Junior 'Select' played at Gloucester over the weekend of Jan. 29/30.

But, in the boys' doubles, the Isle of Wight boy with Billy Gleave of Cheshire, were beaten in the final by **Alan Cooke** and **Nicky Mason**. **Lisa**, meanwhile, with the beaten girls' singles finalist, **Jean Parker**, added the girls' doubles title with a final win over Alison Boxall and Laura Goldsmith.

In the cadet events **Andrew Syed** won both the boys' singles and doubles, the latter in partnership with his county colleague **Jimmy Stokes**. Similarly in the girls' events **Jill Powis** scored a double with victory over Louise Davis in the singles and, with **Lesley Souter**, beating Rachel Knight and Evelyn Wright (Clwyd) in the doubles final.

Bradley Billington took the U-12 boys' title with a final win over Damian Holland and the diminutive **Claire Potts** succeeded against **Andea Holt** in an all-northern battle in the U-12 girls' singles.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

C. Preat (IOW) bt P. Huggon (La) 11, 16;
A. Cooke (Dy) bt N. Tyler (Wal) 17, 17;
S. Sharpe (Y) bt B. Gleave (Ch) 19, 18;
G. Lambert (Dv) bt N. Mason (Sy) 6, -18, 12.

Semi-finals:

Preat bt Cooke 12, 14;
Lambert bt Sharpe 20, 16, 17.

Final:

PREAN bt Lambert 11, 11.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

L. Bellingham (Bd) bt T. Lightfoot (Ch) 7, 10;
S. Collier (Bk) bt M. Seaton (Y) 18, 16;
J. Powis (St) bt F. Elliot (St) 18, 9;
J. Parker (La) bt M. Hams (Sy) 20, 18.

Semi-finals:

Bellingham bt Collier 9, 16;
Parker bt Powis 11, 9.

Final:

BELLINGER bt Parker 15, 16.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Gleave/Preat bt P. Gunn (Wa)/S. Worrall (Li) 17, 10;
Cooke/Mason bt J. Stokes/A. Syed (Bk) 19, -10, 13.

Final:

COOKE/MASON bt Gleave/Preat 10, 20.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Bellingham/Parker bt R. Brook/J. Shaw (Y) 14, 14;
A. Boxall (He)/L. Goldsmith (Mi) bt Hams/T. Moore (Sx) 18, 19.

Final:

BELLINGER/PARKER bt Boxall/Goldsmith 13, 19.

Cadet Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

A. Syed bt K. Ball (K) 13, 12;
P. Amos (K) bt M. Syed (Bk) 6, 16;
S. Craggs (Cv) bt J. Ellis (K) -19, 15, 20;
A. Dixon (St) bt J. Stokes (Bk) -10, 19, 16.

Semi-finals:

A. Syed bt Amos 20, 12;
Dixon bt Craggs 12, 18.

Final:

A. SYED bt Dixon -17, 11, 16.

Cadet Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

Powis bt C. Potts (Ch) 13, 13;
A. Sanders (St) bt D. Soothill (Cu) 14, -19, 15;
J. Houghton (K) bt A. Holt (La) 8, 17;
L. Davis (Wo) bt R. Knight (Mi) 11, 15.

Semi-finals:

Powis bt Sanders 10, 15;
Davis bt Houghton -16, 18, 19.

Final:

POWIS bt Davis 11, 9.

Cadet Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Stokes/A. Syed bt G. Barden/J. Ferguson (K) 18, 8;
Dixon/M. Syed bt Amos/Ball 15, 20.

Final:

STOKES/A. SYED bt Dixon/M. Syed 7, 10.

Cadet Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Powis/L. Souter (Mi) bt Potts/Soothill -12, 11, 10;
Knight/E. Wright (Wal) bt S. Hammond (Ha)/H. Perrott (Av) -15, 10, 17.

Final:

POWIS/SOUTER bt Knight/Wright 15, 10.

Boys' U-12 Singles Quarter-finals:

M. Rutherford (K) bt S. Cooper (St) 12, 16;
D. Holland (E) bt N. Simms (Y) 11, 17;
A. Houghton (K) bt M. Ward (Y) 13, 18;
B. Billington (Dy) bt D. Morris (Sp) 12, 7.

Semi-finals:

Holland bt Rutherford 18, -18, 19;
Billington bt Houghton -24, 15, 16.

Final:

BILLINGTON bt Holland 16, -21, 17.

Girls' U-12 Singles Quarter-finals:

Potts bt T. Scott-Pawson (Do) 12, 7;
K. Hall (Dy) bt J. Dyke (Sp) 15, 8;
J. Norman (Bk) bt J. Dixon (St) 19, 19;
Holt bt S. Kettle (Av) 6, 7.

Semi-finals:

Potts bt Hall 18, 14;
Holt bt Norman 26, 12.

Final:

POTTS bt Holt -10, 13, 19.

be home and dry. But unfortunately these are all 'ifs', and we now face a situation whereby even if we beat Warwickshire in the remaining match we are still at risk.

Losing to Essex 8-1 in the first match of the weekend was perhaps to be expected, Jill Harris gaining our only win, but we were a little disappointed in going down 6-3 against Lancashire. Again, Jill Harris was our main asset with wins in her singles and, with Andrew Bellingham, in the mixed doubles. Bellingham scored our other win against Steve Turner, a close match going to 19 in the third game. Even closer in a way was the men's doubles. In their first doubles pairing for the County first team, Paul Barnett and Bill Bridgeman were within an ace of beating the strong partnership of Donald Parker and Steve Turner, having won the first game 21-19 and leading 19-17 in the second. Parker's brilliance in disposing of any overlength service had been a feature of the day, and this was the downfall of the Staffs pair. A couple of loose services and Lancs were back in the game, taking the second 22-20 and the third 21-13.

Nevertheless, Barnett and Bridgeman demonstrated they are a partnership to be reckoned with, going on to beat the Berkshire pair of David Barr and Andy Wellman, having to recover from losing the first game narrowly 21-19. Understandably they are seeded No. 1 in this month's County Closed doubles event.

Staffs close rivals in the relegation battle are Berkshire, who incredibly had beaten Yorkshire during the first weekend. Remembering that Yorks had beaten us 8-1, we were facing a stern test with Berkshire. Wins by Andy Rich and, in the mixed, by Bellingham and Jill Harris made the match score two-all at the start of the men's doubles, and this was the turning point. Barnett and Bridgeman's win by 19-21, 21-13, 21-17 paved the way for a resounding 7-2 win, a dispirited Berkshire failing to take another game, let alone a set.

Special mention must be made of Jill Harris, whose contribution throughout the weekend was outstanding, her only defeat being the mixed doubles in partnership with Craig Bakewell against Essex. The team finished the weekend on a high note and will no doubt face the forthcoming match with our longstanding friendly rivals, Warwickshire, with resolve and a fair measure of confidence.

I am assuming that details of the three matches reported here will appear elsewhere in the magazine, so I will not duplicate them.

In the Wolverhampton Closed, Andrew Bellingham duly won the Men's Singles title for the sixth year in succession, with Andy Rich providing the opposition in the final on all six occasions. Fiona Elliot and Jill Powis dominated the women's events with honours even in the singles; Fiona beating Jill in the senior final and Jill taking the junior title. Husband and wife team, Steve and Janet Dunning (Steve now plays for Worcestershire) had a good win in the mixed doubles and Adrian Dixon reversed the County junior rankings by beating Richard Hayward in the boys' event.

RESULTS

Men's:

Bellingham bt Rich 16, -20, 16.

Women's:

Jill Powis bt Fiona Elliot 17, 10.

Men's Doubles:

Paul Draisey/Bellingham bt Dunning/Rich 17, 12.

Women's Doubles:

Tracey Spencer/Jill Powis bt Fiona Elliot/Angela Sanders 19, 16.

Mixed Doubles:

Dunning/Dunning bt Andrew Dixon/Fiona Elliot 12, 16.

Veterans':

Ray Dixon bt Gordon Rose -18, 12, 16.

Junior Boys':

Adrian Dixon bt Richard Hayward 17, 14.

Junior Girls':

Fiona Elliot bt Jill Powis 17, 14.

Savoy Singles (Restricted):

Dave Rawlings bt Terry Jones 16, 17.

The Potteries Closed finished with a great men's final between Craig Bakewell and Bill Bridgeman. Throughout the match there was very little between the two, and to be fair neither deserved to lose and some tremendous rallies — far better than anything seen on television for many years — brought prolonged applause from the large crowd which had waited to see the final events. Bakewell, steadier in the first game, took it 21-17 and went into an early 6-0 lead in the second. By varying pace and some courageous hitting, Bridgeman pulled back and won the second game 21-18. Tension rose in the third as it became obvious that only a point or two would separate the two players and any mistake would be critical. At 18-all, Bakewell went to serve and his miscue will be something he will dream of for many weeks. He never recovered, and Bridgeman went on to win 21-18. With the County Closed one week away, lets hope that Craig will make amends, at least to the extent of erasing the bad memory of that crucial error.

RESULTS

Men's Singles (Finney Cup) Semi-finals:

Bridgeman bt Barnett 12, -16, 11;
Bakewell bt Hallam -16, 16, 17.

Final:

Bridgeman bt Bakewell -17, 18, 18.

Women's Singles (Baker Cup):

T. Lightfoot bt P. Brookes 12, 12.

Men's Doubles (Leeding Cup):

Bridgeman/Barnett bt Hallam/Bakewell -18, 14, 16.

Women's Doubles (Upton Cup):

T. Lightfoot/K. Rogers bt K. Wass/K. Dawson 16, 10.

Mixed Doubles (Proctor Cup):

Wintle/T. Lightfoot bt N. Jobling/A. Billings -18, 16, 16.

Veterans' Singles:

P. W. Smith bt J. Riley -15, 20, 18.

Junior Singles (Beryl Broad Cup):

Tracy Lightfoot bt Robert Wilkes 13, 18.

Butcher Cup (Restricted):

I. Miller bt T. Haldane 14, 8.

STOP PRESS:

Staffs Junior 'B' side of Matthew Harvey, Neil Harris, Kevin Lawrence, Tracey Spencer and cadet Karen Rogers travelled to Grantham and beat the home side, Lincolnshire 'B' by 9 matches to 1. Matthew Harvey dropped the only set, but the match was, in fact, much closer than the score suggests. Because Karen is only ranked in the cadet list, we have had to forfeit her two games, but all credit to her for her splendid first contribution at county level, and the match score of 7-3 is a very satisfactory result.

Jack Chalkley reports from . . .

STAFFORDSHIRE

Whatever happens, the complications arising out of this season's Premier Division contest are likely to leave a bitter taste. The Middlesex error and the consequent forfeiture of matches and the incompleting programme at the second weekend due to the problem with the floor, both these circumstances may, in the end, be the factors which determine the relegation issue. And Staffordshire, despite having won 2 out of their 6 matches, are likely to be on the losing end. We felt confident that we would beat Warwickshire when we started the match at Bristol on the Saturday, and without the Middlesex error we would now

Brian Halliday reports from . . .

BERKSHIRE

MAJOR CELEBRATION

Berkshire has cause for major celebration. Karen Witt's remarkable achievements this season have culminated in her becoming the Ladies' Closed Champion of England. The years of dedication and hard work have brought tremendous reward for the Reading player and I am sure all players and officials in Berkshire will join me in offering Karen our sincere congratulations on a wonderful season.

1982-83 has been a success story all round for the Royal County. The Omega Club's galaxy of senior stars have kept the flag flying in Open tournaments with Mandy Smith, Alison Gordon and David Barr excelling themselves on numerous occasions. The future looks bright as well as our junior players have been carrying all before them — especially at Cadet level. Jimmy Stokes and the Syed brothers, Matthew and Andrew have extraordinary potential.

The story and background of the steady rise of Jimmy Stokes on the one hand and the meteoric rise of the Syed brothers on the other is a fascinating one.

The methods that produce super players are diverse. Jimmy commenced his table tennis under the expert guidance of Simon Heaps whose continental and individual style of coaching is certainly against the standard practices preached in England today. To watch the Heaps method, learnt with care from his father, is a revelation and the method soon rubbed off on Jim Stokes senior who continues to train and advise his son. The road to the top is a hard one and the effort and dedication that Jimmy has put in is at last reaping its reward. His future looks very bright indeed as he has an aggressive modern game, a good sound temperament and a pleasant and sporting attitude in both victory and defeat.

Andy and Matthew Syed only live a stone's throw away from Jimmy, and are both members of the highly successful Omega Club.

The brothers whose styles of play are so dissimilar owe their short but very successful careers, once again to the dedication of parents, but most to the expertise and coaching methods of Peter Charters. Peter's record of producing top quality players is second to none but in the achievements of Andy and Matthew he must be very proud indeed. Andy, who won the English Cadet title this season, has developed an aggressive blocking type game and is rapidly gaining the experience and know-how to trouble senior players. Matthew on the other hand presents an extraordinary contrast. His defence and mastery of his combination bat is quite remarkable for one so young. His will to win is tremendous and this coupled with his obvious sheer enjoyment of playing must make him a tremendous prospect.

Contrary to popular belief in Berkshire Andy, Jimmy and Matthew are all very good friends although there are strong rivalries when they meet each other in local matches and on the tournament circuit.

To complete our junior challenge in the coming seasons will be the talents of Maidenhead's Sue Collier. Sue will join the 'S' squad to bring together a team capable of challenging the best at junior level.

On the county scene the first team's trip to Manchester was a mixture of gloom and glory. Andy Wellman was not at his best but Iain Fullerton and Dave Barr recorded useful wins. Mandy Smith was very sharp in her singles matches. However it was in the doubles matches against Essex and Lancashire that we failed. With Fullerton busy studying, Jonathan Samuel was drafted in for the second series of matches at Bristol. Unfortunately the gap between 2nd team county standard and Premier Division proved too great and all he gained from the weekend was a wealth of experience. The unfortunate circumstances relating to slippery floors etc. have been reported on elsewhere and Berks are left with a match against Dorset which will decide whether we are to be relegated. When are the ETTA going to organise these weekends properly? Another disgraceful fiasco to follow up the scenes at Loughborough is really too much.

The senior 2nd team started the season in fine form but have slipped badly. The ex Reading star Simon Heaps, now playing for Dorset, saw our young players off in no uncertain style in the last match.

The news from the junior front concerns our first team who look all set for championship decider show down with Essex. This will be the last junior match for Reading men's senior champion Michael Childs who has given the county first rate service over the past few seasons. The 2nd team, with Paul Savins and Matthew Syed playing impressively should achieve a mid table position but there is a desperate shortage of female talent in this side at present.

The veterans are having a very lively season with the championship and promotion resting on the last match with top of the table rivals Sussex. The best match so far has been the narrow defeat by Essex II. The highlight here was a sensational comeback by Wally Allanson over Laurie Fountain. Wally won the first, Laurie the second on expedite and in a never to be forgotten final game led Wally 15-3 and 17-5 before Wally retrieved and killed like a man inspired to run out the winner 21-17. Sixteen consecutive points under the expedite system must be a record of sorts!

The 2nd veteran team should achieve a safe mid table position — Dave Jones has been in superb form all season and must count himself unfortunate not to have achieved a first team spot.

In the Berkshire inter town championship, Reading regained the Barbara Peisley Trophy from last season's winners Maidenhead.

Omega have predictably clinched the Reading title, Andy Syed going through the season unbeaten. Sonning Common were runners up and in Oxfordshire's Neil Abbot have found an attacking player to compliment the defensive qualities of their usual trio.

The Bracknell League title would seem at the mercy of the Bracknell club at the expense of Gillette for whom the ageless Felix Ziemba has been in great form.

The Castle Hill Club of Maidenhead are favourites to take their title again but have been hard pressed to withstand the Springfield challenge. The club were forced to persuade Iain Fullerton to turn out at the season's end and Iain, complete with funny rubber, made no mistake in winning the necessary sets for his club.

In the Willmott Cup Bracknell scored a marvellous win over Maidenhead, Fullerton and all, while Reading had a useful run before going out to North Middlesex. The highlight here was a sensational win for Jimmy Stokes over Mark Mitchell. In the Carter Cup Reading looked to have a very powerful squad but were unexpectedly beaten at Bromley, with Michael Childs having a nightmare match.

Berkshire's two National League teams have had seasons of mixed fortunes. Wamdsad have pulled themselves together and have avoided the dreaded drop. Gillette - Reading have been pulling in very good crowds (170 for the Bath game) and with their two star players Dave Constance and Simon Heaps in top form they are still in a challenging position.

The local tournament scene has seen several real shock results. Bob Davis, seeded No. 8, took the Maidenhead singles title, Wally Allanson being runner-up. Sue Blackburn won the ladies title. Once again the Maidenhead committee organised the weekend with their usual flair and expertise — even the results service was relayed by computer. The championships were sponsored by the London and South of England Building Society.

Steve Everard again won the Bracknell title with Maureen Gardner taking the counterpart ladies' title for the first time.

George Yates reports from . . .

LANCASHIRE

REMARKABLE RECOVERY

From being 0-2 down to Northumberland in Div. 2A of the County Championships Lancashire II staged a remarkable recovery to win 8-2 at Clitheroe on Mar. 5.

16-years-old Philip Huggon of Preston led the fightback with wins over Andrew Clark and Ian Robertson and the two girls, Jean Parker and Caroline Hemming, also finished with a clean sheet.

Robertson, with a 28-26 third game win over Keith Williams and Neil McMaster with success against Peter Flint got the visitors off to a flying start but from then on the boot was very much on the other foot. Set of the day was that between Williams and McMaster — a superb display of all-out hitting with rally succeeding rally. Great stuff!

Away to Lincolnshire at Grantham on the same day three youngsters from the Bury League, Howard Leigh (16), Andrea Holt (12) and Lindsay McEwen (15) figured in the 10-0 'whitewash' inflicted on the home team. A good day for n.p.c. Roy Frankland who was delighted with his team's performance.

SCORES

v Northumberland

P. Huggon bt A. Clark 10, 15;

bt I. Robertson 7, 21.

K. Williams lost to Robertson 16, -10, -26;

bt N. McMaster -20, 16, 16.

P. Flint lost to McMaster -15, 18, -11;

bt Clark 18, -17, 16.

J. Parker bt C. Mouzon 13, 13.

C. Hemming bt C. Buglass 14, 14.

Williams/Flint bt Robertson/Clark

-19, 20, 21;

Parker/Hemming bt Mouzon/Buglass 14, 14.

v Lincolnshire Jnrs.

P. Aspinall bt A. Kelly 19, 12;

bt R. Hodson 13, 17.
 M. Mercer bt Hodson 16, -19, 13;
 bt A. Burwell 13, 13.
 H. Leigh bt Burwell -21, 6, 10;
 bt Kelly 10, -19, 15.
 A. Holt bt J. Shippey 18, 15.
 L. McEwen bt C. Bryan 19, 18.
 Aspinall/Mercer bt Hodson/Kelly 16, 15.
 Holt/McEwen bt Shippey/Bryan -10, 18, 13.

The Bolton League have decided not to stage the Lancashire Junior Open next season after 14 years of promotion at the town's Institute of Higher Education. New stinging charges coupled with minimal amenities such as no heat has brought about this sorry state of affairs. Oldham are now considering the possibility of taking over.

Lancashire's abortive match against Yorkshire in the second senior Premier Division weekend at Bristol is now likely to take place at Dolphinholme with after match refreshments to be taken at the home of Donald and Jill Parker.

Fleetwood (4) v Bolton and Stockport v Warrington (5) is the semi-final line-up for this season's semi-stage of the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy. These, together with the final, were due for completion on Mar. 12 at Bamber Bridge, Preston.

In the afternoon, back at TWEEDDALE INFANTS SCHOOL, CARSHALTON, our Junior Second Team of LESLEY POPKIEWICZ, JANE MILLS, NEIL SUTTON, ANDREW HARDY and the much improved JULIAN DUDMAN, were testing their skills against Hampshire's KATE LINES, CAROLINE JENBY, RICHARD WATERS, TONY MOGG and IAN WHYTON. I am pleased to report that ED SUTTON, deputising as Team Captain for PETER CORNER, led his Team to an 8-2 victory. Well done, everyone!

Later on in the evening at Tweeddale, it was the turn of our Second Senior Team to take to the table against Cambridge's ALISON EDGE, HILARY FINCH, MARTIN LIVERMORE, JULIAN WHEEL and TIM ASHMAN. What a battle this must have been; with seven sets going to three, our Team of JANE PACKINGTON, nee MITCHELL, JANE MILLS — moving up from the Juniors to play in her second Senior game, GORDON CHAPMAN, BRIAN GARRAWAY and DAVID HARDING, must have been pleased with their 6-4 result. It must have been bruising. Well done! You hear?

BITS AND PIECES

The lovely and very likeable CLAIRE BROOKS could become a 'force' to reckon with over the next season. She is probably the most improved County player . . . The THAMES VALLEY Carter Cup Team of MASON, SEXTON and HARDY, move on to the next round after stopping North Mid's TYLER, TOPIWALA and PHILLIPS, 5-3 in their tracks . . . ANDREW SEXTON, another recent victim to LINDA CLEMETT . . . I had the good fortune to meet Linda's Mum and Dad recently. Great folks they are . . . LESLEY POPKIEWICZ has not yet overcome the fault of lifting up on her toes, on both feet, when she hits a forehand topspin or loop. Could it be that she does not understand the importance of the proper technique involved, and its benefits to her future progress . . . In response to many people, all of whom live outside of Surrey, including BARRY JOHNSON and ALF PEPPARD, who tried to persuade me from giving up this post, I was about to change my mind. However, this month, I again had to scratch around for information that should be coming to me as a duty and obligation; but like in many other Counties, Press Officers suffer from the resultant laziness of others and their great lack of interest in getting the efforts of officers and players publicised. After this season, I will concentrate again on coaching and writing for the deserved. I am totally browned off, as you can see, caused from the lack of help I get from so many. For example, we have quite a few Leagues in this County. In three years, I have only had one invitation to attend a Closed Championship. Well, I am going to make way for someone, who, hopefully, these Leagues will show this common courtesy to, at least.

NATIONAL COUNCIL SNIPPETS

1. At a meeting in early January at the Crest Hotel, Bloomsbury, London, on the subject of INTERNATIONAL MATTERS, Council requested of Mr. C. J. CLEMETT, Vice-Chairman, Competitions, that he report on only those matters out of the 54 propositions on the draft order paper for the 1983 ITTF Congress, which he thought would be of immediate interest and importance to the Association. In meeting this request, Mr. Clemett put forward three proposals regarding racket-face colour, as these were probably the most contentious.

After a full discussion in which the importance of improving spectator appeal, and thus sponsorship appeal were stressed, Council agreed that the ETTA Delegates should support the following proposal: "The two sides of the blade should be of different colours, irrespective of material" (16 for, 2 against — Mrs. E. Prean and Mr. C. Wright). However, should this proposal fail or be withdrawn, then support would be given to the proposal: "The two sides of the racket blade should be of different colour if the materials are of different type or thickness" (21 for, 1 against — Mrs. E. Prean). Council agreed that delegates should vote against the proposal: "The covering material of the racket blade should be the same on both sides" (16 for, 1 against). Council noted that other propositions attempted to deal with clothing; hiding service from opponents; and stamping, but that there would be another meeting of Council before the ITTF BGM, when final instructions could be given to delegates.

2. On "CONSIDERATION OF TABLE TENNIS TO 1990 DISCUSSION PAPER", Mr. A. E. RANSOME, Vice-Chairman, Development, speaking from both on his own initiative and from the strength of advice tendered by key Committee Members, explained that Council should start their "consideration" by recognising the recent decline in the sport, as evidenced by the annual fall in membership, a fall in spectators and TV audiences, and disappointing reports at Trade levels. This ruinous trend had to be halted and reversed; to this end there were two main proposals (a) A CHIEF EXECUTIVE with authority for executive decisions within policy directives, and (b) the establishment of a REGIONAL COORDINATING COMMITTEE in each of the nine SPORTS COUNCIL REGIONS. Mr. Ransome went on to explain that whilst it was not the stage at which to go into fine detail, it was clear that such a Chief Executive should be capable of leading negotiations with Sponsors; TV authorities and Sports Traders; of representing the Association with the Sports Council and in international relationships; and generally of presenting or "selling" English table tennis. He would be in overall charge of all ETTA Staff, administrative and coaching. Mr. Ransome then reminded Council that the SPORTS COUNCIL operated through nine regional offices, and there was strong evidence that the Government were increasingly channelling financial support through these regions, rather than through national bodies. In some cases, the financial benefits to table tennis organisations within the regions were already proving substantial. The Association's coaching organisation was adapted to operate on a five region basis, but he believed that there were great advantages to be gained from the establishment of a Regional Co-ordinating Committee, matching each of the nine Sport Council regions. I think Mr. Ransome had a very good meeting. Personally, from the experience I have gained in the past in associating and working with organisations like ETTA, where it appears necessary to have so many Committees and Sub-Committees reporting to and fro one another, very often, in doing so, the quick procession of a good idea is hindered from becoming useful, when it eventually gets to officers with muscles. On the other hand, should the case for this Chief Executive be accepted and passed, then the future of the sport could take a turn for the better; but only

THIS & THAT IN SURREY



by MURRAY CORBIN

RETURN TO PREMIER DIVISION

On Saturday, 12th March, the mighty force of Surrey Senior 1st Team, in the shape of LORRAINE GARBET, LINDA CLEMETT, NICHOLAS MASON, STEVE HOLLOWAY and MARK OAKLEY, travelled to St. Andrew's Church Hall, Paignton, with JOHN HITCHCOCK in his caravan-mobile, where they were entertained competitively by Devon's PAUL WHITING, MIKE SHORT, GARY WILTSHIRE, ELAINE SHORT (nee LAMB), and MAVIS SCOTT, who subbed for Gina Pritchard. As a result of a 9-1 win, our Team travelled back home in a very jubilant mood; not only did they just win their League, but the smell of success in climbing back to the Premier Division, was sweet to their nostrils. Congratulations to every one who played any part in this achievement during the season. Let us hope that you can excel in this situation, like many of our Teams have in the past. In this particular match, Devon's PAUL WHITING, in defeating Holloway, recorded the only win for his Team, and I am also informed that our Ladies played above their norm; this must have been very pleasing to Miss Garbet, who has not been entirely satisfied with some of her performances in recent times.

if, and I mean 'if', this Executive becomes a genuine "trouble-shooter" and not turned into a toothless officer with an important title. I am still puzzled over the drawn-out handling of a Committee, when it was called upon by a Surrey player to look into an incident where he felt that he was harshly treated by a decision of a Referee at a tournament.

3. COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS / HALEX NATIONAL LEAGUE DATES. Mr. E. G. WHITE, Vice-Chairman, Administration, reminded Council that following a complaint by Mr. P. BRENNAN, Surrey National Councillor, at their last meeting, the Calendar Working Party had been asked to seek to avoid clashes of fixtures. Mr. M. D. WATTS, Deputy General Secretary, reported that there was only one clash of dates on the 17th/18th December this year. However, Councillor Mrs. Erica Prean, dutifully smacked him on the back of the hand by pointing out that there was also a clash of date between Halex National League fixture No. 6, and the English Junior Closed on 4th December, this year. Mr. Watt held his own admirably, by suggesting that a written request for a change of the League date might be successful with co-operation. Following further discussion, Councillor B. ROWLEY proposed and Councillor ALAN SHEPHERD seconded, that the whole future of the National League should be reviewed and that Management Committee consider in their review of Table Tennis till 1990, whether the Halex National League as a professional competition, should be required to play its fixtures on mid-week instead of on weekend dates, and should also consider the possibility of a National Inter-League competition. This was agreed. I say, Dear Chaps, I do rather like the sound of this. JOLLY GOOD SHOW, WHAT? Amen.

Letters to the Editor

COMBINATION BATS

I am totally in agreement with John Prean (December) and Carl Prean and S. T. Lenton of Lentec (Jan./Feb.) with their views and comments.

As a combination bat player/coach myself I tend to be the buffer for many accusing remarks from players (whom John rightly says will not admit to being beaten by a better player — irrespective of bat).

Quotes of "They ought to ban the rubbers" are all too frequent instead of getting down to the nitty gritty of how to play against the different rubbers.

Let me take everyone back to the late '40's and early '50's when everyone was still playing with Barna and Leach pimple (no sponge) bats. All players were then equal, either one was a hitter or a defender. Blocking or ball spinning (unless by fingers) were hardly the order of the day, rallies extremely exciting and long ones.

At the advent of the sponge face, quickly banned in the early '50's and the reverse pimple rubber, with sponge, offered advantages — purely for the attacking player — no thought was given then to other players. What did the defensive players do? Easy! We taught ourselves how to combat it to some degree and this situation continued to exist until the manufacturers came to our aid with choppers' rubber then long pimple and finally anti-loop, anti-spin

etc. As John Prean admitted, it takes a good player to play with the combined rubbers and as such, as we could not play with fast rubbers they cannot play with our 'funny' rubbers. Ah, Ah!

Nearly 30 years have passed since the new rubbers (attacking) came into use with no grouches from the minority. "Didn't they have a good time" and now we can compete on a more even level, the tune is wrong.

These rubbers have also given a new lease of life to some of us older players whom it has already been quoted — are the ones who are keeping table tennis in clubs and at grass roots going. Stop them playing and you may stop table tennis — because I for one would not give up my considerable time coaching, if, I could not play with what I choose to also. Come on you league players, master the rubbers you choose to play with and keep table tennis interesting instead of the problems being caused at present.

If the problem is as big as one makes it — let us all go back to pimple bats, or hard bats as they are known today, everyone being equal. But you will admit table tennis will not be so entertaining or enjoyable to play, after using modern rubbers and blades.

**LES HEWITT,
Player/Diploma Coach,**

**39 Highfield Avenue,
Newbold, Chesterfield,
Derbys S41 7AU.**

'ITEMS OF INTEREST'

Potentially the most damaging regulation to hit table tennis in its recent history seems to have crept up on us stealthily, almost as if the game's man-in-the-street, or whatever is the appropriate expression, was not meant to know about it.

The ITTF are to be asked at their meeting in April to pass a new rule which demands that every registered player shall have a bat with a different colour each side. And unless they change their minds at next month's meeting the National Council have agreed to back this proposal.

The National Council discussed the issue under 'items of interest' in January because they had not then got a formal proposal before them. They will have the proposition in front of them in April by which time the counties will have had a minimal amount of time to discuss it, and local leagues, unless their lines of communication are very good, none at all.

Yet it is the local league player who should be most concerned. Apart from the accomplished twiddlers who are still a tiny minority, the ruling will have little effect on the top players who all change their rubbers regularly and will not be put out by having to buy a black one instead of a red one.

But what about the lower division local league player? The vast majority of registered players (90%?) still buy their bats off the peg. Not for them the tedious task of stripping off the old rubber and fitting new. They will buy a bat that suits them and will last for a season or two (or in some cases 30 or 40), then they will throw it away and buy another one just the same.

Now these players are required to learn the art of scissors and glue, apart from the

unnecessary expense of a new sheet of rubber many of them will not need.

Table tennis has seen a drop of about 10% in the number of registered players in the past couple of years. This new rule may well drive out 20%. Those in that half-interested stage who could possibly have been persuaded to stay will now say 'Why bother' and chuck their one-colour bats away.

And they will certainly echo the thoughts of Berkshire's Robin Lockwood in January's Table Tennis News: 'The ETTA doesn't think about us. It's only concerned about the small minority at the top'.

What reason other than concern for that elite minority can there be for the new rule? Twiddlers, who the rule is aimed at, are a rare breed indeed in division five of the Whatever and District League. To enable attackers to get the better of the likes of Hilton, Johnson and Prean, who in different ways have all done English table tennis a great service over the past couple of years, the division five man is being penalised. And he will get no benefit. Those of us who turn out once or twice a week have enough trouble playing against funny rubbers even when we know only too well which side is being used.

I hope it is not too late for the views of the local league player to have an effect on the ITTF, or the ETTA's vote.

There are two alternatives. One, that only where the rubbers and/or sponges are not the same need the rubbers be different colours (I am not convinced that a different glue — one of the problems apparently — can make that much difference). Or, two, that this ruling should only apply at a certain level, international or major tournaments for instance. I don't know the intricacies of the ITTF or indeed the ETTA regulations but I am sure this must be possible.

I am convinced some way out must be found, otherwise those numbers will plummet and table tennis will be looked on even more than ever as a cinderella.

RON FOSKER,

**141 Highfields Road,
Witham, Essex.**

THE PAST, PRESENT AND FUTURE

In 1948 on my 13th birthday my non-playing parents bought my first table tennis bat. That same year, seeking autographs at the English Open at Belle Vue, Manchester, a player I approached invited me into his dressing room he was sharing with another player to sell me an autographed photo which I bought for 1/5d (old money).

They both allowed me to handle their bats which had identical playing surface to mine. The players were Bergmann and Vana who had to 1950 taken part in eight giant Open championships in Gt. Britain. Six were at Wembley, watched by 10,000 people each time. 6,000 at Manchester and 3,000 each at Blackpool, Liverpool and Newcastle not to mention other minor affairs at Dublin, Bedford, Birmingham, Cardiff and Leeds. In 1960 I packed the sport in after playing Ron Alcock with Tin. Dunlopillo on either side of his blade!

I have now been playing three years, following a slight stroke last year which has fortunately not affected my playing. I have had 7 months off work in which to look

forward to sick retirement which I have spent totally involved in table tennis as I intend to continue in the future. I am now a County Umpire and Club Coach.

My travels have taken in the Top 12, Internationals, Premier County weekends, National League matches and coaching at schools, youth clubs and, wait for it, over 40's, over 50's and over 55's at three different sports centres. I have also studied table tennis equipment on sale at local retailers and specialist outlets.

In Table Tennis News Mr. Blunn writes of falling membership, sliding image of the game and falling sales of equipment. I offer my observations. More people are playing table tennis than ever, but not all in leagues. I suggest the reason is the many bats manufactured by well-known firms in this country with which a beginner is unable to impart spin and learn even the basic strokes causing them to turn to squash and badminton etc., where they willingly pay £5-plus for a racket, and spin does not occur.

I appreciate Mr. Preat's oft-repeated comment regarding fast rubbers but feel certain that Orientals being smaller physically than Europeans, and mostly penholders, will not easily give up their advantage. Conversely I fail to understand his reference to the lower net which I believe to have been introduced in 1929!

I suggest the ball holds the key to the problems. In the 1940's the Villa ball box used to state that it was tested in weight, size, shape, bounce, balance, rebound and seam. With the advantage of modern technology it should be easy to produce a SOFTER STANDARD ball which would produce rallies and spectators and, if the ITTF enforced it, not in name only, it would remove the wide range of hardness existing today in balls which have official approval.

SYD FRYER,

8 Cleveland Road,
Hale, Altrincham,
Cheshire.

RE: FUNNY RUBBER — WHO'S LAUGHING

May I be allowed to add my few words to this topic? I must join the debate because I really cannot see what all the fuss is about. My experience has been that when I play the ball with the side of my bat covered with long pimples my opponent smashes it past me with frightening power. However, when I use the side with the "ordinary" rubber (a stroke which David Newman will tell you imparts only a bare minimum of spin or chop) the other player quite often hits the ball into the base of the net, enquiring afterwards in an irritated fashion "what on earth have you got on that bat?"

You will see from the above that play in the Dagenham League, Division 2, is not quite as it appears to be elsewhere. So eat your hearts out Carl and John, but if you ever move down this way we will find you a place in our team (in Division 2).

ALAN SHEPHERD,

62 Ardmore Lane,
Buckhurst Hill,
Essex IG9 5SA.

FORWARD VIEW

I feel compelled to write after so much depressing reading in the January/February issue of Table Tennis News. People should

be more forward looking and not look on the dull side all the time.

The Eastwood Association was really struggling a couple of years ago, until that great day when five of us qualified as club coaches. There were only a handful of juniors at the time; we now have 55 registered and run a junior league. Although we cannot yet compete with Derby and Chesterfield, we are very ambitious and have arranged a sponsored run to purchase a robot, with the assistance of the Sports Council. We have entered a junior side in Division 5 of the Midland League, and one of our juniors is now performing on a regular basis for Derbyshire.

On the subject of combination bats I don't know what all the fuss is about! I don't like playing against them, but I don't suppose the senior generation liked playing against reversed pimple bats either? Do we have too many poor losers in our sport?

I would ask everyone to be more confident about the future, and put in the work required to ensure the growth of the ETTA. We at Eastwood are very proud of our achievements to date, and hope for our own ALAN COOKE in the next 5 years.

BILL FOWKES,
Coaching Secretary,

Eastwood & District TTA,
Derbyshire.

GRASS ROOTS COMMENT

As a player very much of the lower ranks, but someone who has played his way through original pimped rubber (pre 1950 even), thick sponge, and regulated sponge; I'd like to make a grass roots comment on the bat controversy.

Quite honestly, the spectacle has gone out of table tennis with all these peculiar surfaces. Who would travel to the Empire Pool, Wembley to see a final these days?

For the first time in my life I switched off T.T. on the box recently because, frankly the game has become boring at the top level. Bash! Bash! table tennis coupled with unpredictable bounce where even the simplest serves are returned in the bottom of the net, give the game a dreadful reputation.

Of course, 'funny rubbers' are only the culmination of this loss of spectacle and, hence, loss of audience which began when odd surfaces were first introduced with the first sponge bat when Johnny Leach and Ivor Jones brought early samples back from the Far East.

As, probably, one of the first U.K. players to switch to sandwich bats in those early days I still regret their introduction . . . but a little standardisation would, at least, bring back skill (and sanity) to the game.

TONY SHAPPS,

'Kenwood',
14 North Approach,
Moor Park,
Northwood,
Middlesex HA6 2JG.

RETIREMENT EXPLAINED

May I use the ETTA magazine to clarify a few points with regard to my wife's recent retirement. Carole did not make the decision to retire from the game lightly, particularly after the great effort she has made to regain her form after her knee operation earlier this season.

However, after much heart-searching Carole felt she could not concentrate fully on her international playing career without the support of certain ETTA officials.

I have been amazed at the content of certain recent articles in the press particularly some of the pre-retirement speculation which amounted to nothing more than absolute drivel. I read that Carole supposedly said to the Sunday Telegraph that the English squad for the Commonwealth Championships was largely inexperienced.

Carole may have expressed disappointment at not being allowed to defend her Commonwealth title but certainly made no reference to the chosen squad.

In certain cases, though, speculation was pretty close to the truth and it is gratifying to know other people think that Carole has not had a fair deal. I am pleased that Carole's efforts this season, assisted by clubmates at Ormesby, particularly Steve Brunskill and Lindsay Taylor, nearly paid off. I was certainly happy with her final result at the Norwich Union English Closed even though it would have been nice to have won the title once again.

At the end of the day, I feel Carole potentially could still have surpassed her achievements of the past but she is resolute in her own mind that she could not give her best under the existing circumstances.

Finally Carole and I would like to thank the many players, officials and spectators at Woking for their well wishes for a happy retirement. I will certainly try to make it just that. We would both like to wish the girls in the squad the best of luck at the World and Commonwealth Championships.

DAVE MOORE,

196 Enfield Chase,
Hunters Hill,
Guisborough, Cleveland.

SPORTS CENTRES AND DISABLED PEOPLE

Because disabled people are becoming increasingly aware that they can take part in many sporting activities, it has encouraged sports centres and recreation departments to take active steps to make provision for disabled sportsmen and sportswomen.

Now RADAR (The Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation) has produced a 200 page booklet which reviews the sports opportunities for disabled people which already exist so that they can be sure of finding suitable facilities where they can enjoy sport and recreation.

The booklet, called SPORTS CENTRES AND DISABLED PEOPLE, lists sports centres throughout the country and gives activities which can be taken up by disabled people. It is particularly good in showing the facilities which can be reached in a wheelchair.

Most of the sports centres have been visited by disabled people so that those using the book can be absolutely sure that the information given is accurate.

SPORTS CENTRES AND DISABLED PEOPLE follows a pilot study on access of all the major sports centres which provide for the general community. The booklet can be obtained, price £1.75 to include p.p., from RADAR, 25, Mortimer Street, London W1N 8AB.

halex National LEAGUE

by Robert Oldfield

IT'S SOHAM!

Hassy Perfection Soham, the table tennis club from a small Cambridgeshire village, seem almost certain to be the 1983 Halex National League champions. Against all the quoted odds, two inspired weekends in March saw them take on the clubs that have shared the top spot between them from the start of the season; leaving Ormesby and Thorn-EMI Ellenborough in the wake of an East Anglian whirlwind.

Soham warmed up for their devastating onslaught with a 7-1 thrashing of Unity on 27th February and, next weekend, served up a 6-2 reverse at home to Thorn-EMI Ellenborough. England's No. 2, Graham Sandley lost both, including a "deuce in the third" to Kenny Jackson. And, in a catalogue of missed chances which could have brought the visitors a draw, so did Dave Tan.

If one person of Soham's team deserves special mention it is John Souter. After Mark Mitchell had beaten Soham captain, Paul Day, Souter took control to win his second set against Ellenborough, just as he did again against Ormesby's Donald Parker the following week.

"It was one that could easily have gone either way" said Ormesby Manager, Alan Ransome, after his club's 5-3 defeat. "Richard Yule was tremendous — beating Kenny Jackson and Dave Hannah. And Lindsay Taylor was 15 all in the third with Hannah. It could have been 5-3 to us, but it's difficult to win when your No. 1 player loses four in a weekend".

Although Ormesby were now finished third, they are still the team which could decide the championship, though Soham are a point in front. "Don't get me wrong" said Ransome, "There's no bad blood between Soham, Ellenborough and Ormesby but there's no love lost when it comes to National League matches. We won't be doing either of them any favours when we play them at the end of March and both of the teams will be under pressure".

"To beat Ormesby at Ormesby will be difficult" admitted Soham's captain, Paul Day, "but the odds are now stacked in our favour. If we play as we have been doing recently, then I think we can do it".

"It's been good for us to be written off as it's given us a challenge to work for. Now we've only got two matches left and we won both of them 5-3 first time around. I'm hoping that ten days' practice in Tel Aviv will set me up for the return against Ormesby, and that John Souter plays as

he has done in the last two matches".

Meanwhile, Wamdsad were nailing Newcastle on 6th March to effectively sink the Geordies into the First Division.

BUTTERFLY DO JQUES A FAVOUR

While Jaques Generation were clocking up the points in preparation for the end of season showdown with rivals, Grove and Tarmac Wolverhampton, Butterfly Cardiff crushed the second and third placed clubs in two revenge victories at the end of February and the start of March. Two more points and promotion for the Fareham club is guaranteed.

No such safety, though, for TCB Dolphins, who will play BWF Wamdsad at Portslade on 27th March for the right to avoid the drop.

LITTLE INFORMATION

Meanwhile, little information has been received regarding the rest of the National League and, in view of the need to issue this edition of the magazine before the end of March, these notes are somewhat abbreviated this month.

I hope, next month, to have a complete round-up of the league with final tables, averages and results, and details of how SIB Bath went down 3-5 to Gillette Reading in Second Division South, leaving everything to play for on 4th April.

NATIONAL LEAGUE TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Hassy Soham .	12	11	0	1	68	28	22
Thorn-EMI Elln.	12	10	2	0	72	24	21
Ormesby	12	8	3	0	62	34	18
Unity	12	3	4	5	45	51	10
Letchworth C..	12	3	3	6	42	54	9
Dunlop B'ham .	12	2	3	7	34	62	7
BWF Wamdsad	11	3	0	8	34	54	6
Newcastle	11	0	1	10	19	69	1

FIRST DIVISION

Jaques Gen. ...	12	10	0	2	74	22	20
Grove	12	9	0	3	61	35	18
Tarmac W'pton	12	7	3	2	59	37	17
Butterfly Cardiff	12	7	4	3	58	38	16
MBS St. Neots	12	4	3	5	46	50	11
Ormesby II ...	12	2	3	7	37	59	7
TCB Dolphins .	12	1	2	9	30	66	4
BWF W'dsad II	12	1	1	10	19	77	3

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Hermits	12	10	1	1	71	25	21
TG Salford ...	12	9	2	1	61	35	20
South Yorks ...	12	7	2	3	61	35	16
RB Lincoln ...	12	5	1	6	49	47	11
March Halex ...	12	5	3	4	46	50	11
Tarmac W'ton II	11	2	3	6	30	58	7
Unity II	11	1	2	8	31	57	4
Riversley Ins. .	12	1	2	9	27	69	4

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Dagenham FC .	12	9	2	1	61	35	20
SIB Bath	12	9	1	2	66	30	19
Gillette R'ding .	12	8	3	1	58	38	19
Graham Spicer	12	3	3	6	45	51	9
Larkhall	12	3	3	6	43	53	9
Cranfield C. H.	12	2	4	6	39	57	8
Gunnorsbury T.	12	1	5	6	39	57	7
Halex Medway	12	1	1	10	30	66	3

THIRD DIVISION NORTH

Hermits II	12	9	3	0	71	25	21
Grantham	12	9	2	1	75	21	20
Byker	12	10	0	2	74	22	20
South Yorks II	11	4	2	5	43	45	10
Ormesby III ...	12	4	2	6	41	55	10
Vickers	12	2	2	8	26	70	6
Unity III	11	2	0	9	26	62	4
Halex C'saders	12	1	1	10	20	76	3

THIRD DIVISION WEST

Chan Const. .	12	11	0	1	78	18	22
Jolliffe Poole .	12	8	2	2	62	34	18
Pengeley T'bay	12	8	1	3	61	35	17
Grove II	12	8	0	4	63	33	16
Launceston K..	12	5	2	5	47	49	12
WW Solihull ...	12	2	1	9	27	69	5
Tarmac Ladies	12	1	2	9	26	70	4
Cowbridge B. .	12	0	2	10	20	76	2

THIRD DIVISION EAST

Colne Valley .	9	6	2	1	47	25	14
Halex Abeng ...	9	6	1	2	41	31	13
Jaques Gen. II	8	3	3	2	32	32	9
Cippenham ...	9	3	2	4	35	37	8
Dunlop W'ney .	8	1	3	4	27	37	5
MBS St. Nts. II	9	1	1	7	26	46	3

HALEX NATIONAL LEAGUE RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

6th February 1983

BWF Wamdsad 3 Soham 5
 Philip Bradbury bt Kenny Jackson 17, -18, 18.
 David Barr lost to Paul Day -20, 16, -12.
 Andrew Wellman bt David Hannah 12, 17.
 Ian Fullerton lost to John Souter -14, -11.
 Bradbury bt Day 14, 18.
 Barr lost to Souter -15, -18.
 Wellman lost to Jackson -12, 16, -21.
 Fullerton lost to Hannah -16, -15.

27th February 1983

Ormesby 6 Hassy Soham 2
 Thorn-EMI Ellen. 6 Letchworth Corp. 2
 Unity 1 Hassy Soham 7
 BWF Wamdsad 5 Dunlop Birmingham 3

6th March 1983

Hassy Soham 6 Thorn-EMI Ellenborough 2
 BWF Wamdsad 6 Newcastle 2
 Dunlop Birmingham 4 Unity 4

12th March 1983

Thorn-EMI Ellenborough 6 Ormesby 2

13th March 1983

Hassy Soham 5 Ormesby 3

FIRST DIVISION

27th February 1983

Jaques Generation 5 Ormesby II 3
Tarmac Wolverhampton 4 TCB Dolphins 4
Grove 1 Butterfly Cardiff 7

6th March 1983

TCB Dolphins 0 Jaques Generation 8
Butterfly Cardiff 6 Tarmac Wolverhampton 2
Ormesby II 5 BWF Wamdsad II 3
MBS St. Neots 3 Grove 5

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

20th February 1983

RB Lincoln 5 March Halex 3

27th February 1983

Hermits 6 RB Lincoln 2
South Yorkshire 4 March Halex 4
Unity II 2 TG Salford 6
Riversley Ins. 4 Tarmac W'hampton II 4

6th March 1983

March Halex 2 Hermits 6
TG Salford 4 South Yorkshire 4
RB Lincoln 6 Riversley Insurance 2

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

27th February 1983

Dagenham FC 6 Gunnersbury Triangle 2
SIB Bath 6 Halex Medway 2
Larkhall 3 Gillette Reading 5
Halex Gwent 4 Graham Spicer 4

6th March 1983

Halex Medway 2 Dagenham FC 6
Gillette Reading 3 SIB Bath 5
Gunnersbury Triangle 3 Halex Gwent 5
Graham Spicer 3 Larkhall 5

13th March 1983

SIB Bath 3 Gillette Reading 5

THIRD DIVISION NORTH

27th February 1983

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

6th March 1983

Vickers 5 Halex Crusaders 3
Ormesby III 1 Byker 7

THIRD DIVISION WEST

27th February 1983

Tarmac Ladies 3 Jolliffe Poole 5
WW Solihull 3 Launceston Kernow 5
Grove II 7 Cowbridge Bridgend 1
Chan Construction 6 Pengeley Torbay 2

6th March 1983

Launceston Kernow 7 Tarmac Ladies 1
Cowbridge Bridgend 3 WW Solihull 5
Jolliffe Poole 5 Chan Construction 3
Pengeley Torbay 7 Grove II 1

THIRD DIVISION EAST

27th February 1983

Halex Abeng 6 Dunlop Waveney 2
Colne Valley 6 MBS St. Neots II 2

6th March 1983

Jaques Generation II 4 Colne Valley 4
MBS St. Neots II 3 Halex Abeng 5

13th March 1983

Cippenham 4 Jaques Generation II 4

FIRST DIVISION

10th April 1983

Tarmac W'hampton v Jaques Generation
BWF Wamdsad II v Butterfly Cardiff
TCB Dolphins v MBS St. Neots
Ormesby II v Grove

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

10th April 1983

South Yorkshire v Hermits
TG Salford v Riversley Insurance
March Halex v Tarmac Wolverhampton II
RB Lincoln v Unity II

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

10th April 1983

SIB Bath v Dagenham FC
Gillette Reading v Cranfield Colours Halex
Graham Spicer v Halex Medway
Gunnersbury Triangle v Larkhall

THIRD DIVISION NORTH

10th April 1983

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

THIRD DIVISION WEST

10th April 1983

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

THIRD DIVISION EAST

10th April 1983

Dunlop Waveney v Colne Valley
Jaques Generation II v Abeng

CZECHOSLOVAK OPEN

GOLD FOR JILL AND KAREN

England's **Jill Hammersley-Parker** and **Karen Witt** performed exceptionally well in Prievidza over the period Feb. 17-20 to win the women's doubles event and Jill, in

partnership with Duggie Johnson, also reached the final of the mixed losing to **Jindrich Pansky** and **Marie Hrachova** of the host country in the Czech Open.

Ulf Bengtsson was the surprise winner of the men's singles in which, at the semi-final stage, all four contestants were from Sweden, with Erik Lindh beating Jonny Akesson and Bengtsson beating Jan-Ove Waldner.

Marie Hrachova was the winner of the women's singles beating Gabriella Szabo of Hungary in the final, the Czech girl having previously disposed of two Russians, Zacharjan and Bulatova.

Yugoslavia's **Stefan Kovac** and **Dragutin Surbek** won the men's doubles to spread the titles around after **Czechoslovakia** had won the men's title and the **Soviet Union** the women's.

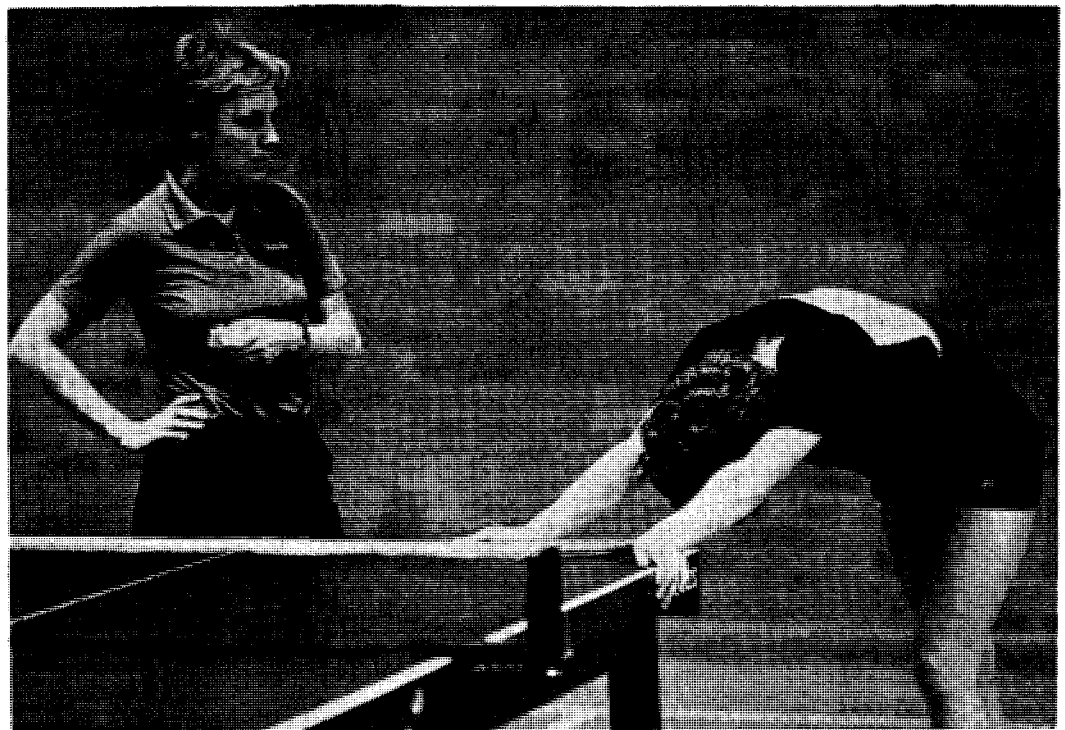
In the men's team event England began with a 3-0 win over the USA with Johnson beating Butler and Carl Prean accounting for Mike Bush, Johnson and John Hilton winning the doubles. This score was reversed by Czechoslovakia whose Pansky beat Prean (15, 15) and Milan Orlovski beat Hilton (13, 15). The two Czechs also put paid to Johnson/Hilton (-16, 13, 18).

Karen and Jill, in the women's team event, beat Japan 3-0 but thereafter fell to the Russians despite an opening win by Jill over Zacharjan (-18, 13, 13). Fliura Bulatova beat both Karen (7, 15) and Jill (17, 14) the latter after a doubles success by Bulatova/Kovalenko over Karen and Jill (14, -19, 9).

In the first round of the men's singles Prean had a convincing win (8, 14, 9) over Florea (ROM) but Hilton was at pains to dispose of Canada's Joe Ng (-18, 11, 12, 20). Johnson progressed at the expense of Jokela (FIN) (10, 6, 13).

Round 2 saw the dismissal of Prean by Istvan Jonyer who won -16, 19, 17, 16; Hilton by Jorgen Persson (SWE) 17, -14, 19, 14

(continued on page 36)



Jill Hammersley-Parker and Karen Witt, winners of the gold medals in Prievidza and what a relief for the breathless Karen.

Photo by Tony Edenden, Barlestone, Nuneaton.

HALEX NATIONAL LEAGUE FIXTURES

APRIL 1983

PREMIER DIVISION

3rd April 1983

Newcastle v BWF Wamdsad

10th April 1983

Hassy Soham v BWF Wamdsad
Letchworth Corporation v Dunlop B'ham
Newcastle v Unity

(continued from page 34)

and Skylet Andrew by Li Kym Sam (PRK) 14, 19, 13. Only Johnson survived with a 17, -16, 15, 10 victory over Butler of the States. But, alas, in Round 3 Douggie took his departure, somewhat rapidly, ousted by Pansky 18, 18, 16.

In the women's singles Lisa Bellinger with a win over Goto (JAP) (11, 15, 16) and Jill Hammersley-Parker with a 16, 12, 11 success over Rumania's Urzica took their first hurdles with ease. But Karen Witt was beaten over four games by Alicia Pelikanova (TCH) who won 17, 18, -19, 15, whilst Joy Grundy made England's representation in the second round threefold by beating Papadimitriou of Greece (8, 7, 9).

Only Jill, with a 15, 8, 13 win over the host country's Kutisova reached the third round, Lisa going under, desperately -12, -20, -20 to Marie Lindblad (SWE) and Joy to the ultimate winner Hrachova -10, -21, -6.

Subsequently Jill fell to Bulatova who won 16, 12 and 12 and England's cause in the singles was lost.

Results of interest, otherwise, in the men's singles was the defeat of Surbek by Waldner (15, 10, 20) in Rd. 4 and Sweden's swamping of the quarters with Akesson beating Jonyer; Lindh beating Orlowski and Waldner beating Tibor Kreis.

In the men's doubles Andrew and Prean were beaten 19, 18 by Dvoracek/Schenk (TCH) in Rd. 1 whilst Hilton and Johnson were ousted by Kriston/Malnar (HUN) in Rd. 2. Lisa and Joy, in the women's doubles, lost to the Poles Szatko and Pozniak (-16, -16) whilst, in the mixed, Hilton and Karen lost to Dvoracek/Silhanova (TCH); Andrew and Joy to the Japs Kasahara/Ozaki (19, -20, -19) and Prean and Lisa went out in Rd. 2 to the Hungarians Takacs and Balogh.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Akesson (SWE) bt I. Jonyer (HUN) 11, -18, 14, 22;

E. Lindh (SWE) bt M. Orlowski (TCH) -19, 16, -20, 13, 19;

U. Bengtsson (SWE) bt J. Persson (SWE) 6, -7, 16, 17;

J-O. Waldner (SWE) bt T. Kreis (HUN) 21, 12, 16.

Semi-finals:

Lindh bt Akesson 15, -9, -17, 16, 22;
Bengtsson bt Waldner 23, 16, 16.

Final:

BENGTSSON bt Lindh -20, 5, -17, 23, 17.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

I. Kovalenko (URS) bt M. Lindblad (SWE) 15, -18, 19, 18;

G. Szabo (HUN) bt O. Nemes (ROM) -14, 8, -16, 17, 15;

M. Hrachova (TCH) bt A. Zacharjan (URS) -16, -21, 19, 8, 14;

F. Bulatova (URS) bt Yamazaki (JPN) 16, 12, 19.

Semi-finals:

Szabo bt Kovalenko 9, 15, 21;
Hrachova bt Bulatova 8, -13, -17, 13, 16.

Final:

HRACHOVA bt Szabo -21, 15, 15, 11.

Men's Doubles Quarter-finals:

S. Kovac/D. Surbek (YUG) bt Jonyer/
J. Takacs (HUN) 17, -11, 16;

L. Hauth/K. Kartholm (DEN) bt Imafuku/
Kasaha (JPN) 13, -11, 14;

U. Bengtsson/Persson bt R. Potton/
v. Spanje (HOL) 15, 18;

Lindh/Waldner bt G. Bohm/P. Stellwag
(FRG) -14, 18, 19.

Semi-finals:

Kovac/Surbek bt Hauth/Kartholm 17, 17;
Lindh/Waldner bt Bengtsson/Persson
15, -17, 20.

Final:

KOVAC/SURBEK bt Lindh/Waldner
7, -15, 19.

Women's Doubles Quarter-finals:

Pozniak/Szatko (POL) bt Fazekas/Szigeti
(HUN) -18, 18, 13;

Nemes/Urzica (ROM) bt Magos/Loah
(HUN) -20, 16, 11;

J. Hammersley-Parker/K. Witt (ENG) bt
Strnadova/Valentova (TCH) -16, 19, 15.

Bulatova/Kovalenko bt Kocova/Pelikanova
(TCH) 17, 17.

Semi-finals:

Nemes/Urzica bt Pozniak/Szatko 14, 17;
Parker/Witt bt Bulatova/Kovalenko 19, 22.

Final:

HAMMERSLEY-PARKER/WITT bt Nemes/
Urzica 13, -18, 19.

Mixed Doubles Quarter-finals:

D. Johnson (ENG)/Hammersley-Parker bt
Lindh/Lindblad 13, 12;

Schenk/Navarova (TCH) bt Dvoracek/
Silhanova (TCH) 10, 16;

Pansky/Hrachova (TCH) bt Djo Den Chi/
Li Kym Sam (PRK) 17, 11;

Molnar/Magos bt Parietti/Daviaud (FRA)
13, 16.

Semi-finals:

Johnson/Parker bt Schenk/Navarova
17, -14, 12;

Pansky/Hrachova bt Molnar/Magos 8, 17.

Final:

PANSKY/HRACHOVA bt Johnson/
Hammersley-Parker -16, 11, 9.

Team Events

Men

- 1 Czechoslovakia
- 2 France
- 3 Poland/Yugoslavia

Women

- 1 U.S.S.R.
- 2 Czechoslovakia
- 3 Hungary/Sweden

Thoughts on Closed Finals

by GEOFF WILLIAMSON
Staffordshire National Councillor

It is some years since I watched "national" standard table tennis live, and I went to the Norwich Union English Closed finals not knowing quite what to expect. I was looking forward to the matches, to meeting some of the many friends I have made on the administrative side of table tennis and I was looking forward to seeing at first hand if the various reports I had heard in recent years about the game at the top would be borne out. As it turned out, I came away with a strong feeling of disquiet, and I spent most of the journey home trying to work out why. For me and for several others to whom I have spoken since, the afternoon simply didn't click, and I have a feeling that any non-committed spectator must have been very disappointed indeed, and could well have felt like asking for his money back. I hope that my ideas on the question might spark some thought and discussion, hopefully at all levels of the game. The ETTA is currently discussing an important policy document, Table Tennis to 1990, and it would be easy, if rather cynical,

to think that the way we are going, there won't be much table tennis by then.

Whatever the reasons were for the event not being what it might have been, they were not to do with the organisation of it. As far as I could tell, everyone was where they should have been when they should have been, the conditions appeared good for both players and spectators and all the right things were said and done. The only apparent hitches were to do with things beyond the control of the ETTA officials, and unfortunately in the circumstances must be put down as unavoidable. Yet in spite of that, there seemed to be a total lack of enthusiasm or atmosphere, and I have never been to any sporting event where the crowd (which surprised me by its small size) got so little involved with the action. The afternoon, in short, was utterly flat.

Having said that the organisation as such could not be blamed, I am bound to say that I thought that there were several detail items of programming which did not help. I fully appreciate the dictates of television and that a certain amount of what was done and how it was done was to do with that. But it must be said that if the price of television coverage is the spoiling of what might otherwise have been a good show, we must think very seriously whether it is worth it. The continual separate presentations really did break things up badly, and as for holding everything up while interviews were held on court (which, incidentally, nobody in the hall could hear) — that really was a case of the tail wagging the dog.

There is a precedent set by a much higher authority than me for saving the best wine till later, and there is something in it. The ladies' doubles is probably never going to be the event to send the crowds home wild with delight, but it could be a very good curtain-raiser. And I hope my friends among the upper echelons of the ETTA will not mind me saying that however nice it may be to show appreciation of their work by inviting them all to present something, there really must be a better way of doing it. I may be wrong, but my feeling was that it was totally lost on the greater part of the audience, and was not what they had come to see anyway. Even many small local leagues usually make some effort to get someone a little different and a little special to present trophies. Even among our own ranks, we do have a former World Champion. Who knows, he may even have also agreed to play a few points with one of the winners?

Since we were all there to watch table tennis, the matches themselves and how they were played must have had something to do with it. To start with, there was a match in progress for, I would guess, less than half the time I sat in my seat. Further, I would guess that there was action at the table for less than half the time that there was a match in progress. Add to that the fact that in the four games of the men's singles, the receiver failed to make two good returns in the rally in over a quarter of the points scored (those sitting near me were probably wondering what I was doing when I was keeping count) and it all came down to watching a lot of nothing. Unless, that is, you go for watching interminable twelling of bat, table, ball, hands, etc., bouts of pat-a-cake with the ball between bat and floor, or those electrifying one minute and five minute rests. I have never come across anything so certain to disrupt

the concentration and attention of players and spectators than stopping the action at a crucial stage, and allowing everyone to disperse round the hall. Surely we can play five games of table tennis without a five-minute rest? It is no small wonder that in the two cases where it happened, the fourth game was hardly worth watching. My most vivid memory of the afternoon was of Jill Hammersley-Parker sitting alone on the floor of the court, having just got herself back into the match, while the world shuffled round about her. People had paid good money to see her play, not sit on the floor, and she knew it. And finally on the subject of play, I left with the feeling that, with one exception, when you had seen one game you had seen them all.

All this seems to add up to the fact that the game as played on that occasion is simply not a spectator sport, and no doubt most of those who stayed away will testify to that. Perhaps it is a game to be enjoyed by participation, but that brings me to my next point. Enthusiasm, like measles, is infectious, but also like measles, someone has to have it before anyone else can catch it. So who had it, and demonstrated the fact to the spectators? Again, with one notable exception (the same one) nobody that I could see. I am not saying that players and officials were not enjoying what they were doing, I am simply saying that they did not look as if they were. Now I would not want to see the sort of on-court antics of some notable performers in other fields, even though they leave one in no doubt as to their total commitment to the game, and are great for the spectator and I suspect often for the game also. But surely the occasional grin, comment or wise-crack are in order? Likewise I would not want the continuous baying and cocophany from spectators which has become common elsewhere, but again, surely a few shouts of encouragement at the appropriate time and a show of appreciation or support other than the rather genteel clapping which was heard would go down well? It might help players to "get stuck in" and enter into the spirit of things generally. For goodness sake, we were all there to enjoy ourselves, but I have never seen such a boot-faced lot in all my life. What was the trouble?

The officials did an exemplary job. They were immaculately turned out, always on time, never got a score wrong and generally made it clear that they were in charge. But I found myself wondering whether five blue blazers per match, including two scoreboard operators wasn't near to over-kill, a thought that was perhaps reinforced by their march-on like a section of soldiers or policemen. In fact, the whole officiating process was so smoothly and slickly done, that those carrying out the duties could almost have been robots, and for me, I think, added to the air of sterility which seemed to be present.

I make these last comments not in any way implying criticism of those concerned, far from it. But they do help to lead me to my final thought which is that I wonder whether we are not taking both the game and ourselves just a little too seriously. We should not lose sight of the fundamentals, because if we do, then however seriously we take ourselves, we shall be the only ones who do. Those fundamentals surely are that table tennis is a minor sport that can be played by anyone, young or old, fit or not so fit, in conditions where most other

physically active sports are impossible, that it need not be expensive, and that above all else it can be great fun to play. On the finals afternoon that fun element simply wasn't there, and I am bound to say that perhaps it was a sad reflection of much of the game at lower levels.

It is not relevant to an article on the finals afternoon to write about rules and their interpretation, bats, clothing, coaching and attitudes of mind generally. Perhaps the editor might allow me space in a future issue to do that. But many of the attitudes to those things are part of the same syndrome, and are partly responsible for what happened. I am sure that I was not the only one to go home with the feeling that we have more atmosphere, excitement and competitive table tennis in our local league than we had at Woking. Everyone must be asking themselves why, because if we do not come up with the answer soon, it just could be too late.

MARTIN ESSEX 3-STAR OPEN

5 OUT OF 5 FOR KAREN

by Ron Fosker

Karen Witt made it five out of five this season at the Martin Essex Open over the weekend of Feb. 12/13 — five 3-Stars and five titles. No wonder she is so far out on her own at the top of the ranking list.

Graham Sandley grabbed his second 3-Star of the season to send both trophies back whence they came.

It was the last 3-Star before the party was finally chosen for the world championships

so those on the short list were out to impress the selectors and the likes of Tom Blunn and Johnny Leach who had come along to help celebrate the Open's 25th birthday.

Witt of course was inked in already and if Lisa Bellinger was not before she made certain of her place by reaching the final via Alison Gordon (21, 11) and Joy Grundy (19, 14).

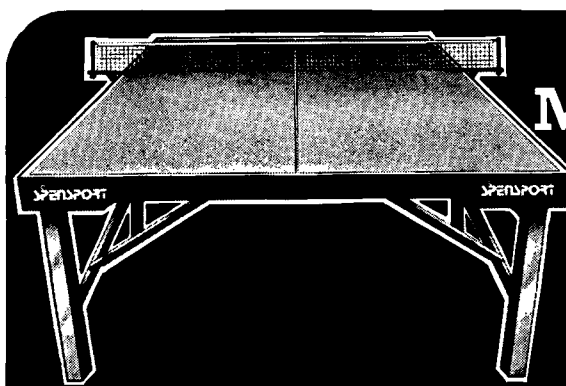
Of the others on the list, Joy Grundy at least made her allotted place in the quarters by beating Jean Parker and Jill Harris but Jackie Bellinger lost in the first round to Angela Mitchell.

Douggy Johnson is surely going (the party is announced after my deadline). He had no trouble reaching the semi-final (none of his first four opponents got more than 13) but then he had a lot of trouble with Skylet Andrew who took him to 19 in the third. Andrew's high thrown service and rangy looping make him exciting to watch, but he lacked sufficient control in his hitting at vital moments.

Sandley, on the other hand, showed just that control. He picked the right ball and spread Johnson around the table to overcome the tenacity and variety of the little man's defence.

His semi-final opponent was Chris Rogers who reached his first 3-Star semi since this venue last year. "I like it here. I don't think I'll bother playing in the others", he quipped after his 19 in the third win over David Wells in the quarters. But he was no match for Sandley who had had his own 19 in the third battle with Steve Mills in his quarter-final.

It was Rogers who scored the major win of the tournament when he beat No. 2 seed Carl Prean — who beat him in last year's semi — -17, 13, 14 in the second round.



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David Martin, Marketing Director, Martin the Newsagent plc, with Karen Witt, winner Women's Singles.



Mrs. Sue Martin & David Martin, Marketing Director, Martin the Newsagent plc, with Graham Sandley, winner Men's Singles.

Two other seeds didn't do what they should have done. Paul Day, the No. 6, lost to Wells, the No. 9, and Phil Bradbury, the No. 8, went down to John Kitchener, who came through the groups.

Apart from Bellinger senior's early tumble the seeds in the singles all did as expected. A determined Sue Collier, who reached the semi-final in the absence of Anita Stevenson, came closest to an upset when she stretched Karen Witt to 16, -20, 18 after coming back from 17-20 to win the second.

Johnson and Sandley did not drop a game in winning the men's doubles. They were stretched to "deuce" in one game by Mills and Tony Sanderson and Dave Newman and Ian Horsham but mostly their matches were as straightforward as their 15, 13 win in the final over Day and Richard Jermyn.

Peter Taylor and Mick Harper cut a furrow through the bottom half. After emerging shell-shocked from a first round encounter with Sharpe and Harman which ended in their favour 33, -22, 17, they beat No. 4

seeds Wells and Ian Kenyon and the No. 7 pair Prean and Billy Gleave before falling in three in the semis to Day and Jermyn.

The non-arrival of Anita Stevenson and Melody Hill produced the formidable scratch pairing of Karen Witt and Carole Moore in the women's doubles. They came through comfortably (if a curious 3, 25 win can be called comfortable) to the final where the more natural pairing of the sisters Bellinger stopped them. But only just, -18, 21, 13.

The Bellingers had a scrape with almost identical scores (-18, 21, 15) against Helen Williams and Mandy Reeves in the second round and also took a game to warm up in the semi-final against Mandy Smith and Alison Gordon. The Warwickshire pair Karen Groves and Sandra Peakman made their way through the vacant quarter to the other semi.

Logic suggested the Class 2 final between David Dodd, ranked 58 and Andy Creed, ranked 61, would be close. Dodd clearly did not believe in logic and stormed through 15, 9. He had played like that throughout the event in fact, never once being stretched to three.

Apart from Andrew the host county did not have a good tournament. Essex did, however, manage to get four men through to the veterans' quarter-finals. Three of them lost — Laurie Fountain going down 17, 34 in a marathon against Gordon Chapman — and only Brian Parish made the semi-final which he left at "deuce" in the third. Adedayo was stretched by Chapman but dealt with Peter D'Arcy 6, 18 in the final.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

D. Johnson (Wa) bt J. Kitchener (Su) 8, 10;
S. Andrew (E) bt D. Parker (La) 13, -18, 16;
G. Sandley (Mx) bt S. Mills (Y) -18, 21, 19;
C. Rogers (Le) bt D. Wells (Mi) 17, -18, 19.

Semi-finals:

Johnson bt Andrew 11, -14, 19.
Sandley bt Rogers 8, 9.

Final:

SANDLEY bt Johnson 16, -19, 15.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

K. Witt (Bk) bt M. Reeves (Mi) -18, 7, 7;
S. Collier (Bk) bt S. King (Sx) 13, 8;
A. Gordon (Bk) bt H. Bardwell (He) 10, 12;
L. Bellinger (Bd) bt J. Grundy (La) 15, 15.

Semi-finals:

Witt bt Collier 16, -20, 18;
Bellinger bt Gordon 21, 11.

Final:

WITT bt Bellinger 12, 10.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Johnson/Sandley bt C. Wilson (Mi)/Parker 16, 12;

P. Day (Ca)/R. Jermyn (He) bt P. Taylor/
M. Harper (He) -18, 14, 13.

Final:

JOHNSON/SANDLEY bt Day/Jermyn 13, 15.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Witt/C. Moore (Cv) bt K. Groves/
S. Peakman (Wa) 12, 17;
L. and J. Bellinger (Bd) bt M. Smith (Bk)/
Gordon -15, 13, 11.

Final:

BELLINGER/BELLINGER bt Witt/Moore
-18, 21, 13.

Class 2 Singles Semi-finals:

A. Creed (Av) bt P. Collino (Mi) 19, 13;
D. Dodd (K) bt S. Browne (La) 12, 17.

Final:

DODD bt Creed 15, 9.

Veterans' Singles Semi-finals:

B. Adedayo (Mi) bt G. Chapman (Sy)

-19, 16, 13;

P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt B. Parish (E) 19, -17, 20.

Final:

ADEDAYO bt Chapman 6, 18.

Photo coverage by Michael Johnson,
Ingatestone, Essex.

Norwich Union Masters

The 1983 Norwich Union Masters tournament is to be held in the National Arena, Kingston, Jamaica over the period May 24-29, 1983 and will be part of the celebrations being organised to mark the 21st Anniversary of the Independence of Jamaica.

Only the Rumanian Open (Mar. 10/13) remains for points to be gathered, the leading positions after the Canadian, Italian,

Yugoslav, French, Welsh and Czechoslovak championships being:

	Points
1 E. Lindh (SWE)	2,200
2 J-O. Waldner (SWE)	2,200
3 Ulf Bengtsson (SWE)	1,750
4 Jiang Jialiang (CHN)	1,600
5 Wang Hui Yuan (CHN)	1,600
6 I. Jonyer (HUN)	1,600
7 J. Pansky (TCH)	1,550
8 Z. Kalinic (YUG)	1,400
9 J. Secretin (FRA)	1,350
10 Fang Chang Mao (CHN)	1,200
11 M. Orlovski (TCH)	1,200
12 M. Appelgren (SWE)	1,150
13 Z. Kriston (HUN)	1,050
14 Cheng Yin Hua (CHN)	1,000
15 K. Sakamoto (JPN)	1,000
16 U. Carlsson (SWE)	1,000
17 D. Douglas (ENG)	1,000
18 P. Birocheau (FRA)	950
19 J. Molnar (HUN)	800
20 J. Hilton (ENG)	800

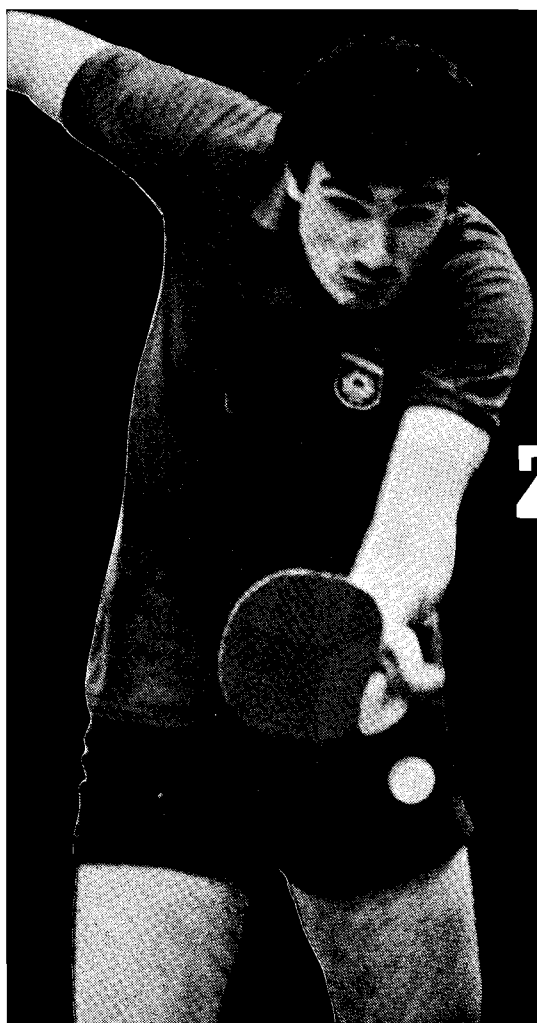
Three other English players, **Carl Prean**

(550), **Paul Day** (550) and **Dougie Johnson** (450) appear in the top 40 players. Points to be won in the Rumanian Open are as follows:

Winner	1,000
Runner-up	800
Losing semi-finalists	600
Losing quarter-finalists	400
Last 16	200
Last 32	150

HARD CHEESE!

Riding high in Division 1 of the European League, the Soviet Union lost their chance of promotion when beaten 4-3 by the Netherlands in the cheese town of Alkmaar on Mar. 5. Ex-England international Bob Potton partnered Ron van Spanje and Bettine Vriesekoop in two doubles successes the other Dutch wins coming in the women's singles and in the opening set when Rene Hijne beat Mazunov.



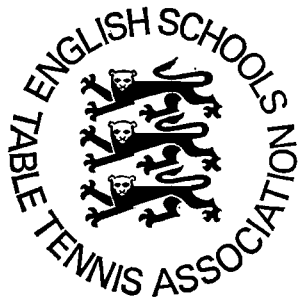
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by DAVID LOMAS

School teams from Shropshire looked set to make a strong bid for the titles at stake in the seventeenth annual National School Team Championships which were due to reach the finals stage at Lea Green, Matlock, Derbyshire, on Saturday, March 26th.

No less than five Shropshire teams qualified from the Midlands & West Region and this region looked set to grab most of the titles. The Grove School, Market Drayton have teams in the Girls' U-19 and U-13 events, Market Drayton Junior School are represented in both Under-11 categories and in the Boys' U-13 event a new face emerges in the form of Mary Webb School, Pontesbury.

But there are still plenty of challenges to be made. Bedfordshire are represented by four teams closely followed by Lincolnshire with three.

The closest battles could well be in the senior (U-19) events. Northern winners, Robert Pattinson School, are hoping to keep the trophy in Lincolnshire (The King's School, Grantham are holders). They are led by Stuart Worrell. The main contenders, however, are likely to be Rutlish (London Borough of Merton) and Exmouth. Exmouth teams have made several appearances in the Grand Finals over the years but have never won a title. With Gary Lambert and Mark Ellett at 1 and 2 they have a good chance.

Goff's School, Cheshunt, hope to retain their Under-19 Girls' title with the same line-up of Sarah Sandley, Caroline and Alison Boxall and Christine Muskett whilst Bedford Modern (U13B), and The Grove (U13G), hope to do the same.

The three Regional Finals took place on Sunday, Feb. 27 although separate arrangements were made for the Under-11 Girls' events.

NORTH REGION

(at Moor Grange High School, Leeds)

Amy Johnson School, Hull, were convincing winners in the Under-19 Girls' event. They have Bray twins, Ruth and Kathleen, in their line-up with older sister, Christine, and Janet Evans their other players.

In the Under-16 events Bury Grammar (Greater Manchester) (Boys) and Caistor Grammar (Lincolnshire) (Girls) won through in spite of being held to 4-4 scores against Newcastle RGS and Castleford High respectively.

Wold were convincing winners in the U-13 girls' event with 8-0 wins over Lancaster Girls' Grammar and Kesteven & Grantham Girls', but their U-11 colleagues went down to Dronfield Junior.

Winners:

- B19 Robert Pattinson, Lincoln (Lincolnshire)
- G19 Amy Johnson, Hull (Humberside)
- B16 Bury Grammar (Greater Manchester)
- G16 Caistor Grammar (Lincolnshire)
- B13 Archbishop Cranmer, Leeds (West Yorkshire)
- G13 Wold Junior High, Hull (Humberside)
- B11 Great Gonerby C.E. Primary (Lincolnshire)
- G11 Dronfield Junior (Derbyshire)

MIDLANDS & WEST REGION

(at Stroud Leisure Centre)

Closest fight here was in the Boys' U-11 event. Holymead Junior from Avon were 3-1 and 4-3 up against Market Drayton Junior but were held to a 4-4 draw. They then lost the tie-breaker doubles 16-21 after being 14-8 up and Market Drayton went through. Shropshire didn't have it all their own way, however, and the West Midlands have teams through in the Under-16 levels. They are Colton Hills (Boys) and Higherfields (Girls) from Wolverhampton.

Winners:

- B19 Exmouth Comprehensive (Devon)
- G19 The Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire)
- B16 Colton Hills, Wolverhampton (West Midlands)
- G16 Higherfields, Wolverhampton (West Midlands)
- B13 Mary Webb, Pontesbury (Shropshire)
- G13 The Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire)
- B11 Market Drayton Junior (Shropshire)
- G11 Market Drayton Junior (Shropshire)

SOUTH & EAST REGION

(at Walnuts Sports Centre, Orpington)

A good day for Bedfordshire teams. Girls' U-16, U-13 and U-11 teams all come from Luton. Not unexpectedly Berkshire still have an interest in the shape of Maiden Erlegh who include the Syed brothers. A weakened Rutlish team did well to get through.

Winners:

- B19 Rutlish, Merton (Surrey Met.)
- G19 Goff's, Cheshunt (Hertfordshire)
- B16 Maiden Erlegh, Reading (Berkshire)
- G16 Putteridge, Luton (Bedfordshire)
- B13 Bedford Modern (Bedfordshire)
- G13 Stopsley, Luton (Bedfordshire)
- B11 Wallop, Weybridge (Surrey County)
- G11 Ramridge Junior, Luton (Bedfordshire)

The Stiga English Schools Individual Championships are due to take place at Mansfield Leisure Centre on Saturday, April 30th, 1983.

British Universities Championships 1983

by DEREK OLDMAN

The Individual Championships were held in the very spacious and excellently equipped sports hall at Essex University over the week-end of Feb. 5/6. Although there were the usual last minute withdrawals over 150 students from 30 Universities took part. Even though the finals were dominated by Sheffield University, play up to the final stage was very evenly contested but played in excellent spirit. The importance which the students place on the Championships

can be measured in the fact that 27 players made the long trek from Scotland to Colchester and I was delighted to see them represented in the finals.

The men's singles became a very open event with the withdrawal of international Colin Wilson, the obvious favourite then being Brian Wright the Scottish No. 1 junior international. Apart from Chris Ross of Reading University who came through in Wilson's quarter all the other seeded players reached the semi-finals. Neil Bailey of Sheffield fairly comfortably beat off Ross although the 2nd game was at "deuce" but Wright took 3 games to come to terms with Bristol's Richard Russell, the Gloucestershire County player. Russell won the 1st in emphatic style but after that Wright never gave them another chance. The final was snatched from the Scot by Bailey after trailing in both games by substantial margins. At 19-20 in the 2nd Wright served into the net to complete, for him at least, a miserable 20 mins.

With No. 1 seed Lesley Tyler being required once again by her country and No. 2 seed Cheryl Buttery deciding not to appear, the stage seemed tailor made for Sheffield's Janet Deakin, the title holder, to once again dominate the event. As expected Melany Ringrose of Liverpool and Pamela Graham of Bath reached the semis via the quarter vacated by the top seeds. The only upset was in the quarters where Edinburgh's West German Student Dagmar Schulze disposed of No. 4 seed Joanna Bush of Bath and then dumped Ringrose out. In the other half, Deakin comfortably beat Graham. The final was always close and interesting but with Janet Deakin seemingly holding the aces. Eventually she took the title in two games.

In the first half of the Men's Doubles, C. Ballard and D. Bee of Leicester reached the semis with obviously benefitting by the withdrawal of the London pair of Wilson and Bullard. Nevertheless they played some fine table tennis and were unfortunate to meet their stable mates from Leicester, Roberts and Hall. As expected the latter pair went through to the final. The bottom half of the event went according to plan and eventually the seeded pair of Bailey/Nicol of Sheffield and Bristol's Russell/Glenner met in the semi-final. One of the best matches of the week-end saw the Sheffield pair through 20, 22. The final was equally enthralling with the Leicester pair taking the first game and losing the 2nd by the narrowest of margins. The decider was even all the way with Bailey and Nicol just scraping through.

The Women's Doubles had always been a difficult event to predict. The Leicester pair Gillian Harris and Denise Lennox reached the semis via the quarter vacated by Lesley Tyler and Anne Jones of Swansea. Joining them were Sheffield's Janet Deakin and Sue Murray who had a good win over Edinburgh's Schulze and Bates in the quarters. In the other half Bath's Joanna Bush and Pamela Graham met Debbie Brown and Diane Chang of East Anglia. There were no upsets in the semis with the Sheffield and Bath pairs meeting in the final. Experience paid off with Bush & Graham comfortably taking the title after overcoming a minor set back in the first game.

The Mixed Doubles also went very much according to plan. Unseeded Neil Anderson and Lesley Smith of Aston won through to the semis in the quarter where seeded players Crook and Jones of Swansea had

fallen earlier, to meet No. 2 seeds Bailey and Janet Deakin.

Bailey and Deakin then had a very comfortable 2-straight victory into the final. In the other half Steve Bryant and Joanna Bush met No. 3 seeds Martin Tate and Melany Ringrose of Liverpool. Again the Liverpool pair had a fairly comfortable passage through to the final. Once more the spectators were treated to a terrific match with the Sheffield pair only taking the title 19 in the third.

By winning 4 titles and being beaten finalists in the other the Sheffield contingent certainly had a fine weekend. Neil Bailey with 3 titles and Janet Deakin with 2 wins and a runners-up were the players of the tournament. The emergence of players from the Scottish Universities was particularly gratifying and as Brian Wright and Dagmar Schulze are both first year students, the Scots seemed destined for some successful representation in the foreseeable future.

RESULTS

Men's Singles:

N. BAILEY (Sheffield) bt B. Wright (Strathclyde) 24, 19.

Women's Singles:

J. DEAKIN (Sheffield) bt D. Schulze (Edinburgh) 16, 19.

Men's Doubles:

BAILEY/A. NICHOL (Sheffield) bt G. Hall/ J. Roberts (Leicester) -17, 19, 18.

Women's Doubles:

J. BUSH/P. GRAHAM (Bath) bt Deakin/ Murray (Sheffield) -17, 13, 9.

Mixed Doubles:

BAILEY/DEAKIN bt M. Tate/M. Ringrose (Liverpool) 8, -19, 19.

Girls' Doubles:

Potts/Seaton bt H. Broomhead/J. Roberts (Y) 11, 16.

Cadet Boys' Singles:

J. Ellis (Cw) bt S. Craggs (Cv) 12, 9.

Cadet Girls' Singles:

Potts bt J. Billington (Dy) 9, -16, 11.

U-12 Boys' Singles:

B. Billington (Dy) bt A. Morris (Sp) 8, 11.

U-12 Girls' Singles:

Potts bt K. Hall (Dy) 20, 18.

- 10 Bedford 1-Star Open.
- 10 Halex National League (14).
- 16 ETTA National Council Meeting (London).
- 16 West of Scotland Youth and Junior 1-Star Open, Castlemilk Youth Centre, Dougrie Road, Castlemilk, Glasgow.
- 16/17 Essex Junior 'Select', Harlow Sports Centre, Hammarskjold Road, Harlow, Essex.
- 17/23 7th COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS (National Stadium, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia).
- 23 South Yorkshire County 2-Star Open ,Concord Sports Centre, Sheffield. Entries close Apl. 2 to Mr. S. Wainwright, 129 Mount View Road, Sheffield S8 8PJ.
- 23/24 Tunbridge Wells Junior 2-Star.
- 26-28 MAY
- 9 37th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, Yoyogi National Stadium, Tokyo, Japan.
- 30 Evening Chronicle Northumberland 2-Star Open, Concordia Leisure Centre, Cramlington, Northumberland. Prize Fund £1,005. Entries close Apl. 11 to Mr. A. Drapkin, 49 Beach Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 1DZ. 'Phone: 514983 (£225 men's singles winner).
- 30 ESTTA INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Mansfield Leisure Centre).
- 30/31 Hollington Junior 1-Star Open (Hastings).

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

MARCH

- 27 Halex National League (13).
- 27 Derby Junior 2-Star Open.

APRIL

- 2/3 Junior Ranking Trials (Loughborough).
- 9 County Championships (7).
- 9 Knightswood 1-Star Open, Scotstoun Showground, Danes Drive, Glasgow.

JUNIOR 1-STAR OPENS

Rodney Thomas of Dorset was the winner of the boys' singles title in the **Exeter Junior 1-Star Open** on Feb. 12 beating Mark Ellett of Devon 8, -14, 15 in the final. Avon's **Helen Perrott** was the winner of the counter-part girls' event with a final 19, -13, 17 win over Sarah Hammond of Hants. Other results:

Boys' Doubles:

Ellett/G. Wilson (Dv) bt A. & M. Oxley (Wi) 21, -19, 17.

Girls' Doubles:

Hammond/Perrott bt L. Harman (Do)/ S. O'Leary (Dv) 17, 19.

U-15 Boys' Singles:

Thomas bt M. Campbell (Wa) 19, 17.

U-15 Girls' Singles:

Perrott bt J. Houghton (K) 19, 19.

U-13 Boys' Singles:

L. Jose (Co) bt A. Houghton (K) 11, -13, 9.

U-15 Girls' Singles:

M. Carey (So) bt J. Norman (Bk) 18, -21, 10.

Steven Sharpe, on home pastures, was the winner of the boys' singles title in the **Selby Junior 1-Star Open** played on Feb. 19 his final victim being David Rook, also of Yorkshire, beaten 10 and 11. Keeping it within the county **Melanie Seaton** won the girls' singles title with a final victory over Cheshire's Claire Potts 10 and 18. Other results:

Boys' Doubles:

Rook/Sharpe bt N. Newton/M. Scott (Y) 16, 16.

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'LENTEC' COMPUTER RANKINGS

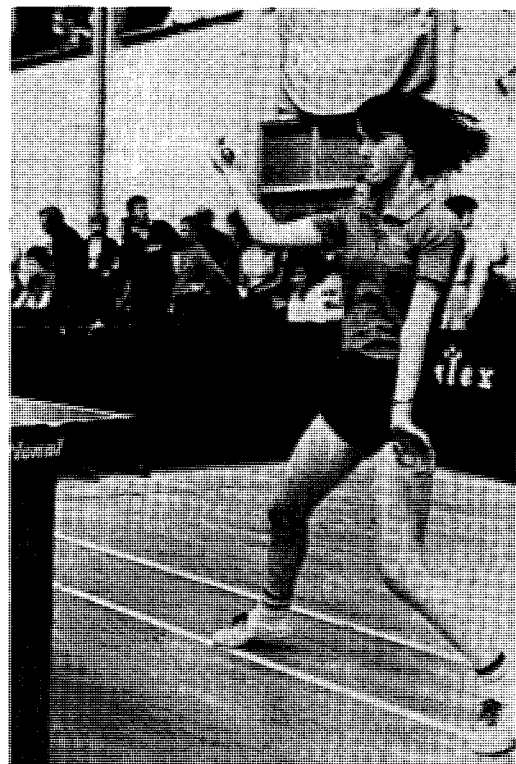
SANDLEY OUSTS JOHNSON

Dougie Johnson has been ousted from the No. 2 spot by Graham Sandley in the latest Lentec computerised rankings issued in late February which still keep Desmond Douglas and Carl Plean undisturbed at Nos. 1 and 3 respectively.

In the female category 19-years-old Jackie Bellinger moves up from No. 8 to No. 4, just behind her sister Lisa. Karen Witt, winner of five 3-star opens this season and the Norwich Union English Closed stays on top and still above Jill Hammersley-Parker. The complete list (previous positions in brackets) reads:

Men

	Points
1 Desmond Douglas (Wa) (1)	741
2 Graham Sandley (Mi) (4)	701
3 Carl Plean (IOW) (3)	679
4 Dougie Johnson (Wa) (2)	658
5 John Hilton (La) (5)	621
6 Skylet Andrew (E) (7)	565
7 Paul Day (Ca) (8)	508
8 Donald Parker (La) (6)	503
9 Philip Bradbury (Bu) (11)	492
10 Steven Mills (Y) (10)	484
11 Kenny Jackson (E) (15)	480
12 Nigel Eckersley (Ch) (9)	473
13 Colin Wilson (Mi) (16)	459
14 Chu Van Que (Nd) (21)	452
15 David Wells (Mi) (12)	451
16 Mark Mitchell (Mi) (14)	449
17 Ian Kenyon (K) (13)	418
18 David Barr (Bk) (18)	411
19 Max Crimmins (Sy) (23)	395
20 Richard Jermyn (He) (19)	394
21 Steven Turner (La) (20)	386
22 David Constance (Do) (17)	374
23 Chris Rogers (Le) (22)	367
24 Ian Horsham (E) (24)	338
25 Alan Fletcher (Y) (30)	326
26 John Souter (Mi) (25)	322
27 Kevin Beadsley (Y) (26)	322



Lancashire's Jean Parker lying second to Lisa Bellinger in the girls' list.

Photo by Leo Black, London, W.11.

28 Alan Cooke (Dy) (27)	302
29 John Kitchener (Sk) (28)	300
30 Barry Johnson (Wa) (29)	296
31 Kevin Satchell (Wi) (34)	289
32 Andy Wellman (Bk) (32)	278
33 David Tan (Mi) (31)	271
34 Lindsay Taylor (Cv) (33)	271
35 Nicky Mason (Sy) (42)	270
36 Billy Gleave (Ch) (39)	248
37 Tony Sanderson (Y) (41)	239
38 David Newman (E) (35)	237
39 Joey Kennedy (K) (40)	232
40 Mark Oakley (Sy) (55)	231
41 Peter McQueen (Nd) (37)	228
42 Barry Hayward (Wa) (36)	225
43 Steven Scowcroft (La) (45)	219
44 David Reeves (Bk) (38)	210
45 Peter Taylor (He) (50)	205
46 Andrew Bellingham (St) (46)	202
47 Malcolm Francis (Sx) (43)	201
48 David Dodd (K) (58)	201
49 Keith Paxton (Du) (44)	200
50 Keith Richardson (Ca) (47)	189
51 Andrew Creed (Av) (61)	185
52 Adrian Moore (Sx) (49)	180
53 John Payne (Mi) (56)	179
54 Stephen Moore (Sx) (59)	176
55 Paul Randall (Le) (48)	172
56 Mick Harper (Ca) (51)	169
57 Tony Clayton (Do) (52)	168
58 Brian Johns (Ch) (53)	154
59 Shaun Browne (La) (60)	150
60 Carl Morgan (Wa) (54)	145
61 Babs Adedayo (Mi) (57)	140
62 Paul Rainford (La) (82)	128
63 Ian Robertson (Nd) (80)	121
64 Iain Fullerton (Bk) (63)	120
65 Andy Rich (St) (77)	120
66 Desmond Charlery (E) (62)	116
67 Martyn Smith (Av) (64)	108
68 Derek Munt (Wa) (81)	107
69 Michael Browne (Wa) (78)	97
70 Phillip Bowen (La) (65)	95
71 Anthony Boasman (Ch) (66)	92
72 Robert Watson (Ng) (89)	91
73 Tony Penny (E) (76)	89
74 Simon Heaps (Do) (67)	88
75 Paul Namdjou (K) (68)	88
76 Mark Hankey (Ch) (69)	88
77 Keith Williams (La) (70)	86
78 Gary Lambert (Dv) (71)	83
79 Steven Holloway (Sy) (72)	83
80 Jonathan Proffitt (He) (73)	82
81 Phillip Smith (Sx) (74)	80
82 Paul Whiting (Dv) (75)	78
83 Percy Collino (Mi) (92)	76
84 Michael Hammond (Sy) (79)	72
85 Malcolm Green (Sp) (88)	72
86 Kevin Green (Cv) (84)	69
87 Greg Hallam (St) (91)	65
88 Tony Isaac (St) (83)	59
89 Steven Sharpe (Y) (85)	58
90 Phillip Gunn (Wa) (—)	58
91 Stuart Palmer (Ca) (86)	56
92 Andrew Dodd (K) (—)	56
93 Andy Withers (Ca) (87)	54
94 Paul Barnett (St) (90)	50
95 Michael O'Leary (Mi) (—)	50
96 Gareth Spencer (K) (—)	47
97 Glen Baker (Sy) (—)	47
98 Paul Jackson (Av) (97)	45
99 John Burlerton (K) (—)	44
100 Roger Chandler (Sx) (93)	42

Omitted from the last rankings are:

Les Eadie (E) (94), Mark Werner (Do) (95), Derek Schofield (Ch) (96), Derek Holman (Ha) (98), Mark Illingsworth (Y) (99) and Mike Stead (Y) (100).

Women

	Points
1 Karen Witt (Bk) (1)	430
2 Jill Hammersley-Parker (La) (2)	395
3 Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (3)	371
4 Jackie Bellinger (Bd) (8)	230
5 Alison Gordon (Bk) (4)	218
6 Joy Grundy (La) (6)	213
7 Anita Stevenson (Le) (5)	200
8 Carol Moore (Cv) (7)	179
9 Susan Collier (Bk) (9)	165
10 Mandy Smith (Bk) (12)	159
11 Karen Smith (Le) (10)	125
12 Suzanne Hunt (Li) (18)	124
13 Melody Hill (Y) (11)	116
14 Sarah Sandley (Mi) (19)	96
15 Angela Mitchell (Mi) (13)	93
16 Jean Parker (La) (14)	89
17 Jill Harris (St) (15)	85
18 Helen Williams (Mi) (20)	81
19 Mandy Reeves (Mi) (17)	78
20 Karen Groves (Wa) (16)	75
21 Carol Butler (Dv) (21)	57
22 Jenny Collins (Bk) (22)	52
23 Claire Maisey (Wi) (23)	49
24 Christine Peacock (La) (24)	48
25 Helen Shields (Y) (25)	44
26 Joanne Shaw (Y) (26)	42
27 Laura Goldsmith (Mi) (27)	42
28 Julie McLean (Y) (—)	39
29 Julie Revill (Le) (28)	35
30 Cheryl Buttery (Li) (—)	34
31 Elaine Sayer (E) (29)	34
32 Sandra Peakman (Wa) (33)	31
33 Nina Tsakarisianos (Gs) (30)	29
34 Nicola Hamilton (He) (31)	29
35 Lesley Broomhead (Y) (32)	26
36 Sarah Padley (Dy) (—)	25
37 Janet Parker (Wi) (34)	24

38 Alison Boxall (He) (—)	22
39 Yvonne Hall (Le) (—)	22
40 Helen Bardwell (He) (—)	22

This list has been extended from the 34 as published in the Jan./Feb. magazine with no omissions but with six newcomers the foremost of which is Julie McLean of Hull coming in at No. 28.



Susan Collier of Maidenhead, Berks, steady at No. 9 women and No. 3 girl.

Photo by Leo Black, London, W.11.

Boys

	Points
1 Carl Plean (IOW) (1)	415
2 Nicky Mason (Sy) (2)	387
3 Gary Lambert (Dv) (6)	304.5
4 Alan Cooke (Dy) (4)	302.5
5 Steven Sharpe (Y) (5)	286
6 Billy Gleave (Ch) (3)	279.5
7 Phillip Huggon (La) (7)	238
8 Phillip Gunn (Wa) (8)	213
9 Steven Dettmar (E) (9)	204
10 Jeffrey Thatcher (Y) (12)	200
11 Andrew Cunningham (K) (15)	199
12 David Rook (Y) (31)	199
13 Mark Ellett (Dv) (17)	198
14 Dipak Topiwala (K) (11)	195
15 Darren McVitie (Du) (21)	192
16 Andrew Sexton (Sy) (10)	188
17 Andrew Dodd (K) (14)	187
18 Martin Firth (Y) (27)	187
19 Michael Thomas (Wa) (20)	186
20 Chris Bartram (K) (25)	185
21 Gary Wilson (Dv) (28)	183.5
22 Phillip Logsdon (Nk) (13)	178.5
23 Richard Hayward (St) (18)	178.5
24 Keith Samuels (Bd) (29)	176
25 Darren Griffiths (Gs) (16)	173.5
26 Andrew Syed (Bk) (23)	169
27 Richard Tilford (Ng) (19)	168.5
28 Mark Randle (Wa) (30)	167
29 Murray Jukes (Wo) (22)	166
30 Stuart Worrall (Li) (24)	165
31 David Blackburne (Du) (26)	159
32 Lee Neil (Ng) (39)	153
33 Neil McMaster (Nd) (32)	142
34 Paul Ashcroft (La) (33)	140
35 Philip Aspinall (La) (34)	140
36 Phillip Cole (Hu) (35)	139
37 Jimmy Stokes (Bk) (36)	134
38 Julian Wheel (Ca) (37)	127
39 Jaskaran Singh (Wa) (38)	127
40 Adrian Dixon (St) (46)	116
41 David Dewsbury (Sy) (40)	112
42 Rodney Thomas (Do) (41)	109
43 Richard Darnell (E) (42)	107
44 Anthony Wattis (Cv) (43)	106
45 Peter Holliday (Ca) (49)	94
46 Kevin Cartwright (St) (44)	93.5
47 Graeme McKim (Np) (45)	86
48 Peter Bannister (K) (47)	82
49 Christopher Metcalfe (Cv) (50)	80
50 Clifford Grant (Wa) (48)	70

Girls

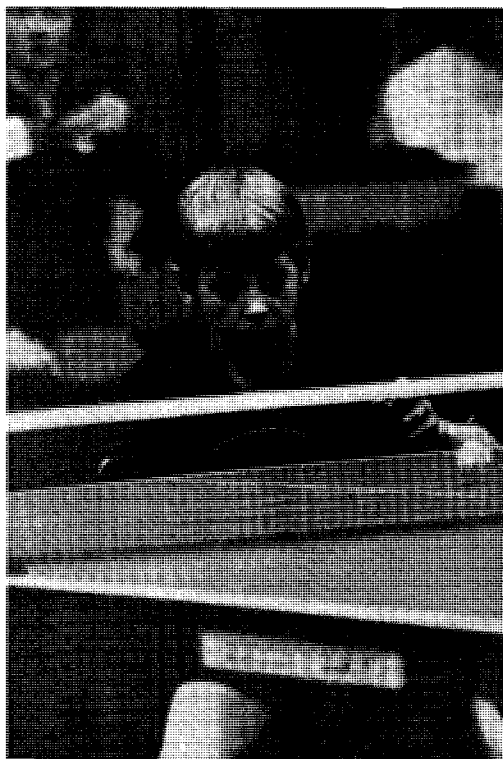
	Points
1 Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (1)	376
2 Jean Parker (La) (2)	300
3 Susan Collier (Bk) (3)	279
4 Jill Powis (St) (5)	215
5 Nina Tsakarisianos (Gs) (4)	203
6 Helen Bardwell (He) (7)	202.5
7 Tracy Lightfoot (Ch) (6)	190.5
8 Fiona Elliot (St) (8)	186
9 Melonie Seaton (Y) (9)	177.5
10 Michele Hams (Sy) (21)	153
11 Josette Ryalis (Y) (11)	147.5
12 Laura Goldsmith (Mi) (10)	143
13 Joanne Shaw (Y) (15)	143
14 Rachel Brook (Y) (12)	139

15	Amanda Hegarty (St) (14)	136
16	Teresa Moore (Sx) (17)	136
17	Claire Mouzon (Nd) (13)	130.5
18	To Thuy Dung (Dy) (19)	129
19	Louise Davis (Wo) (18)	125
20	Amanda Judd (Ca) (16)	121.5
21	Angela Sanders (St) (24)	108
22	Nikki Hamilton (Bu) (20)	107
23	Leanne Harman (Do) (29)	105
24	Alison Boxall (He) (23)	100
25	Debbie Soothill (Cu) (22)	93
26	Debbie Simmons (Sy) (27)	83
27	Lisa Hayden (E) (25)	77
28	Rachel Knight (Mi) (28)	77
29	Tracey Spencer (St) (26)	76
30	Lesley Popkiewicz (Sy) (32)	70
31	Alison Barker (Sp) (30)	67
32	Jane Mills (Sy) (31)	65
33	Jane Barella (Sy) (34)	62
34	Sarah O'Leary (Dv) (33)	61
35	Lisa Robins (Bd) (—)	51
36	Mary Denbow (Ox) (35)	46
37	Ruth Hunter (Nk) (36)	43
38	Alison Clemens (Co) (38)	43
39	Juliet Houghton (K) (—)	43
40	Julie Shippey (Ng) (37)	41

Vicky Bellingham (St) and Sally Weston (Sx) at Nos. 39 and 40 are the two girls dropped from the previous list.

Cadet Boys

1	Andrew Syed (Bk) (1)	375.5
2	Jimmy Stokes (Bk) (2)	255.5
3	Adrian Dixon (St) (6)	234.5
4	Paul Amos (K) (5)	209.5
5	Matthew Syed (Bk) (3)	208
6	Stuart Craggs (Cv) (4)	203
7	Karl Bull (K) (8)	163
8	Michael Rutherford (K) (9)	142
9	Michael Oxley (Wi) (7)	135
10	Bradley Billington (Dy) (11)	131
11	Tony West (E) (10)	125
12	Greg Barden (K) (12)	123
13	John Ferguson (K) (14)	121
14	Kevin Lawrence (St) (16)	117.5
15	Sion Simon (Wa) (13)	117
16	Jonathon Bult (Y) (17)	115
17	Simon Jones (Ch) (15)	114
18	Michael O'Driscoll (Y) (18)	110
19	Nicholas Carr (Y) (19)	103.5
20	Matthew Harvey (St) (20)	91
21	Paul Gooding (Sk) (24)	75
22	Damian Holland (E) (22)	74.5



Adrian Dixon of Staffs, up from No. 6 to No. 3 in the cadet boys' list.

Photo by Leo Black, London, W.11.

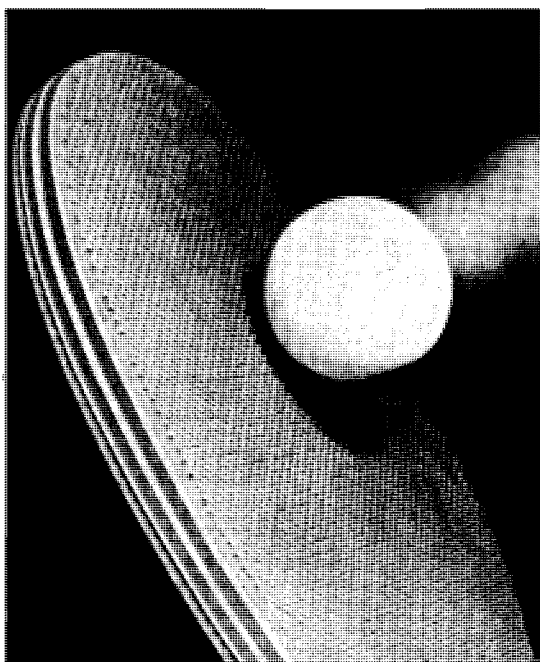
23	Tim Shepherd (Nk) (21)	74
24	Sean Gibson (La) (23)	67
25	Jonathon Goode (Mi) (25)	65
26	Ian Neate (Wi) (26)	58

27	Leon Jose (Co) (29)	54
28	David Watson (Nd) (27)	49
29	Raymond Powell (Wi) (28)	46
30	Araric Bassano (Y) (34)	45
31	Neil Pickard (Nk) (30)	42
32	Mark Land (Y) (36)	40
33	Paul Fisher (Sp) (31)	38
34	David Smedley (Dy) (—)	38
35	Kevin Gray (St) (32)	37
36	Adrian Bolton (Ng) (33)	36
37	Peter Galica (Sy) (35)	32
38	Andrew Houghton (K) (—)	29

Cadet Girls

1	Jill Powis (St) (1)	403.5
2	Louise Davis (Wo) (2)	238
3	Juliet Houghton (K) (3)	225.5
4	Angela Sanders (St) (4)	215
5	Lesley Souter (Mi) (5)	185
6	Claire Potts (Ch) (7)	180
7	Debbie Soothill (Cu) (6)	179.5
8	Andria Holt (La) (12)	171.5
9	Rachel Knight (Mi) (13)	152
10	Helen Perrott (Av) (11)	149.5
11	Lisa Hayden (E) (8)	148
12	Alison Evans (Y) (10)	148
13	Lisa Robins (Bd) (9)	146
14	Sarah Hammond (Ha) (14)	126
15	Sarah Webb (So) (16)	119
16	Melanie Carey (So) (17)	104.5
17	Amanda Shufflebotham (Ox) (15)	102.5
18	Dawn Wickstead (Sp) (18)	87
19	Jenny Ellery (Gs) (20)	76
20	Karen Wilde (Sy) (19)	75
21	Jane Roberts (Y) (28)	75
22	Tanya Holland (E) (23)	69
23	Helen Lower (St) (21)	68
24	Fiona Stuart (So) (22)	67
25	Angela Wattis (Cv) (25)	66
26	Hazel Kavanagh (Y) (24)	65
27	Karen Rogers (St) (26)	60
28	Helen Broomhead (Y) (27)	58
29	Joanne Cooke (E) (29)	46
30	Tracey Scott-Pawson (Do) (36)	46
31	Sarah Padley (Dy) (30)	38
32	Katrina Baker (Mi) (31)	36
33	Ruth Bray (Y) (32)	36
34	Andrew Wood (Dy) (33)	36
35	Kerry Hall (Dy) (34)	31
36	Debbie Ballard (Sx) (35)	28
37	Gillian Patten (E) (—)	19
38	Claire Brooks (Sy) (—)	18

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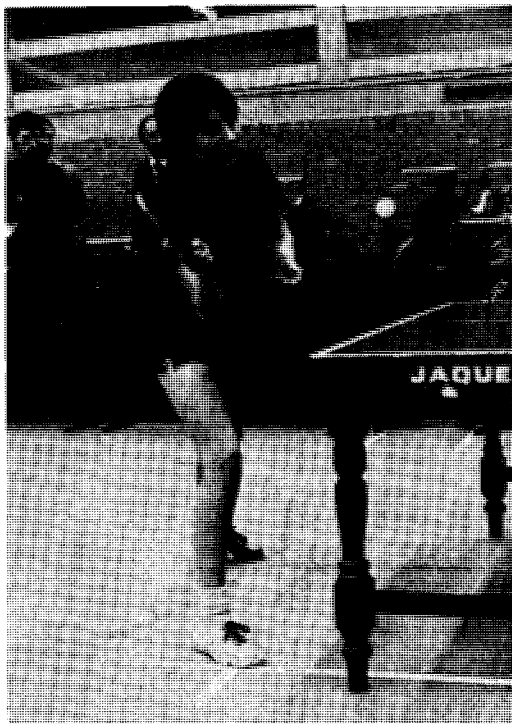
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Louise Davis of Bridgnorth, Salop who represented the Kidderminster League in Worcestershire. Louise maintains her No. 2 cadet girls' position but drops from No. 18 to No. 19, in the girls' list.

Photo by Leo Black, London, W.11.

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An office is provided within the Cleveland Leisure Services Department and some administrative support will be given by the County Authority.

The ability to communicate well with others is essential. A driving license, typing and secretarial skills, organisational ability, a knowledge of table tennis and of the field of leisure and recreation would be desirable.

The position initially is for one year and in recognition of the work carried out the ETTA are prepared to pay a consultancy fee of £6,240 which covers all fees and expenses during the period of the contract.

For further information and application form apply in writing to:

**The Deputy General Secretary,
English Table Tennis Association,
21 Claremont, Hastings,
East Sussex TN34 1HA.**

Please mark envelope: Northern Regional Development Officer.

All applications will be treated in confidence.

Letters to the Editor

**HOLLINGSWORTHS HASTINGS
CLOSED 1982-3**

The 52nd Hastings Closed will be held on Sunday, 17th April at Hastings Sports Centre. Local garage proprietors J. Hollingsworth are the new sponsors of the event taking over from the Anglia Building Society. Play commences at 10 a.m. on 12 tables in the spacious main hall, with the final session starting at 7.30 p.m. Present at the championships will be Mr. Paul Hollingsworth and Mr. John Bargh from Hollingsworths; the trophies to be presented by the Hastings Deputy Mayor, Councillor Saunders.

County players Steven Moore (Hollington) and Sheila King (Tigers) are probable favourites to win the major honours, with the absence of Nicky Mason and Teresa Moore who are at a Junior Select making their task a little easier. Sheila King will probably be seeded top in her three events, and seems likely to reach ever nearer to the all time record total number of 23 individual titles at Hastings. She has 16, and must have every opportunity to record her third consecutive treble of titles. ETTA Assistant Secretary Mike Watts will probably be defending his Veterans' Singles title.

Spectators are welcome at any time in the day, but in particular to the finals themselves, where the tiered seating will take 250 plus people.

**RON KEMP,
Organiser.**

**192 Downs Road,
Hastings,
East Sussex TN34 2DZ.
Tel. 0424 433632.**

THE HISTORY OF TABLE TENNIS

Since 1957 I have been building a collection of paper memorabilia of table tennis and although it goes right through to the present day, my greatest pleasure has been and still is, finding items which go back to the earliest days of the game.

Till now, the picture post card has been my greatest source of material for between the period 1901 to 1909, I have so far unearthed nearly 100 different cards. The earliest of these is a set of 12 invitation cards to ping pong parties. The beauty of the postcard from a historian's point of view is that the postmark provides an all-important date to authenticate the item. The earliest date for the invitation cards is 7th January, 1902.

Although I advertise quite extensively for postcards, other items too arrive as a result. Thus I have Arnold Parker's book on "How to Play Ping Pong" which is dated 1902.

Other items which arrive are greetings cards depicting ping pong. The difficulty with these, however, is that I cannot date them normally except to say that they are probably Victorian.

However, I have now received a card which has astonished me. It is beautifully engraved and heavily embossed and depicts two cats playing the game. The border is in gold and features a vellum racket and a ball. At the bottom, embossed in white, are the words "jolly ping pong". On the reverse of the card is written the message "Christmas 1878 — To Bobbie and Doris". Now that date has completely floored me and my first thought was to doubt its authenticity. I am still sceptical but I have resolved to try and verify it if possible.

According to the histories I have ever come across on the game, the first commercial mention is 1884 when an entry appeared in F. H. Ayres sports goods catalogue.

As for the name "Ping Pong", well I have always been led to believe that this came along much later as a result of John Gibb mimicking out loud the sound made by the ball alternately hitting vellum rackets and table.

Two things I am trying to do is (1) establish when the firm of John Jaques took out the first trademark patent of the name "Ping Pong", and (2) the date of birth of John Gibb. Can anyone help?

Finally, I am compiling, with the help of a colleague in the U.S.A., an illustrated catalogue of Table Tennis picture cards, so if any reader can help with information or examples, I should be pleased to hear from them.

REX HAGGETT,

**27 Meadow Close,
Stratford-on-Avon,
Warwickshire
CV37 9PJ.**

PEACE AMONG THE WARRING SCRIBES?

Is it peace at last for Alan Shepherd and John Woodford whom I have enjoyed reading so much over all those controversial years? Cause for Celebration? Alas, the champagne corks must stay in the bottle a little longer, because on the issue that has united them they are both wrong.

They oppose those lower divisions which are appearing every season as new clubs enter the National League. They want to call a halt after one or two divisions.

I regard present trends as good for the Sport. Where else can an ambitious club turn after its 'A' team has outgrown its local league? In a sense the lower divisions of the N.L. are on firmer ground than the Premier and First Divisions with their excessive travel and expense.

The problems of the County Championships are not due to the National League. Both are growing more alike each day. Neither has produced a crowd-pulling formula and without this neither will amount to anything. Spectators are as important as players in creating an atmosphere that will lift one match above another.

The spectator is the missing link in our Sport. This is what deprives us of greatness. It is in this direction that our main creative efforts must be concentrated.

Matches played out before empty benches are unlikely to be played much longer. That is the spectre that haunts our Sport. If we want this to be a major Sport and more than a pleasant church hall hobby, all we have to do is stage good table tennis and go out and sell the tickets. Whoever does that best, indeed at all, will come out on top. All other problems are totally insignificant in the context of a professional sport.

JOHN PREAN,

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

DIFFERENT TACTIC

There have been many letters published in Table Tennis News criticising TV coverage of our sport. I do feel that this is a rather negative approach and I suggest that others should do as I have done — write to TV Times and World of Sport to express thanks for such good coverage of the Norwich Union Welsh Open. If enough enthusiasts write, they can only help to boost the coverage of our great game.

RICHARD RUSSELL,

**The Brick House,
Charlton Drive,
Charlton Kings,
Cheltenham, Gloucs.**

REMARKABLE WIN

It was during a match in the Wandsworth League on Jan. 11. I won the first game 25-23, and Simpson, my young opponent, led 17-7 in the second. It looked as if it must go to a third game at this stage, but I won it 21-19 (14 points to 2 in the latter part of this game). It happened to be the last singles set of the evening, and it gave our team victory.

**K. WOODWARD (aged 75),
Member ETTA '100 Club'**

**5 Birchwood Road,
Tooting, London SW17.**

LOW PRIORITY

The leader column of the Feb./Mar. issue of T.T. News (No. 133) exhorts those who want top class table tennis to support it.

Those who went to Woking recently, to do just that, and paid for the privilege, had to sit through three delays, in silence, in order to comply with the requirements of the television service.

The supporters who were thus ignored could have been entertained if the interviews which caused the delays had been fed into the public address system, or if this was not possible the interviews could have been conducted away from the playing area.

Don't blame people for not attending table tennis matches if they know from experience that their well being and entertainment is the low priority that the organisers demonstrated at Woking.

D. H. RHODES,

**48 Norfolk Gardens,
Littlehampton,
West Sussex,
BN17 5PF.**

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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Obituary

CHARLES MAYNE, M.B.E.

It is with great regret that I have to record the death of "Charlie" Mayne. My memories of Charlie go back to the early days after the war when he was an active member of the London Civil Service League and helped to run the Civil Service Championships. By the time of the World Championships at Wembley in 1954 he was already a qualified umpire and in fact he passed the National Umpire's Test in 1958. Apart from running the London Civil Service teams in the National Competitions (Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl) he had connections with Central League for whom he ran the Inter-League (Middlesex) team in 1956 and no National or large Open Tournament around the London area seemed to be complete unless Charlie was on the list of umpires.

It was through him that a few of us got involved in the Stoke Mandeville Games for the Paralysed 25 years ago. At the time Charlie was the Secretary of the short-lived Umpires' Association and when Stoke Mandeville Hospital asked for help with their table tennis event he arranged for a few umpires to go. His dedication to the sports movement for the disabled was such that he never voluntarily missed any event at which he could be of assistance.

His voluntary work did not stop at table tennis and in fact his M.B.E. was awarded for his work on the Staff Side of the Whitley Council at the Ministry of Defence. I know there were other activities, too, which I am unable to specify.

In recent years, as he became less mobile, he dropped some of his table tennis activities but always kept occupied with other good works. Charlie will be widely missed by many people and organisations and by the many friends he has made over the years.

Iris Moss

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Richard YULE (Scotland), the Dale Farm Ulster Open Winner (for the 3rd time) receiving his prize from Robin Anderson.

Dale Farm Ulster Open

by Mrs. PAT HUNTER

Held in the Valley Leisure Centre, Newton-abbey on Saturday, Feb. 12.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

R. Yule (Sco) bt J. Kennedy (Eng) 14, 16;
J. Souter (Eng) bt Tom Heasley (Ire)
16, -13, 12.

Final:

YULE bt Souter 8, -19, 11.

Women's Singles Final:

Louise GIBSON (Ulster) bt Nora McEvoy
(Ulster) -17, 15, 12.

Men's Doubles Final:

SOUTER/KENNEDY bt Jimmy Hamill/
Jimmy Robinson (Ulster) 18 18.

Mixed Doubles Final:

KENNEDY/Eveline NELSON bt Alistair
Cairns/Pat Hunter 21, 15.

Women's Doubles Final:

Mary McMULLAN/McEVOY bt Mandy
Dunleavy/Ursula Masterson (all Ulster)
-12, 15, 15.

Boys' Final:

Mervyn KELLY bt John FALL 16, 14.

Girls' Final:

Eveline NELSON bt Nora McEvoy 16, -18, 15.

Veterans' Final:

John BRYANT (Dublin) bt Tony Magill
(Belfast) 14, -12, 17.

Consolation Final:

Willie CHERRY bt David Kyle 17, 16.

VITAL SET

When Czechoslovakia's Jindrich Pansky lost to Claus Pedersen of Denmark in the Super Division of the European League little did he know that his loss in the first set would cost his country the coveted title now retained by Yugoslavia.

ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

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Asst. Organiser: A. Griggs

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AN AID TO A PLAYER

by "LOUSY COACH"

It is not often that I put pen to paper but I feel so prompted in the hope that qualified and would-be qualified coaches are able to take an inward, **critical look at themselves.**

I am not sure how the coach regards his position; from overhearing comments made at various times it would seem some may be on their own "ego trip".

Comments made by coaches such as:-

1. **WE** expect to win this or that or by next season **WE** hope to be ranked at such and such a level.

2. If it hadn't have been for **ME** etc., etc.

3. I coach him/her and I am responsible for him/her making the town/county side etc.

The worst fault of all by a coach is, in my opinion, their knowledge that there is another coach somewhere else who may be able to offer greater help to a student but deliberately makes sure the pupil does not attend such a course, in the fear that his own ego may be somewhat challenged.

Coaches should be reminded at all times that the coaching manual (for those coaches who have bothered to read it) should act as an aid to the coach, as the coach is an aid to the player. The most important person at all times, believe it or believe it not, is not the coach but the **PLAYER.**

There is always the need for us coaches to improve and maybe by taking this critical look at ourselves once in a while we may do just that, although let us not get too good, as I would not like a situation to develop to find we have superb coaches but only average players.

WORLD CUP FOUR

The World Cup 4, played under the auspices of the ITTF, will take place at the Community College, Barbados from Aug. 29 to Sept. 3, 1983.

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Cover Picture

Karen Witt of Berkshire now established as England's No. 1 woman after her victory over Jill Hammersley-Parker in the women's singles event of the Norwich Union English Closed at Woking.

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