



TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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PAWS FOR A LET

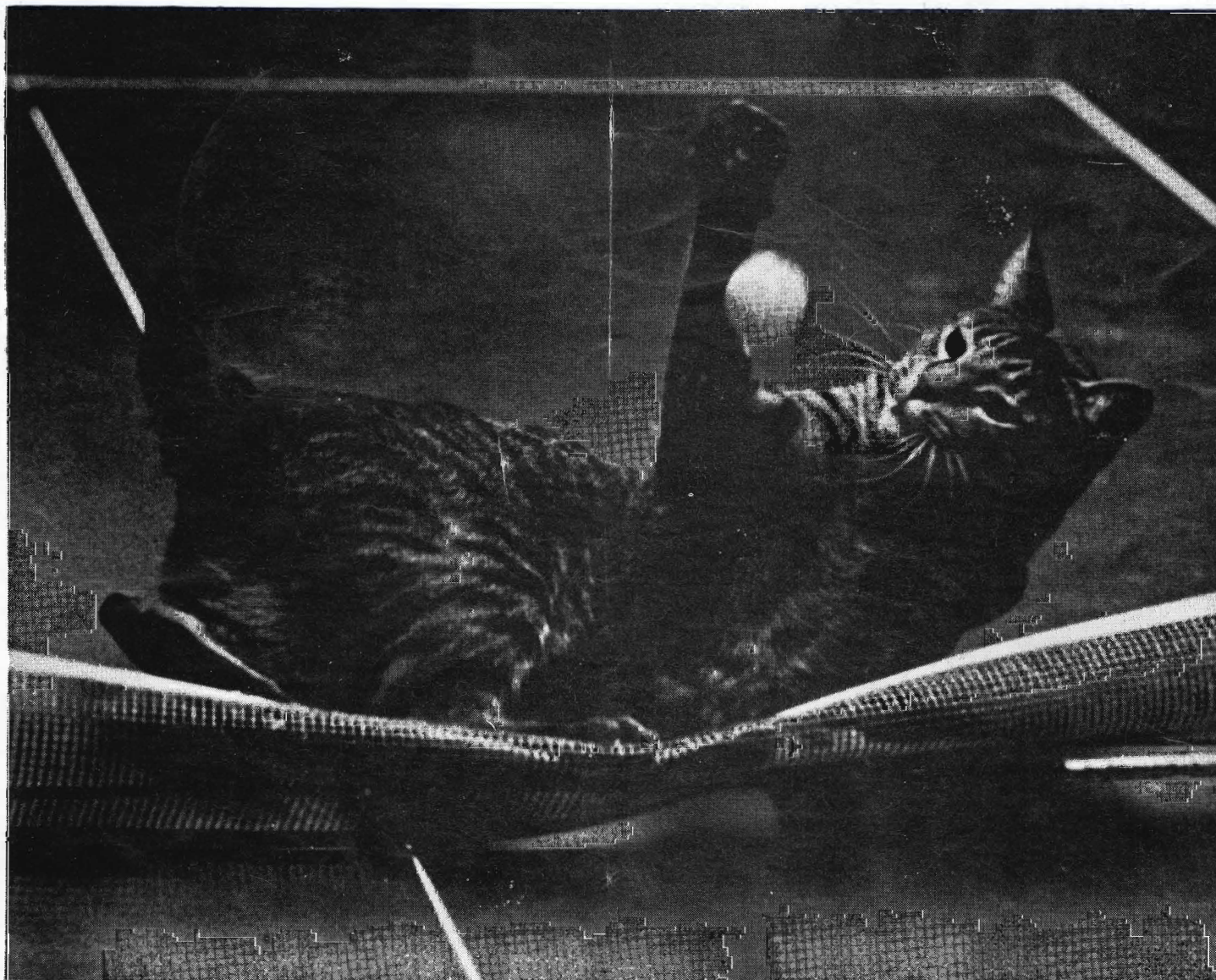


Photo by Malcolm Anderson, Cicero, Il., U.S.A.

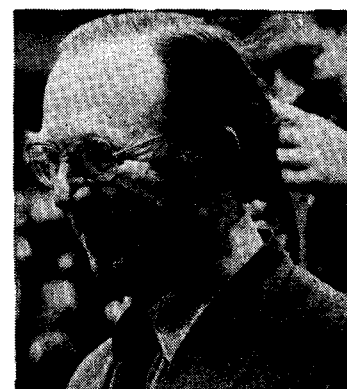
European Cadet Champion **CARL PREAN**
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On the International Front

by The Editor



ANOTHER NAIL

Now that Halex are sponsoring the National League and substantial prize money will be distributed at the season's end, what price the County Championships?

Those who have the County Championships at heart — and there are many — can be forgiven in thinking that another nail has been driven into the coffin.

Where the money is the players will go. In other words the Halex National League will come first and the County Championships very much second. And what too of the tournaments scheduled for the eve of Halex National League matches?

Clubs are demanding their players should not wear themselves out in pursuit of tournament successes when, on the morrow, a 100% effort is expected of them in the Halex National League.

There would appear to be only one winner and that is not the County Championships nor the tournaments.

Undoubtedly the Calendar Working Party have a difficult task in allocating dates with 14 Sundays earmarked for the Halex National League. Suggestions are invited as to how best to solve the problem. But wouldn't it be just great if the County Championships found a sponsor — what a merry-go-round that would create!

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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JUNIOR AND CADET RANKINGS

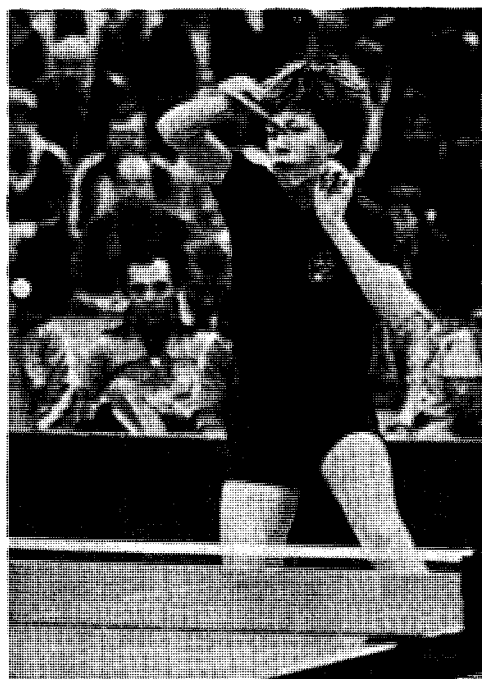
Subsequent to the European Youth Championships played in Hollabrunn this summer the Classification Committee of the European Table Tennis Union have issued classification lists for both Juniors and Cadets.

England's **Carl Pream** figures at No. 4 in the Boys' list and, as the gold medal winner in Austria, takes the No. 1 spot in the Cadet boys' classification. Billy Gleave is at No. 12 and on the distaff side **Lisa Bellinger** occupies the No. 6 position in the Girls' list. Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner and Jolanta Daniliavichute of the Soviet Union head the junior category and Flera Khasanova of the USSR is the No. 1 Cadet girl.

Complete classifications are:

Boys

- 1 *Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE)
- 2 Jonny Akeson (SWE)
- 3 Vladislav Broda (TCH)
- 4 ***Carl Pream** (ENG)
- 5 *Jorgen Persson (SWE)
- 6 Miroslav Broda (TCH)
- 7 Marat Abzhigitov (URS)
- 8 Vladimir Dvorak (URS)
- 9 Zoltan Kaposztas (HUN)
- 10 Pavol Krosiak (TCH)
- 11 Henrik Van Spanje (HOL)
- 12 ***William Gleave** (ENG)
- 13 Dietmar Palmi (AUT)
- 14 Paul Haldin (ROM)
- 15 *Andrej Mazunov (URS)



Jan-Ove Waldner, Europe's No. 1 Boy.

Girls

- 1 *Jolanta Daniliavichute (URS)
- 2 Szonja Pirchak-Szigeti (HUN)
- 3 Barbara Lippens (BEL)
- 4 *Elisabeth Bakker (HOL)
- 5 *Katalin Bolvari (HUN)
- 6 ***Lisa Bellinger** (ENG)
- 7 *Eva Malmberg (FIN)
- 8 Andrea Gutnecht (FRG)
- 9 *Elena Vechrok (URS)
- 10 Daniela Guerguelceva (BUL)
- 11 *Gyorgyi Fazekas (HUN)
- 12 Gabriela Navarova (TCH)
- 13 *Pia Eliasson (SWE)
- 14 *Maria Kloppenburg (HOL)
- 15 *Vesna Ojstersek (YUG)

Cadet Boys

- 1 **Carl Pream** (ENG)
- 2 Ilija Lupulescu (YUG)
- 3 Vasile Florea (ROM)
- 4 Bagrat Chzmacham (URS)
- 5 Mulit Kushkov (URS)
- 6 *Rolf Von Scheele (SWE)
- 7 *Mats Andersson (SWE)
- 8 Francesco Manneschi (ITA)
- 9 Cristian Tiugan (ROM)
- 10 *Roland Krmaschek (TCH)

Cadet Girls

- 1 Flera Khasanova (URS)
- 2 Vesna Ojstersek (YUG)
- 3 *Csilla Batorfi (HUN)
- 4 Olga Nemes (ROM)
- 5 Alena Safarova (TCH)
- 6 Ivana Masarikova (TCH)
- 7 Elisabeth Maier (AUT)
- 8 Giorgia Zanpini (ITA)
- 9 Marie Svensson (SWE)
- 10 *Krisztina Nagy (HUN)

* Indicates Junior next year

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

Away to Sweden in Styrso, Goteborg on Oct. 14, in the **Super Division** of the **European League**, England went down to a second successive 5-2 defeat after establishing a 2-1 lead. Initially Douggie Johnson had been beaten in straight games by European champion, Mikael Appelgren, with Desmond Douglas equating the match score in accounting for Jan-Ove Waldner, the European Youth champion, 15 in the third.

England then took the lead for the first and last time with Jill Hammersley-Parker beating the youthful newcomer Pia Eliasson. But from then on it was Sweden in full flood winning the next four sets with only the last between Johnson and Waldner going the distance of three games. Prior too Johnson had figured without success in both doubles when partnering Mrs. Hammersley-Parker and Graham Sandley.

Scores:
M. Appelgren bt D. Johnson 19, 9;
J-O. Waldner lost to D. Douglas -19, 17, -15;
P. Eliasson lost to J. Hammersley-Parker
-15, 20, -9;
E. Lindh/Waldner bt Johnson/G. Sandley
14, 15;
Lindh/M. Lindblad bt Johnson/Hammersley-
Parker 19, 12;
Appelgren bt Douglas 12, 17;
Waldner bt Johnson 17, -19, 16.

Shock result of the season was the 7-0 defeat inflicted on Hungary by Czechoslovakia — in Budapest of all places! Jindrich Pansky and Miroslav Broda did the damage in the singles with Pansky bringing about further havoc in both doubles partnered by Vladislav Broda and Marie Hrachova. Scores in this incredible result were:

I. Jonyer lost to J. Pansky -12, -13;
G. Gergely lost to M. Broda 19, -15, -16;
G. Szabo lost to M. Hrachova -24, -19;
Gergely/Jonyer lost to V. Broda/Pansky
-19, 19, -21;
Jonyer/G. Szabo lost to Pansky/Hrachova
-11, 10, -15;
Jonyer lost to Broda -22, 15, -13;
Gergely lost to Pansky -16, 18, -14.

Yugoslavia, at home to Denmark, had another 6-1 win (no scores to hand), but the scheduled match Federal Germany versus Poland which was to have taken place in West Berlin had to be cancelled because of the Polish Government's decree that they did not consider West Berlin to be within the Federal Republic of Germany.

SUPER DIVISION TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Yugoslavia	2	2	0	12	2	2
Czechoslovakia	2	2	0	11	3	2
Sweden	2	2	0	11	3	2
Hungary	2	1	1	5	9	1
England	2	0	2	4	10	0
Denmark	2	0	2	2	12	0
Germany F.R.	1	0	1	3	4	0
Poland	1	0	1	1	6	0

Fixtures for Nov. 10 are:

Sweden v Hungary
Denmark v Federal Germany
England v Poland (Spectrum Arena, Warrington)
Czechoslovakia v Yugoslavia

FIRST DIVISION

In Division 1, France got back into their stride with a 7-0 win away to the Netherlands in Zwolle on Oct. 13 which placed them on top of the division.

Scores:
H. van Spanje lost to C. Martin -20, 17, -10;
A. Vlieg lost to P. Renverse 17, -16, -12;
M. Kloppenburg lost to N. Daviaud -13, -10;
v Spanje/Vlieg lost to P. Birocheau/Martin
-14, -12;
Vlieg/Kloppenburg lost to Martin/B. Thiriet
-14, -12;
v Spanje lost to Renverse 23, -21, -17;
Vlieg lost to Martin -18, -17.

Promotees Belgium, away to the Soviet Union in Moscow on Oct. 9, were beaten 5-2, Thierry Cabrera winning the first set for the visitors beating A. Mazunov. The only other Belgian success was accomplished in the mixed doubles when victory went to Didier Leroy and Barbara Lippens over Igor Podnosov and Anita Zakharian.

Scores:
A. Mazunov lost to T. Cabrera -6, 10, -14;
I. Solopov bt R. de Prophetis 10, -17, 11;
A. Zakharian bt B. Lippens 20, 10;
I. Podnosov/B. Rosenberg bt Cabrera/de

Prophetis 14, 12;
Podnosov/Zakharian lost to D. Leroy/
Lippens 17, -19, -19;
Mazunov bt de Prophetis 14, 9;
Solopov bt Cabrera 14, 11.

Finland, at home to Austria in Helsingfors on Oct. 13, triumphed 6-1, Erich Amplatz and Gunter Muller winning the men's doubles against Jukka Ikonen and Jarmo Jokinen.

Scores:
J. Ikonen bt E. Amplatz -17, 17, 18;
J. Jokinen bt D. Palmi 18, 14;
E. Malmberg bt D. Fetter 21, 10;
Ikonen/Jokinen lost to Amplatz/G. Muller
-11, -16;
Jokinen/S. Grefberg bt Muller/Fetter 14, 18;
Ikonen bt Palmi 11, 24;
Jokinen bt Amplatz 21, -18, 9.

No scores are to hand from the match between Italy and Norway won 4-3 by the Italians.

DIVISION 1 TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
France	2	2	0	11	3	2
Soviet Union	2	2	0	10	4	2
Finland	2	1	1	9	5	1
Italy	2	1	1	6	8	1
Austria	2	1	1	5	9	1
Netherlands	2	1	1	4	10	1
Norway	2	0	2	6	8	0
Belgium	2	0	2	5	9	0

Fixtures for Nov. 10:
Austria v Netherlands
France v Soviet Union
Belgium v Italy
Norway v Finland

SECOND DIVISION

Scotland and Turkey are vying for top place in Division 2, the Scots having advanced their cause considerably with a 7-0 win over Portugal in Dingwall, Ross and Cromarty.

Scores there were:
R. Yule bt P. Miguel 19, 11;
D. Hannah bt D. Pinto -21, 11, 16;
C. Dalrymple bt O. Meneses 15, 14;
K. Rodger/Yule bt Miguel/Pinto 14, 17;
Rodger/Dalrymple bt Miguel/Meneses
18, 10;
Yule bt Pinto 16, 6;
Hannah bt Miguel 18, 12.

Following their opening 4-3 defeat by Ireland in Abersychan, Wales suffered a second reverse when beaten 6-1 by Luxembourg. Still without the services of Alan Griffiths the sole Welsh success was credited Nigel Thomas with an opening set win over Andre Hartmann.

Scores:
A. Hartmann lost to N. Thomas -8, 14, -24;
Y. Maas bt M. Thomas -19, 14, 17;
C. Risch bt L. Tyler 15, -14, 17;
Hartmann/Maas bt Thomas/Thomas
-17, 21, 22;
Maas/Risch bt N. Thomas/Tyler 7, 13;
Hartmann bt M. Thomas 21, 12;
Maas bt N. Thomas -14, -18, 19.

Turkey started off their fixtures with an away success 6-1 over Portugal.

Scores:
I. Moreira lost to G. Yaldiz -13, -16;
D. Pinto bt V. Alexandiriois 11, 16;
A. Fernandes lost to K. Poyrazoglu -12, -10;
J. Marques/Moreira lost to Alexandiriois/
Yaldiz -9, -14;
P. Miguel/Fernandes lost to Alexandiriois/
Poyrazoglu -10, -18;
Moreira lost to Alexandiriois -15, -12;

Pinto lost to Yaldiz -13, -9.

Subsequently, in Izmir on Oct. 13, the Turks accounted for Luxembourg 5-2.

Scores:
O. Cimen bt Y. Maas 15, 16;
G. Yaldiz bt A. Hartmann 18, 14;
K. Poyrazoglu lost to C. Risch -9, -19;
Cimen/Yaldiz bt Hartmann/Maas 18, 15;
Yaldiz/Mustecapli lost to Hartmann/Risch
-7, -13;
Cimen bt Hartmann 13, 8;
Yaldiz bt Maas 13, 15.

Spain, at home to Switzerland on Oct. 9, were beaten 4-3.

Scores:
J. M. Pales bt M. Hafen 15, -13, 18;
I. Caymel lost to T. Busin -6, -17;
M. Sanahuja lost to C. Witte -15, -19;
R. Casares/Pales bt Busin/Hafen 20, 12;
Pales/Sanahuja lost to Busin/Witte
-20, 22, -17;
Pales lost to Busin -16, -15;
Caymel bt Hafen 13, 16.
Caymen bt Hafen 13, 16.

DIVISION 2 TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Scotland	2	2	0	11	3	2
Turkey	2	2	0	11	3	2
Luxembourg	2	1	1	8	6	1
Spain	2	1	1	8	6	1
Switzerland	2	1	1	7	7	1
Ireland	2	1	1	6	8	1
Wales	2	0	2	4	10	0
Portugal	2	0	2	1	13	0

Fixtures for Nov. 10:

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

THIRD DIVISION

Guernsey will play hosts for the Division 3 matches to be played on Jan. 15/16, 1983 at the Mare de Carteret Secondary Modern School, in Castel. Hospitality will be provided from lunch on the 14th to breakfast on the 17th. Mr. Horace Mallett, President of the Guernsey Assn., will be sending out invitations to the following Associations: Bulgaria, Faroe Islands, Iceland, Jersey, Malta and Rumania.

ETTU TIES

European Table Tennis Union ties, in navy blue and maroon, can be had from Mrs. Nancy Evans, the Hon. Gen. Sec. of the ETTU priced at £3 each. Applications to 198 Cyncoed Road, Cardiff CF2 6BQ. 'Phone: 0222-757241.

EUROPE CLUB CUP

First round matches in this season's Europe Club Cup resulted:

Men

A.S. Messine (FRA) 6 BB-72 (NOR) 0
Palette Ham (BEL) 5
DT Schiffllange (LUX) 3
Bronshoj BK (DEN) 5
Club de 7 a 9 (SAP) 2
TTC Wil (SWI) 5 **Anahilt TTC** (IRE) 1
Pellice CP (ITA) 5 A.S. Pera (GRE) 1
Club Napoca (RUM) 5
Sport Lisboa (POR) 0

Women

Capip Domeldange (LUX) 5
Barcino Atomic (SPA) 2
Boldklubben Zero (DEN) 5
Fiat Carrelli Bari (ITA) 1
Atus Judenburg-Spk (AUT) 5
Tip 70 (FIN) 0
TTC Uster (SWI) 5 CTT Corenne (BEL) 1

NORWICH UNION CANADIAN OPEN

HILTON RUNNER-UP IN
ETOBICOKE



All smiles on the rostrum (from left to right)
John Hilton, Kenichi Sakamoto, Jindrich Pansky
and Hiroyuki Ogino:

Photo and results by courtesy of Mal Anderson,
Chairman, Photographic Committee, U.S.T.T.A.

John Hilton, England's former European champion, got back to winning ways over the period Sept. 22-25 when, in the Norwich Union Canadian Open played in Etobicoke, Ontario he reached the final of the men's singles taking second place to Kenichi Sakamoto of Japan who triumphed 14, 19 and 8.

Paul Day, England's other representative, also fell to the same Japanese player in the quarters. Prior to Day had accounted for Horatio Pintea of Canada and Ricky Seemiller of the United States whilst Hilton had disposed of Stephen Hylton of Jamaica, Gideon Ng of Canada and Hiroyuki Ogino of Japan.

Together in the men's doubles the English pair reached the semi-final losing over five games to the Canadian winners Errol Caetano and Zoran Kosanovic, the latter formerly of Yugoslavia. Hilton, partnered by Adel Karim of Canada, also participated in the mixed bowing out in the quarters to Japan's Kazuya Kasahara and Takako Takagi.

In the team events played on Corbillon Cup lines England had initial group wins over Korea I (3-0) and Canada III (3-0), Hilton and Day being extended in all three sets by the South Koreans.

At the semi-final stage Sakamoto and Ogino saw Japan through to the final by beating England 3-0 and, in the final, Canada 3-1.

RESULTS

Men's Team Semi-finals:

Canada I 3 USA 2

Kosanovic bt R. Seemiller 14, -19, 14;

Caetano lost to D. Seemiller -14, -12;
Caetano/Kosanovic bt D. & R. Seemiller
15, -15, 4;

Kosanovic lost to D. Seemiller -16, -8;
Caetano bt R. Seemiller -20, 16, 15.

Japan I 3 England 0

Ogino bt Day -18, 19, 23;

Sakamoto bt Hilton -15, 21, 16;

Ogino/Sakamoto bt Day/Hilton -13, 21, 18.

Final:

JAPAN I 3 Canada I 1

Ogino bt Kosanovic 13, -13, 18;

Sakamoto bt Caetano 13, 17;

Ogino/Sakamoto lost to Caetano/

Kosanovic -13, -11;

Sakamoto bt Kosanovic 14, 19.

Third Place Play-off:

England 3 USA 2

Hilton bt S. Boggan 16, 16;

Day lost to D. Seemiller -14, -19;

Day/Hilton lost to Boggan/D. Seemiller
-11, -13;

Hilton bt D. Seemiller 14, -16, 9;

Day bt Boggan -9, 17, 12.

Final Standings:

1 Japan I

2 Canada I

3 England

4 USA

Women's Team Final:

KOREA I 3 Korea II 0

Lee Kye Sun bt Kim Ki Jung 8, -19, 19;

Kim Sook bt Shin Hyun Sook 15, 17;

Lee/Kim bt Kim/Shin 12, 17.

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Pansky (CZE) bt Joo Jung Ham (KOR)
7, 9, 8;

K. Sakamoto (JPN) bt P. Day (ENG)
20, 12, 15;

H. Ogino (JPN) bt D. Seemiller (USA)
18, -17, -13, 14, 16;

J. Hilton (ENG) bt G. Ng 16, 11, 11.

Semi-finals:

Sakamoto bt Pansky 19, 16, -14, 12;

Hilton bt Ogino 11, -16, 19, -16, 21.

Final:

SAKAMOTO bt Hilton 14, 19, 8.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

Kim Sook (KOR) bt Y. Miyaki (JPN)
10, 8, 12;

M. Domonkos (CAN) bt T. Takagi (JAP)
-22, -16, 16, 13, 21.

Final:

DOMONKOS bt Kim Sook 17, 17, 13.

(Mariann Domonkos and Canadian T.T.A.

Director General Adham Sharara were
married on August 7 in Quebec).

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

E. Caetano/Z. Kosanovic (CAN) bt Day/
Hilton 9, 12, -11, -18, 15;

D. & R. Seemiller (USA) bt V. Miko (CZE)/
Pansky 14, -10, 20, -19, 18.

Final:

CAETANO/KOSANOVIC bt Seemiller/
Seemiller 17, 15, 16.

Women's Doubles Final:

H. Fukuda (JPN)/Miyaki bt R. Kohara
(JPN)/Takagi 15, -9, 15, -8, 19.

Mixed Doubles Final:

Pansky/M. Hrachova (CZE) bt K. Kasahara
(JPN)/Takagi -20, 17, 17, 16.

NEW ZEALAND DEATH

Our deepest sympathy goes to the New Zealand TTA on the loss of Mr. Keith Pointon of their Executive Committee. Keith of Lower Hutt was a member of the New Zealand party at the last two world championships in Pyongyang and Novi Sad and will be a sad loss on the international front.

EUROPE TOP 12 TOURNAMENT

on

4 to 6 FEBRUARY, 1983

at

THORNABY PAVILION,
CLEVELAND

The Europe Top 12 Tournament will be the most prestigious event in the European calendar during the 1982/83 season, the only event of greater importance being the World Championships to be held in Tokyo, Japan in April/May 1983.

When the 13th Europe Top 12 Tournament commences on Friday, 4 February 1983 at Thornaby Pavilion in Cleveland, it will be the first time that this Championship has been held in the United Kingdom. For England, the 1983 Europe Top 12 competition will be the most prestigious event to be staged in our country since the 1977 World Championships in Birmingham.

The event brings together for round robin competition the top 12 men and top 12 women in Europe. For these top players there is a great deal at stake. Not only is there the lucrative prize money, but also the European rankings are formulated mainly on the results of this tournament.

The 1983 Europe Top 12 is being organised jointly by the Cleveland County Council, the English Table Tennis Association and the Cleveland Table Tennis Association who have combined in the past to stage a number of other top events, including the European Youth Championships in 1970.

For Spectators, the three days of play will provide a real table tennis feast as every match will be the equivalent of a final in an international championship. There will be five 2½ hour sessions during the three days, with play in the men's singles and women's singles events on six tables. The majority of the 1500 seats will be ringside and the organisers expect a sell out well in advance of the actual date.

Thornaby Pavilion is considered to be one of the best venues in Britain for table tennis because of the excellent playing conditions. On this occasion the organisers will be catering not only to the comfort of the players, but also for the convenience of spectators with special seating cafe and bar facilities, interesting exhibitions and souvenir stalls.

At the 1982 competition held in Nantes, France, the winners were Mikael Appelgren of Sweden and Bettine Vriesekoop of Holland, both 21 years old and comparative newcomers on the top international scene. However, Appelgren and Vriesekoop went on to win the European Championships in Budapest two months later.

England's Jill Hammersley finished second to Vriesekoop in Nantes, but won the title three times previously in 1978 in Prague, 1980 in Munich and 1981 in Miskole, Hungary. Desmond Douglas was second in 1979, fourth in 1980, sixth in 1981 and finished third in Nantes. Jill and Des will be making a supreme effort on home ground in 1983.

It is anticipated that many spectators will

travel to Cleveland from the continent and the organisers have already received notification of their intention to cover the event from a large number of international and national press representatives. Television coverage is currently being negotiated. Commencing in September a promotional campaign moved into top gear.

Tees Sport are the official tour and travel operators for the Top 12. A package tour is on offer including:

- (a) A Rover Ticket for the whole event.
- (b) Two nights (Friday and Saturday) in a three or four Star Hotel with Bed and English Breakfast. Within easy reach of the Pavilion.
- (c) A Souvenir Programme.
- (d) Advance Information on the Tournament.

The cost of the Package Tour is £39.95 including V.A.T.

BOOKING FORM

To: David Hutchinson
TEES SPORT LIMITED
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TS1 1HJ

Please accept my booking for a Special Package for 13th Europe Top 12 to be held at Thornaby Pavilion Cleveland, 4th to 6th February, 1983.

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(Evening)

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YES/NO

Transportation to venue required

YES/NO

I enclose £39.95 (£44.95 for single room accommodation) payable to TEES SPORT LIMITED.

Date

SIGNATURE

(Parent or Guardian if Under 18 years)

Please note that packages will be sold on a first come, first served basis.



Brighton Player wins National Final

Roger Chandler (aged 38) of Brighton seen receiving a cheque for £250 from Tom Blunn, chairman of the English Table Tennis Association, after winning the national finals of the Ladbroke Holidays/Dunlop Table Tennis Tournament.

Sixteen players, out of a total entry of 2,000, who had battled their way through weekly heats and regional eliminating competitions during the 1981 season took part in the Finals held at Ladbroke's Wallis's Holiday Centre at Clayton Bay, near Scarborough, on June 10th, 1982.

Roger is a member of the Dolphins Table Tennis Club in Brighton and was formerly ranked 10th in England. He qualified for the finals by winning a regional heat at the Sussex Coast Country Club. In addition to his cheque he also received a trophy.

Losing finalist was Brian Varnham (aged 38) of Runcorn, Cheshire, who is a member of Woodside Table Tennis Club. He received a prize of £100.

Third place in the tournament went to 19 year old Peter Jones of Oxford, a member of the Viking Sports Club, Headington, Oxford.

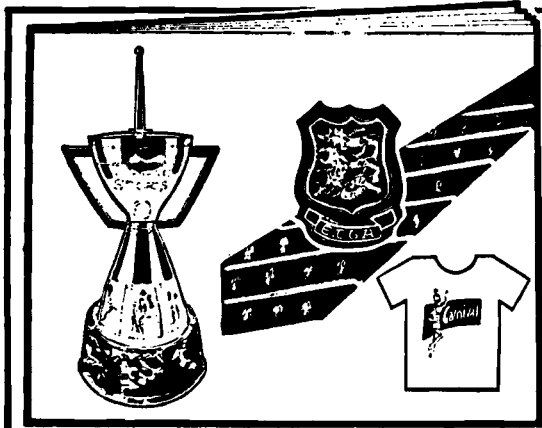
Also seen at the presentation are Alan Hydes (left) table tennis manager for Dunlop and John Glass, promotions controller, Ladbroke Holidays Ltd.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

- November
- 13/14 Midland Counties 3-Star Open (Alumwell Centre, Walsall).
 - 14 Hastings Tigers 1-Star Open.
 - 18/21 Yugoslav Open (Split) - Norwich Grand Prix.
 - 20 County Championships (3).
 - 20/21 Middlesex U-15 Championships (Edmonton).
 - 21 Halex National League (6).
 - 24 NORWICH UNION TROPHY (Brighton Conference Centre).
 - 27 Royal Bank of West Scotland 2-Star Open (Glasgow).
 - 27/28 County Championships: Senior Premier Division Weekend (Ordsall Recreation Centre, Craven Drive, Salford).
 - Cleveland Junior 'Select' (Eston).
 - 28 LAMBERT & BUTLER CHAMPIONSHIP (Wembley Conference Centre) (3.00 p.m.).
- December
- 4 European League: Division 2 WALES v Switzerland (Caerphilly Sports Centre).
 - 4/5 ENGLISH JUNIOR CLOSED (Macclesfield Leisure Centre, Priory Lane, Macclesfield, Cheshire).
 - 5 Yorkshire 2-Star (Featherstone, Nr. Pontefract).
 - 11 European League: Division 2 SCOTLAND v IRELAND, Monklands Leisure Centre, Coatbridge).
 - 11/12 Middlesex 3-Star Open (Picketts Lock Centre, Edmonton).
 - 12 Knightswood 1-Star Open (Glasgow).
 - 13/19 World Student Championships (Fortaleza, Brazil).
 - 15 European League: Super Division ENGLAND v Czechoslovakia (Harrogate Conference Centre).
 - 17/19 French Open (Strasbourg) - Norwich Union Grand Prix.
 - 18 Cardiff Open (Sofia Gardens, Cardiff).
 - 18/19 County Championships: Junior Premier Weekend (St. Neots).
 - 19 Halex National League (7).

CADET RANKING TRIALS

On page 32 of the October issue the boy at No. 17 should read Adrian Bolton (Ng).



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RANKINGS '82-83

by **PETER CHARTERS**

(Chairman, National Selection Committee)

After the article in the last issue of T.T. News, extra information about the system used in the 'Lentec' computer ranking is as follows.

The points difference between two players at the time of playing is the significant factor, not their ranking positions. The results are fed into the computer in chronological order, round by round, match by match so that the points position is constantly changing.

A simplified table for calculating points gained is shown below. Expected wins are those where a player with a greater number of points beats a player with fewer. An unexpected win is where the player with less points wins.

Expected Win Table

Points Difference	Points Gain
0 - 5	4
5 - 20	3
20 - 50	2
50 - 100+	1

times the weighting

Unexpected Win Table

Points Difference	Points Gain
0 - 5	5
5 - 10	6
10 - 20	7
20 - 50	8
50 - 100+	10

times the weighting

Dummy places have been inserted on various scores so that foreign (including home country) players can be allocated a position when losing to an English player.

There are no penalty points this season. The system now gives incentives to enter major events by making a greater number of points available to be gained via the weighting and bonus factors.

RANKINGS WILL BE ISSUED AS FOLLOWS

LAST EVENT BEFORE EACH RANKING ISSUE

1982
 September 6th
 Men: Kirklees. Women: Kirklees.
 September 13th
 Men: NL (1).
 September 20th
 Men: EL v Hungary.
 Women: EL v Hungary.
 Men: N of England.
 Women: N of England.
 September 27th
 Men: NL (2).
 Juniors: Basingstoke.
 Cadets: Basingstoke.
 October 4th
 Men: NL (3).
 October 11th
 Men: Sussex. Women: Sussex.
 Juniors: North Yorks.
 Cadets: North Yorks.
 October 18th
 Men: EL v Sweden.
 Women: EL v Sweden.
 Men: NL (4).
 October 25th
 Men: Humberside. Women: Humberside.
 November 1st
 Men: Wiltshire. Women: Wiltshire.

Men: Italian. Women: Italian.
 Juniors: Wiltshire. Cadets: Wiltshire.
 Juniors: 1st Jun. Ranking.
 Cadets: 1st Jun. Ranking.
 November 8th
 Men: West Yorks. Women: West Yorks.
 Men: NL (5).
 November 15th
 Men: EL v Poland. Women: EL v Poland.
 Men: F v Poland. Women: F v Poland.
 Men: Midland. Women: Midland.
 November 22nd
 Men: Yugoslavian. Women: Yugoslavian.
 Men: NL (6).
 November 29th
 Men: County Champs (Premier).
 Women: County Champs (Premier).
 Juniors: Cleveland. Cadets: Cleveland.
 December 6th
 Men: Yorkshire. Women: Yorkshire.
 Juniors: English Jun. Closed.
 Cadets: English Junior Closed.
 December 13th
 Men: Middlesex. Women: Middlesex.
 Men: EL v Czecho. Women: EL v Czecho.
 December 20th
 Men: French. Women: French.
 Men: NL (7).
 Juniors: County Champs (Premier).
 1983
 January 3rd
 Men: NL (8).
 January 10th
 Men: NL (9).
 January 17th
 Men: EL v Yugoslavia.
 Women: EL v Yugoslavia.
 Men: Cleveland. Women: Cleveland.
 Men: NL (10).
 Juniors: S of England.
 Cadets: S of England.
 January 24th
 Men: Welsh. Women: Welsh.
 January 31st
 Men: Lancashire. Women: Lancashire.
 Juniors: Cotswold. Cadets: Cotswold.
 February 7th
 Men: Kent. Women: Kent.
 Men: Europe Top 12.
 Women: Europe Top 12.
 Men: EL v Denmark.
 Women: EL v Denmark.
 February 14th
 Men: Essex. Women: Essex.
 February 21st
 Men: County Champs (Premier).
 Women: County Champs (Premier).
 Men: Czech. Women: Czech.
 Juniors: Lancashire. Cadets: Lancashire.
 February 28th
 Men: Norwich Union English Closed.
 Women: Norwich Union English Closed.
 Men: NL (11).
 March 7th
 Men: Durham. Women: Durham.
 Men: NL (12).
 Juniors: 2nd Jun. Ranking.
 Cadets: 2nd Jun. Ranking.
 March 14th
 Men: EL v Fed. Germany.
 Women: EL v Fed. Germany.
 Men: E of England.
 Women: E of England.
 Juniors: County Champs (Premier).
 March 21st
 Men: S of England.
 Women: S of England.
 Juniors: Cornish. Cadets: Cornish.
 March 28th
 Men: Merseyside. Women: Merseyside.
 Men: NL (13).
 Juniors: Derby. Cadets: Derby.

April 4th
 Junior: 3rd Jun. Ranking.
 Cadets: 3rd Jun. Ranking.
 April 11th
 Men: NL (14).
 April 18th
 Juniors: Essex. Cadets: Essex.
 April 25th
 Men: South Yorks. Women: South Yorks.
 Juniors: Tun. Wells. Cadets: Tun. Wells.
 May 2nd
 Men: Northumberland.
 Women: Northumberland.
 Men: Commonwealth.
 Women: Commonwealth.
 May 9th
 Men: World Champs.
 Women: World Champs.
 Juniors: Yorkshire. Cadets: Yorkshire.
 May 16th
 Juniors: Scandinavian.
 May 23rd
 Juniors: English Junior.

Letters to the Editor

TABLE TENNIS AND TELEVISION

I read with interest the correspondence on the above topic before the summer recess.

There **IS** a crisis in our Sport. We **ARE** losing members. To reverse these trends means that we shall all have to work much harder, which few seem to want. The only short cut to greater public esteem is via the box as shown by Snooker and Darts. If seen regularly on T.V. there would unquestionably be a great upsurge in interest, new people would take up the Sport as both players and spectators and present downward spirals would be reversed.

This is precisely what is **NOT** happening. Table Tennis has been on T.V. and viewing figures have steadily declined. When one remembers what has been presented one cannot be surprised, often the wrong events and sequences badly presented and produced, synthetic non-events. "Top Table" played in bottom venues before mini-audiences.

So the cry goes out that perhaps Table Tennis is bad to watch, bad television and that to hold what little we have is the best we can hope for. That is a few spots, generally a travesty lasting a few minutes, a filler between horse races whilst the punter awaits the fate of his next bet.

People have short memories. I have been re-reading Mr. Tony Gubba's "It can't be done — but it was" (Table Tennis News, April '77). In this he describes how the Birmingham World Championships were produced "by a handful of staff" in contrast to the "large number of experienced personnel" of, say, Wimbledon. Despite the shoestring budget.

"Audiences for the three hours of 'live' table tennis each afternoon numbered up towards the one million mark, with one and a half million watching on the Sunday afternoons.

STAGGERING

For the evening highlights programmes the audience rose steadily throughout the championships, from one million up to almost one and a half million, until on semi-finals day, Tuesday, April 4th, when we were on the air on BBC 2 at the slightly

earlier time of 9.20 p.m. it reached the staggering figure of TWO MILLION!

Now at first glance those figures might seem small when you compare them say with an audience of nine million for 'Nationwide' or 'Match of the Day'. But don't forget this was on BBC 2 and sport is a new one to the majority of viewers".

Mr. Gubba continues "I have never been involved in any sporting event in which so many people have approached me afterwards and wanted to talk about it". He talks of success, breathtaking skills, new dimensions and a marvellous advert for the game.

All that was less than five years ago, when we all felt we were part of something to be proud of, when most of us saw the last increase in membership.

It is not the game that has let us down. We have let it down. We have picked up the T.V. crumbs a little too eagerly, knowing that sponsorship would follow any screening. We cared too little about what was

shown and with the greatest respect to those involved, the T.V. producers of Table Tennis are not, cannot be experts and are quite likely to select the wrong moments of the wrong match.

It is no tragedy for the BBC if Table Tennis fails on television. There are many other sports queuing up and plenty of old American films to buy and show.

It is only tragic for Table Tennis, a great opportunity lost to widen our appeal, to gain new members, spectators and friends, to shed our Cinderella image.

Are we asking for the impossible? After all, 10,000 people did once watch the English Open at Wembley.

So, when we talk to the networks, let us at least be clear that it is not Table Tennis that is to blame. That is a great Sport to watch and play, but let what is shown be the highlights, not a parrot-like recording of the last few points, let there be build-up and suspense, cut what is bad, feature what is good. It would take great ineptitude to

fail to extract a riveting half hour from a European League Match or indeed a National League match, but that is not what is shown.

I can understand that, confronted by depressing viewing figures, humble gratitude is felt that we get a showing at all, but that is only the beginning and the harder battle may be to make sure that what is shown does justice to our Sport. That has seldom happened since 1977 and viewers have responded by switching off in great numbers.

Table Tennis has not changed, only what was shown since 1977 has changed. The remedy therefore is equally clear.

JOHN PREAN,

**12 Marlborough Road,
Ryde, Isle of Wight.**

FOUR Ts OPEN TOURNAMENT

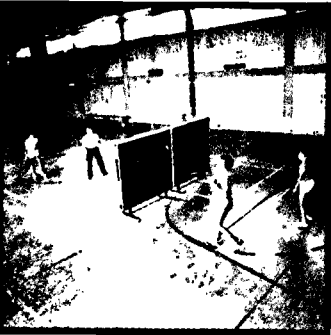
I refer to the letter from the Secretary of the Four T's Club (Southampton) published in your May/June 1982 issue, con-

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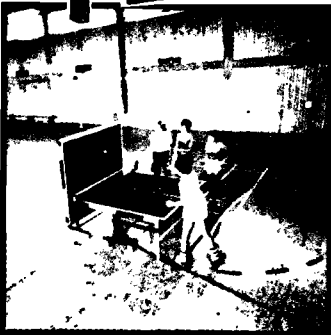


JOOLA TRANSPORT

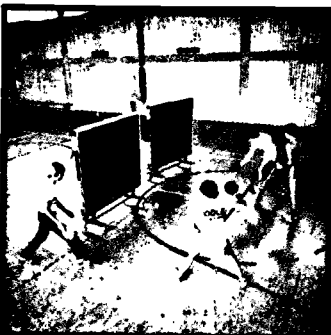
This table has many advantages. It has a 19 mm playing surface suitable for league matches. For training purposes half of the table can be angled for a good ball return. Four strong wheels on each half make it the easiest table to move on the market today. Folds to take up minimum storage space. Ideal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



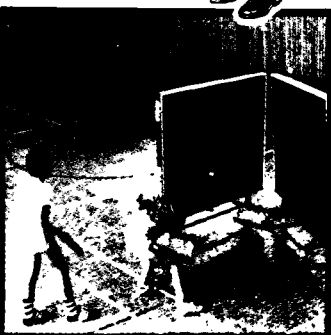
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cerning the discontinuance of his club's Open Tournament, which has been in the calendar for many years. Despite the congestion in the calendar it is always a matter of regret to my Committee when an Open Tournament goes out of existence. The resignations of the Referee and the Organiser, which made it impossible to continue, were for a number of reasons, the letter states; it also says however, "A major factor was the destructive criticism received from the ETTA tournament committee".

Everyone is sensitive to criticism, and to reference to subjects for criticism with which they are connected even when not their fault, and the fact that my Committee wrote to the Referee following adverse reports may have upset him and the Organiser, but the use of the term "destructive criticism" is unfair. The letter did not deal in vague generalisations but mentioned specifically the faults which there appeared to be, and went on to suggest ways in which the difficulties might be overcome or at least alleviated.

My Committee has a responsibility to the Association and to its player members to scrutinise the running of Open Tournaments with a view to standards being kept up, and is expected to take up with Tournament Organisers any shortcomings which are brought to its attention; if suggestions for improvement can be made, they are, as they were in this case.

The members of my Committee are voluntary workers just as are the organisers of the tournaments; they take no pleasure in having to point out shortcomings, and seek to help where they can.

TONY WICKENS,
Chairman, E.T.T.A.
Tournaments Committee.

2 Frensham Walk,
Farnham Common,
Slough SL2 3QF.

FROM AGES PAST

I write on behalf of our Golden Jubilee Committee and the Insurance Offices' T.T.A. as a whole to thank the ETTA for the help in making our 1933 Laws of Table Tennis Tournament a success.

Fingerspin turned out to be difficult to produce without practice, but some players successfully served by dropping the ball and the imaginary continuation of the side-lines led to a few umpire-player confrontations. The extra 3/4 in. on the net certainly shortened many rallies, although most players felt they were not consciously adjusting for it. Inevitably the use of the old hard battes proved the most difficult for some more used to modern day equipment. Thus, for instance, I (just) beat Alan Reed who is by our standards a REAL player and against whom I would normally be pleased to obtain say 10 points in two games.

Our past chairman Stan Herington produced some Villa XXX balls of around 1950's-1960's vintage and these were used from the round of the last eight onwards. They played true and looked as if they might still be useable in our 75th anniversary celebrations in 2007/8. THE 1933 TEMA BALL was reverently touched by nearly every entrant, but was not bounced or hit until the first point of the Final. Most appropriately it was then used by our chairman, Jack Tuttle, who made great play of being so stricken with nerves as to not be

able to throw it up for the first service. It turned out to be whole but very soft and 10 cautious points were played with it until amidst general relief the score reached a somewhat contrived 5-all and it could be returned to the safety of its box.

The Final continued with a Villa XXX and with normal, hard bat, attack and defence, Jack winning the first game 22-20 and losing the second 19-21. But having led 10-4 and then 18-11 in the final game he was caught at 19-all and after a dour rally fell behind 19-20. With both finalists now determined to make no more mistakes the last point of the tournament took over 4 minutes as grim defence met grim defence. A 362 shot rally was played in this final point before the match ended 20-22, 21-19, 21-19 in a win for the player whose name appears below. Not perhaps 1982/83 style nor thrilling table tennis to watch except in a macabre sort of way, but naturally a nerve stretching point all round. The Final umpire, Peter Hardy, was perhaps the one to whom most praise was due.

That all enjoyed our light hearted efforts was not in doubt. But as the winner said afterwards "If someone had once said that I could choose one, and only one, tournament in all my life to win, this would have been the one". Once again our thanks for your help.

I. D. Crane, Secretary I.O.T.A.

Island Venture

by **DAVE BACON**

'I only wish it was in Berkshire!' was the comment of English international Mandy Smith which best summed up the feelings of the 11 players who spent a pre-season training weekend at the Lions Table Tennis Club.

They were unanimous in their praise of the facilities which club president Mr. Horace Mallett and members have spent so much time developing.

The visit was sponsored for £500 by the Southern Sports Council Centre of Excellence in Reading, the area in which the majority of the players live. They paid the balance themselves on a sliding scale according to rankings.

I knew these players were of international standard, or very close to it, and I half expected to find a group of grim faced robots playing by numbers.

So I was relieved to see the ubiquitous Space Invaders machine being put to good use. Dedicated to table tennis they may be, but not obsessed.

National coach Dave Fairholm, who is no stranger to Guernsey, was in charge of the party and I asked him if the expense of coming to the island was justified.

'Definitely!' was the emphatic reply, and he went on to extol the club's virtues with great enthusiasm. 'It's perfect — I can get them virtually straight from bed to the table'.

They do have breakfast first, but I could see what he meant.

To have held this session on home ground would have meant a lot of travelling at either end of the day, with a consequent loss of playing time, as there is no comparable facility in the Reading area.

They started at 9.15 a.m. with a 15 minute warm-up followed by 20 minutes of knocking up before launching into the monotonous, but vital, repetition work, which builds consistency and rhythm and separates good players from also rans.

There was more work after lunch but, mindful of the old adage 'All work and no play . . .' Mr. Fairholm was quick to adapt his schedule to the weather to give the players an afternoon on the beach.

During breaks I spoke to some of the players in the squad. Twenty-year-old Colin Wilson, who plays for National League champions Ellenborough, is the current British Universities champion.

A former English number one junior and the senior number 16 he feels that the Lions Club compares with anything in England.

'It's an excellent club for dedicated players. To be able to eat, sleep and play under one roof is fantastic. I'm very impressed', was his verdict.

The youngest of the visitors was Matthew Syed, who is only 11, but already an accomplished defender who won every English under 12 tournament he entered last season.

Predictably, he had more on his mind than table tennis, and was quick to praise the food and the Space Invaders machine, but made some sharp observations which showed that he was aware that his game was the main priority.

He felt that the training camp was a good idea as it gave him the chance to play against players of many different styles, adding that the club was the best he had played in.

I heard the feminine viewpoint from 15-year-old Sue Collier, who is already at 28 in the English senior rankings. She received a high compliment from Dave Fairholm who sees her as capable of reaching the same level as the legendary Jill Hammersley — praise indeed!

From her point of view the big advantage was being able to train constantly against men, which is bound to lead to an improvement in her game.

She joined in the chorus of praise for the club — 'Great, it's got everything' — and Mr. Mallett and his club members must be pleased to hear their work receive such genuine plaudits.

I left the session with an impression of dedicated youngsters who would all like to return to Guernsey. Hard work plus enjoyment seemed to be the theme of their visit.

Italian Open

Played in Como over the period Oct. 29 - Nov. 1, the 10th Italian Open attracted a star-studded entry for this Norwich Union Grand Prix event. Winner of the men's singles title was Zoran Kalinic of Yugoslavia who beat Erik Lindh of Sweden in the final. Hungary's Zsuzsa Olah was the winner of the women's singles beating Fliura Bulatova of the USSR in the final. England claimed three bronze awards, in both team events - won by Hungary (men) and USSR (women) - and in the women's doubles by Lisa Bellinger in partnership with Brigitte Thiriet of France. A full report with results will appear in the December issue.

STIGA SCHOOLS' INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

by DAVID LOMAS

Once again England dominated the events when the Stiga Schools International Championships (organised by the English Schools' Table Tennis Association and sponsored by Stiga (UK) Ltd.) took place at Gloucester Leisure Centre on July 2/3/4.

In the team events which involved 4-a-side teams from England 'A' and 'B', Ireland, Scotland, Norway and Switzerland, England 'A' teams won all the six events. But only just! In the Senior Boys' category England 'A' found themselves 1-5 down against Switzerland in their final match. But the team of Mark Oakley, Nicky Hoare, David Dodd and Iain Fullerton fought back well to level the match at 5-5 and win the event by virtue of superior sets ratio.

England's Senior Girls' team also impressed and lost only a single set in their four matches as did the Intermediate Girls' team also. Their line-up was: Helen Bardwell, Lisa Bellinger, Susan Collier, Mary Denbow and Tracy Lightfoot. It was captained by Jill Hammersley. She told me how much she enjoyed the task and the Championships and remarked how pleasing it was that an event of this nature gave the opportunity to some of the lesser known players to represent their country.

Eighteen tables were in use at the hospitable Gloucester venue, and over 150 players were involved.

Mr. Brian Hearn of Stiga (UK) Ltd. presented the team trophy to Mark Oakley (England 'A') who was making his schools' final appearance. He played in the second Stiga International Championships at Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh in 1976.

Final team placings: 1 England 'A', 2 England 'B', 3 Ireland, 4 Scotland.

England players won all the six individual titles. Nicky Hoare added to his Stiga



England's Senior Girls 'A' Team, l to r: Sarah Sandley, Jackie Bellinger, Councillor Terry Wathen (Sheriff of Gloucester), Carol Butler, Sylvia Broadbent (Captain), Susan Blackburn, Christine Peacock.

English Schools' Individual crown in winning the senior boys' event, beating Iain Fullerton 21-15, 21-13. Both Jackie Bellinger and Carol Butler beat Swiss opponents in the Senior Girls semi-finals and Jackie was a convincing winner in the final.

Nigel Tyler caused an upset in the Intermediate Boys' event when he defeated Thierry Miller (Switzerland) in his semi-final. He went down to Billy Gleave in the final, however.

Susan Collier stopped Lisa Bellinger from lifting her fourth individual title when she defeated the Bedfordshire girl 21-15, 15-21, 21-17 in the Intermediate Girls event. Another foreign player, Kenneth Strom of Norway, got to a final but was no match for Andrew Syed who defeated his brother Matthew in the semi-final of the Cadet Boys

whilst Jill Powis was another convincing winner in the Cadet Girls event.

Eddie Mitchell was the organiser of the Championships — backed up by quite an army of volunteers who most people agreed did a very good job.

Individual Events

RESULTS

Senior Boys:

1 Nicky Hoare (Surrey Met), 2 Iain Fullerton (Berkshire), 3 David Dodd (Inner London) & Mark Oakley (Surrey County).

Senior Girls:

1 Jackie Bellinger (Bedfordshire), 2 Carol Butler (Devon), 3 Monika Frey (Switzerland) & Brigitte Hirzel (Switzerland).

Intermediate Boys:

1 Billy Gleave (Gtr. Manchester), 2 Nigel Tyler (Middlesex), 3 Alan Cooke (Derbyshire) & Thierry Miller (Switzerland).

Intermediate Girls:

1 Susan Collier (Berkshire), 2 Lisa Bellinger (Bedfordshire), 3 Helen Bardwell (Herts) & Tracy Lightfoot (Cheshire).

Cadet Boys:

1 Andrew Syed (Berkshire), 2 Kenneth Strom (Norway), 3 Murray Jukes (Hereford & Worcs) & Matthew Syed (Berkshire).

Cadet Girls

1 Jill Powis (Staffordshire), 2 Debbie Soot-hill (Cumbria), 3 Alison Boxall (Hertfordshire) & Rachel Knight (Middlesex).

REGION 2 TRIALS

by ALAN SHEPHERD

Following the completion of the Trials held at Aylestone School, Brent, the following Regional Rankings Lists are announced:

Boys

N1 Carl Prean (IOW), N2 Nicky Hoare (Sy), N3 Nigel Tyler (Mx), N4 Andrew Sexton (Sy), N5 Steve Dettmar (Ex), N6 Eddie Gorniak (Mx), N7 David Dewsbury (Sy), N8 Andrew Dodd (K), 9 Chris Bartram (K), 10 Richard Darnell (Ex), 11 Andrew Cunningham (K), 12 Dipak



England's Jill Hammersley with the Intermediate 'A' Team winners and Tom Blunn (ETTA Chairman). l to r: Susan Collier, Lisa Bellinger, Helen Bardwell, Tracy Lightfoot, Mary Denbow.

Topiwala (Mx), 13 Jeff Chapman (K), 14 Paul Bannister (K), 15 Richard Waters (H), 16 Paul Elphick (Sx), 17 Paul Savins (Bks), 18 David Champneys (K), 19 Bernie Lazarus (Ex), 20 Darren Goodacre (K), 21 Graham Barnes (Sx), 22 Neil Sutton (Sy), 23 Mark Taylor (Ex), 24 Steve Jonyer (Ox).

Girls

N1 Susan Collier (Bks), N2 Teresa Moore (Sx), N3 Nikki Hamilton (Bu), N4 Mary Denbow (Oxon), N5 Michelle Hams (Sy), N6 Laura Goldsmith (Mx), N7 Janet Smith (K), N8 Tanya Holland (Ex), N9 Lisa Hayden (Ex), N10 Jane Mills (Sy), 11 Jane Barella (Sy), 12 Sally Weston (Sx), 13 Alison Woolven (K), 14 Lesley Popkiewicz (Sy), 15 Debbie Simmonds (B), 16 Gillian Blanch (Mx), 17 Susan Brame (K), 18 Elizabeth James (K), 19 Tracy Ashdown (K), 20= Lynne Trussell (Sx), 20= Linda Green (Bks).

Cadet Boys

N1 Andrew Syed (Bks), N2 Jimmy Stokes (Bks), N3 Matthew Syed (Bks), N4 Jonathan Goode (Mx), N5 Paul Amos (K), N6 John Ferguson (K), N7 Greg Barden (K), N8 Tony West (Ex), N9 Karl Ball (K), N10 Peter Galica (Sy), 11 Michael Rutherford (K), 12 Darren Ward (Bu), 13 Stuart Champion (Bks), 14 Damian Holland (Ex), 15 Carl Furness (Bu), 16 Derren Hams (Sy), 18=Richard Jones (Sy), 18= Sennio Emmanuel (Mx), 18=Darren Jones (Bks), 18=James Griffiths (Ex).

Cadet Girls

N1 Lisa Hayden (Ex), N2 Rachel Knight (Mx), N3 Lesley Souter (Mx), N4 Sarah

Hammond (H), N5 Tanya Holland (Ex), N6 Juliet Houghton (K), N7 Katrina Baker (Mx), N8 Debbie Ballard (Sx), N9 Karen Wilde (Sy), 10 Gillian Patten (Ex), 11 Amanda Shufflebotham (Ox), 12=Joanne Cook (Ex), 12= Claire Brooks (Sy), 14 Cheryl Bateman (Sy), 15 Sally Pond (Ex), 16 Julie Brion (Bks), 17 Lisa Coulson (Bks), 18 Jackie Abraham (Bks), 19= Rachel Watts (Bks), 19=Julie Norman (Bks).

Notes

- (1) 'N' denotes Nationally ranked players.
- (2) Apart from these, only those players who (a) were invited to the trials, (b) attended and (c) completed their programmes have been included.
- (3) These lists will be revised from time to time but I must rely on information and results supplied by the Counties to enable me to do this.

NORWICH UNION TROPHY 1982

The first prestigious individual tournament of the Table Tennis season in England will take place at the Brighton Centre on Nov. 24 beginning at 7.30 p.m. when eight players from three continents will compete for the NORWICH UNION TROPHY and over £3,000 prize money.

The first player to say that he would take part in the tournament — which is a straight knock-out competition — was European Champion and finalist in the recent 555 World Cup in Hong Kong, Mikael Appelgren from Sweden.

England's Desmond Douglas was quick to follow suit and the fine surroundings of the Brighton Centre should be more conducive to his temperament than the hot conditions and noisy partisan crowds in Hong Kong where he had such a wretched tournament.

From China will come Jiang Jialiang who swept everything before him on his visit to Europe last year and the current National Champion Wang Huiyuan.

Familiar but nonetheless welcome players from Europe will be Jacques Secretin of France, Milan Orlovski of Czechoslovakia and Andrej Grubba of Poland.

On a rare visit will be Eric Boggan of the United States of America who already this year reached the semi-final of the Norwich Union Masters in Toronto, the final of the Seoul (Korea) Open and the quarter-final of the 555 World Cup.

The varying styles of the players should mean a totally entertaining evening for which the tickets are now on sale at the Brighton Centre and through the Brighton Table Tennis League.

Tickets, priced £3.50, £2.50 (and £1.50 for people under 16 occupying the £2.50 seats) are available: through the Brighton League, Mr. A. K. Beames, 6 Tivoli Crescent, Brighton BN1 5ND. Tel. 0273-501884, from Mr. R. E. Oldfield, at the E.T.T.A. office, or direct from the Brighton Centre. Tel. 0273-202881 where credit card bookings can be accepted. Group bookings of ten or more tickets receive one complimentary ticket.

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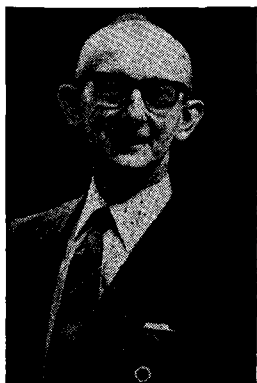
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RISE AND FALL



by **TOM BLUNN**

Chairman, E.T.T.A.

One of the main problems facing the ETTA at the present time is the fall in membership over the past two seasons, not very material to start with but the signs so far for the current season are not promising. The membership could fall by up to 10%. This is a very serious prospect for the ETTA and is one that is causing great concern. Such a reduction will result in a loss of about £6,000 in affiliation fees which would just about offset this season's increase in affiliation fees resulting from the cost of living clause introduced a year ago.

It is probably easier to find the cause for the decline rather than the cure. The image of the game reached its highest point following the massive television coverage of the World Championships in 1977. During that period the daily television coverage became compulsive viewing, something on the lines of what happened to snooker. The difference is that the best snooker players in the world are British and that is not the case with table tennis. The names of table tennis world champions are not household names and their appearance on British television is very rare indeed. In fact I doubt if a reigning world table tennis champion has been seen on British television for nearly ten years.

Since the Worlds in 1977 the television coverage has been an assortment of good and bad, with more bad than good. It has not been the fault of the ETTA but the exciting matches are becoming something of the past. This brings us to the first culprit—the image conveyed by the game at the present time. To be honest, the present pattern of the game is not attractive and does not compare at all with the image conveyed during the Worlds. This deterioration is not the fault of the players; their skill and endeavour is just as good as ever, it is the effect of the new form of bat covering—the “funny rubbers”! What appears to be a perfectly simple error in a return shot is the result of unpredictable spin on the ball imparted by the bat rubber.

INNOVATION

The “funny rubber” is a recent innovation and it is correct to say that English players have exploited it to their advantage over the past few years. The result is a slump in the entertainment value of the game and a consequent lack of public support. But that is not the whole problem

caused by the rubber. Many established players using conventional rubbers are disillusioned when they come up against younger and inferior players using new rubber and find it hard to accept defeat.

If the average player's weekly game is not enjoyable there is an obvious answer — give it up. This is certainly happening but it is not possible to ascertain the numbers. Likewise there is a fall in the number of younger people taking up the game because there is very little of what they see to inspire them.

Under normal circumstances the fall in membership due to the foregoing circumstances would be serious but these days are not normal. Over three million unemployed and still growing, is, hopefully, not normal. The depression has hit the ETTA very hard as industrial firms close all over the country with the consequent loss of works teams. In Birmingham alone over forty works clubs have disappeared.

The younger players will probably try to find an alternative club but this move itself is proving to be very difficult and almost impossible in some areas because of the lack of club facilities. The places that are available in established clubs have to be paid for and this is not readily accepted by players who are out of work and have been accustomed to their table tennis being paid for through the firm's social club. Some older players with family responsibilities call it a day and give up playing.

So, there is the problem and the causes. In my opinion unemployment is by far the greatest cause of the drop in membership. So what can we do about it?

DEPRESSION

My mind goes back to the depression of the thirties when the money available to the unemployed was much less than at the present time. In those days they could pay nothing, so the answer was simple, give them table tennis for nothing. The ETTA in those days had a large proportion of church teams and every city and large town had its YMCA with its multiple teams. Showing true compassion these clubs provided free facilities during the day and competition in the leagues most evenings.

Between 1932 and 1937 the membership increased threefold and much of this was the result of the participation of the unemployed. Having been given an introduction to the game their interest continued when better times came along.

Is it not possible in these difficult days with local authority and Sports Council grants to set up facilities for the unemployed to play table tennis and to participate in league competition? It will at least be an attempt to replace what they have lost with their job.

There are many playing facilities both public and private that are unused during the day, in fact there are many public facilities that are used during the day but closed most evenings and weekends.

It should be possible for every major and medium sized league to provide playing facilities for the unemployed at minimal or no cost. Our own regional development committees are capable of guiding leagues in the right direction and if any league is interested the ETTA office will provide the name of the appropriate regional development committee chairman.

As regards the “funny rubbers”, this is

now an international problem and one not just confined to the U.K. There is a move to amend the laws of the game at the next ITTF Congress in April, 1983, in such a manner as to allow a player to “read” the game much easier and it is more than likely this will be passed. Surely a step in the right direction.

I know I have posed a problem and given my own views on the causes and a possible cure, I hope members will give some serious thought to the matter.

David Cosway reports from . . .

HAMPSHIRE

NOT AMUSED!

Predictably the season started with the County trials and although the results on the day were much as expected they provided their inevitable controversy. No written invitations were sent to either individuals or local leagues and those not invited were not amused! The absence of Southampton's up-and-coming players Sarah Hammond and Steve Snow in particular raised a few eyebrows and indeed temperatures! However the Hampshire committee, as usual undermanned and over worked, are always in the “can't win” situation on these occasions. The ranking lists published after the trials — and tribulations were as follows:

Men

1 Derek Holman (BOU), 2 Rhamish Bhalla (ALD), 3 Graham Toole (G/F), 4 Chris Wilshire (S), 5 Chris Shetler (S), 6 Miki Sinanan (P), 7 Andy Thomas (ALD), 8 Mark Wilding (SEH), 9 Gary Longland (S), 10 Graham Green (BAS).

Women

1 Serina Sinanan-Barfoot (P), 2 Kathy Conlon (WIN), 3 Christine Davies (S), 4 Barbara Clarke (ALD), 5 Andrea Seager (ALD), 6 Tracey Knellor (P), 7 Angeline Gilbert (P), 8 Jan Turley (GF), 9 Maria McCabe (ALD).

Boys

1 Mark Wilding (SEH), 2 Richard Walters



Serina and Ricki Barfoot.

(BAS), 3 Tony Mogg (BAS), 4 Keith Dickinson (BAS), 5 Ian Whyton (AND), 6 Dominic Evans (ALD), 7 Leigh Masters (ALD), 8 Colin Oh (ALD), 9 Ian Davenport (BAS), 10 Paul Smith (P).

Girls

1 Sarah Hammond (S), 2 Kate Lines (ALD), 3 Hayley Barker (BAS), 4 Alison Billmore (SEH), 5 Caroline Jenvey (S), 6 Samantha Lewis (P), 7 Mandy Broughton (GF), 8 Alison Palalzy (BAS), 9 Elaine Salisbury (BOU).

Derek Holman was not present at the trials and none of the top men were particularly impressive and the rankings were based more on past records than on the day's results. Similarly on the female side Kathy Conlon was troubled with her leg and was far from her best, losing to her three top rivals. Serina Sinanan-Barfoot won all her games and Barbara Clarke only lost to Serina but past records were rightly taken into account with the rankings. Quite a good start to the county fixtures with the senior 'A' team losing to the strong Middlesex team but beating Bedford 9-1.

Against Middlesex Serina Sinanan-Barfoot showed how her game has come close to contention for England ranked with a singles win over Mandy Reeves plus a doubles victory with Kathy Conlon over Mandy and Helen Williams.

A tremendous first match for the second senior team with the county 4-5 down with Gary Longland to play the final singles. He led 20-15 in the third but his Somerset opponent levelled at "deuce" only for Gary to gain the next two points to give his team a draw. Barbara Clarke won her singles and combined with Christine Davies to win the doubles. In their later 6-4 win over Avon Chris Shetler won two, Chris Wilshire, Andy Thomas, Christine Davies and Barbara Clarke won one each, with all the doubles lost. After a 10-0 win over Wiltshire, the junior 'A' team went down 2-8 to Dorset, with Mark Wilding and Richard Walters winning a singles each. The junior 'B' team have yet to play. The Veterans 'A' team beat both Bedford and Dorset second by 6-3 with Ray Lush winning two sets in both matches. Two wins also for the Veteran 'B' team with a 5-4 victory over Hertford and a 9-0 win over Wiltshire, in each case George Phillpot winning two. Some problems for the County umpires and officials with five home matches out of six on Oct. 16 and all six at home on Jan. 8 — good planning that!

It's good to see Southampton's Four T's club player Sarah Hammond up at No. 9 in the national cadet rankings. The City, are not so well off in the boys side however with, for the first time I can remember, no representative in the County's top ten juniors. While on the matter of congratulations I must mention the recent marriage of our leading lady Serina Sinanin. One of the nicest people in table-tennis the county champion met her match in Locks Heath snooker player Ricki Barfoot. I am sure all who have met Serina will wish her and her husband all health and happiness for their future. A little late but I must mention the excellent win by the Portsmouth Representatives VRS. Stiga in the National club knock-out competition. Their 5-2 semi-final win over Ellenborough, the Halex National League premier champions, including Graham Sandley, Mark Mitchell and Colin Wilson to pave the way for the final. Dave Hannah won all three while David Constance beat both Sandley and Wilson. The

final victory by 6-3 over South Yardley with Constance again winning three including the 16 and 12 win over Dougie Johnson. He went through the competition unbeaten. The win however was tinged with sadness as they have been told by the E.T.T.A. that they cannot go into Europe and represent England this season. In the past winners of this event have automatically gone through as E.T.T.A. representatives in European competition. In fact in last season's E.T.T.A. diary it is said of the competition that the finalists have a chance to represent England in European competition. While despite the fact that VRS beat them, Ellenborough were expected as Halex National League champions to go into the champions cup, surely VRS should have gone through to the Fairs Cup. The changing of rules by the E.T.T.A. after the event must be wrong, and I would like to hear the reason for this decision as no one appears to have told VRS! Kier Donaldson the VRS team manager, tells me "This is an unfair policy, there should certainly be some reward for fighting through seven rounds of a national tournament which embraces league champions from their respective associations throughout the country", I can only agree!

The Generation 2 team from Fareham got off to a good start in Div. 1 of the Halex National League and with the Jaques sponsorship could well look forward to the premier division next season. They have won their first four matches and the latest against Ormesby 2, by 7-1 included two wins for Garath Spencer making his debut.

Now some notes for your diary! The Hampshire closed tournaments will both be held at Redbridge Sports Centre, Southampton. The senior on Nov. 14 and the Junior on Jan. 16.

The season heralds the 50th Anniversary of the Southampton Association. A Golden Jubilee presentation dance is to be held on April 29. The highlight of the Jubilee

season however is to be the European Super Division match against Federal Germany on Wednesday, March 9 at Fleming Park Sports Centre, Eastleigh. Tickets are priced at £4 and £3 (including programme) and may be obtained from Mr. C. L. Sims, Woodbury, 2 Bakers Drive, Rownhams, Southampton.

Dunlop **TO SPONSOR FIVE** **NEW T.T. CENTRES**

Five specialist table tennis centres for young people and adults, funded by Dunlop Sports Company in association with the Sports Council, are to be established in Yorkshire and Humberside.

Dunlop are giving £3,000 to the scheme which is aimed at introducing the game to as many people as possible. Organisation of the centres will be co-ordinated by the Sports Council, local table tennis leagues and education authorities.

Each of the centres will be based on a primary or middle school and will have an open membership.

Cyril Villiers, regional director for the Sports Council in Yorkshire and Humberside said, "Table tennis is one of the Sports Council's 'concentration of resources' sports for the next 4 years and the Dunlop centres will play a major part in spreading the game among young people".

Each centre will be provided with Dunlop equipment and special lighting. The local league will be responsible for appointing an official organiser so that the facilities can be used to the full for both coaching and

JILL HAMMERSLEY-PARKER **ADVANCED COACHING COURSES**

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• Owing to National League Commitments the Oct. 15th-17th course had to be cancelled and replaced by the Jan. 7th-9th course. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused.

league matches.

The location of the five centres has yet to be decided. "We are inviting applications from the 11 education authorities in the region, league officials and clubs, who feel they can make a good case for having a centre in their area. Each application will be carefully investigated to make sure, as far as possible, that the right choices are made", said Cyril Villiers.

Alan Hydes, table tennis manager for Dunlop, feels that the new centres could play a large part in the game's future. "Table tennis is a great game and we have to get people interested when they are young. In addition to use by the schools, the Dunlop centres will be used five nights a week in an organised and competitive manner. This means that youngsters with real talent will be spotted sooner and brought up in the game correctly, therefore standards should rise", he said. In addition, he hoped that many adults would gain enjoyment from a game they had not tried before.

Establishing the Yorkshire and Humberside centres is regarded very much as a pilot scheme by both the Sports Council and Dunlop.

"If these specialist centres are as successful as we firmly believe they will be, then the aim would be to introduce them nationally. In that case, we would very much like Dunlop to become our national sponsor as they have given us tremendous support in helping to finance the first five", said Cyril Villiers.

Further information regarding applications to set up a Dunlop Table Tennis Centre should contact Cyril Villiers at the Sports Council, Coronet House, Queen Street, Leeds LS1 4PW. 'Phone: Leeds 436443.

DON AND JILL BOOST SCHOOLS TABLE TENNIS

A Yorkshire and Humberside Pilot Scheme
by **ROBERT OLDFIELD**

Husband and wife, Jill Hammersley and Donald Parker, teamed up together on Tuesday, 21st September when, in front of PE Lecturers and Advisors from the Yorkshire and Humberside region, they gave an impressive display of all-action table tennis at Carnegie College, Leeds. The exhibition, promoted by the English Schools Table Tennis Association in conjunction with the Regional Sports Council, and supported by the English Schools' sponsors, Stiga, came at the end of an afternoon's programme of table tennis which showed how suitable the sport is for a class of school children in a typical school gymnasium.

The presentation, which the ESTTA hope will be regarded as a pilot scheme for the other eight Sports Council regions, fulfilled all expectations and, introducing the afternoon, Sports Council Regional Director, Cyril Villiers, got right behind the idea. "I'm delighted this initiative has come from table tennis" he said. "I believe, as a community activity, table tennis has the biggest potential of any sport in this country. Yet, despite its obvious advantages, it has struggled to develop in schools. First Colleges of Education have to be influenced so that there are people in the teaching profession with the



National Coach, Donald Parker, who visited Wakefield Sports Centre with his wife, Jill, to see the coaching programme and assess visiting coaches, makes a point: Also on the photograph, far left, Sports Centre Manager, Alec Thompson; T.T. Coach, Roden Fullen next to him, and, far right, Yorkshire's No. 2 Cadet, 11-year-old Michael O'Driscoll.

necessary enthusiasm and skill for promoting the sport, and this afternoon will show what can be presented to teachers and students in educational institutes".

Tom Matthews, the ESTTA's President who dreamt up the scheme, started by introducing Donald and Jill who, to familiarise the audience with the sport, showed the progression of skill from the basic push shots to the advanced loop. Donald, the ETTA's National Coach for the North of England, highlighted the points of interest leading into a practical demonstration of skills by children from the school of Wakefield headteacher, John Arnold.

"We wanted to give an illustration of the adaptability of table tennis" said John, who is also ESTTA Chairman. "An answer to 'How can I possibly run a table tennis club when I only have one table?' And that he proceeded to do with his well-disciplined group of twelve boys and girls, using all types of gym equipment to get every one of the class participating in the lesson and playing with a bat and ball. Eight on a table. School desks. Round robin games. Even gym benches. "And when they can play 100 backhands on the gym bench" said John, "they can turn it over and play on the bar underneath".

Although not many schools would be able to afford it, former England international, Nicky Jarvis, then gave a demonstration of the advanced training aid — the Stiga robot — so that by the time came for the exhibition match Donald was well warmed-up. Perhaps that was the reason he won the first game 23-21 against Jill's lob and chop defence. But Jill won the second 21-13, with Donald perspiring heavily and his anxiety growing more visible by the minute, before Yorkshire PRO, Les D'Arcy, called a truce.

"Two hours like this is more convincing than two days of talking and twenty letters" said one enthusiastic adviser in the dis-

cussion afterwards. "Can you have half size tables for small children?", asked another. We'd like to use it as an in-service training course showing work with raw beginnings". "What's the price of a basic bat?". Certainly there was no doubt of the response to Tom Matthews question "Have we put together the right kind of package?" And, with support assured from the manufacturers' representatives, other regions are looking hard at taking up the idea.

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COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

John Preen looks beyond . . .

THE ISLE OF WIGHT

A little early in the season enables me to cast my net a little wider than these shores and report on travels which took Carl and me to Austria, Wales, Yorkshire and many other places. I also saw England v Hungary (European League at Bath) and thought it a pretty good match — a pity more people did not come to see a Jonyer gala performance. Nevertheless England could have won despite a 2-5 score-line.

My first notes take me back to Austria where a player, born and bred on the Island, won the European Cadet title, the gold in this and two bronze as well (Junior Team Event and Mixed Doubles with Lisa Bellinger). He has now done what he has threatened to do for a year or two and proved a point, that he is the best boy of his age in Europe, made by Donald Parker three years ago. We were having a few days holiday on the Continent after the event and so missed much of the publicity, such as it was, but there were a few lines in most of the National dailies and a certain amount on local radio and T.V., doubly welcome during the summer when our Sport descends into peaceful slumbers.

We awaken from the long summer break to a winter, less of discontent than surprise, when we find that some of our members have drifted away to other sports or have got out of the habit of playing. There comes an age when one no longer feels as young as one did once or, in the much used phrase, when "one starts losing to players one used to beat" and retirement seems suddenly very sensible and logical. What is less easily explained are the large numbers of young players who disappear at local as well as national level, and this seems the most urgent problem of all. The gains in recent years seem to have been in enlarging the rule-book whilst the membership gets smaller.

To stop playing, to put Table Tennis asleep for six months which is what most local associations do every summer, seems to offer a hostage to fortune.

I sadly report that we on the Island, too, after a period of considerable progress from four Divisions to seven, have lost close to 10% of our members in a single year.

It would be foolish to discuss remedies in these short notes (though to my readers they may appear longer), but different phasing of the season is certainly worth looking at — perhaps a shorter summer-break, but also one during the winter when many venues are cold and harsh. There is much to be said for Spring, if not Summer Leagues. I see no reason why our National League cannot stretch into May which would bring great relief to players, tournament organisers and the calendar working party.

After returning from Europe we travelled to Bridgend for their Junior Open, an event which has a lot going for it, quite magnificent trophies, good prize money and sponsorship and a fair venue. With more purposeful organisation this could be one of the best. It seemed rather inconsiderate, for instance, to make all competitors report at nine o'clock, boys, girls, Under 12, 14 and 17. They could not all start at that time; so why not allow the rest a little longer? After all, many had travelled since four or five in the morning.

After Carl's first victory in Wales, we travelled to the Kirklees, where he took the Junior title but fell in the Senior semi-final to Alan Cooke, his opponent in the Junior Final the previous day. It was an excellent match before quite a good crowd full of rallies which, according to some, combination bat players have killed. Unfortunately the "Modern Game", particularly Chinese, is about very strong first and second balls and WINNING points quickly and there is often conflict between playing attractively and winning. The low net, still at a height originally lowered to discourage the stone-wallers of the hard bat era, encourages early ball attacks which kill rallies one way or the other (very soon after service). I return to this theme because I cannot see any other way of bringing exciting, flowing continuity back into the game and that means RALLIES. Fiddling about with rubber colours and trade-marks merely skates around the icy surface of the problem and produces the wrong scapegoats.

Our first visit to the Kirklees left a good impression. The organisation was strong, prize money was good, always a virility symbol of local support and with a larger playing area 3-STAR status would be well deserved.

So to our first three National League matches all won by Jaques Generation, Fareham. Six out of six for Carl, but why is he playing in the 2nd Division (called the First)?

There was no shortage of invitations from 1st Division (called Premier) Clubs, but as we sifted through these, first of all we felt considerable loyalty to the Generation Club which is one of the best in the country. That we looked at others at all was due to the knowledge that a player's time at the top is very short and that he or she must make the most of whatever opportunities they have in that little time. Once again we could not help being struck by the conservatism which is inbuilt in so many E.T.T.A. institutions, not always a bad thing, in financial matters often admirable. The fact remains that in the National League the playing order and prescribed opposition holds back the young player, the rising player as opposed to the established one. Instead of the generally followed Swaythling Cup System of three against three, all playing all, we have four against four, a sort of modified County Championships arrangement in which, broadly speaking, the better players play each other as do the lesser ones. There is also the usual County Championships drawback of only two Singles which really is not enough. The result was, in any event as far as our young player was concerned, that a Div. 1 No. 3 or 4 spot hardly justified the travel and expense and had little to offer in relation to a No. 1 spot in Division 2, possibly less. Did not this section offer matches against European Champions John Hilton and Jill Hammersley?

I do hope that the N.L. will soon embrace the Swaythling Cup system despite the fact that Generation may go up, having missed out by a whisker twice running, and my player may then have the desired No. 1 or 2 spot with which comes experience and opposition which he needs and now seldom gets. Nothing will raise standards so much as the opportunity to play against uniformly good opposition. My player has now played in Senior events for two years with consistently good results, finals, semi-finals, last 8, 16, etc., but there are plenty of top players he has never met. In short (if you will pardon the pun), the ladder (to the top) is too long.

So to the first County Match when the Island entertained Dorset II and won 7-3 ending a long, barren spell, punctuated by some good play, three draws, but no victories. To be fair, Dorset were below strength, with four changes from their original selection, symbol, one regrets, of declining interest in the County Championships. It was inevitable. Overdue reforms were not made. Whilst a monopoly situation existed a rigid, antiquated format could continue. When the competition from the N.L. started, the C.C. were unready, but still unwilling to change. Too few saw that an era had ended, that players now had a choice. When there were changes they were the wrong ones. The pyramid system meant more travel when players wanted less, particularly for the rump of a 4th Division that got left at the post. What players wanted was more play on their playing days. What they got were more playing days and therefore more travel. The smaller counties began to groan under the expense of sending often sub-standard teams to far-away places.

Throughout E.T.T.A. administrative circles there is insufficient realisation of the cost and wear and tear of the incessant travel that the system imposes on the ambitious player, least of all that, with proper organisation, much of the money our members now pay to hotel-keepers and petrol stations could stay in the Game.

The Sport cries out for Regionalisation, yet moves in the opposite direction; note the enormous number of events now counting towards Ranking Lists, the nationalisation of the 2nd Div. of the National League, the 'pyramidisation' of the County Championships, all meaning more travel, more expense which is crushing the smaller units and stifling talent.

My sympathies to Dorset administrators and others, many of whose players' imagination is no longer fired by the County Championships, but the chickens of the past are coming home to roost. In 1981 Erica and I travelled at our own expense to London to convince the County Championships Conference of the need to reform, having previously stated some of the more urgent needs in Table Tennis News.

We got support, but very little. Nothing changed. An old institution with great traditions is allowed to wither away, because officials cannot bear to break with the past and give players what they want: Fewer playing days, but more play on these playing days. Less travel, less expense, a more sensible Women/Men ratio. No doubt, in time it will all come. Let us hope it will not be too late.

Back to our County Team: Our 7-3 win gives us a good start towards avoiding the

drop to the dreaded Division 4 (why not five 3rd Divisions? Less travel, fewer defections). Our ladies (Jill Fothergill and Janice Badcock) got a 'full house' of wins for the first time, Carl two, Jim Daly one and these two won their doubles against John Robinson and Jason Creasey who, I thought, played more than well in doubles and singles. Keith Taylor nearly broke our No. 3 position duck, losing two very close sets to Steve Davis. Quite a good crowd once again (for Table Tennis).

It looks as if Columbia's reign as Island 1st Division Champions is over as Carl's team mates Neville Allen (Veteran) and Simon Lamb (young) have retired). The former has given magnificent service to the Club and will continue to be available as Reserve if needed. The latter is part of a larger army that seems to be deserting our Sport. His replacement Brian Price joined Columbia from Havenstreet where he found himself without a team after his two team mates, both young men, had also decided to 'hang up their bats' after being part of the local scene for many years. That situation unfortunately can be multiplied here and all over the country and I hope to deal with some of the answers in future articles. At this stage the facts tell their own story. Many of us have had a great deal from Table Tennis and we shall all have to think very hard about putting something back. The membership crisis seems an urgent one.

George Yates reports from . . .

LANCASHIRE TOPSY TURVY TRIALS

It is often proved true that in holding trials, ostensibly for ranking purposes, that selectors of county teams make a rod for their own backs. Such was the dilemma facing the Red Rose selection committee following the men's trial held at Lostock, Bolton on Sept. 25.

A ranking list was duly issued after the trial in which Shaun Browne of Bolton finished top, losing only to Keith Williams of Liverpool, and young Philip Huggon took second place. But, on the very eve of the final, in a Lancs and Cheshire League match on Merseyside, between Liverpool and Bolton, Browne had thrice been beaten by Williams, Paul Hutchings and John Rankin who all lost to Stephen Scowcroft!

Absentees at Lostock were Donald Parker, on ETTA duties, and his Preston team-mate, Steve Turner, the latter being held back because of a Halex National League commitment on the following day. Because of this Turner was placed at No. 12 on the list which was headed by Parker with Browne and Huggon at Nos. 2 and 3.

Subsequently at a further meeting of the selection committee held on Oct. 18, and having regard to the Lentec computer rankings, a revised list has been registered which reads as follows:

1 D. Parker, 2 S. Turner, 3 S. Scowcroft, 4 S. Browne, 5 P. Huggon, 6 K. Williams, 7 P. Flint, 8 B. Carney, 9 P. Rainford, 10 K. Jackson, 11 N. Hallows, 12 G. Clarke.

For the first Premier Division weekend at Salford a squad of five men will be at the disposal of captain Parker which, including himself, will comprise, Turner, Scowcroft, Browne and Williams. Joy Grundy and

Amanda Goodwin will also be in the squad with both Huggon and Jean Parker excused in order for them to participate in the Cleveland 'Select'.

The other rankings are:

Women

1 J. Grundy, 2 J. Parker, 3 A. Goodwin, 4 S. Hughes, 5 C. Hemming, 6 P. French, 7 J. Monaghan.

Boys

1 Huggon, 2 P. Aspinall, 3 P. Ashcroft, 4 M. Mercer, 5 H. Leigh, 6 C. Hogarth, 7 P. Walmsley, 8 M. Cornan, 9 S. Bevan.

Girls

1 Parker, 2 Hemming, 3 A. Holt, 4 L. McEwen, 5 G. Marsden, 6 K. Cox, 7 W. Worthington.

Messrs. Williams, Flint (ex Cheshire) and Carney, together with Jean Parker and Amanda Goodwin comprised Lancs II in their opening matches against Staffs II and Yorks II won, respectively, 7-3 and 8-2 the latter win over the Tykes being particularly noteworthy more especially as one of the wins credited Yorkshire was by default when Brian Carney had to be awakened from his slumbers having misread his instructions and thinking the match was in the evening instead of the afternoon.

On the table itself it was only Peter Flint who dropped a set, the opening one to Tony Sanderson. From the two matches Williams kept a clean sheet in four men's singles and shared in two doubles successes with Flint.

SCORES

v Staffs II

K. Williams bt C. Bakewell 18, 17;
bt M. Evans 19, -14, 13.
P. Flint bt Evans 14, -19, 17;
lost to P. Barnett 18, -18, -18.
B. Carney bt Barnett 21, -15, 9;
lost to Bakewell -17, -19.
J. Parker bt J. Dunning 15, 14.
A. Goodwin lost to J. Powis -11, -17.
Williams/Flint bt Bakewell/Barnett
15, -17, 19.
Parker/Goodwin bt Dunning/Powis 15, 11.

v Yorks II

Williams bt S. Sharpe -15, 18, 19;
bt A. Sanderson 15, 20.
Flint lost to Sanderson 10, -17, -18;
bt M. Illingsworth 12, 11.
Carney bt Sharpe -7, 14, 18;
conceded to Sanderson.
Parker bt H. Shields -12, 16, 14.
Goodwin bt M. Seaton -11, 16, 17.
Williams/Flint bt Sanderson/Sharpe 15, 18.
Parker/Goodwin bt Shields/Seaton
13, -18, 17.

For their next match, against Cambs, on Nov. 20 (6.30 p.m.) at Sholver Hall Community Centre, Sholver Lane, Oldham, both Flint and Carney are stood down to afford match practice for Browne and Huggon.

Huggon will also be playing at the same venue in the afternoon (2.30 p.m.) against Leicestershire in Junior Div. 2A taking the place of Paul Ashcroft who was without a singles success in the matches against Staffs and Durham.

In those two encounters Lancs went down 4-6 at home to Staffs but won 6-4 away to Durham at Shiny Row.

SCORES

v Staffs

P. Aspinall bt R. Hayward 10, 16;
bt A. Dixon 9, 9.
P. Ashcroft lost to Dixon 19, -13, -18;

lost to K. Cartwright 16, -17, -16;
M. Mercer bt Cartwright 18, 16;
lost to Hayward 22, -21, -11.
C. Hemming lost to F. Elliot -21, -16.
A. Holt lost to A. Sanders -9, -15.
Aspinall/Ashcroft bt Dixon/Hayward
-21, 11, 14.
Hemming/Holt lost to Elliot/Sanders
-16, -18.

v Durham

Aspinall bt C. Thorp 19, 13;
lost to D. McVitie -16, -9.
Ashcroft lost to McVitie -16, -19;
lost to D. Blackburn -16, -15.
Mercer lost to Blackburn 14, -16, -15;
bt Thorp 17, 14.
Hemming bt A. Davieson 15, 16.
Holt bt J. Mallan 7, 15.
Aspinall/Ashcroft bt McVitie/Thorp 11, 11.
Hemming/Holt bt Davieson/Mallan
-14, 7, 11.

Bury's 11-years-old Andrea Holt made her county debut in these matches and congratulations must be afforded her in reaching the final of the U-12 girls' singles in the North Yorkshire event at Boroughbridge.

Jack Chalkley reports from . . .

STAFFORDSHIRE CAUSE FOR OPTIMISM

Staffordshire senior 'B' side, newly promoted to Division 2 of the County Championships, came up against a strong Lancs 'B' team in their first match of the season, and unfortunately the match was half-way through before the home side realised that there was no reason to be overawed by the opposition. By then, Staffs were down 5-0, and they could only recover to 7-3, but, looking to the rest of the season, there is cause for optimism that they will hold their place in this division. Of course, this will depend on the 'A' team staying up in the Premier, to which they were also promoted last year. With the close competition between a number of players for a place in the first team, these early 'B' matches could provide important indicators to the selectors. As it turned out, both Craig Bakewell and Paul Barnett won a singles. Mark Evans, last season's 'Closed' champion, played well to take both his opponents to three, but he has yet to recapture his sharpness of last season.

Janet Dunning faced stiff opposition in Jean Parker (who Jill Harris beat in remarkable fashion last season when our 'A' team was in this division) but England — ranked cadet Jill Powis gained Staffs third win with a very competent victory over Amanda Goodwin. Jill is obviously making good progress under the watchful eye of Jim Hayward and other coaches at Wolverhampton and her temperament and seemingly lack of nervousness will stand her in good stead.

RESULTS

Bakewell lost to Keith Williams -18, -17;
bt Brian Carney 17, 19.
Barnett lost to Carney -21, 15, -9;
bt Peter Flint -18, 18, 18.
Evans lost to Flint -14, 19, -17;
lost to Williams -19, 14, -13.
Bakewell/Barnett lost to Williams/Flint
-15, 17, -19.
Mrs. Dunning lost to Jean Parker -15, -14.
Miss Powis bt Amanda Goodwin 11, 17.
Dunning/Powis lost to Parker/Goodwin
-15, -11.

The junior 'A' side travelled to Preston to play Lancs 'A', who surprisingly were in the third division last year. The boys, Adrian Dixon, Richard Hayward and Kevin Cartwright each contributed a singles win and with the girls, Fiona Elliot and Angela Sanders, remaining unbeaten in both singles and doubles, Staffs ran out winners by 6-4. It can be said that few are expecting the team to return to the Premier Division next season, but a good performance this season will provide a sound basis for next year's effort, with most of the players still eligible for the juniors.

Staffs junior 'B' gained a comfortable win over Northumberland, Kevin Lawrence being the only one to drop a set in the 9-1 win. Other members of the team were Matthew Harvey, Neil Harris, Rachel Roberts and Tracey Spencer.

I would like to give some publicity to the next home match of the senior 'B' side against Northumberland. The County representatives from Leek have agreed to stage the event, and this will be the first County match to be played in Leek for many years. Our thanks, therefore, to the Leek league, particularly Mr. D. Hall and Mr. M. Clarke, and may I issue a special request for players and table tennis fans in the north of the County to go along and support the Leek organisers and, of course, the County side. The match is on Nov. 20. Details from Leek or County officials in due course.

Malcolm Allsop reports from . . .

DERBYSHIRE BILLINGTONS DOMINATE

The season got under way with the Derbyshire Festival Tournament held at the Lancaster Sports Centre on Sunday, Sept. 12.

Many of the leading boys were absent, some playing in National League and some playing in other tournaments, and there must be a suspicion that they did not wish to harm their chances of playing in the Derbyshire Junior team by a poor early performance! However the Billington family dominated the day's play, none more so than Bradley Billington who won three events and was losing finalist in another.

Last season's Family Doubles winners, Bradley, and father, Maurice, split up this time; Bradley playing with mother, Jackie, whilst Maurice combined with daughter, Julie.

Last season's losing finalists Eric Hall and daughter Kerry, beat Clare/Mrs. M. Bentley and Mark/Mr. P. Whitehall to reach the semis, where they met Maurice and Julie who had beaten Darren/Mr. R. Pacey and Joanne/Mr. K. Weightman. After a hard-fought, finely contested set the Billingtons won through -12, 19, 21.

In the other half of the draw, Bradley and Jackie reached the semis via Amanda/Mr. D. Dawkins, and Gary/Mr. I. Knights where they came up against Louise and Ron Forster who had reached that stage via Mark/Mr. R. Pacey, and Adrian/Mr. K. Weightman. The Forsters prevented an all-Billington final by defeating Bradley and Jackie 18, 11.

The final was another gripping set with Julie and Maurice just getting home 16, -15, 19.

In the Under-18 Boys' Singles, Bradley

dominated, and his final victory over David Slack, 13, 19, never looked in doubt.

The U-15 Boys' Singles produced better competition with the best set being Chris Glossop's semi-final win over David Smedley -19, 28, 16. Glossop tried hard to stem the Billington tidal wave in the final, but Bradley played well to win 15, 20.

The U-12 Boys' Singles was played in Groups, with Bradley winning his sets in straight games. William Hollingworth was troubled in his group; winning 14, -19, 19 against Kurt Hutson, -13, 12, 17 against Peter Knowles, and 22, -15, 16 against James Lawson. Hollingworth played to his limit in the final before losing -17, -21.

A Hard Bat Singles event was held for the first time in Derbyshire and provided some close and exciting matches, but Maurice Billington proved in a class of his own gaining a final victory over Tony Gregory 9 and 7.

To Thuy Dung retained her U-18 Girls' Singles title with a 19, 14 win over Louise Forster, whilst Louise regained the U-15 title with an 11, 15 win over Joanne Weightman.

Kerry Hall won the U-12 Girls' Singles after a Group round-robin with Julie Billington finishing second although extended -16, 14, 18 by Penny Corden, and -17, 19, 17 by Julie Forster.

Louise Foster and To Thuy Dung struggled to the final of the Junior Doubles, -20, 21, 17 against Adrian Weightman and David Slack and -14, 19, 14 against David Smedley and Tim Sheppard; but their luck continued in the final where they beat Bradley Billington and Chris Glossop 11, -16, 19.

Despite failing to attract the supposedly leading boys, the tournament was enjoyed by all who attended; and provided an early opportunity to get rid of any rustiness of the youngsters and veterans.

The County teams started battle with the First team visit to Rotherham where Yorkshire proved too good in an 8-2 victory. Stephen Young and To Thuy Dung made their senior first team debuts without success, as Alan Cooke gained our only successes. However reports state that Marilyn O'Sullivan played very well.

New County first team captain, Neil Marples, had his job made even more difficult by the number of players who did not wish to make themselves available for selection, but this has hardened Neil's resolve to be successful.

The selection of Stephen Young surprised many people within the County, but Neil is convinced that Stephen has the ability to justify his inclusion and that he will get better with every match he plays. All supporters of Derbyshire will wish Stephen well, and I believe that, if anyone, Neil is the person to lift Derbyshire Table Tennis.

The new Derbyshire Junior Captain, Keith Weightman, is not without his problems as the two leading juniors Alan Cooke and To Thuy Dung are firmly entrenched as No. 1's in the senior teams, but Keith is using this as a spur to the other juniors.

In the first County Junior match, Louise Forster and Joanne Weightman knew too much for the visiting Nottinghamshire girls, and won their three sets easily. Nigel Adams made his debut as No. 1, in his home town of Burton, but played unconvincingly with a lack of confidence, to lose both his sets.

Andrew Henry, without the responsibility of being No. 1 played well in patches, but still lacks concentration required to dominate opponents at this level and only won one of his sets. So too did David Rhodes, on his debut, who I would like to see show more confidence, which he may do in future matches. The final result, 5-5, was a fair reflection of the afternoon's play, but the Burton hospitality was the outstanding contribution to the match. Thank you Burton.

Pauline Long reports from . . .

NORTHUMBERLAND PRESENTATION EVENING

There were just a few items of interest omitted through lack of space from last month's report which I felt warranted a brief mention this month. The Tyne side Summer League end of season Presentation Evening was held at Woodlands Park Community Centre on Sept. 25, and a good time was had by all who attended. We were privileged to have as our guest of honour Tom Blunn, Chairman of the ETTA, who was kind enough to present the trophies and plaques to all Divisions and Handicap K.O. Cup winners and runners-up, and we thank him for an interesting and lively presentation. It is also worth mentioning that the Cup was won for the first time by an all-women's team, namely Olive Drapkin, teenage daughter Judith and Denise Campbell of West Avenue, who, with 270 points start, beat Northumberland Fire Brigade 'A' (Rob Appelby, Brian Illingworth and Russell Lee) by 105 points.

The first County matches of the season on Oct 2 unfortunately failed to provide much success, with the first team and juniors suffering heavy defeats, and only the second team managing to salvage a 5-5 draw after being 5-3 up at one stage. The first team's hopes of a quick return to the Premier Division received an early setback when they lost 2-8 to a strong Leicestershire side with Chu Van Que scoring the only singles victory over Paul Randell, and together with Ian Robertson, an excellent men's doubles win over Randell and Chris Rogers. Clare Mouzon, however, must have given England-ranked Anita Stevenson the fright of her life in the top women's singles set; she actually led by a game and 20-19 before a "net" at the next point unfortunately went against her and she eventually lost a close second game 22-24. Anita's experience proved decisive in the third, which she won fairly comfortably, but Clare had certainly made her presence felt.

The junior team, most of whom were on their debut, had to make the long journey to Staffordshire, and were well beaten 1-9, with only Stephen Pearce managing to win one of his singles. The second team, with Pauline Long replacing Kit Cheung, who, it is now understood, will not be available for selection this season, shared the spoils in a thrilling draw with Nottinghamshire. Each of the men won one singles, and Northumberland took both doubles. Results were as follows (Northumberland names first):

Northumberland II 5 Nottinghamshire 5

Fred Short lost to N. Bailey -12, -16;

bt R. Watson 16, -21, 10.

Neil McMaster lost to Watson -19, -21;

bt T. Kerry -15, 19, 20.

Martin Young lost to Bailey -21, 19, -16;
 bt Kerry 18, 16.
 Caron Buglass lost to Cheryl Buttery
 -15, -16.
 Pauline Long lost to Pauline Simpson
 -13, -11.
 McMaster/Young bt Watson/Kerry
 17, -15, 13.
 Buglass/Long bt Buttery/Simpson
 -11, 19, 17.

Before I go on to the Halex National League details and results, it seems I acted on out-of-date information and omitted one or two names from the squad, for which I apologise to all concerned. The former Mayfair Wallcoverings team is now, of course, known as City of Newcastle, and, in addition to the squad members mentioned previously, also includes Peter McQueen and Dave Svenson. The Byker team also has Martin Moore in their squad in addition to their players mentioned in last month's issue.

Newcastle made a disastrous start to the new season when they crashed 1-7 away to a new-look Larkhall team, and also lost to the strong Soham side. However, Byker have made a very impressive start in the Third Division North, having beaten Grantham 5-3, Lincoln Crusaders 7-1, and Unity III 8-0, which is an excellent performance for a team new to National League play.

Our top junior players distinguished themselves at the recent Northern Region junior trials in Leeds. Neil McMaster finished as the top junior boy, while Clare Mouzon was second in the junior girls' event and Dave Watson also finished second in the cadet boys' event. They have therefore all qualified for the National Junior ranking trials at Ipswich, and we wish them the best of luck at this important stage of their careers.

Geoff Waters reports from . . .

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

COMING UP ROSES

With the County first teams winning three out of three in the County Championships and Hassy Soham the only 100% team in the Premier Division of the Halex National League, everything is coming up roses at the moment.

The senior first team have made an excellent start to their season with a 7-3 win over Cheshire and a 6-4 success against Derbyshire. These wins have been gained with good all round teamwork, rather than any individual brilliance.

In the first match against relegated Cheshire at Ellesmere Port, they led throughout after making the best possible start by winning the opening three men's singles. So well did they play that the points were in the bag after only seven sets. Mick Harper and Andy Withers won two singles each, but Keith Richardson, after beating Wayne Percival in the opening set, fell to Mark Hankey with the score at 6-1. Joanne Palmer continued her fine run from last season with a win over J. Deakin, but Mandy Judd found the higher ranked junior Tracey Lightfoot too strong.

In the Derbyshire match Alan Cooke beat Harper in the opening set, but after Withers and Richardson had beaten Neil Marples and Stephen Young respectively, Cambridgeshire always looked likely winners. Derbyshire levelled the scores with a

women's doubles success but then the home county took three in a row to ensure at least a point. Richardson and Harper won the men's doubles and then the latter player had a comfortable win over Marples. Then Joanne Palmer beat Marilyn O'Sullivan all in straight games. Cooke pulled one back for the visitors in a very close affair with Richardson, but Mandy Judd clinched the points by beating To Thuy Dung.

The juniors won their opening match in Junior 3rd with a 7-3 win over Norfolk at Norwich. Simon Steward proved to be the stumbling block for Cambridgeshire as he had a hand in all three of Norfolk's wins. First he had a singles win over Tim Ashman and then he combined with Steven Fox to take the boys' doubles against Ashman and Julian Wheel. Finally, he also beat Wheel in the singles, but was to prove the only real resistance. Peter Holliday was unbeaten and it was great to see Helen Smith and Samantha Wales go through a match without a defeat.

Unfortunately, the senior second team have lost both their opening matches, but as the men are fairly inexperienced at this level, the results were fairly predictable. In the opening match they made the long trek to Bexhill-on-Sea and were beaten 9-1 by Sussex II. Only Ruth and Jane Hunter seriously tested the opposition and although they both went down narrowly in the singles, they did receive some reward for their efforts by winning the doubles.

They fared a little better against Essex II at Fellows Cranleigh going down 7-3. Trevor Smith and Ruth Hunter grabbed a singles each while Smith and Martyn Livermore won the men's doubles.

Hassy Soham have won three matches since my last notes and are now the only team to have won all four matches in the Premier Division of the Halex National League.

They had an easy 7-1 win over Newcastle, despite being without Paul Day, away in Canada on international duty. In his absence both their new players Nicky Hoare and David Hannah were in action together and both were unbeaten. Newcastle won the opening set when Chu Van Que beat John Souter, but from then on it all went Soham's way.

It was another 7-1 win when Letchworth Corporation came visiting with former Soham player Dave Wells in their No. 1 spot.

It was Wells who provided Letchworth with their only win, beating Day when the score stood at 4-0. Hoare, Hannah and Kenny Jackson were all unbeaten in this match, with Souter standing down.

Their other match against Unity Bradford was a different kettle of fish altogether with Soham winning 5-3 in the final game of the final set of one of the most exciting matches ever seen at Soham.

The home team were again without Day, this time with a touch of 'flu, and this probably made their task a bit more difficult than it might have been.

Jackson had a narrow 24-22 in the third win over Steve Turner to set the home team on their way, but then it was Soham's turn to be on the receiving end of a close defeat when Souter fell to Skyler Andrew -20 and -18 after having won the first game 16. Hoare had his seventh consecutive win for Soham when he beat young Australian Greg

Thomas and Hannah put the league leaders in a dominant position with yet another close verdict over Chris Rogers. Jackson had the opportunity to increase the lead but after beating Andrew 21-15 and leading 17-15 in the second, he faded to lose -18, -19. Souter and Rogers fought out a "deuce" game each before the former clinched a point for Soham, but there was still plenty of excitement to come.

Hoare beat Turner 26-24 after trailing 20-18 and then Turner won by the same score after he had been behind 20-18. Hoare finally succumbed for the first time in Soham's colours and the result rested on the final set between Hannah and Thomas.

Hannah led 15-14 in the first game, then lost seven points in a row. He trailed 19-18 in the second, but won 21-19 and in the final game, pulled back from 17-15 to win a tense match 21-18.

In the opening matches of the Newmarket Construction League, Cambridge beat Haverhill 6-3, while Wisbech won by the same score against March. Withers was in a class of his own for Haverhill, but he received no support from his colleagues. The Wesley trio of Livermore, Chris Burdon and David Leader won two each for Cambridge. Jamie Frost was unbeaten for Wisbech and he was well supported by Clive Harrod, who won two. Paul Stacey did best for March with two wins.

Roy Williams reports from . . .

NORTH WALES

SUCCESS FOR COUNTY TEAMS

Clwyd started their senior programme in the County Championships on a high note when they visited Worcestershire in a Division 4 match and won 8-2. The match held at Cripplegate Pavilion proved to be a happy hunting ground for the Welsh county with Welsh-ranked Trevor Manning in fine form winning his sets with ease. Former junior international John Hook was taken to three in both his singles but with Manning won a close doubles. Justin Evans making his debut played well and can be well pleased with his performance. Sue Roberts (Powell) won her singles with plenty to spare and with Christine Watkins won the doubles. This was Christine's first County match.

In the Veteran 3A Clwyd won a real nail-biter at St. Neots by 5-4. Roy Williams, Jim Bishton and Don Hobbs all won one singles whilst Sheila Rogers partnered by Bishton won the mixed. Williams and Hobbs clinched the men's doubles. A good start to the new season. A fortnight later Clwyd, at home to Cumbria, at the Coventry Co-op Holiday Camp, Kinmel Bay, again won 5-4. On this occasion Cumbria contributed to their own defeat by being a player short. The sets were closely contested however and for the home county Roy Williams and Wrexham's Peter Williams, making his debut, were the winners.

COUNTY ASSESSMENTS

With assessments held at various venues the selectors have had a hectic time going along to see what talent the area has but, alas, as with other counties many of the players who should have attended did not do so and the time has come to select from the players who do.

The Veterans assessment was at the Pavilion, Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay and eleven of the invited twenty players turned up. After a hectic round-robin on a group basis Roy Williams topped the list followed by Dave Galley and Ray Howland.

The Seniors held at Wrexham had the same result but in this case it was the Wrexham players who did not respond, five failing to turn up.

The women's trial was also held at Wrexham and again the numbers were reduced with Sue Roberts winning all her sets.

RANKINGS

Veteran

1 Roy Williams, 2 Dave Galley, 3 Ray Howland, 4 Bill Rushton, 5 Malcolm Buckle, 6 Les Jones, 7 Bill Curtis, 8 Tony Smith, 9 Peter Jones, 10 Malcolm Hook, 11 Dennis Hunt.

Men

1 Trevor Manning, 2 John Hook and Terry Turner, 4 Paul Griffiths and Neil James, 6 Colin Powell, 7 Justin Evans, 8 Bradley Dyson, 9 Arthur Roberts.

Women

1 Sue Roberts, 2 Christine Watkins, 3 Karen Buckle, 4 Michelle Entwistle, 5 Ann Walker, 6 Sandra Roberts, 7 Mandy Stevens, 8 Sharon Buckle.

COACHING

The first of nine full days' coaching, organised by the association and held at Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay on Sunday, Oct. 17, proved a success. The next session will be at Wylfa Power Station Social Club on Nov. 14.

The course is open to players of all ages and the object is to encourage more people in the area to play table tennis, giving them a chance to learn to play the game at a reasonable level. The learner has been neglected for years and only the few are able to reach the dizzy heights of international or county table tennis. Perhaps this could be one reason less people are playing the game today.

The first session was in the hands of yours truly with the assistance of Jeff Nicholls and Tony Smith.

The NWCTTA with the blessing of the TTA of Wales are to go ahead with their League umpire scheme and the test papers are now being printed. The scheme is on the basis of the County Umpire test but the test paper is reduced by 50%. It is hoped more people will come forward to take the examination as a stepping stone to greater things in the umpire world. The League badge will only be available to the NWCTTA and will only be valid in those counties. Papers are available from November, please write to R. Williams, Robroy, 24 The Mall, Prestatyn, Clwyd.

BRITISH ISLES TOURNAMENT

It is hoped that in the 1983/84 season the NWCTTA will organise the British Isles Veteran Championships on lines similar to the recent World veteran event in Sweden. First however we must have the blessing of the Home countries and at the TTA AGM our association put forward the idea.

The TTA did not object and it is hoped the other countries involved will welcome the tournament.

NORTH WALES COUNTIES LEAGUE

The first of four sessions of the league started last month with twelve matches to

give the league its earliest start for years. Rhyl and Wrexham look to be the main contenders for senior division honours and also look good to make their marks in other divisions. The venue this season is at Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay which in recent seasons has become a popular table tennis meeting place. It is hoped that the best players will be available to represent their leagues.

LLANDUDNO CLOSED

The Llandudno Closed will be held at the Quinton Hazell Canteen, Mochdre on Saturday, Nov. 27 and all members are requested to send their entries to Mr. R. Walker, 9 Morley Road, Craig-Y-Don, Llandudno.

LEAGUE PROGRAMMES

All four leagues have started their season and we hope to have news of shocks and good performances in future issues. Anglesey are still struggling to find officials for the various posts to keep the league ticking over. With such a vast area to cover it is a far from easy task to keep having meetings in the hope that they will solve their problem. What is required is that old faithful, the volunteer, or in Anglesey's case volunteers.

Llandudno are as usual well organised and they have four divisions this season. Even in this hotbed of enthusiasm the league has reduced from six to four divisions.

Rhyl have five new teams for this season but perhaps one day we can hope to return to at least three divisions.

Wrexham who start their league matches a month earlier than their fellow members are also in full swing.

Vic Bennett reports from . . .

NORFOLK

MORE SETTLED

The Norfolk Senior First Team appear to be a little more settled after the two away games at Surrey and Kent, although losing on both occasions, probably a little bit of luck could have pulled a point or two. Against Surrey, eight sets went the distance in a four hour struggle and against Kent the two doubles were lost in the third leg — men's at 20, ladies at 19 — just to illustrate the narrow margin.

At No. 1 Doug Bennett, now fully fit, is leading the team well and satisfied with his form, particularly that cracking game against Kent's No. 1 David Dodds, and surely should not be long now for Phil Logsdon and Richard Stevenson to start picking up two or three sets between them. Wendy Hogg still No. 1 lady played well in the first match but lost the edge in the second. A good win for Debbie Brown, replacing Joy Dixon who was unavailable, who by sticking to task ahead and not being disturbed by a skilful opponent got onto the score sheet.

Apart from a comfortable win over Northants 8-2 the second team will be redundant until the new year. With Oxford pulling out at the last minute bringing the number of fixtures down to three in this rather luckless division.

It's all go for the Juniors relishing the idea that games can be won with the second team leading the way with wins over Sussex 6-4, Herts 7-3. Good performances by Dave Honor, Dave Pickard, Paul

Rich, all 100% so far and the girls Rachel Wilson and Maryanne Jones, gameless, but it's their first competitive season, are improving all the time.

Junior First Team lost to Cambridgeshire 7-3 and spirited resistance from Simon Steward at No. 1 winning both games. Steven Fox was unlucky to have anything to show for his efforts and also a promising performance from Neil Pickard. All boys proved winners in the 8-2 beating of Huntingdonshire and the pick of the match was Carolin Chamberlin's win over Tracey Reeves.

First round draw of the County/Broadside Sports 3-a-side Team Championships: Telephones 'B' v Drayton L.C. Shipdham v Thetford British Legion Taverham v British Sugar (King's Lynn)

To be played by Nov. 20.

Byes:

Telephone 'A', Gothic, Downham, Sprowston, King's Lynn Electricity.

Remainder of entry forms for Norfolk/Broadside Senior Closed Championships at the U.E.A., Sunday, Dec. 19, 1982, are now in circulation.

Coaching at the Wall Road School, Norwich, under the guidance of Les Rayment. Any prospective pupils, please contact Les.

Laurie Selby reports from . . .

WILTSHIRE

SUCCESSFUL VISIT

Wiltshire No. 1 Claire Maisey notched up a dozen titles during a trip to Australia.

Claire was visiting former Swindon players Pam and Ken Oung who emigrated last year.

Claire won the Western Australian Top Ten singles, the Queensland Open (singles, U-21 singles), the Ipswich Open (singles, U-21 singles), the Townsville Open (singles, mixed doubles), the Riverdale Open (singles, women's doubles, mixed doubles, U-21 singles, handicap women's doubles).

Swindon's Under-14 team hit good form when winning the Newbury team tournament.

They beat Basingstoke 6-0, Maidenhead 6-0, Bracknell 6-0, Newbury 5-1 and Reading 6-0.

Kevin Edwards, back playing in Wiltshire after being away at university, has crashed straight into the county rankings at No. 2.

The top places remain unchanged — Kevin Satchell fills the No. 1 spot and Claire Maisey stays in top place in the women's list.

Men

1 K. Satchell, 2 K. Edwards, 3 A. Metcalfe, 4 J. Chandler, 5 E. Rooft, 6 S. McBean, 7 B. Powell, 8 R. Smith, 9 M. Oxley, 10 S. Davis.

Women

1 C. Maisey, 2 Janet Parker, 3 Tracy Watkins, 4 Brenda Lee, 5 Alison Boyce, 6 Helen Wilson, 6 Claire Hunter, 8 Michelle Cook.

Boys

1 A. Oxley, 2 M. Oxley (jun.), D. Richards, 4 J. Hook, 5 R. Vowles, 6 I. Neate, 7 H. Phillips, 8 R. Morgan, 9 M. Holt, 10 M. Edwards.

Girls

1 H. Wilson, 2 M. Cook, 3 C. Hunter, 4 Jenny Neale, 5 Karen Richards, 6 Julie Mills, 7 Susan Vowles, 8 Lorraine Cox.

Wiltshire teams picked up only one point from their opening two County Championships matches.

On paper the seniors should have had their strongest teams for several seasons but holidays, injuries and unavailability of players have taken their toll.

RESULTS

Wiltshire I 4 Kent 6

Wiltshire I 3 Surrey 7

Wiltshire II 4 Herefordshire 6

Wiltshire II 4 Glamorgan 6

Wilts Jnrs I 5 Gloucestershire 5

Wilts Jnrs I 2 Kent II 8

Wilts Jnrs II 0 Hampshire 10

Wilts Jnrs II 1 Somerset 9

Alf Peppard reports from . . .

GLOUCESTERSHIRE



ALF PEPPARD

Taken in the recording studios of Severn Sound, July 1982 after reporting the Stiga Schools' International.

NO MENTION AT ALL?

I quote from the "Mail on Sunday" circa 26/9/82. T.V. chiefs try out a whole new ball game. The reference readers is to, Sport on T.V. and its subsequent attendance percentage ratings. It seems that traditional sports like soccer are under attack, quote cause possibly hooliganism, Show jumping, well they tell us that's 10% down on the national attendance ratings, Floodlit Rugby League 25% down (their percentage ratings not mine). The same without quoting figures goes for Tennis (this is hard to believe) and a host of well known other sports.

Perusing the "Mail on Sunday" columns after they have praised the merits of darts (up to 50% on the national attendance ratings chart) and naturally Snooker, that sport is top of the pops for a percentage attendance rating of 60% WOW? I made the following amazing discovery, of all the sports that were mentioned, quoting N.A.R., TABLE TENNIS WAS NOT MENTIONED AT ALL, it's as if our great sport just does not exist. One could almost imagine that these people in the throes of formulating their statistics are completely oblivious to The English Table Tennis Association, perhaps they haven't even heard of the I.T.T.F. either. The mind boggles so let's take it a step further. Hooliganism for starters.

In almost forty years of table tennis at Club/County/National and very occasionally International levels I have never encountered outright hooliganism at all. Yes,

upon certain occasions tempers have been a bit frayed and a few cuss words have drifted around the room, hall or whatever but it has never developed into a rabble. In fact in table tennis today, in general, you have the best mannered players of any sport around. (Yes Sir/Madam) I am fully aware that there are a few naughty boys and perhaps girls around, some even get banned don't they? Well that's as maybe but they certainly are not allowed to jeopardise the game as a whole nor to spoil its good name. Perhaps if any T.V. Directors, Producers or just Moguls happen to read this column I would in all sincerity hasten to add, that these are not the rantings or ravings of a T.V. table tennis enthusiast but rather those of a person who thinks perhaps that our national game is at the moment not doing quite so well, at least in the eyes of the general media.

What then can we the players, officials, administrators do to make it more popular, more appealing to the public, and to gain a fair quota of T.V. and press coverage? **There is only one answer**, and most know it. The problem at grass roots lies with us all, it is our sport and therefore our responsibility (those of us already in the game) to try to do that little bit extra and those members that do exist throughout the length and breadth of the country and do very little to help the game why not make a concerted effort to improve on your last year's apparent lack of help, thought or whatever. Having got that off my chest let us proceed with, "What's been going on in the County of late". We appear to have lost the services of Nina Tsakarisianos, Nina is still a junior and her absence in both the Senior and Junior County teams will be considerably missed by Gloucestershire this season. However she is registered with us and although living in Preston at the moment if required I feel sure the lady would oblige. In the meantime we wish her well.

Colin Grundy also from Preston (Brother of International Joy) has taken up residence in Gloucester. I understand that he is playing in the City league for St. Marks 'A', We bid him welcome.

John Bunn, Chairman of the Stroud League, is looking into the League's history. Has any old timer in or around Stroud knowledge of table tennis of some forty years ago, if so, please ring John on Stroud 5141.

Interest in table tennis west of the Severn continues to increase, with clubs at Rudford (nine teams entered in the City League), Cinderford (5), Newent (5), Hartpury (3), Rank Xerox (2) and finally Blaisden Hall (2). Recognising this, the County Association have decided this year to stage their closed championships at Newent on Dec. 19 at the sports centre. David Colwill, the tournament Secretary, is I understand already accepting entries. This is the first time that this tournament has ever been staged at Newent. We look forward to it.

It is with profound regret and deep sympathy that I report the death of Frank Godwin. Frank a veteran player of considerable talent died last month after a long and painful illness, for many years he played for the Strollers in Gloucester and one of his team mates was the former English International Molly Hawkins (nee Jones). We shall all miss him.

Glynn Lloyd the Newent paraplegic all rounder, 'Snooker', 'Table Tennis', a high ranking Official in local Football has again covered himself in glory. He won the all-England Table Tennis Singles for the disabled at Stoke Mandeville in 1979, did not defend his title in 1980, went up there in 1981, took the Gold medal for Snooker, entered the table tennis but was beaten in the final by Peter Gabriel of Wrexham. This year, however, he returned to S.M. lost out on the snooker but regained the Gold Medal by beating Peter Gabriel in the final of the table tennis 16 and 14.

A very determined 33-year-old is our Glynn, and when one realises that he is paralyzed from the waist downwards with legs encased in calipers a soul destroying disadvantage at the best of times, one marvels at his outlook upon life in general. Just before writing this he said to me, "Do you know Alf, there are lots more up



GLYNN LLOYD

Disabled Gold Medalist from Newent, Glos. Gold Medalist at Table Tennis in 1979 and 1982.

there (Stoke Mandeville) that are far worse off than me?", I believe him.

Like many other Associations up and down the country Gloucestershire is in slight recession. Stroud have managed to hold their own and this year have turned out five divisions. Gloucester have seven comprising a full compliment of 84 teams, but over at Cheltenham matters are somewhat abysmal. I quote John Robb's own words published in the Cheltenham news letter "Net & Edge". "This year we find ourselves with only 54 teams, eleven fewer than last year, and we have had to re-group the League into four divisions instead of five". Well John should know, he is Cheltenham's Chairman but it does reflect the sign of the times.

I wrote last month that Gloucestershire were proposing embarking on a Premier League. As this column has to be submitted before the time of that scheduled league commencement it is hard to say what progress has been made. It was originally due to start in November and could indeed be well under way by now. The Writer wishes John Boyd and Dave Harvey all the very best in their efforts to get the C.P.L. fully operative and under way.

County Selectors

Three County Selectors have been appointed, one from each respective League. They are Peter Cruwys (Cheltenham), Mrs. Jean Golding (Stroud & Chairman), Alf Pepperd (Gloucester) with valuable advice and help from Paddy Jackson the County Coach. Paddy does invaluable work for the County, last season he travelled 19,049 miles in the course of his coaching activities and driving County teams around the country, the results of his work are becoming very evident. Three players to date in the E.T.T.A.'s computerised ranking lists and quite possibly more to come in the Paddy Jackson coaching pipe line.

County Junior Trials held at Saintbridge School, and the subsequent rankings

Code:
G—Gloucester, C—Cheltenham, S—Stroud.

Boys

1 Darren Griffin (G), 2 Aaron Beckett (G), 3 David Smith (G), 4 Ian Heskins (S), 5 Anthony Wilson (G), 6 Lawrence Symonds (G), 7 Jonathan Greenwood (S), 8 Craig Saunders (G), 9 Russell Hayward (C), 10 Martin Stephenson (C), 11 Dale Saunders (G), 12 Atul Patel (G), 13 Graham Wright (C), 14 Alistaire Sayers (G), 15 Peter Fowler (C), 16 Howard Williams (S).

Girls

1 Nina Tsakarisianos (G), 2 Jenny Ellery (G), 3 Clare Symonds (G), 4 Heather Colwill (G), 5 Dawn Bowles (C), 6 Nicola Clarke (C), 7 Julia Evans (C), 8 Suzanne Webley (S), 9 Carole Slack (C), 10 Emma Sprawson (S).

County matches

Gloucestershire Seniors travelled to Reading to play Berks seconds, the result of this match was a draw, full results as follows:

Paul Jackson bt S. Rowland -14, 15, 19;
lost to I. Fullerton 15, -16, 19.
Andrew Golding lost to Fullerton 15, -14, 19;
bt J. Samuel 11, 12.
William Dawe bt Rowland 17, -11, 22;
bt Samuel -17, 18, 20.
Golding/Jackson bt Fullerton/Rowland 17, 19.
Cathy Robb/Julie Bearcroft lost to S. Blackburn/J. Collins 21, -16, -16.
Robb lost to Collins 12, 15.

Bearcroft lost to Blackburn 15, 14.

Gloucestershire Juniors v Wiltshire Result a draw

This match was held at The C.E.G.B. premises at Barnwood. We thank them for use of their venue. Full results as follows:

Aaron Beckett lost to Andrew Oxley -19, -13;
bt David Richards 16, 16.
David Smith bt Richards 15, -14, 21;
lost to Michael Oxley -20, -18.
Darren Griffin bt M. Oxley 16, 19;
bt A. Oxley 10, 20.
Clare Symonds lost to Michelle Cooke -13, -13.
Jenny Ellery lost to Helen Wilson -12, -13.
Griffin/Beckett bt Andrew/Michael Oxley -17, 13, -13.
Ellery/Symonds lost to Wilson/Cooke 20, -7, 15.

The past two months have proved to be very hectic for the County Administrators, in direct relation to the continuance of the very popular and equally prestigious "Cotswold Junior Select". This Tournament has attracted Junior players from all over England and first came to Gloucester City in 1979, where it has been run ever since.

Although advertised this year, of late there have been serious thoughts regarding its future continuation, from lack of sponsorship.

However I am reliably informed that Gloucester City Council are sympathetic and are anxious for us to retain the Tournament. It therefore is on, and is scheduled for the Leisure Centre in the City for Jan. 29/30.

Tony Carey reports from . . .

SOMERSET

TRIALS AND TRIBULATIONS

The Somerset Junior Trials

Were held at Westlands Sports Club, Yeovil on Sept. 12 to determine the team for the first county match at the same venue on Oct. 2 against Surrey II.

The girls' event resulted in Melonie Carey No. 1, Fiona Stuart No. 2, with Sarah Webb as reserve. I was sorry to see that Wendy Payne was unable to attend and defend her position due to lack of match fitness. But I am sure she will return and provide positive opposition to the other girls, who seem to be playing each other every time and therefore are more cautious in their play, due to a fear that one bad day will condemn them to a lower ranking than their past performances merit. This fear will go, we hope, when they gain confidence in their strokes enough to go for them in tight situations. This coming season in the Bridgwater Premier League will serve as a platform on which they can practise this.

The proof of this was shown in the boys' event where the majority were older and were competing in a more open event where any one of the seven invited could upset the theoretical ranking. This proved to be the case in more than one match, which must have given food for thought to the Selection Committee and encouragement to the coaches. The team selected was Lee Sadler (Yeovil) No. 1, Murray Barter No. 2, and Kevin Fudge No. 3, with Philip Payne as reserve, all from Bridgwater and district.

Another two Open tournaments have been

played since my last report.

The first was at Swansea on Sept. 18, with a good Somerset Junior contingent taking part. Like our County badge of a griffin bearing some relationship with the Welsh dragon, we seem to be drawn to the Welsh soil. Having the Severn Bridge handy and the hospitable welcome we always get helps.

Those who made the long trek were Melonie Carey, Sarah Webb, Barter and Payne from Bridgwater, and Sadler, Ian Dicker, Paul Brown and David Woolridge from Yeovil.

The venue at the University was well laid out with good playing conditions and spectator viewing areas. I quite liked the balcony view which enabled me to keep in touch with play on all tables, although I would have liked to see the scores on a "twiddle" board. All played well, winning one or two rounds against good opposition and in some cases getting to the quarters, which for Murray and Philip was a good performance as they must have been feeling tired at that stage after having started off from home before six o'clock to get there. Well done lads!

In the Cadet Girls, Melonie carried the Somerset flag into the final, where she lost to the experience of the Welsh No. 1, Evelyn Wright. This is the second time they have met in a Cadet final, with the result going to Evelyn, but I know Melonie is looking forward to making it third time lucky when they meet again in, with luck, another final.

The next tournament attended by a Somerset contingent was the first big one of the English season for Cadets and Juniors. This was the Basingstoke 2-Star Open on Sept. 25/26. This drew most of the big guns on the ranking list.

The venue was laid out fairly well for the restricted area available, with good lighting. I was pleased to see the use of side screens to fence off the individual courts, as nothing is more annoying for players than the continuous stream of balls coming into their courts with the consequent interruption this causes in play and concentration, and the lottery of whether a non-adult non-official umpire will call a let at a vital point in the game and let play continue in another.

I have had first-hand experience of this in local championships at a crucial semi-final stage and can sympathise with a loser who has won a point that has completely beaten their opponent, only to hear a let called for a ball entering the court after the shot was played.

The competition was pleasing to the Somerset coaches, John Reaks and Les Bridges, who saw further signs of improvement in their players. This in spite of having their hands full trying to watch two, and in some cases three matches at one time, and get a bite to eat in between. They were still able to give sound tactical advice. The team was Melonie, Fiona, Sarah, Philip, Paul Fowler, Paul Smith and Neil McKenna from Bridgwater, and Woolridge and Sadler from Yeovil. Melonie, Fiona and Philip won their groups in the Cadets, then in spite of putting up a spirited fight, lost to better players — in some cases, seeds.

On Sunday Melonie returned to join Lee in the Junior Competition. Both won their opening groups, Melonie lost to another group winner, Debbie Symonds, although

she put up a fight and showed good concentration. Lee progressed one step further before losing to second seed, Darren Griffin. While watching Lee play, I could see improvement in his game from last season, due I am sure to the hard work he has put in and his involvement on the tournament circuit. Also, I believe that he will be even better when he has served a season in the Bridgwater and District Premier Division with all the big guns. One fault I did notice was his tendency to try and emulate our master defender/attacker, Brian Reeves — not an easy task — which will involve a considerable amount of time and effort with a complete re-shaping of his game, and possible set-back. I would therefore like to see him continuing to attack his opponents.

My next statement is controversial and I hope it does not invoke an angered reply from the organisers, as it is meant in all honesty to be constructive to further the promotion of table tennis. I appreciate what running a tournament involves through my membership of the Bridgwater and Dist. and Somerset county committees — the preparation before-hand, with few helpers, and the clearing up afterwards with hardly a moment free to get a cup of tea. However, my comment is this: When the time-table starts to slip and events get put back, an up-date of the table schedule could be made and tables which become empty could be utilised where there are competitors waiting to play.

This action in itself could go a long way towards silencing the remarks I heard on Saturday, like "Why don't they use their tables which are empty?". It is an understandable comment when it is realised that some competitors may have travelled a considerable distance to compete. I am referring mainly to those up to Cadet level who came prepared to give of their best but find that they are jaded by the delays and give a reduced performance and lose because of it, and are lost to the game. The die-hards will return as usual, but we will lose a lot of potentially good players to the game who will swap to other sports where they can be more active. And I know most readers will agree when I say that players do not make good spectators in matches which do not involve them. This is shown in the attendances at some town or county matches, even at local championships where the finals are watched by a handful of officials, parents and coaches.

I should like to express here a note of appreciation and thanks to one of our near-neighbour coaches, Tony Russe from Avon, for the valuable contribution he is making to the advancement of our juniors by his attendance at our coaching centre in Bridgwater. All at his own expense and time, imparting expertise gained from his long experience in the game.

It is a true saying, I am sure in all sports "That the spectator can see more of the game than the player". This is true with Tony, who presents a slightly different approach and picks up flaws in our players which we missed. Thanks also go to Rebecca Russe for accompanying her father and giving the youngsters a knock. This is a refreshing sight, as there is a trend in some areas, including part of ours, where the top Juniors and Seniors shy away from playing with younger players in case they help them to beat them in the future! This I would call a negative attitude, as it does not help raise the standard of the game as a whole and

therefore restricts the challenge to the top players to improve their game. This tends to produce a series of players on a lower plateau of skill than they could attain. And who knows what might happen if a snubbed youngster practises hard with a "funny" bat and meets a senior player in a local championship?

On that note I will end for this month.

Mary Rose reports from . . .

WARWICKSHIRE

COUNTY SUCCESSES

In the first round of County matches on Oct. 2 Warwickshire had a hat-trick of wins against Lincolnshire, Oxfordshire and Leicestershire.

The senior "B" team represented by Adrian Pilgrim, Carl Morgan, Lester Bertie, Sandra Peakman and Di St. Ledger — a very young side — were too strong for Lincs, the visitors, winning 7-3.

Warwick's Junior "A" made a great start beating Leics 10-0 with only one of the sets going to three. The County were represented by Mark Thomas, Phil Gunn, Jasgar Singh, Melonie McHayle and Fiona Sutton. Now with England-ranked juniors Thomas and Owen in the side we look forward to a successful season.

The Junior "B" team completed our successful start by winning 7-3 away to Oxon. Representing the juniors were Mark Randle, Sean Simon, Martin Campbell, Tina Brown and Dawn Bromley. Although Tina and Dawn both lost their singles they combined to win their doubles.

RANKINGS

Men

1 D. Douglas, 2 D. Johnson, 3 B. Johnson, 4 B. Hayward, 5 A. Pilgrim, 6 C. Morgan, 7 L. Bertie, 8 D. Munt, 9 P. Gunn, 10 C. Wisdom.

Women

1 K. Groves, 2 S. Peakman, 3 D. St. Ledger, 4 L. Brison, 5 A. Lloyd, 6 J. Harper, 7 F. Sutton, 8 D. Robinson, 9 J. Harden, 10 M. Rose.

Boys

1 P. Gunn, 2 M. Thomas, 3 J. Singh, 4 M. Randle, 5 C. Grant, 6 S. Bertie, 7 M. Campbell, 8 I. Davies, 9 C. Geelan, 10 S. Simon.

Girls

1 F. Sutton, 2 M. McHayle, 3 J. Green, 4 T. Brown, 5 D. Bromley, 6 J. Falls, 7 J. Hill, 8 V. Slanalan, 9 J. Allsop, 10 T. Green.

WEST WARWICKS INVITATION

The West Warwickshire Invitation Tournament, sponsored by Alliance Building Society, was held at the West Warwickshire club over the period Sept. 7-11. Many of Birmingham's top men and women players participated and many fine matches were played. The men's final was between the experienced Barry Johnson and Carl Morgan and, although Johnson won in convincing style, young Carl proved in his earlier matches that he will be a force to be reckoned with in the near future.

Di St. Ledger was the winner of the women's singles event beating Sandra Peakman, the County No. 2, in the final having previously caused an upset in the semis by defeating the County's No. 1, Karen Groves — a great performance.

HALEX NATIONAL LEAGUE

Dunlop Birmingham played their first match in the Halex National League Premier Division against a strong Soham side. Although beaten 6-2, Ian Horsham, one of two new signings this season, had two outstanding sets, taking Paul Day to three before losing narrowly in the decider. Horsham later defeated John Souter to show that he will be a very useful addition to the Dunlop squad.

Birmingham's only other success came from skipper Barry Johnson who goes from strength to strength. He caused the shock of the day with victory over international Kenny Jackson. In Dunlop's second match they caused the upset of the season so far by forcing a draw with last season's champions Ellenborough. Steve Mills won his first set against Mark Mitchell to put the Birmingham team in the lead.

Dunlop then fell behind by losing the next four sets, although they could easily have been 3-2 in the lead as both Horsham and Johnson took Sandley and Kitchener to three. The great fight back then began with Horsham beating Colin Wilson, followed by Barry Johnson accounting for Mitchell. The deciding set was between Johnson and John Kitchener. Barry lost the first -10 but came back strongly to take the second 16. Then came the nail-biting third which kept spectators on the edge of their seats with the game swinging backwards and forwards. Barry finally won 19 and fully deserved the applause he received. Well played Dunlop — a great performance.

In conclusion I would like to remind all leagues, Coventry, Leamington, Stratford, etc., that I look forward to receiving items of interest from their areas. For my notes this season write to: Miss M. I. Rose, 45 Springfield Crescent, Solihull, West Midlands B92 9AE or 'phone me on 021-743 7773. I will be pleased to hear from you.

THIS & THAT IN SURREY

by MURRAY CORBIN

TOM BLUNN'S VISIT

The visit of TOM BLUNN, Chairman of the ETTA, to the THAMES VALLEY League in September was greeted warmly by those present, who included the League President JACK BOWES and Chairman GEOFF HAYES, together with the majority of the league's Officers, and the specially invited JOHN HAMMOND, a staunch supporter of Thames Valley. Representing the County were Chairman RON CRAYDEN and National Councillor PETER BRENNAN, while GORDON APLIN represented the Byfleet League. I understand that an invitation was also extended to the Leatherhead & Epsom League.

The meeting was held at ex-secretary JOHN GARLAND'S home, where ample food and drink was provided. Tom was introduced and he quickly undertook to deal with the League's strong complaint about the inefficient staging of the last two Carter Cup finals, which the Thames Valley Team of HOARE, HAMMOND and SEXTON won. This season, in going for a hat-trick, Hoare and Sexton will be joined by ANDREW HARDY, as a result of Hammond moving into the Seniors. Tom said that the ETTA accepted that the action taken by the umpires at this year's final left much to be desired and the umpires in question had

tendered their resignation. Tom made it clear that he had taken steps to ensure that future finals would be given the care and attention as appropriate to the major Junior Club competition in the Country.

The meeting then dealt with more general points, and Tom, in reply to ALAN HATCHETT'S question about what benefits Leagues obtain for their affiliation fees, explained that these fees amounted to a small proportion of ETTA finances and that for a few pence per week, leagues should not expect much more. He went on to say that without the Sports Council's grants and sponsorship the ETTA could not function.

General concern was expressed about County Championships appearing to become very much the poor relations of the Halex National League and indeed whether there was a future for the Championships. It was pointed out to Tom that it had become very difficult to secure the services of the County's top players on account of this disparity. At this point, JIMMY CARTWRIGHT, Thames Valley and Surrey TTA Treasurer, took the opportunity to bring to light the considerable costs undertaken to fulfil the County fixtures. Tom understood and sympathised with these concerns and referring to the 'costs', he said that the County Championships Committee was looking into this, and regarding the 'disparity', he drummed it home that so long as he was Chairman of ETTA, the County Championships would not die; he was a County Championships man and he had been involved with them for many years. He went on to say that the National League was born out of a need to provide the top players with a high standard of play where they could obtain financial rewards, but unfortunately, the County Championships Conference and National Council had turned down the opportunity of sponsorship some years ago and it was partly due to that decision that the National League had been created.

In answer to a question from JOHN HAMMOND, Tom replied that he regretted that no notification of the result of Michael Hammond's appeal to being disqualified last year during the English Junior Closed at Hinckley, by Referee Richard Scruton, had yet been issued and hoped that would be rectified very shortly.

There was considerable discussion about the bats and various rubbers now available and it was the general opinion that action was required urgently to eliminate the "chance" element from the game. Tom responded by saying that he was pleased to report that ETTA efforts to persuade the ITTF that a different colour rubber for each side of the bat was needed, seemed at last to be succeeding as China was understood to have accepted the principle of different colours.

The meeting ended with all present thanking Tom for his time and visit. In response, Tom said he had gained a great deal from the meeting and thanked everyone, in particular John Garland and his wife Wendy for the generous hospitality, a factor which may have motivated and helped in the very frank discussions that had taken place. Thank you very much PETER BRENNAN for giving me the background information on this visit. In the circumstances, I hope that I have been reasonably accurate.

BITS AND PIECES

Now that NICHOLAS MASON (Hoare) is domiciled in Bexhill-on-Sea, I can understand John Woodford's sound comments in last month's Sussex Notes. I can also understand Nicky's wanting to remain attached to Surrey and his long ties here, but he should not be encouraged to undertake this strain. It is not in his long term interest . . . ALAN HATCHETT (Surbiton) received the TREVOR CHANNING Trophy recently. Alan, General Secretary of the Thames Valley league during 1963-77, has been re-elected recently to serve another 'term'. Well done lad! . . . Apologies for recent printing errors: Lesley is POPKIEWICZ, and Little John is from Walton-on-Thames . . . MELVILLE TAYLOR and NEIL SUTTON simply play too many safety shots too often . . . I rate MICHAEL HAMMOND to be the most competitive and gentlemanly player I know, and I know more players better than most, up and down the County . . . Next month I expect to review the usually controversial County Rankings and if in my possession, County match results. By the way, due to business pressures and as a result my being unable to attend many County Management meetings, I may tender my resignation soon. Adios!

Philip Reid reports from . . .

LEICESTERSHIRE

NEW VENTURE

In last month's notes I touched briefly on Castle's Motors commitment to our junior team. This they have done in grand style, eliminating all our financial worries for this season. Neville Townsend, spokesman for Castle's Motors said "County table tennis is a new venture for us but we consider table tennis, particularly with regard to juniors, a very worthwhile cause". Our thanks to Castle's Motors, and particularly to Mr. Townsend.

The opening week of the County Championships provided us with three wins and a defeat. The 1st team won 8-2 against Northumberland in which there were several highlights. Chris Rogers' brilliant attacking display against Chu Van Que was one, who in turn completely bemused Paul Randell. Clare Mouzon's fearless attacking display which almost brought her a two-straight win against Anita Stevenson. And — most promising for Leicestershire — the attacking display of David Gannon. Gannon has always had the potential to fill the troublesome No. 3 spot and now he has added steel to his game, he really looks to have 'arrived'. In the past he has been too good a loser. An admirable quality but hardly conducive to reaching the top.

The 2nd team travelled to Millom and were rewarded with a 9-1 win, Philip Smith losing the last set of the evening to Tim Pachul to prevent a 'whitewash'. A 'whitewash' it was though for the juniors, but unfortunately the other way round when they visited Birmingham to meet the mighty Warwickshire. This team will in all probability bounce straight back into the Premier Division and the juniors, at any rate, have the strongest team under their belts. The newly-promoted Veterans team beat Buckinghamshire, the highlight (he tells me) being Geoff Aldwinckle's victory over V. Sutton, who had earlier accounted for 'new' veteran John Iliffe. The team were in fact

3-1 down and thanks to the doubles (often a sadly-neglected side of our game) the team recovered to take five sets in a row. Talking of veterans we have had the intrepid Mike Jackson around and we recently welcomed him to our junior inter-towns event. Alas! Although excellently staged by the Hinckley League, a violent thunderstorm resulted in the whole of Huncote being in darkness including of course the venue, Huncote Sports Centre.

There are signs that Knighton Park's strong first team (Chris Rogers, Karen Smith and Martin Pickles) will be challenged by dark horses Swithland Motors who rely on Nottinghamshire players Robert Watson, Mike Bishop and Trevor Kerry a great extent. But it's worked and they are comfortably placed in the first division. Polebrook House (Division 17) and Newarke (18) are newcomers who are making a big impression. In the Hinckley League Market Bosworth top the first division with Ashby Parva (2), Barwell Liberal (3) and Ashby Parva (4) the other table-toppers.

Doug Moss reports from . . .

WORCESTERSHIRE

GOLDEN JUBILEE

The Golden Jubilee Dinner of the Worcester League has taken place since my last report. It was a very successful and enjoyable evening. A number of people were present who had been involved in the setting up of the League in 1932 and also some players who had moved away from the area, in particular Doreen Henderson and Bob Goode. Maurice Goldstein, ETTA president, was present. Remarkably he had been involved in encouraging the formation of the Worcester League in 1932!

A wealth of junior talent was on view when the Junior and Cadet Team Championships was held at Christopher Whitehead School, Worcester. There were 40 players involved. The Junior championships was won by Worcester 'A' who beat Worcester 'B' in the final. The score stood at 3-all and then the 'A' team, represented by Mark Jones and Dean Kloos, won the final doubles event. This was particularly pleasing for the Worcester Coaches who put in such good work. The Cadet event was won by Dudley who beat Bromsgrove in the final. Dudley League is also well served by coaches and the results were evident.

The County teams commenced their programme on Oct. 2. The Junior team result was the most encouraging for they beat Dorset II 6-4. Three new players were introduced into the team namely, Lisa Hunt (Kidderminster) and David Taylor and Kloos (Worcester). The County was of course well served by Murray Jukes and Louise Davies. Lisa and Kloos also contributed a single win each.

The County I team visited Northants and were without the services of Simon Claxton, whose wife was due to produce their first born! Nick Bottomley stepped in and acquitted himself well winning one of his singles. There was a most exciting ladies' singles between Mandy Mytton and D. Marsh with Mandy coming out on top. The team lost 4-6. Gary Alden (Northants No. 1) was the decisive factor for he was in dynamic form. The County II team entertained Clwyd and lost 2-8. This team lost

the services of Bottomley to the 1st team but it was encouraging that Mark Hingley (Dudley), in his first match, won one singles and Annette Snee played well to win her singles. Sandra Roden shows very good promise and has an immaculate style but on this occasion met a most experienced player in her first senior match.

Ken Walton, whose registration has been changed from Staffs to Worcestershire has soon got immersed in County affairs. Ken is a keen coach and has taken on the role of County Coaching Officer. From a playing point of view he has played in the first II team match of the season and was appointed Captain of that side. On the administrative side Barbara Jukes has also been co-opted to the Committee and is really acting as Asst. Match Sec. dealing with arrangements for matches and notifications to County team players. Molly Hough is now the Worcester League representative and Lynda Reid the representative for Evesham. John Mytton remains on the Committee.

News of former County team players

Ray Lush - is playing No. 1 for Hampshire Veterans' team.

Ken Green - former County Secretary is playing for Hunts II Vets teams.

Cliff Benson - on my visit to Bath for the European League match I learned that Cliff is now a publican in Bath.

Ann Hawkins - has returned to Worcester and after a long break from playing is wielding a bat again.

Doreen Henderson - living at Worle, Somerset for some years - has given up table tennis and become a golf fanatic.

Bob Goode - living at Midsomer Norton, near Bath, has also given up T.T. and is taking singing lessons quite seriously!

The County Junior Team rankings for October is as follows:

Boys

1 M. Jukes, 2 D. Taylor, 3 D. Kloos, 4 M. Jones, 5 M. Roden, 6 D. Smith, 7 D. Milton, 8 S. Jones, 9 D. Dickinson.

Girls

1 L. Davies, 2 L. Hunt, 3 J. Bartram, 4 K. Hunt, 5 T. Keyte, 6 S. Hope.

The local Radio (Wyvern) commenced on Oct. 4 and a little while before that date I cut my first tape on table tennis in Worcs. and Herefords. There was tremendous initial enthusiasm and an appointment was made for me to visit the Studios each Wednesday morning to put over the latest news. However "owing to being inundated with sports material" I have since been advised that they would want just monthly reports on Table Tennis. The message seemed to be "Don't call us; we will call you". Rather disillusioning but we will persist as maybe things will settle in a month or two.

Philip Reid reports on the . . .

EAST MIDLANDS CADET LEAGUE

Coventry, unbeaten for four years in this league came badly unstuck with an admittedly weak team in the first session of the East Midlands Cadet League. Nottingham, probable champions "whitewashed" them and just to rub salt in the wounds, Derby II also beat them. Nottingham, with,

amongst others, had Adrian Bolton and Tim Sheppard undefeated.

Group 'B' Chesterfield, spearheaded by Bradley Billington look to hold the key. A nine-year-old who is attracting attention in this league is Burton's Garry Knights (Burton-on-Trent). But spare a thought for Steve Moses who has been involved in all Nuneaton's successes - six singles and one doubles!

Group A

Loughborough 3 Burton 7
Chesterfield II 10 Gainsborough 0
Derby II 10 Leamington 0
Nottingham I 8 Lincoln 2
Gainsborough 0 Loughborough 10
Leamington 0 Chesterfield II 10
Lincoln 5 Derby II 5
Coventry I 0 Nottingham I 10
Chesterfield II 5 Lincoln 5
Derby II 6 Coventry I 4
Burton 10 Gainsborough 0
Loughborough 8 Leamington 2

Chesterfield II	...	3	2	1	0	25	5	5
Derby II	.....	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Nottingham I	...	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Burton	.....	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Loughborough	...	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Lincoln	.....	3	0	2	1	12	18	2
Coventry I	.....	2	0	0	2	4	16	0
Leamington	.....	3	0	0	3	2	28	0
Gainsborough	...	3	0	0	3	0	30	0

Group B

Workshop 10 Grantham 0
Chesterfield I 8 Leicester 2
Derby I 8 Nuneaton 2
Nottingham II 1 Stratford 9
Leicester 3 Workshop 7
Nuneaton 2 Chesterfield I 8
Stratford 3 Derby I 7
Coventry II 5 Nottingham II 5
Chesterfield I 10 Stratford 0
Derby I 7 Coventry II 3
Grantham 0 Leicester 10
Workshop 7 Nuneaton 3

Chesterfield I	...	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Workshop	.....	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Derby I	.....	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Leicester	.....	3	1	0	2	15	15	2
Stratford	.....	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Coventry II	.....	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Nottingham II	...	2	0	1	1	6	14	1
Nuneaton	.....	3	0	0	3	7	23	0
Grantham	.....	2	0	0	2	0	20	0

Les D'Arcy reports from . . .

YORKSHIRE

PRIDE OF BARNSELY

Congratulations to the pride of Barnsley and Yorkshire Table Tennis, Alan Hydes and his wife, June, on the birth of their first child, baby Theresa. This charming mixed doubles pair have so many friends, both old and new that there should be no baby-sitting problems. Also congratulations to T.T. veterans, Neil Alcard and John Walton of Pontefract on completing the London Marathon at their first marathon attempt.

Geoff Scruton, the County's T.T.A. Chairman, has been both impressed and dismayed on his visits around the Yorkshire Leagues. Impressed with the dedication of local club and league officials who struggle on from year to year, in some cases, in spite of difficulties and criticism to do a worthwhile task, well. Dismayed by a large

group of players who have played for years and put nothing back into the game.

In his foreword printed in the recently published White Rose Annual, Geoff makes several suggestions which, if we all carried out would certainly make table tennis more enjoyable. For example, "What's happened to those refreshments that clubs used to provide? 'Why not try to improve your facilities?'" (This could be easier now for ambitious clubs, willing to help themselves now that grants are to be available under the Sports' Councils 'Conservation of Resources' Scheme L.D.) and perhaps Geoff's most important suggestion, in these days of unemployment: "Why not open your club doors to more junior and senior players?"

It is pleasing to report the helpful co-operation of Halex National League Clubs; Bradford Hermits and South Yorkshire TTC with County Championships Secretary, Eric Hill. Both clubs have given the Y.T.T.A. permission to play county matches at their respective excellent venues. The South Yorkshire decision being endorsed by their Sponsors: The South Yorkshire County Council which must be one of the most enlightened councils, table tennis wise, in the county. Both these progressive clubs are also sponsored by Butterfly/Schildkrot for equipment.

A series of pre-ranking trials organised by Eric Hill with help from Y.T.T.A. colleagues proved very fruitful, particularly at cadet level from which a number of very talented young players emerged. Outstanding in the cadet boys was Michael O'Driscoll, taking part in the trials a few days after his eleventh birthday. He finished top in a squad containing much older opponents and was later placed at No. 2 to England-ranked No. 14, John Bult who was excluded from the trials, along with other England-ranked players. Ten-year-old Neil Sims also showed very impressive form to be ranked at No. 8. Jane Roberts displayed attacking flare in the girls' event to rank 3rd, behind England-ranked Alison Evans (1) and Helen Broomhead (2). Steven Sharpe and Melanie Seaton retain their last season rankings as top juniors with Dean Lake at No. 5 in the boys' list, a newcomer with style and confidence.

Y.T.T.A. Ranking Lists

Men

1 S. Mills, 2 K. Beadsley, 3 A. Fletcher, 4 A. Sanderson, 5 S. Sharpe, 6 M. Illingsworth, 7 D. Illingsworth, 8 R. Whiteley, 9 D. Rook, 10 M. Stead.

Women

1 M. Hill, 2 H. Shields, 3 S. Midgley, 4 J. McLean, 5 M. Seaton, 6 L. Broomhead, 7 J. Ryalls, 8 J. Shaw, 9 R. Brook.

Boys

1 Sharpe, 2 Rook, 3 J. Thatcher, 4 M. Firth, 5 D. Lake, 6 R. Thompson, 7 N. Newton, 8 C. Guest, 9 S. Emmerson, 10 N. Wesson.

Girls

1 Seaton, 2 Ryalls, 3 Shaw, 4 Brook, 5 K. Arnold, 6 J. Stocks, 7 R. Baxter, 8 J. Roberts, 9 A. Huitt, 10 R. Beaumont.

Cadet Boys

1 J. Bult, 2 M. O'Driscoll, 3 N. Carr, 4 A. Bassano, 5 M. Smeaton, 6 R. Walton, 7 M. Connell, 8 N. Sims, 9 A. Parkin, 10 C. Oldfield.

Cadet Girls

1 A. Evans, 2 H. Broomhead, 3 J. Roberts, 4 R. Bray, 5 H. Kavanagh, 6 K. Bray, 7 A.

Speight, 8 F. Tennison, 9 C. Madden, 10 C. Dada.

Coaching

With generous aid from the Yorkshire and Humberside Sports Council and local authority support from Sheffield and Beverley, Advanced Training Centres have been set up at Sheffield and Hessele respectively to work in conjunction with the Leeds Centre of Excellence at Moor Grange.

Three one-star coaches: M. Wilcockson (Selby), T. Musgrove (Doncaster) and R. Fullen (Wakefield) will be working in close co-operation with National Coach, Don Parker and the Yorkshire Coaching Sub Committee to develop and co-ordinate coaching in the County below advanced training centre level.

Marsh Way Sports Centre is now becoming one of the most popular table tennis coaching centres in the county due to the encouragement of Sports Centre Manager Alec Thompson and some of this enthusiastic staff. During the Summer Holidays a squad of 10 to 14-year-olds trained up to three hours a day, six days a week under voluntary coach, Roden Fullen, in preparation for the pre-ranking trials. Seven players with Michael O'Driscoll leading the way, gained county rankings, with the remainder acquitting themselves well.

The impact which the Sports Centre is having on the Region is highlighted by the News that the Yorkshire Open will be staged there on Dec. 5. Enquiries to Mike Hanley, 53 Green Lane, Selby. Tel. 0757 702282.

Snippet

Hans Soova, Unity's National League Team Manager, reports that his club's three National League teams are using the Nab Wood Sports Centre, Cottingley as their home venue. Three matches are played in one Hall at the same time. Sponsor for the 19th Dec and 2nd Jan. matches - 'Inta Sun' Travel Co., Bradford.

John Woodford reports from . . .

SUSSEX

MORE AND MORE A FACT

In common with several other counties Sussex have experienced a number of problems with the commitments of their top players due principally to the players' professional and semi-professional activities.

There was in fact, a six-week "war" between the players and the Sussex senior selection committee. During the battle four players at one stage refused to play in the County Championships. Since the "peace" started the four principal rebels have now given some ground but Malcolm Francis and the Moore brothers have not yet played in the Championships whose role as "second fiddle" to the Halex National League is becoming more and more a fact.

But this particular cloud had a silver lining and it still does — half a dozen players have been given a chance to play for Sussex that they would not have had in normal circumstances and they have all played well. The selectors have now become resigned to the fact that the county may lose more matches when they play weaker games, but does that matter if new and often younger players are getting their

opportunities? I think not, although its nice to win, at the end of the day or the night if it's a long journey, the team spirit is more important.

There is still no doubt in my mind however, that the sooner all County Championship divisions are played on two week-ends, the better for all concerned. Some of the travelling involved at the moment is absurd. Devonshire having to travel to East Anglia and the South-East twice is nonsense — Sussex to Devon cost well over £100. I just cannot believe that most counties can afford such trips.

The tug-of-war to obtain the services of England No. 3 Nicky Hoare ended in favour of Surrey and Soham, despite the fact that he lives in Bexhill. That's another travelling commitment that looks incredible, but Gary Lambert travels regularly from Exmouth to play for Dolphins in the Halex National League!

However, as Hoare is now an exile as far as Sussex are concerned — as one door shuts another opens — lo and behold we have acquired the services for three years of the 20-year-old former Warwickshire No. 6 John Green, a hard-hitting, athletic young man who when he learns to harness his power, is certain to blast some daunting opponents to kingdom come — at least in Sussex! In the Eastbourne League he is already teamed up with the generous but talented Rachel Mackriell who on most occasions at the table, she tries to win at about 21-19 in the third, in fact, a female Father Christmas!

Meanwhile, as the expenses of the six Sussex teams in the County Championships continue to mount and the money drains away, the Sussex T.T.A. is going to have to look again at the move by Crawley and Eastbourne at the July AGM to reduce the number of teams to a more realistic level for next season.

Pat Wales, the Worthing-based veteran, champion of the women's cause in table tennis for years recently made her first appearance in 32 years for Sussex (for any age-group) as Sussex veterans lost their away match to Herts at Barnet.

THE FRANCIS JACKPOT!

Malcolm Francis has landed the biggest and most attractive coaching and exhibition I have ever heard of . . . a World Cruise on the QE2 starting in January and lasting three months as the official ship's table tennis coach and exhibitionist. Skilfully acting the fool (similar to the Jacques Secretin professional act) — something that never impressed me — can be immensely lucrative, far greater sums of money are being paid by showbiz agents and organisers for good table tennis acts, than most people would dream of.

Leslie Constable reports on the . . .

ST. NEOTS WINTER LEAGUE

The St. Neots Winter League has two additional members this season in Barnet and Ely. Barnet will operate in the Veterans Division and Ely in the Senior. In all 31 teams from 13 leagues will compete, the composition of the divisions being:

Senior

Bedford, Cambridge 'A' and 'B', Ely, Kettering, Northampton 'A' and 'B', North Herts

'A' and 'B', Peterborough, R.A.F., St. Neots and Wellingborough (13).

Junior

Dunstable, Hunts Central, Kettering, Northampton, North Herts, Peterborough, St. Neots and Wellingborough (8).

Veteran

Barnet, Bedford, Cambridge, Hunts Central, Northampton, North Herts, Peterborough 'A' and 'B' and St. Neots 'A' and 'B'.

Matches will again consist of nine sets of singles and one point will be awarded for each set won. Each team will comprise three players and each set the best of three. Matches will be played on either Saturday and Sunday at St. Neots T.T.C. with sessions at 1.30 p.m. and 5.30 p.m.

Tournaments for Seniors and Vets will be held on Saturday, March 26/83 at St. Neots where improved heating is planned and, it is hoped, showers will be installed.

I am sure that this season will again be successful and thanks must be extended to the officials of the St. Neots club for providing such excellent facilities for the matches.

Forthcoming sessions are: Seniors (Nov. 6), Juniors (Nov. 14) and Vets (Nov. 7).

Ian E. McKelvey reports on the . . .

MIDLAND LEAGUE

THIRTEEN DIVISIONS

This season we have thirteen divisions, having gained a Ladies' second division when additional entries from Bristol and Leicester brought the total number of teams in this section to twelve. This was two above the Rule 6 limit of ten teams in a division, so that two divisions of six teams each had to be formed. There is some feeling that the Rule 6 limit is too high anyway, and none of this season's divisions has more than nine teams.

101 teams are competing in the Midland League this year, 34 in the Men's section in divisions of 8, 8, 9 and 9, 37 in the Junior section in a first division of 9 and four further divisions of 7, 18 in the Veterans section in two divisions of 9, and 12 in the Ladies' section as discussed previously. Stafford, Telford and Eastwood were admitted to membership, the first two with teams in Men's Div. 4 and Eastwood in Junior Div. 5.

At the time of writing I have just the first ten results out of the 350 matches that should be played this year. In Men's Div. 2, Leicester "A" opened with a 10-0, all two-straight, hammering of their own "B" team. The magnitude of this win has caused some surprise in local circles, but it certainly sets the "A" team off on the right foot for their intended early return to Div. 1. Also in this division, Birmingham "B" opened with a 7-3 win over Stroud. Andrew Golding won two for Stroud and shared in his team's doubles win, but David Rudge got a maximum for Birmingham and was well supported by Rod Lewis and Andy Cockerill with two each.

Stafford began their Midland League career by losing 4-6 away to near neighbours Wolverhampton "C", although Bob Murray distinguished himself with a hard won three. Wing On Fung won Stafford's other set with a desperately close scoreline, -22, 22, 23, over Martin Harvev, whilst David Rawlings and Peter Toft each won two for the home team.

Junior Div. 1 saw Gloucester travel to Nottingham and come away with both points from the home town's "A" team, despite a good maximum from Richard Tilford. This included a win over Darren Griffin, who was also extended by Lee Neil. Wolverhampton "B" recorded a 6-4 win at Derby in Div. 2, based on three from Kevin Cartwright. Paul Harvey and Nigel Adams won two each for Derby. Down in Div. 5 there was yet another 6-4 result, this time in Lichfield's favour over Mansfield. Ian Stewart, who is still a cadet, won three for Lichfield with some ease. Although he did not win any on this occasion, Garry Knights in the Lichfield team has plenty of time to do better — eight more Junior years after the end of this one. He will surely be the youngest player in the League this year.

Birmingham "A" have made a strong start in their attempt to recover the Veterans Div. 1 championship from Nottingham, to whom they lost it last season. They beat Gloucester 10-0 and Cheltenham 9-1. Dick Tarling took the one that got away, but the overall strength of this Birmingham team of Terry Bache, Arthur Sutton and Brian Belcher will see them comfortable against all except Nottingham. Birmingham's "B" team also started well, beating Walsall 6-4, with three from Frank Norton. West Bromwich, hoping to bounce back from Div. 2, beat Kidderminster 7-3 but in this match the maximum was from Geoff Kershaw for the losers.

Stephanie Haddrell reports from . . .

OXFORDSHIRE

COUNTY RANKINGS

Following the ranking trials held at Redefield Sports Hall on Sept. 12/13, the Oxfordshire committee issued the following ranking list:

Men

Richard Denbow, Clive Morris, Peter Jones, Neil Abbott, Arthur Chilvers, Clive Alcock, Brian Hamilton, Stan Hahn, John Birkin, David Harse, Marlon Higgins, Richard Burton, Steve Joyner, Mark Ball, Ian Mead, Paul Mabbutt.

Women

Mary Denbow, Stephanie Haddrell, Wendy Parker, Carrie Filmer, Jackie Windle, Julie Woodward, Eleanor Harrison, Shirley Burton, Helen Beckett, Gladys Loft, Ann Wotherspoon, Paddy Allan.

Veteran Men

Gerald Collins, Alf Davies, John Stanford, Richard Knight, Wally Ladmore, Alan Evans.

Veteran Women

Mair Davies, Shirley Burton, Gladys Loft, Margaret Abbott, Ann Wotherspoon, Paddy Allan.

Boys

Joyner, Donald Short, Robert Neill, William Mason, Mark Coyle, Bryn Jones, Marcus Morris, Ian Kent, Tony Bradley, Seamus Murphy.

Girls

Denbow, Woodward, Amanda Shufflebotham, Gillian Aston, Nel Bret, Rachel King.

JUNIOR NEWS

Regional Trials

In the regional trials held at Aylestone School, North London on Sept. 18/19 our representatives were Amanda Shufflebotham - cadet girls, and Steve Joyner and Donald Short - junior boys. Amanda won

her group of eight on Saturday without dropping a set. On Sunday Amanda had to play the winners of the other groups, and the already nationally-ranked players; unfortunately she lost all of these. Amanda now has a regional ranking of No. 5, and was invited to attend the National trials at Ipswich on Oct. 30.

Mary Denbow our No. 1 girl who is also nationally-ranked did not have to attend the regional trials, but has an automatic invitation to the national trials.

Donald Short played five sets on Saturday of which he won only one. Donald was unable to play on Sunday due to illness.

Steve Joyner won five of his eight sets on Saturday finishing fourth in his group. On Sunday Steve had to play off against four other group "number fours" for places thirteen to sixteen where he finished sixteenth.

"Thank Heaven for Little Girls"

Oxfordshire county junior programme got under way at Blessed George Napier School, Banbury, on Oct. 2 against Warwickshire II in Division 3S.

Warwickshire out-played us in the boys' department with all three Oxon boys looking sadly short of match practise, making far too many errors and going for big shots too early in the rallies.

Our two girls, Amanda Shufflebotham and Gillian Aston did us proud. In the doubles they came back from 2-10 down in the third to 19-19 only to lose -19, a creditable performance considering this was only the second time they had played together. In her set against D. Bromley, Gillian pulled back from an -18 defeat in the first, and with a more positive approach took the next two games 12 and 17. Amanda played exceptionally well against combination bat player T. Brown using good tactics to pull back from deficits of 3-8, 10-15 and 15-18 to win the first game 24-22, and continuing with these tactics and greater confidence Amanda took the second game 13. Despite the efforts of our girls, the final result was Oxfordshire 3 Warwickshire 7.

D. Short lost to M. Randle -12, -15.
W. Mason lost to S. Simon -15, -13.
S. Joyner lost to M. Campbell -18, -9.
A. Shufflebotham/G. Aston lost to
T. Brown/D. Bromley -11, 19, -19.
Joyner/Short lost to Randle/Campbell
-9, -18.

Short bt Simon 15, 11.
Aston bt Bromley -18, 12, 17.
Joyner lost to Randle -15, -12.
Shufflebotham bt Brown 22, 13.
Mason lost to Campbell -14, -14.

Ron Hedley reports from . . .

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

CONSIDERABLE DISCUSSION

The Bucks selectors have this season included players in the ranking lists who have indicated that they do not wish to play for the county this season. In the past few seasons this has not happened and it has caused considerable discussion as the Bucks Closed use the lists for seeding. In the last two seasons it has produced an unseeded men's champion. It is of course unfortunate that players good enough to be ranked do not wish to be considered for selection. This season the county is suffering as Halex National League commitments

have caused several top players to opt out of County matches. How unfortunate that the County Championships committees of previous seasons did not foresee the problems that the success of the Halex National League would do to the Championships. Hopefully the present committee can find a solution or I can see the County Championships disappearing completely.

Bucks rankings as issued on Sept. 30:

Men

1 P. Bradbury (Ayl), 2 L. Wooding (MK), 3 P. Simmonds (SI), 4 K. Bushell (HW), 5 N. Swift (Ayl), 6 *F. Earis (SI), 7 *D. Windsor (SI), 8 J. Bradbury (Ayl), 9 G. Hamilton (MK), 10 M. Butler (SI), 11 T. Silcott (SI), 12 N. Hansell (HW), 13 J. Dunhill (MK).

Women

1 *N. Hamilton (MK), 2 L. Phelps (SI), 3 D. Robbins (HW), 4 D. Simmonds (HW), 5 *S. Dunkley (MK), 6 C. Brown (SI), 7 S. Coombs (MK), 8 *J. Farwell (SI), 9 J. Niffikeer (SI), 10 M. Hewitt (SI), 11 J. Prout (SI), 12 *J. Robbins (HW), 13 L. Harris (SI).

Boys

1 J. Bradbury, 2 T. Silcott, 3 R. Green (MK), 4 D. Butler (SI), 5 A. Gorman (MK), 6 N. Breeze (HW), 7 D. Ward (MK), 8 C. Furness (MK), 9 N. Wilson (Ayl), 10 I. KienVong (MK), 11 A. Squires (SI).

Girls

1 *N. Hamilton, 2 D. Simmonds, 3 J. Niffikeer, 4 M. Hewitt, 5 J. Prout, 6 *J. Robbins, 7 L. Harris.

Veteran Men

1 A. Watson (HW), 2 *F. Earis, 3 P. Leckie (SI), 4 V. Sutton (MK), 5 L. Pratt (Ayl), 6 B. Allen (Ayl), 7 A. Catchpole (HW), 8 G. Robbins (HW).

Veteran Women

1 S. Coombs, 2 I. Cooper (Ayl), 3 *A. Catchpole (HW).

On Oct. 2 the senior team travelled to Cardiff to take on Glamorgan and won 8-2. I am informed that the match was a lot closer than the score suggests but was an excellent start for the side who are without Philip Bradbury and Nikki Hamilton. Les Wooding has returned to the first team and he and Peter Simmonds won twice, Karl Bushell once and Wooding and Bushell took the doubles. The best win was for Linda Phelps who beat the Welsh No. 2, Catherine Jones, in straight games. Linda has improved in leaps and bounds in the past twelve months and this was just reward for her hard work. Linda teamed up with her Hazelmere clubmate Dawn Robbins to win the doubles. The men are lucky to have two such pleasant girls in the team.

The juniors travelled to Hereford and had an easy 10-0 victory. Tyrone Silcott opened the match with a remarkable 21-0 (!) victory and the team never looked back. Richard Green, Darren Butler, Deborah Simmonds and Jackie Niffikeer made up the successful side. The veteran team entertained Leicestershire going down 3-6 after holding a 3-1 lead. Len Pratt, Vic Sutton and Sylvia Coombs all won one each but Peter Leckie went down in both singles and yet again the veterans failed to win a doubles which could have won the match.

Finally a question for Murray Corbin re TT News Oct. '82. Is Gail McCulloch the same as attended Bedford College of Physical Education at the same time as my wife Pat (nee Duggan)?

halex National LEAGUE

by ROBERT OLDFIELD

ORMESBY SET THE PACE

With only four matches completed for most clubs in the Halex National League the Premier Division is already beginning to assume a familiar look as Ormesby, Hassy Soham and Thorn-EMI Ellenborough battle it out for a place in Europe and the recently announced first prize of £1,500. All three are undefeated but Ormesby have the psychological advantage of leading the division, having played two more matches than their rivals.

First shock of the season came on Sept. 26 when Ellenborough visited Dunlop Birmingham. The champions were looking easy winners when Graham Sandley put them 4-1 ahead but Ian Horsham, after a year's absence from the National League, struck back for Birmingham, and the two Barry's — Johnson and Hayward — chopped their way to a draw.

Meanwhile, Ormesby, struggling to find a fourth player went north to sign John Broe of Scotland and Soham continued unbeaten — despite facing an in-form Letchworth Corporation headed by ex-Soham player, Dave Wells. Wells it was who inflicted Paul Day's first defeat of the season but it was Letchworth's only success. However, Letchworth can afford to relax a little at their new venue of Plinston Hall; Wamsad and Newcastle are lining up for a relegation showdown on Nov. 7.

PREMIER DIVISION CURRENT LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Ormesby	6	5	1	0	37	11	11
Hassy Soham	4	4	0	0	25	7	8
Thorn-EMI Ellenborough	4	3	1	0	26	6	7
Unity	4	1	2	1	17	15	4
Letchworth Corp.	5	1	1	3	15	25	3
Dunlop Birmingham	4	1	1	2	11	21	3
BWF Wamsad	5	0	0	5	10	30	0
Newcastle	4	0	0	4	3	29	0

CHAMPIONS CLASH

In the First Division, Jaques Generation are undefeated after beating Grove in their first match of the season. It was also John Hilton's first match after his return from the German Bundesliga and he found himself facing Carl Preat and Ian Kenyon. Five sets later Generation were 4-1 up, and Hilton had lost both! Perhaps the previous day's celebrations, at a social occasion in Preston, and the long journey south to Fareham, had some effect on his eyelids. In any event, the return match seems certain to decide the division.

However, Tarmac Wolverhampton are still playing well and their match against Ormesby II on Oct. 3 brought one of the best sets ever to the Midland club — former European Champion — Jill Ham-

mersley-Parker against the Commonwealth Champion, Carole Moore. Hammersley-Parker won yet another classic duel -14, 16, 16 to give Tarmac a 4-1 lead.

FIRST DIVISION CURRENT LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Jaques Generation	4	4	0	0	25	7	8
Grove	5	4	0	1	28	12	8
Tarmac Wolverhampton	4	3	0	1	21	11	6
Butterfly Cardiff	4	1	2	1	18	14	4
MBS St. Neots	4	1	1	2	17	15	3
Ormesby II	4	1	0	3	10	22	2
TCB Dolphins	4	0	1	3	8	24	1
BWF Wamsad II	3	0	0	3	1	23	0

YORKSHIRE'S CHRISTMAS CRACKER

With Kevin Beadsley leading Wharfedale Hermits and Anita Stevenson supporting Tony Sanderson for South Yorkshire, a Bradford v Sheffield Christmas cracker looks scheduled for 19th December. Salford, with support from the local Target Gold scheme, are second but they crashed 6-2 at home to March after the visitors' No. 1 Stewart Palmer, had won his two sets — three deuce games and two at 19!

Lower down the division, the Stockton based club would do well to seek the professional services of their sponsor before they play any more matches; premiums tend to increase in proportion to the probability of disaster. They only managed a draw against Unity II, have lost to Tarmac II and need to pray for divine intervention before Ruston Bucyrus Lincoln visit on Nov. 7.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH CURRENT LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Wharfedale Hermits	4	4	0	0	27	5	8
South Yorkshire	4	4	0	0	27	5	8
TG Salford	4	3	0	1	19	13	6
March	4	1	2	1	15	17	4
Unity II	4	0	2	2	12	20	2
Tarmac Wmpton II	4	1	0	4	8	24	2
RB Lincoln	4	0	1	3	13	19	1
Riversley Insurance	4	0	1	3	7	25	1

DAGENHAM STILL IN SECOND GEAR

If success is the reward for good promotion then Gillette Reading, SIB Bath and Dagenham FC are deservedly leading the Second Division South. And a Woodford video company has already contacted the Essex club, who are currently cruising in 3rd place — a boost for their sponsors, Dagenham Motors.

"We'll be taking a coach-load of supporters to Dagenham without a doubt" said SIB Bath dynamo, Paul Hewitt. Are other clubs in the division doing the same, I wonder. There's a rumour that standards are slipping.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH CURRENT LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Gillette Reading	4	3	1	0	19	13	7
SIB Bath	3	3	0	0	19	5	6
Dagenham FC	3	3	0	0	15	9	6
Larkhall	4	1	1	2	15	17	3
Gunnelsbury T'ngle	4	1	1	2	14	18	3
Graham Spicer	4	1	0	3	14	18	2
Lansdown Medway	4	0	1	3	10	22	1
CC Gwent	2	0	0	2	6	10	0

BYKER REVEALED

Late entries, Wharfedale Hermits II, who took over after Billingham withdrew, are already showing promising form. But who are the current leaders Byker? "After Northumberland didn't enter two teams in the County Championships last season, we decided to establish a second National League club in Newcastle" explained Byker spokesman, Jimmy Scope. "The club runs ten teams in the Northumberland league and, although it is early days as yet, we're hoping for promotion". And better support at their next home game when there is no clash with the Premier club's home fixture.

THIRD DIVISION NORTH CURRENT LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Byker	4	4	0	0	27	5	8
Wharfedale H'ts II	4	3	1	0	23	9	7
Grantham	4	3	0	1	23	9	6
South Yorkshire II	4	1	1	2	16	16	3
Ormesby III	4	1	1	2	13	19	3
Unity III	4	1	0	3	12	20	2
Crusaders	4	1	0	3	8	24	2
Vickers	4	0	1	3	6	26	1

TARMAC LADIES IN DEMAND

Tarmac Ladies, losing players at the Basingstoke Junior and Welsh trials, struggled to find a team to visit Chan Construction on Sept. 26 (writes Jenny Cornock) but Karen Groves stepped in to add a set to that won by Janet Dunning. However, the Tarmac team had some consolation, as Jill Powis brought home the U15 and U17 titles from Basingstoke.

Meanwhile, Torbay, sponsored by Pengeley Sports, have "gone into mourning" according to spokesman Brian Pengelly, after losing to Chan themselves on Oct. 17. Chan turned over Grove II 8-0 two weeks previously and look a safe bet for the £400 divisional prize.

THIRD DIVISION WEST CURRENT LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Chan Construction	4	4	0	0	29	3	8
Grove II	4	3	0	1	23	9	6
Jolliffe Poole	3	2	1	0	19	5	5
Pengeley-Torbay	4	2	1	1	20	12	5
Launceston Kernow	4	2	1	1	17	15	5
Tarmac Ladies	4	0	1	3	8	24	1
WW Solihull	3	0	0	3	2	22	0
Cowbridge B'dgend	4	0	0	4	2	30	0

MONTY'S TRANSFER UNSETTLES CIPPENHAM

Cippenham, who lost Sid Montgomery to Wamsad two weeks before the season began, have yet to recover from the shock. "We had to let Montgomery go" said club secretary, Graham Trimming "as he was promised at least six appearances by Wamsad in the First Division". Despite the transfer, Cippenham resisted the temptation to sign a top player as Frank Earis, club Chairman, explained at the time. "The aim of the team is to give local players a chance to play in the National League", he said. But with Cippenham now in fourth

place in Div. 3 East having played three matches, the temptation must be growing stronger, unless Darryl Windsor can maintain the form he showed in his National League debut against Colne Valley.

THIRD DIVISION EAST CURRENT LEAGUE TABLE										
	P	W	D	L	F	A	P			
Colne Valley	2	2	0	0	11	5	4			
Jaques Generation II	2	2	0	0	11	5	4			
Abeng	3	2	0	1	13	11	4			
Cippenham	4	1	0	3	14	18	2			
Dunlop Waveney ...	3	1	0	2	10	14	2			
MBS St. Neots II .	2	0	0	2	5	11	0			

£7,150 Prize Fund Details
Premier Division
1st £1,500 2nd £900 3rd £450
First Division
1st £900 2nd £300 3rd £100
Second Divisions (North and South)
1st £500 2nd £250
Third Divisions (North, East and West)
1st £400 2nd £200

RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION
12th September 1982
Thorn-EMI Ellenborough 8 BWF Wamdsad 0
Graham Sandley bt David Reeves 10, 13.
Mark Mitchell bt David Barr 11, 15.
Colin Wilson bt Iain Fullerton 17, 18.
David Tan bt Mark Smith 9, 10.
Sandley bt Barr 5, 10.
Mitchell bt Smith 9, 7.
Wilson bt Reeves 15, 24.
Tan bt Fullerton 10, 12.

Hassy Soham 6 Dunlop Birmingham 2
Paul Day bt Ian Horsham 17, -22, 15.
Kenny Jackson bt Steve Mills 14, 18.
John Souter bt Barry Hayward 17, 13.
Nicky Mason bt Barry Johnson 14, 14.
Day bt Mills 15, -19, 14.
Jackson lost to Johnson -20, 20, -19.
Souter lost to Horsham -18, -18.
Mason bt Hayward 20, 20.

Letchworth Corporation 7 Newcastle 1
David Wells bt Keith Paxton 10, 8.
Max Crimmins bt Chu Van Que 20, 20.
Richard Jermyn bt Andrew Clark 14, 13.
Josy Kennedy bt Peter McQueen 22, 17.
Wells lost to Chu Van Que 12, -18, -17.
Crimmins bt McQueen -19, 14, 16.
Jermyn bt Paxton 20, 16.
Kennedy bt Clark -18, 13, 19.

19th September 1982
Ormesby 4 Unity 4
Douggie Johnson bt Steve Turner 12, 11.
Donald Parker lost to Skylat Andrew -19, -10.
Richard Yule bt Gary Thomas -19, 13, 12.
Lindsay Taylor bt Chris Rogers -19, 16, 11.
Johnson lost to Andrew -15, 10, -27.
Parker bt Rogers 14, 9.
Yule lost to Turner -15, -15.
Taylor lost to Thomas -13, 19, -22.

26th September 1982
BWF Wamdsad 3 Ormesby 5
Philip Bradbury lost to Parker 19, -10, -14.
Barr lost to Johnson -10, -20.
Reeves bt Taylor 20, 19.
Fullerton bt Yule 18, 22.
Bradbury lost to Johnson 15, -18, -23.
Barr lost to Yule -17, 18, -16.
Reeves lost to Parker -15, -12.
Fullerton bt Taylor -13, 19, 18.

Dunlop Birmingham 4 Thorn-EMI Ellenborough 4
Mills bt Mitchell 18, 17.
Horsham lost to Sandley -16, 20, -16.
Johnson lost to John Kitchener 17, -21, -20.
Hayward lost to Wilson -10, -12.
Mills lost to Sandley -14, -18.
Horsham bt Wilson 16, 20.
Johnson bt Mitchell -15, 14, 18.
Hayward bt Kitchener -10, 16, 19.

Newcastle 1 Hassy Soham 7
Chu Van Que bt Souter -18, 19, 9.
Paxton lost to Jackson -10, -18.
Ian Robertson lost to David Hannah -9, -18.
Clark lost to Mason -10, -16.
Chu Van Que lost to Jackson -19, 21, -18.
Paxton lost to Mason -13, -16.
Robertson lost to Souter -12, -8.
Clark lost to Hannah -18, -19.

Unity 4 Letchworth Corporation 4
Andrew bt Crimmins 11, -13, 10.
Turner bt Wells 19, -13, 16.
Rogers lost to Kennedy -15, 19, -23.
Thomas lost to Richard Jermyn 17, -20, -18.
Andrew bt Wells -17, 19, 20.
Turner lost to Jermyn -14, -18.
Rogers bt Crimmins -19, 11, 16.
Thomas lost to Kennedy -8, -12.

2nd October 1982
Ormesby 6 BWF Wamdsad 2

3rd October 1982
Ormesby 8 Dunlop Birmingham 0
Johnson bt Horsham 16, 13.

Parker bt Mills 17, 18.
Yule bt Hayward 18, 16.
Taylor bt Johnson -18, 21, 12.
Johnson bt Mills 15, -18, 19.
Parker bt Johnson 15, 9.
Yule bt Horsham 24, 14.
Taylor bt Hayward 14, 14.

Thorn-EMI Ellenborough 7 Newcastle 1
Sandley bt McQueen 15, 15.
Mitchell lost to Chu Van Que -29, 15, -11.
Wilson bt Clark 14, 14.
Kitchener bt Robertson 7, 24.
Sandley bt Chu Van Que 11, -19, 17.
Mitchell bt Robertson -20, 15, 19.
Wilson bt McQueen 16, 16.
Kitchener bt Clark -19, 11, 17.

Hassy Soham 7 Letchworth Corporation 1
Day bt Crimmins 15, 12.
Jackson bt Wells -18, 12, 11.
Mason bt Kennedy 15, 15.
Hannah bt Jermyn 11, 14.
Day lost to Wells 12, -12, -16.
Jackson bt Jermyn 15, -19, 17.
Mason bt Crimmins 10, 20.
Hannah bt Kennedy -16, 15, 16.

Unity 6 BWF Wamdsad 2
Andrew bt Barr 18, 8.
Turner bt Bradbury -16, 22, 18.
Rogers bt Reeves -16, 10, 10.
Thomas lost to Andrew Wellman -12, 18, -12.
Andrew lost to Bradbury -12, -16.
Turner bt Wellman 11, 9.
Rogers bt Barr 2, 14.
Thomas bt Reeves 18, -15, 13.

16th October 1982
Ormesby 6 Dunlop Birmingham 2

17th October 1982
Newcastle 0 Ormesby 8
Letchworth Corporation 1 Thorn-EMI Ellenborough 7
Hassy Soham 5 Unity 3
Dunlop Birmingham 5 BWF Wamdsad 8

FIRST DIVISION
12th September 1982
Jaques Generation 5 Grove 3
TCB Dolphins 2 Ormesby II 6

19th September 1982
Butterfly Cardiff 4 MBS St. Neots 4

26th September 1982
MBS St. Neots 3 Tarmac Wolverhampton 5
Ormesby II 1 Butterfly Cardiff 7
Grove 7 TCB Dolphins 1

3rd October 1982
MBS St. Neots 3 Jaques Generation 5
Tarmac Wolverhampton 6 Ormesby II 2
Butterfly Cardiff 4 TCB Dolphins 4
BWF Wamdsad II 0 Grove 8

10th October 1982
Tarmac Wolverhampton 3 Grove 5

17th October 1982
Ormesby II 1 Jaques Generation 7
TCB Dolphins 1 Tarmac Wolverhampton 7
Butterfly Cardiff 3 Grove 5

SECOND DIVISION NORTH
12th September 1982
Wharfedale Hermits 6 Unity II 2
South Yorkshire 7 Riversley Insurance 1
TG Salford 6 Tarmac Wolverhampton II 2
March 4 RB Lincoln 4

26th September 1982
Riversley Insurance 0 Wharfedale Hermits 8
Tarmac Wolverhampton II 0 South Yorkshire 8
RB Lincoln 3 TG Salford 5
Unity II 4 March 4

3rd October 1982
Wharfedale Hermits 8 Tarmac Wolverhampton II 0
South Yorkshire 5 RB Lincoln 3
TG Salford 2 March 6
Unity II 4 Riversley Insurance 4

17th October 1982
TB Lincoln 3 Wharfedale Hermits 5
March 1 South Yorkshire 7
TG Salford 6 Unity II 2
Tarmac Wolverhampton II 6 Riversley Insurance 2

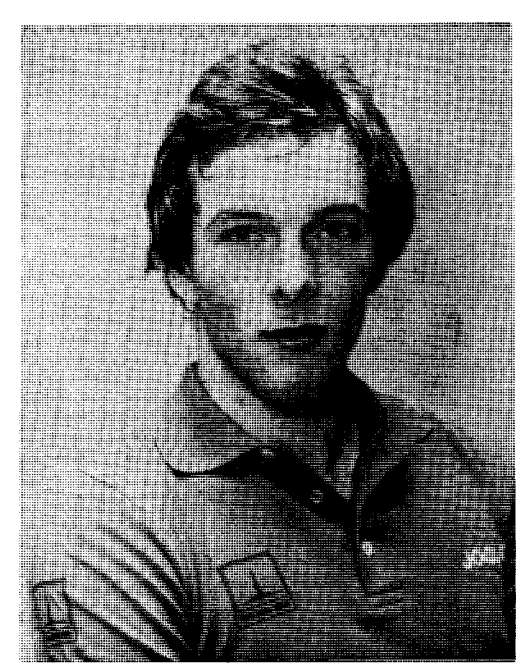
SECOND DIVISION SOUTH
12th September 1982
Dagenham FC 5 Larkhall 3
Gillette Reading 5 Graham Spicer 3
Lansdown Medway 3 Gunnersbury Triangle 5

26th September 1982
Graham Spicer 3 SIB Bath 5
Gunnersbury Triangle 4 Gillette Reading 4
Larkhall 4 Lansdown Medway 4

3rd October 1982
Dagenham FC 5 Graham Spicer 3
SIB Bath 6 Gunnersbury Triangle 2
Gillette Reading 5 Lansdown Medway 3
Larkhall 5 CC Gwent 3

17th October 1982
Gunnersbury Triangle 3 Dagenham FC 5
Lansdown Medway 0 SIB Bath 8
Gillette Reading 5 Larkhall 3
Graham Spicer 5 CC Gwent 3

Correction:
In the May/June issue of Table Tennis News, the average of Ellenborough's Graham Sandley was inadvertently given as 83%. Sandley, in fact, won 21 out of 24 sets and should have topped the Premier Division averages with 87.5%.



GRAHAM SANDLEY

THIRD DIVISION NORTH
12th September 1982
Crusaders 5 Unity III 3
Grantham 3 Byker 5
Vickers 4 Ormesby III 4
Wharfedale Hermits II 4 South Yorkshire II 4

26th September 1982
Byker 7 Crusaders 1
South Yorkshire II 3 Grantham 5
Unity III 6 Vickers 2
Ormesby III 2 Wharfedale Hermits II 6

3rd October 1982
Crusaders 0 South Yorkshire II 8
Grantham 7 Ormesby III 1
Unity III 0 Byker 8
Wharfedale Hermits II 8 Vickers 0

17th October 1982
Ormesby III 6 Crusaders 2
Vickers 0 Grantham 8
South Yorkshire II Byker
Wharfedale Hermits II 5 Unity III 5

THIRD DIVISION EAST
12th September 1982
Cippenham 2 Abeng 6
Dunlop Waveney 5 MBS St. Neots II 3

26th September 1982
Colne Valley 5 Cippenham 3
Jaques Generation II 6 Dunlop Waveney 2

3rd October 1982
Cippenham 6 MBS St. Neots II 2
Abeng 2 Colne Valley 6

17th October 1982
Jaques Generation II 5 Cippenham 3
Dunlop Waveney 3 Abeng 5

THIRD DIVISION WEST
12th September 1982
Tarmac Ladies 1 Grove II 7
WW Solihull 0 Chan Construction 8
Cowbridge Bridgend 1 Pengeley Torbay 7
Launceston Kernow 4 Jolliffe Poole 4

26th September 1982
Chan Construction 6 Tarmac Ladies 2
Pengeley Torbay 8 WW Solihull 0
Jolliffe Poole 8 Cowbridge Bridgend 0
Grove II 8 Launceston Kernow 0

3rd October 1982
Tarmac Ladies 4 Pengeley Torbay 4
Cowbridge Bridgend 1 Launceston Kernow 7
Grove II 0 Chan Construction 8

17th October 1982
Jolliffe Poole 7 Tarmac Ladies 1
Launceston Kernow 6 WW Solihull 2
Cowbridge Bridgend 0 Grove II 8
Pengeley Torbay 1 Chan Construction 7

FIXTURES FOR NOVEMBER 1982
Premier Division
7th November 1982
Letchworth Corporation v Ormesby
Thorn-EMI Ellenborough v Hassy Soham
Newcastle v BWF Wamdsad
Unity v Dunlop Birmingham

21st November 1982
Thorn-EMI Ellenborough v Unity
Newcastle v Dunlop Birmingham

First Division
6th November 1982
BWF Wamdsad II v Tarmac Wolverhampton

7th November 1982
Jaques Generation v TCB Dolphins
BWF Wamdsad II v Ormesby II

Grove v MBS St. Neots
 21st November 1982
 Butterfly Cardiff v Jaques Generation
 BWF Wamdsad II v TCB Dolphins
 Ormesby II v MBS St. Neots

Second Division North

7th November 1982
 Wharfedale Hermits v March
 South Yorkshire v TG Salford
 Riversley Insurance v RB Lincoln
 Unity II v Tarmac Wolverhampton II

21st November 1982
 TB Salford v Wharfedale Hermits
 South Yorkshire v Unity II
 March v Riversley Insurance
 RB Lincoln v Tarmac Wolverhampton II

Second Division South

7th November 1982
 Dagenham FC v Lansdown Medway
 SIB Bath v Gillette Reading
 CC Gwent v Gunnersbury Triangle
 Larkhall v Graham Spicer

21st November 1982
 Gillette Reading v Dagenham FC
 SIB Bath v Larkhall
 Lansdown Medway v CC Gwent
 Gunnersbury Triangle v Graham Spicer

28th November 1982
 SIB Bath v CC Gwent

Third Division North

7th November 1982
 Crusaders v Vickers
 Byker v Ormesby III
 Unity III v South Yorkshire II

21st November 1982
 Grantham v Unity III
 Vickers v Byker
 Ormesby III v South Yorkshire II

Third Division West

7th November 1982
 Tarmac Ladies v Launceston Kernow
 WW Solihull v Cowbridge Bridgend
 Chan Construction v Jolliffe Poole
 Grove II v Pengeley Torbay

21st November 1982
 Cowbridge Bridgend v Tarmac Ladies
 WW Solihull v Grove II
 Launceston Kernow v Chan Construction
 Jolliffe Poole v Pengeley Torbay

Third Division East

7th November 1982
 Colne Valley v Jaques Generation II
 Abeng v MBS St. Neots II

21st November 1982
 Dunlop Waveney v Cippenham
 Jaques Generation II v MBS St. Neots II

FIXTURES FOR DECEMBER 1982

Premier Division

5th December
 Letchworth Corporation v BWF Wamdsad

19th December
 Dunlop Birmingham v Letchworth Corporation
 Unity v Newcastle

First Division

19th December
 Jaques Generation v Tarmac Wolverhampton
 Butterfly Cardiff v BWF Wamdsad II
 TCB Dolphins v MBS St. Neots
 Grove v Ormesby II

Second Division North

19th December
 Wharfedale Hermits v South Yorkshire
 Riversley Insurance v Salford
 Tarmac Wolverhampton II v March
 Unity II v Ruston Bucyrus

Second Division South

19th December
 Dagenham FC v SIB Bath
 Cranfield Colours Gwent v Gillette Reading
 Graham Spicer v Lansdown Medway
 Larkhall v Gunnersbury Triangle

Third Division North

19th December
 Crusaders v Grantham
 South Yorkshire II v Vickers
 Unity III v Ormesby III

Third Division West

19th December
 Tarmac Ladies v Westminister Solihull
 Chan Construction v Cowbridge Bridgend
 Pengeley Sports v Launceston Kernow
 Grove II v Jolliffe Poole

Third Division East

19th December
 Colne Valley v Dunlop Waveney
 Abeng v Jaques Generation II

From November 5th, Halex National
 League fixtures and results will be
 on Page 25 of

ORACLE

Dolly Harmer reports from . . .

BEDFORDSHIRE

UPS AND DOWNS

What a mixed bag of information from the leagues. Is table tennis in Bedfordshire on the up and up, or merely fluctuating? We hear on the one hand that Luton are 23 teams down, but the relatively smaller Leighton Buzzard League is nine up. Dunstable is up too but of Bedford we have no news — is no news good news? The closure of works and unemployment must necessarily be the cause of some distribution.

We certainly have much more coaching in the schools and through the leagues and the young people themselves could not be keener. But league play is largely dependent on parents' pockets and venues, especially this year when the economic situation prevents lettings in schools.

Lisa Bellinger strides forward on her winning way by opening the season with success in the women's singles in the Kirklees 2-Star. New County rankings are:

Men

1 G. Booth, 2 S. Barby, 3 D. Sharpe, 4 I. Doughty, 5 A. Conquest, 6 D. Hyde, 7 D. Foster, 8 D. Cartwright, 9 D. Beddall, 10 J. Wooliscroft, 11 M. Verdon, 12 R. Pugh, 13 M. Hussain.

Women

1 L. Bellinger, 2 J. Bellinger, 3 J. Dimmock, 4 A. Robinson, 5 D. Campbell, 6 L. Hanratty, 7 S. Sharp, 8 J. Miles, 9 M. Jarratt, 10 L. Robins.

Veterans

1 J. Wooliscroft, 2 P. Cutting, 3 C. Gill, 4 D. Folds, 5 D. Holden.

Against Surrey in the County Championships our men proved not sharp enough (no pun intended David), but the Bellinger sisters showed their class in winning their three comfortably.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' T.T.A.

by DAVID LOMAS

It has been decided that the Stiga English Schools' Individual Championships will take place on Saturday, April 30, 1983 at Mansfield Leisure Centre. At one time there was the possibility of the event being a two-day one (Saturday and Sunday), but this has now been ruled out.

The Stiga Schools' International Championships are due to be held at Gloucester Leisure Centre on July 1/2/3, 1983. I understand that full teams from France may be involved.

I have received a letter from Miss Glennis Hooper, General Secretary of Northamptonshire Schools' Table Tennis Association. Her Association is going ahead with attempts to fund an ambitious lighting project for their 10-table centre at Kings-thorpe Upper School. She asks me to ask readers if they know of any organisations, firms, societies, etc. who would be interested in supporting their venture?

Please address correspondence to:

Miss G. Hooper,
 62a Somerford Road,
 Wellingborough,
 Northants NN8 3EZ.
 (Tel. Wellingborough 678870).

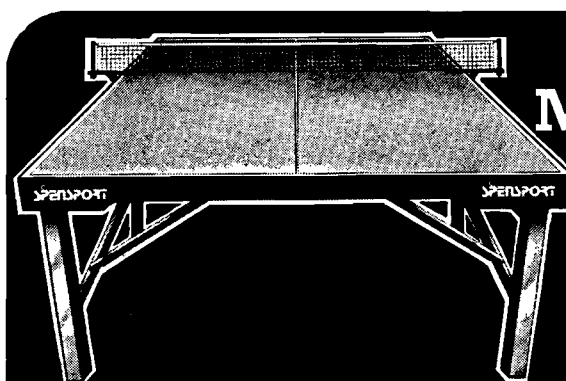
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World Veterans' Championships

by LES D'ARCY

The I.T.T.F. and the Swedish T.T.A. deserve the congratulations of table tennis enthusiasts everywhere for the very considerable work achieved in producing the first ever World Veterans' Championships in Gothenburg earlier this year. Although ranked as unofficial this enlightened venture looks certain to be a regular biennial event. It attracted 451 players from 23 countries, spearheaded by a star-studded contingent of former internationals including world champions Bellak, Sido and Ito. The four age groups for men and women: over 40, -50, -60, -70 produced a feast of table tennis and international good companionship to be savoured for many years to come.

England's squad of twenty-six players was captained by the current national vets' champion, Peter D'Arcy, with former England non-playing captain, Derek Schofield, to help guide and inspire the team to face the formidable opposition from the rest of the world particularly Japan, Sweden and Germany. Within hours the efficient Swedish organisation had swung into action in the giant Valhalla Sports Stadium housing 33 tables.

Three days of intensive competition later 14 members of the England party had battled their way through to their respective quarter-finals of the main championships and nine more to the quarters of the consolation events — a far better performance than the most optimistic members of the squad could have imagined. Two of our most fancied medal prospects went out at this stage in the 40's class. Babs Adedayo, playing in a lower age group, went down to the eventual singles winner, Hubner (FRG) and George Evans to Hansen (Denmark) the losing finalist.

Mat Sheader had the misfortune to meet 'on song' team mate, Schofield, in the 50's singles quarters, Derek going through 2-1, to take the bronze after losing to gold medal winner Hedin (Sweden) in the semi. Derek and Mat formed a great understanding in their 50's doubles class to beat some of the world's best and collect two more bronze medals for England. Terry Donlon and Stan Battrick also came very close, losing 2-1 in the other semi to the class winners Osterholm and Kindstedt (Sweden).

In the 60's singles, England were at last certain of gold. Former English Open Veterans' Champion, Ron Etheridge of Kent and your correspondent, both reached the semis without dropping a game. In the last 16, Ron accounted for former World finalist, Tage Flisberg (Sweden) followed by two strenuous expedite sets. His semi against Wieners (FRG) was a classic. Down 7-10 and 13-17 in the third, Ron came back in a nail-biting finish to win 26-24.

My earlier round opponents included Laszlo Bellak — a former World champion, Narumi (Japan) and Nieuejaers (Belgium). The semi was a relatively easy affair against Kato (Japan), but I twice tasted defeat earlier to Svenson (Sweden), in the last eight of the 60's doubles, and then in the

semi of the 50's consolation singles to ultimate winner, Bolena (Austria).

Ron, 1-6 down in the first game of the all-England final, came back with commendable composure to win 21-9 and from 15-18 in the second to 21-18 — a worthy champion.

If there had been a gold medal for the hardest working player it could have gone to the Essex magician, Battrick. Stan must have lost pounds a day from his whipcord frame — a victim of his own success as he plodded victoriously from one pool of sweat to another. After the first day's play, with his reputation translated into many languages, prospective opponents must have spent many anxious hours pondering the ways of a devilish opponent without an orthodox stroke in his game.

Others, having given up the task of trying to formulate a plan, may have found it easier to stick pins in his effigy. On and on went Stan politely annihilating the opposition, except for a slight 'hiccup' when he dropped a game to Kleewein (Austria) in an age group below his own, but went on with Frank Lockwood to reach the quarters of the doubles in that group before finally bowing out.

It was in his own class, the 50's, that Stan excelled. With the scalps of four Swedes and a Finn under his belt he arrived at the last sixteen to face Adedayo, the smiling Nigerian twiddler, whose special brand of magic caused havoc as he twiddled from one victory to another. The popular London-based player was so good, in fact, that the only way to beat him was not to play him. This was the conclusion arrived at by one player who complained that Babs looked so youthful that he couldn't possibly be in the 50's class. The argument must have sounded convincing for it caused the Organisers to check with the ETTA and other sources before rejecting the complaint. Whether this affected the brilliant form which had given the Nigerian an outstanding run in the 40's before losing to the eventual world champion, Hubner, no one will ever know.

Although not as spectacular as some of the top spin duels, the set between Stan and Babs, with their contrasting styles and bats, was relished by those in the audience able to appreciate the technical difficulties facing both players as they exploited the limits of their techniques in the struggle to out-fox one another.

At 20-17 up in the third, Babs had Stan sagging at the knees, but the tenacious Essex master came back to win and add a new dimension to his growing prestige. Relentlessly, with a medal now a distinct possibility, Stan brushed aside Yajima and Yamada without dropping a game, to clash with the powerful Swede, Ulf Hedin in the final. From the opening serve to the final point Ulf was determined to employ his awesome attack and deceptive serves to the full. After a brilliant opening spell in which he powered some fearsome backhand drives through Stan's defence the Swede grew in stature as the set progressed and, although not having it all his own way, finally took gold, 15, 17. Stan's silver and the doubles' bronze he won with Donlon made him one of the most successful players in the Championships.

Meanwhile in the women's over 70 class the youthful and legendary Phyllis Lauder, who kept in training disco-dancing and playing bridge, qualified for her final direct from her group. Phyllis celebrated her birthday by overcoming E. Sundkvist (Sweden) -17, 11, 12 to take England's second gold.

Other fine performances came from Doreen Schofield who reached the last eight of the women's 40's singles and won the consolation doubles in her class with Connie Moran. Eddie Thyesson consolation doubles winner with Svantesson (Sweden) in the men's 70 class. Pam Anker and Blanche Stephenson finalists in the consolation doubles 50 class and Kath Fisher equal third in the 50 consolation singles. Bill Moran was equal fifth in the men's 40 consolation singles with Peter Finch.

Pete D'Arcy, Ralph Gunnion and 'Connie' Warren reached the 3rd round of the com-



England's squad in Gothenburg.

Photo by Terry Donlan.

petition proper in the 40's singles before being eliminated.

Hans Westling, the unflappable President of the Championships Organising Committee and helpers did much to make this pilot venture into a satisfying and memorable occasion for all who took part. The friendly atmosphere within the England team and the congenial relationships with other nationalities was something special. For sheer enthusiasm the Japanese gained full marks when they could not wait to unpack from their long journey before enquiring about the nearest training centre. Early to bed could have been another factor which contributed to them collecting medals in nine of the fifteen main events including all four in the women's 50 singles. If there had been a medal table, England with 2 gold, 2 silver and 5 bronze would have been in 4th place from 26 players. Japan 1st: 7 gold, 7 silver and 8 bronze from 49 players; Sweden 2nd (226 players): 7 gold, 5 silver and 7 bronze; and Germany 3rd: 3 gold, 2 silver and 14 bronze (51 players).

Barcelona is the 1984 venue for the next World's Vets. Championships — at least twenty-six English veterans can't wait!

Due acknowledgement to JOHN HOLLAND for some of the facts quoted.



Phyl Lauder, the Gold Medal winner in the women's Over 70 singles.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Over 40:

Gold - P. Hubner (FRG), Silver - F. Hansen (DEN), Bronze - K. Noller (FRG) and A. Hold (AUS).

Over 50:

Gold - U. Hedin (SWE), Silver - S. Battrick (ENG), Bronze - D. Schofield (ENG) and T. Yamada (JAP).

Over 60:

Gold - R. Etheridge (ENG), Silver L. D'Arcy (ENG), Bronze - P. Wieners (FRG) and K. Kato (JAP).

Over 70:

Gold - Y. Nakamura (JAP), Silver - T. Kawakami (JAP), Bronze - L. Bellak (USA) and C. Juhl (DEN).

Women's Singles Over 40:

Gold - K. Ito (JAP), Silver - B. Tegner (SWE), Bronze - W. Wannehed (SWE) and

T. Tsuchiura (JAP).

Over 50:

Gold - R. Miyagawa (JAP), Silver - K. Tasaka (JAP), Bronze - S. Tsuboko and K. Sasaki (JAP).

Over 60:

Gold - U. Bihl (FRG), Silver - T. Yamada (JAP), Bronze - I. Kuhn (FRG) and M. Sammer (FRG).

Over 70:

Gold - P. Lauder (ENG), Silver - E. Sundqvist (SWE), Bronze - L. Dahlberg (SWE) and M. Engvall (SWE).

Men's Doubles Over 40:

Gold - Gomolla/Hubner (FRG), Silver - Borg/Mellstrom (SWE), Bronze - Neusser/Werkmann (FRG) and Budziza/Lippelt (FRG).

Over 50:

Gold - Osterholm/Kindstedt (SWE), Silver - Boggan (USA)/Wall (CAN), Bronze - Battrick/Donlon (ENG) and Sheader/Schofield (ENG).

Over 60:

Gold - Berggren/Neidermark (SWE), Silver - Koervers/Wieners (FRG), Bronze - Hornyak (USA)/Muyauw (FRA) and Bellak/Urchetti (SWI).

Over 70:

Gold - Bellak/Juhl, Silver - Kawakami/Shimizu (JAP), Bronze - Nakamura/Nogami (JAP) and Sumino (JAP)/Viljakainen (FIN).

Women's Doubles Over 40:

Gold - Ito/Omori (JAP), Silver - Kronlage (USA)/Pettersson (SWE), Bronze - Freinert/Wetterstrom (SWE) and Fraunholtz (FRG)/Santifaller (ITA).

Over 50:

Gold - Nakatsuka/Tsuboko (JAP), Silver - Sasaki/Tasaka (JAP), Bronze - Bihl/Goldau (FRG) and Doose/Friebe (FRG).

Over 60:

Gold - Goransson/Narting (SWE), Silver - Koervers/Kuhn (FRG), Bronze - Bihl (FRG)/Hornyak (USA) and Engvall/Lindstrom (SWE).

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Asst. Referee: J. Jermyn (NR)

Organiser: M. R. Holt

Asst. Organiser: J. R. Moss

Press Officer: R. E. Oldfield

Championships Committee:

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Provisional Programme

The details given below are for the guidance of intending entrants. The referee reserves the right to modify them in the light of entries received.

Saturday, 4th December

0900 Mixed Doubles, round 1 to SF

1115 Boys Doubles, round 1 to SF

1300 Girls Doubles, round 1 to SF

1430 Cadet Boys Singles, round 1 to SF

1530 Cadet Girls Singles, round 1 to SF

2000 Finals of these 5 events in order

CGS, CBS, GD, BD, XD

Sunday, 5th December

0900 Boys Singles, round 1 to QF

1000 Girls Singles, round 1 to SF

1730 Boys Singles, Semifinals

Girls Singles, Final

Boys Singles, Final

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European League Statistics

by MIKE WATTS

Deputy Gen. Sec. E.T.T.A.

1 This is the sixteenth season of European League. It commenced in 1967 with seven teams in the Premier Division and remained like that until 1974 when Yugoslavia was admitted and for one season the League increased to eight teams. In 1975 two teams were then relegated so that the League then reverted back to seven but the following year, 1976, became eight again by rule and has remained the same ever since.

2 Hungary are by far the most successful team. They were founder members and have won the title five times and have finished second on four other occasions. They have only been out of the top three on two occasions.

3 Other winners of the Premier Division title are: USSR (three times), Sweden (twice), Czechoslovakia (twice), Yugoslavia (twice) and France (once).

4 England's best position was in season 1980/81 when they finished second to Hungary losing only on games average.

5 England have been members of the Premier Division for fifteen of the sixteen seasons. The odd occasion being season 1975/76 after finishing sixth but being relegated with Federal Germany.

6 England's record in the Premier Division during this time is: Played 90, Won 40, Lost 50, sets for 298, sets against 332. In addition, England were awarded last season's fixture 4-0 against Poland; the match not being played because of the political situation in that country.

7 England's programme for season 1982/83 and their home and away performances against these teams is as follows:

15th September 1982 v Hungary (at Bath Sports Centre)

	P	W	L	F	A
Home	7	2	5	21	28
Away	7	1	6	17	32

13th October 1982 v Sweden (away)

	P	W	L	F	A
Home	7	2	5	22	27
Away	6	2	4	13	29

10th November 1982 v Poland (at Spectrum Arena Warrington)

	P	W	L	F	A
Home	1	1	0	4	0
Away	1	1	0	5	2

15th December 1982 v Czechoslovakia (at Harrogate Conference Centre)

	P	W	L	F	A
Home	7	3	4	22	27
Away	7	2	5	17	32

12th January 1983 v Yugoslavia (away)

	P	W	L	F	A
Home	4	0	4	11	17
Away	3	1	2	7	14

9th February 1983 v Denmark (away)

	P	W	L	F	A
Home	1	1	0	6	1
Away					

9th March 1983 v Federal Germany (at Fleming Sports Centre, Southampton)

	P	W	L	F	A
Home	7	6	1	32	17
Away	6	4	2	21	21

8 England's record against other teams that have competed in the Premier Division over the years is as follows:

	P	W	L	F	A
Austria	3	3	0	19	2
France	10	6	4	37	33
Netherlands	2	2	0	12	2
Rumania	1	1	0	6	1
USSR	12	4	8	36	48

9 Of over 300 Leagues only 35 (just over 10%) have hosted these matches and only 10 have felt able to repeat, namely:
Southend (5 matches), Bolton, Belper and Norwich (3 matches), Aylesbury, Eastbourne, Guildford, Ipswich, Leeds and Portsmouth (2 matches). Details are as follows:

1967/68

Czechoslovakia (London) 2-5
Austria (Vienna) 6-1
West Germany (Leeds) 6-1
Hungary (Manchester) 3-4
USSR (Smethwick) 4-3
Netherlands (Hilversum) 7-0

1968/69

Federal Germany (Bolton) 4-3
Hungary (Budapest) 5-2
Sweden (Norwich) 3-4
Czechoslovakia (Dunajska Streda) 3-4
Rumania (Teesside) 6-1
USSR (Eastbourne) 3-4

1969/70

Federal Germany (Berlin) 4-3
Hungary (Hove) 6-1
USSR (Exeter) 2-5
Sweden (Borlange) 1-6
France (Paris) 5-2
Czechoslovakia (Felixstowe) 4-3

1970/71

Austria (Crawley) 7-0
Czechoslovakia (Prague) 2-5
Hungary (Budapest) 2-5
USSR (Leningrad) 3-4
Federal Germany (Guildford) 5-2
Sweden (Southend) 3-4

1971/72

Federal Germany (Troisdorf) 3-4
Sweden (Kalmar) 3-4
USSR (Bolton) 3-4
France (Tayes) 1-6
Czechoslovakia (Norwich) 2-5
Hungary (Southend) 4-3

1972/73

Hungary (Budapest) 1-6
Federal Germany (Leeds) 2-5
Sweden (Guildford) 2-5
USSR (Moscow) 0-7
Czechoslovakia (Karlovy) 2-5
France (Aylesbury) 5-2

1973/74

Hungary (Reading) 0-7
Austria (Traismaier) 6-1
Federal Germany (Julich) 4-3
USSR (Aylesbury) 2-5
Czechoslovakia (Southend) 2-5
Sweden (Eslöv) 1-6

1974/75

Czechoslovakia (Prague) 1-6
Sweden (Belper) 3-4
Hungary (Budapest) 2-5
Federal Germany (Gillingham) 6-1
USSR (Moscow) 4-3
France (Horvich) 3-4
Yugoslavia (Hull) 3-4

1975/76

Denmark (Eastbourne) 6-1
Ireland (Nottingham) 5-2

Belgium (Baileux) 7-0
Luxembourg (Esch) 6-1
Netherlands (Norwich) 6-1

1976/77

France (Tours) 1-6
Yugoslavia (Ljubljona) 1-6
USSR (Ipswich) 0-7
Sweden (Vorberg) 0-7
Czechoslovakia (Bolton) 6-1
Hungary (Portsmouth) 3-4
Federal Germany (Munster) 4-3

1977/78

France (Millom) 4-3
Yugoslavia (Bracknell) 3-4
USSR (Riga) 2-5
Sweden (Gloucester) 4-3
Czechoslovakia (Usti Nad Orlici) 1-6
Hungary (Szolnok) 2-5
Netherlands (Plymouth) 5-2

1978/79

Yugoslavia (Novi Sad) 2-5
France (Croix) 4-3
Federal Germany (Preston) 4-3
Czechoslovakia (Batley) 2-5
Sweden (Karlsbrona) 4-3
Hungary (Belper) 2-5
USSR (Southend) 6-1

1979/80

Federal Germany (Burglengenfeld) 4-3
France (Southampton) 3-4
Yugoslavia (Birmingham) 3-4
Poland (Warsaw) 5-2
Czechoslovakia (Pribam) 4-3
Sweden (Portsmouth) 2-5
Hungary (Tatabanja) 3-4

1980/81

Federal Germany (Bristol) 5-2
France (Perpignon) 4-3
Yugoslavia (Zagreb) 4-3
USSR (Basingstoke) 7-0
Czechoslovakia (Belper) 4-3
Sweden (Borus) 4-3
Hungary (Ipswich) 3-4

1981/82

Federal Germany (Saarlouis) 2-5
France (Hinckley) 7-0
Yugoslavia (Southend) 2-5
Czechoslovakia (Nachod) 4-3
Sweden (Macclesfield) 5-2
Hungary (Budapest) 2-5
Poland 4-0

10 Player Performances

Since the European League began in 1967/68 England have used 16 men and 7 women in their teams and their relevant performances are as follows in order of matches played. Not every player has played in the singles events and therefore the statistics quoted are singles wins only.

Men	Sets			
	Played	Won	Lost	%
Denis Neale	57	53	53	57
Desmond Douglas	56	62	28	69
Nicky Jarvis	37	17	40	30
Paul Day	21	5	21	19
Chester Barnes	19	17	19	47
John Hilton	15	9	15	37

Also played:

Trevor Taylor 8 matches, 4 wins
Alan Hydes 5 matches, 2 wins
Stuart Gibbs 5 matches, 5 wins
Douggie Johnson 3 matches, 1 win
Ian Harrison 1 match, 1 win
Other players used include:
Graham Sandley 3 matches
Donald Parker 3 matches
Andy Barden 2 matches
Tony Clayton and Les Haslam 1 match each.

Women

	Played	Won	Lost	%
Jill Hammersley	62	45	17	72
Linda Jarvis	47	2	3	40
Karenza Mathews	30	1	9	10
Mary Wright	13	9	3	75

Also played:

Karen Witt 3 matches, 1 win
Carole Knight 3 matches and
Pauline Piddock 1 match.

It is interesting to note Linda Jarvis' performance. For so long in her career under the shadow of Jill Hammersley her contribution for England in Mixed Doubles from season 1974/75 when she first played in the European League for England was played 47, won 30, lost 17, percentage 64, and on nine of these occasions the match was won 4-3 the mixed doubles being decisive.

This season's statistics not included. Ed.

HYDES HITS THE TRAIL AGAIN

During his long international career Alan Hydes became one of table tennis's most travelled players. It seemed that hardly a month passed without him flying off to one of the game's more remote outposts.

Well, he's still at it even though he no longer competes at anything above league level. For Alan is table tennis manager for Dunlop Sports Company, a job which entails considerable contact with Europe and elsewhere.

In addition, Dunlop are keen that Alan maintains his contacts with players and coaches at all levels. They readily agreed, therefore, when ITTF President Roy Evans asked if he could be released to conduct a coaching seminar in Egypt in August. Dunlop Championship Table Tennis Tables were used. "It's the third seminar for coaches that I have run in Egypt. It was

held at the Muslim Club in Alexandria and 53 prospective coaches from throughout Africa attended", said Alan.

The aim of the seminar was to upgrade coaches from beginner to intermediate level and from advanced to international standard. Sessions of nearly three hours in the morning were followed by two hours of hard work and practice in the evening, with the delegates being spared the heat of an Egyptian afternoon.

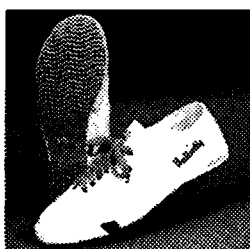
Alan worked closely with Mr. Amin Abou Heif, president of the African Federation, who said he was delighted with the results of the 10 day seminar.

"Through seminars of this kind I am certain that many of the countries which have not yet enjoyed the success experienced by the Asians will be able to make up lost ground", said Alan. "It will have helped improve coaching standards in Africa and this in turn should encourage the development of young players", he added.

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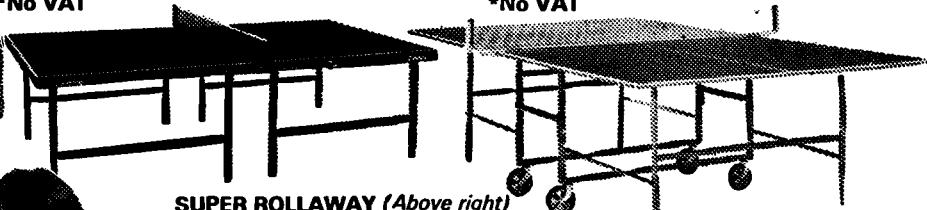
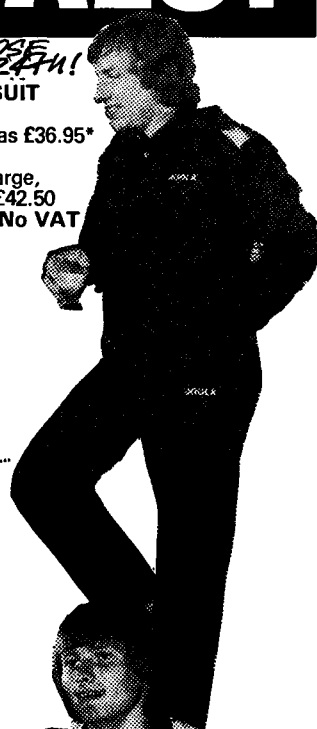
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FIRST WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR THE DISABLED

The last major event in the calendar of sports for the disabled, to be held at the Ludwig Guttman Sports Centre for the Disabled — Stoke Mandeville, this year, took place between Sept. 29 and Oct. 2, 1982, and was the First World Table Tennis Championships for Amputees and Paraplegics.

The event was officially opened by Jill Hammersley-Parker, leading British and European Ladies' Table Tennis player. Nearly 200 competitors from 15 countries (Austria, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Great Britain, Ireland, Israel, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, and U.S.A.), took part in four days of concentrated table tennis. The event was held in the main hall of the centre and took place on 20 tables from 9 a.m. until approx. 9 p.m. The competition was umpired by qualified ETTA umpires who came from all parts of the country, and many enjoyed the event so much they have promised to return to the centre next year to umpire in some of our other events.

The event was jointly organised by the British Paraplegic Sports Society and the British Sports Association for the Disabled. The tables and surrounds were loaned by BUTTERFLY and the table tennis balls were donated by NITTAKU (Stiga).

The standard of competition was very high with West Germany dominating the medal table with a total of 35 medals, Austria were second with 17 and Great Britain was third with 16. Many of the Top World Ranking players took part. The closing ceremony was at 6 p.m. by Mr. Horace Poole, Chairman, B.P.S.S.

The major table tennis championships are as follows:

1983 — European Championships in West Germany (3rd).

1983 — International Stoke Mandeville Games, L.G.S.C., Aylesbury, England.

1984 — Olympic Games - USA.

1985 — European Championships - site unknown.

1985 — International Stoke Mandeville Games - England.

1986 — Second World Table Tennis Championships - possibly Brisbane, Australia.

1986 — International Stoke Mandeville Games - England.

MEDAL TABLE

	Gold	Silver	Bronze
West Germany	16	10	9
Austria	9	5	3
Great Britain	4	7	5
Switzerland	2	3	3
U.S.A.	2	2	1
Finland	2	—	1
France	1	4	2
Sweden	1	2	1
Ireland	1	2	—
Belgium	—	2	2
Denmark	—	1	—
Norway	—	—	3

GREAT BRITAIN TEAM MEDAL WINNERS

Billy Leake (Featherstone, W. Yorks),
Arnie Chan (Chingford, London E4)

Men Class 2 Para Team - Bronze.

Ann Peskey (Hartlepool, Cleveland),
Gill Matthews (Gillingham, Dorset),
Dawn Jackson (Deeside, Flintshire)

Ladies Class 2 Para Team - Bronze.

Jane Blackburn (Crawley, Sussex),
Janet Swan (Stanley, Co. Durham)

Ladies Class 3 Para Team - Gold.

Caz Walton (Sydenham SE26),
Barbara Gibbs (Coventry)

Ladies Class 4 Para Team - Silver.

Arnie Chan (Chingford, London E4)

Men Class 2 Para Singles - Bronze.

Jane Blackburn (Crawley, Sussex)

Ladies Class 1B Para Singles - Gold.

Janet Swan (Stanley, Co. Durham)

Ladies Class 3 Para Singles - Silver.

Caz Walton (Sydenham SE26)

Ladies Open Para Singles - Silver.

Geoff Faint (Daventry, Northants)

Men Class 1A Amp Singles - Silver.

Anne Smith (Creaton, Northants)

Ladies Class A2 Amp Singles - Gold.

Debbie Jackman (Twickenham, Middx)

Ladies Class A4 Amp Singles - Bronze.

Barbara Joscelyne (Bishops Stort., Herts)

Ladies Class A6-8 Amp Singles - Silver.

Tim Heaps (Reading, Berks),

Richard Coates (Stroud, Glos)

Men Class 6-8 Amp Team - Bronze.

Team (Great Britain)

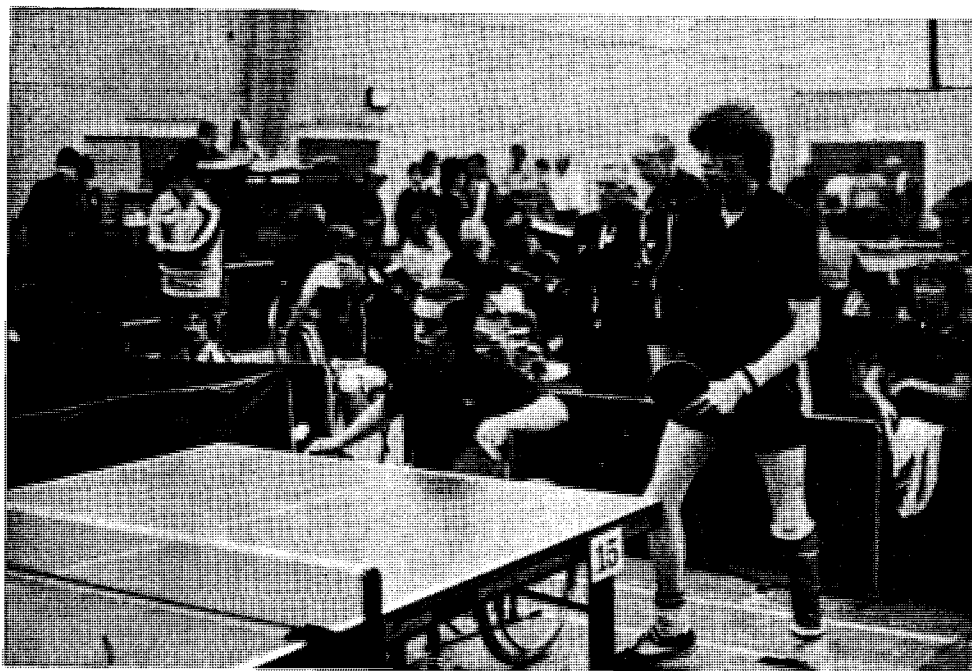
Men Class A4 Team Amp - Silver.

Team (Great Britain)

Men Class A9 Amp Team - Silver.

Anne Smith (Creaton, Northants)

Ladies Open Amp Singles - Gold.



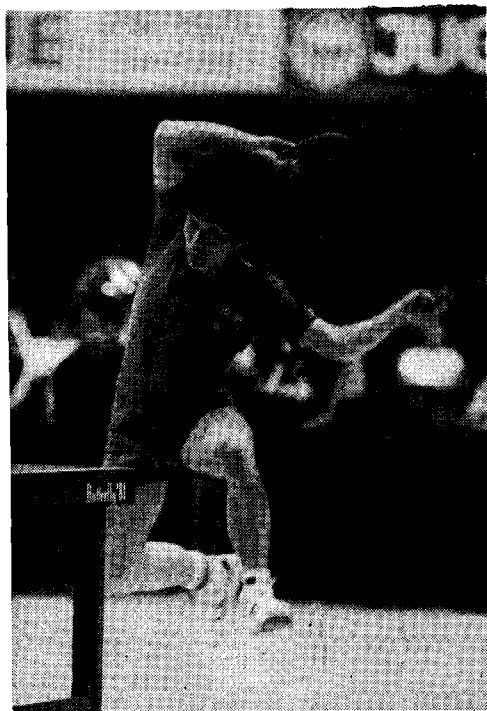
BRITISH PLAYERS IN ACTION

Photos by courtesy of John Bailey.

555 WORLD CUP

SECOND TITLE FOR GUO

by THE EDITOR



GUO YUEHUA

China's **Guo Yuehua**, 26, is undoubtedly the finest player in the world, the proof being adequately demonstrated in Hong Kong's MacPherson Stadium, Kowloon, over the period Oct. 5-9, 1982 when, for the second time in three years, he won the World Cup tournament promoted by the ITTF and International Management Group and organised on their behalf by the Hong Kong TTA.

State Express of London were the sponsors and the prize money totalled US \$45,000 with Guo, as the winner, claiming the lion's share of US \$15,000 with US \$400 going to the sixteenth-placed player Juan Vila of the Dominican Republic.

England's Desmond Douglas was a participant in this star-studded event but initial group losses to Mikael Appelgren of Sweden and stand-in Chiu Man Kuen of Hong Kong placed him last in his group. A subsequent win over Australia's Paul Pinkewich and a walk-over conceded by Andrzej Grubba of Poland brought about a 13th finishing position for the English No. 1.

En route to his final demolition of Appelgren (20, 5 and 9) Guo topped his group with 2-straight wins over Grubba, Seiji Ono of Japan and Vong lu Veng of Hong Kong. Only Istvan Jonyer of Hungary succeeded in taking a game off the Chinese ace who had previously put paid to the ambitions of Park Lee Hee of South Korea.

RESULTS

GROUP A

Guo Yuehua (CHN) bt A. Grubba (POL) 18, 19;
bt S. Ono (JPN) 21, 17;
bt Vong lu Veng (HKG) 19, 5.

Ono bt Grubba 18, 11;
bt Vong lu Veng 21, -12, 19.
Vong lu Veng bt Grubba 16, 22.

GROUP B

Xie Saike (CHN) bt G. Gergely (HUN) 15, 13;
bt E. Boggan (USA) 12, 12;
bt J. Vila (DOM) 12, 17.
Boggan bt Gergely -20, 19, 16;
bt Vila 10, 10.
Gergely bt Vila 7, 15.

GROUP C

M. Appelgren (SWE) bt D. Douglas (ENG) 13, 18;
bt M. Orlowski (CZE) 17, 19;
bt Chiu Man Kuen (HKG) 17, 14.
Chiu Man Kuen bt Douglas 11, 12.
Orlowski bt Chiu Man Kuen -18, 21, 15.
Douglas bt Orlowski -24, 17, 16.

GROUP D

I. Jonyer (HUN) bt Park Hee Lee (KOR) 14, 19;
bt P. Pinkewich (AUS) 17, 17.
Park Lee Hee bt J. Secretin (FRA) 12, 13;
bt Pinkewich 15, 8.
Secretin bt Jonyer -13, 12, 16;
bt Pinkewich 15, -19, 12.

SESSION 4

Guo Yuehua bt Park Lee Hee 19, 10, 12;
I. Jonyer bt S. Ono 19, 14, 12;
M. Appelgren bt Chiu Man Kuen 19, -20, 17, -9, 11;
Xie Saike bt Boggan 11, 15, 16.
Vong lu Veng bt Gergely -17, 15, 9;
Secretin bt Orlowski -13, 21, 20;
Grubba bt Vila 18, 11;
Douglas bt Pinkewich 11, 19.

SESSION 5

Guo Yuehua bt Jonyer 19, 17, -18, 19;
Appelgren bt Xie Saike 19, 15, 20.
Park Lee Hee bt Ono 19, 17;
Chiu Man Kuen bt Boggan 18, -16, 12;
Pinkewich bt Vila -11, 6, 11;
Douglas w.o. Grubba.

SESSION 6

GUO YUEHUA bt Appelgren 20, 5, 9;
Xie Saike bt Jonyer -9, 16, 19;
Park Lee Hee bt Chiu Man Kuen 22, 21;
Boggan bt Ono 18, -11, 11;
Vong lu Veng bt Secretin -14, 19, 9;
Gergely bt Orlowski 14, 18.

FINAL POSITIONS

- 1 GUO YUEHUA (China)
- 2 Mikael Appelgren (Sweden)
- 3 Xie Saike (China)
- 4 Istvan Jonyer (Hungary)
- 5 Park Lee Hee (Rep. of Korea)
- 6 Chiu Man Kuen (Hong Kong)
- 7 Eric Boggan (United States)
- 8 Seiji Ono (Japan)
- 9 Vong lu Veng (Hong Kong)
- 10 Jacques Secretin (France)
- 11 Gabor Gergely (Hungary)
- 12 Milan Orlowski (Czechoslovakia)
- 13 **Desmond Douglas** (England)
- 14 Andrzej Grubba (Poland)
- 15 Paul Pinkewich (Australia)
- 16 Juan Vila (Dominica Republic)

SUBSCRIPTIONS UP

Whether because of last month's leading article or the demise of TABLE TENNIS, the former Marsh publication, it is gratifying to announce that subscriptions thus far received for the current series of this magazine are well up on last season. Keep up the good work and thanks to those responsible not forgetting our advertisers of course.



Welsh Corner

by H. ROY EVANS

SHOCKS FROM SLEVIN

Irishman Colm Slevin dealt Wales a couple of unpleasant international shocks in early October. First of all he was the architect of an Irish win in the European League Second Division match at Abersychan, and on the next day he carried off the Aberdare Open title.

Wales beat Ireland in the European League last season, a Nigel Thomas win over Colm being the deciding factor. This time it was Ireland's turn to get home by the same narrow margin, and this time it was Colm's better-than-ever form that turned the tables.

Mark Thomas beat Kevin Keane in the opening set, making a somewhat tentative return after a leg injury. But then Dave Welsman, preferred to Nigel Thomas for this match, went down badly to Slevin.

Lesley Tyler, although playing quite well, lost to Ann Leonard, and Wales went further behind when Mark and Nigel lost to Slevin and Keane.

Welsman and Lesley Tyler then forced a good win over Slevin and Ann Leonard to keep Welsh hopes alive, but Mark Thomas, with previous wins over Slevin to his credit, never looked like stopping the Irish No. 1.

Welsman beat Keane in the last set to give the score at least an air of respectability for Wales.

The Aberdare Open

Slevin kept up his good work by winning up at Aberdare on the Sunday, but Nigel Thomas was very unlucky to lose to him in the final. Nigel showed a welcome return to dominant form and it was a fine final, Colm winning 19 in the third with an unsaveable edge shot.

Nigel beat team mate Mark Thomas in his semi-final, whilst Colm accounted for Devon's Gary Lambert. The latter had been lucky to survive the second round when Cardiff's Nick Williams held several set points against him.

Welsh No. 1 junior Nigel Tyler had a very good win over Irish No. 2 senior Keane.

There was a second Irish success in the women's singles which Ann Leonard won from a strong field. She beat Walsall's Jill Harris in the final, after beating Janet Dunning of Staffs, the latter having beaten Welsh No. 1 Lesley Tyler. Jill Harris beat Welsh No. 1 cadet and junior champion Evelyn Wright in her semi.

Evelyn took some consolation in a girls' singles win over Rachel Roberts, but Nigel Tyler surprisingly lost to Kevin Davies, who although he produced his best form yet,

failed to reproduce it in the final against Lambert.

It was Ireland again in the men's Doubles, Slevin and Keane beating Lambert and Mark Ellett, who had put paid to Welsman and Healan in their semi. The young Welsh pair Andrew Jones and Gary Wilkins, so successful in Welsh events, went down badly to Slevin and Keane in their semi.

SCORES

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

Slevin bt Lambert 19, 2;
N. Thomas bt M. Thomas 9, 20.

Final:

Slevin bt Thomas -15, 21, 19.

Women's Singles:

Ann Leonard bt Jill Harris -19, 21, 13.

Men's Doubles:

Slevin/Keane bt Lambert/Ellett -19, 20, 16.

Women's Doubles:

Dunning/Cornock bt Tyler/Cain 17, 14.

Junior Boys' Singles:

Lambert bt K. Davies 5, 16.

Junior Girls' Singles:

Wright bt Roberts 8, -19, 19.

RANKINGS

Following two days of assessment on Sept. 25/26 at the National Sports Centre, and taking into account players unavoidably absent, the Welsh Association has issued the following ranking lists:

Men

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

Women

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

Boys

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

Girls

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

**The next Rankings will be made after
the Cardiff Open Championships
December 18th**

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THE SUSSEX OPEN

Played in Hastings over the weekend of Oct. 9/10 **Graham Sandley** was the winner of the men's singles title accounting for Skylet Andrew in the semis and Paul Day in the final. **Karen Witt** was the winner of the counterpart women's event beating Lisa Bellinger in the final after the latter had eliminated Alison Gordon in the semis.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

G. Sandley (Mi) bt J. Souter (Mi) 16, 23;
S. Andrew (E) bt C. Wilson (Mi) -16, 9, 18;
A. Fletcher (Y) bt D. Charlery (E) 15, 15;
P. Day (Ca) bt D. Wells (Mi) -15, 17, 17.

Semi-finals:

Sandley bt Andrew 11, 12;
Day bt Fletcher 13, 14.

Final:

SANDLEY bt Day 18, 10.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

K. Witt (Bk) bt J. Dimmock 11, 9;
H. Williams (Mi) bt S. Blackburn 11, 14;
L. Bellinger (Bd) bt J. Bellinger 6, -18, 16;
A. Gordon (Bk) bt J. Collins 11, 6.

Semi-finals:

Witt bt Williams 14, 16;
Bellinger bt Gordon 14, 12.

Final:

WITT bt Bellinger -17, 16, 19.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Sandley/Wilson bt I. Kenyon/D. Wells -19, 17, 17;
Day/S. Mills (Y) bt Andrew/P. Bradbury (Bu) -17, 16, 11.

Final:

SANDLEY/WILSON bt Day/Mills -15, 15, 11.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Bellinger/Bellinger bt Witt/T. Shortman 20, 18;
Gordon/M. Smith (Bk) bt M. Reeves/Williams 12, -11, 7.

Final:

BELLINGER/BELLINGER bt Gordon/Smith 16, 16.

Mixed Doubles Semi-finals:

Wilson/Williams bt S. Moore/J. Bellinger 16, 18;
Day/S. Collier (Bk) bt A. Moore/L. Bellinger 12, -15, 18.

Final:

WILSON/WILLIAMS bt Day/Collier 16, 19.

Veterans' Singles Semi-finals:

B. Adedayo bt D. Schofield 18, 24;
J. Holland bt G. Chapman 13, 17.

Final:

ADEDAYO bt Holland 16, -19, 12.

THE ALLIANCE/GROVE SCHOOL JUNIOR OPEN

DISAPPOINTING ENTRY

by Ian Marshall

A disappointing entry in terms of numbers for the splendidly run Alliance/Grove School Junior Open with play on the Sunday concluding soon after 4 p.m. with some seventeen boys failing to report for the boys' singles event.

Top-seeded **MICHAEL THOMAS** of Coventry emerged as the winner of the boys' singles event beating clubmate **IAN DAVIES** in a closely fought final. Meanwhile **TRACY LIGHTFOOT** won the counterpart girls' event with a final success over Stafford's **RACHEL ROBERTS**, however the Crewe girl was extended all the way in the semi-finals by the much improved **HELEN LOWER** of Wolverhampton.

It was **LOWER** who gave **CLAIRE POTTS** her closest match in the Cadet girls' singles losing an excellent final after **MISS POTTS** had beaten local girl **DAWN WICKSTEAD** one round earlier. Predictably it was to be **CLAIRE POTTS** who emerged victorious in the Under-12 girls' singles with **JULIE BILLINGTON** the game runner-up. However brother **BRADLEY** went one better in the Under-12 boys' singles justifying his seeding to win the event at the expense of Shropshire's **DAVID MORRIS**.

For the second consecutive season **JOHN ELLIS**, the leading **WELSH** cadet, made nonsense of the seeding and emerged victorious in the Cadet boys' singles beat-

ing **MATTHEW HARVEY** in the final to add to his U-12 title gained one year earlier.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

I. Davies (Wa) bt J. Singh (Wa) 16, -12, 16;
M. Thomas (Wa) bt K. Weatherby (Ch) -17, 17, 18.

Final:

THOMAS bt Davies 20, 6.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

T. Lightfoot (Ch) bt H. Lower (St) 14, -9, 19;
R. Roberts (St) bt A. Barker (Sp) 17, 14.

Final:

LIGHTFOOT bt Roberts 12, 17.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Thomas/Singh (Wa) bt S. Groom/D. Williams (Sp) 20, 14;
D. Riley/B. Wentworth (La) bt J. Murdoch/S. Colclough 17, -13, 13.

Final:

THOMAS/SINGH bt Riley/Wentworth 18, 19.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

C. Hunter/H. Wilson (Wi) bt J. Ballard/C. Wickstead (Sp) 16, 12;

Barker/D. Boughey (Sp) bt C. Clarke/C. Hemmings (La) 11, 16.

Final:

HUNTER/WILSON bt Barker/Boughey 17, 15.

Cadet Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

J. Ellis (Wal) bt I. Gerrard (Ch) 14, 19;
M. Harvey (St) bt S. Jones (Ch) 24, 11.

Final:

ELLIS bt Harvey 18, 18.

Cadet Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

C. Potts (Ch) bt D. Wickstead (Sp) 16, 10;
Lower bt K. Cox (Wo) 8, 14.

Final:

POTTS bt Lower -19, 10, 18.

Cadet Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

I. Gerrard/S. Jones (Ch) bt M. Lenton/M. Riley 18, 12;
Harvey/K. Lawrence (St) bt P. Fletcher/K. Gray (St) 15, -17, 18.

Final:

GERRARD/JONES bt Harvey/Lawrence 17, 12.

U-12 Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

B. Billington (Dy) bt S. Cooper (Sp) 20, 18;
D. Morris (Sp) bt A. Eden (La) 14, 12.

Final:

B. BILLINGTON bt D. Morris -19, 12, 14.

U-12 Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

Potts bt K. Hall 19, 11;
J. Billington (Dy) bt J. Dixon (St) -17, 10, 15.

Final:

POTTS bt Billington 6, 12.

UMPIRES CONFERENCE

On Sunday, Sept. 17, at Carraway Boys' Club, Worcester Park, Larkhall, Bath umpires gathered to discuss various aspects of umpiring. The day was certainly set alight by David Bletso (Avon) who managed to start a small fire in the kitchen, but he quickly did a good job putting the fire out with a blanket.

Before lunch Mrs. Pat Archdale welcomed everyone and a fair amount of time was given to discussing the place of the umpire in match organisation, followed by discussions on laws and regulations. Pat put on an excellent display of ETTA official books and many interesting items were on view including a purple table tennis table and an 'opal fruit'.

After lunch Alan Porter (Lancs) spoke on the work of the NURC which included many interesting topics including qualification of umpires, courses and seminars, appointments, county paper, new test paper, the future of visual aids and behaviour of players.

Ted Fisher (Wilts) gave an interesting talk on the work of a county umpires' secretary. He said that in his county a roster system had been successfully organised. Umpires were meeting as and when necessary and those failing to support were deleted from the list.

Bill Wilson, a recently qualified National Umpire from Hampshire, warned that to pass the test would need knowledge of all aspects so that experience was vital and, in this respect, contact should be made with Mrs. Doreen Stannard of Middlesex. The written test took about 45 minutes and there was an interview lasting about the same time.

Then followed a light-hearted talk by Brian Lamberton on the fun of being an international umpire. Brian has visited Poland, Austria and West Germany and he laid stress on the responsibility of a person wearing the blue blazer of England in foreign lands.

There are 80 International Umpires on the list, 50 or 60 of these being active and available for tournaments. In conclusion a film was shown of the Secretin/Purkart exhibition which was fantastic. A bouquet was sent to Mrs. Curl as a token of thanks for the work done by Chris Curl, a Bristol and Bath league player in setting up the film.

Finally David Bletso was presented with a box of chocolate biscuits in appreciation of his hard work in preparing and cleaning up after — what all agreed — was a most enjoyable, enlightening and entertaining day.

Letters to the Editor

INCREASINGLY DEPRESSED

I have been playing competitive table tennis now for some 22 years and love the sport dearly, but over the past few years I have become increasingly depressed over the avenues that the game is now following.

Over the years I have played from Youth Club level to London Federation and London Union Leagues through to Premier Division standard of virtually all the major home county leagues, including playing for my county at junior level and playing inter-league for a number of leagues, together with of course entering numerous tournaments and doing well in a number.

I have of course seen various changes in the game during my 22 years of play but none more serious or disturbing than recent trends in the past few years.

We now unfortunately have the unprecedented position where, without any question whatsoever, the bat is mightier than the player!

The numerous rubbers that are now on the market which our ludicrous rules allow are far too many for me to number in this letter, but I am quite sure that you more than anyone are well aware of them. It is extraordinary that you, the ETTA, have even considered allowing these rubbers to become legal — one wonders why. Are the ETTA directly, or indirectly, receiving money for this ludicrous decision?

To name but a few, we have antiloop, tackiness, shriver, super shriver, phantom, black power, cobra, grass etc., etc.

The list of course is endless and the degrees of spin, anti-spin and fault-making shots that these rubbers impart, make our game a mockery.

Again, I am sure that you do not need me to point out that grass, for example, makes the player using it himself not know what type of spin he is imparting on the ball to his opponent. I put it to you, is this a game?

Again, the rules these days, seem to allow for players not only to use these "funny" rubbers but also to mix the rubbers on their bats to further confuse their opponents, with the players who use them spinning the bats during play.

Of course, added to all this is that one can get these rubbers in different thicknesses also and again, with the thickness

varying this also adds to the confusion and awkwardness of the bat. Of course the sponge underlay under these rubbers can also be varied, plus, I am sure you do not need me to point out that the actual blades can also vary from ply through to carbon and there are special grades of blades made for supposedly defensive or supposedly attacking players.

It is no wonder that when watching players, the rare times table tennis appears on television, some commentators whom I respect as having a very good knowledge of the game, stutter about during commentaries, not daring to mention to the lay public that the reason why player A has hit the ball in the net is not because of the stupendous shot that player B has made, but more because player B is using a tackiness rubber on one side and a super shriver on the other side of his bat with a carbon fibre bat blade and is, of course, spinning the bat between shots or under the table prior to serve. I put it to you that they do not mention this because they know in their heart of hearts that the lay public will think — what a bloody stupid game. It cannot be a game of skill if player B is relying on his bat to make player A hit it in the net, can it?

I know from speaking to various players who use these "funny" rubbers that their argument has been that you have to be of a reasonable standard or a fair player to be able to use the rubbers in the first instance. This is utter nonsense. There is no question in my mind and in a number of other players who are also concerned over the way this game is going that the bat, without question, makes a lot of difference to certain players. In a number of cases the bats have made them almost 100% better players than they originally were.

The latest "dirty work" to be going on I now understand is that it has been decided through the ETTA and presumably other bodies that only players now using rubbers

with a certain stamp on it will be allowed to play in tournaments.

This decision, if it is true, and I believe it to be so, is unbelievable. For example, I have been using my own bat now for something like four years and of course it has not got the stamp on it. Does this mean to say I have got to throw away my bat because all of a sudden it has become illegal because it has not got a stamp on it, whereas all these "funny" bats in the world are legal because bodies such as yourself have allowed it, for whatever their reasons, monetary or otherwise?

This new rule appears to be a blatant collusion between the rubber manufacturers and the ruling bodies such as yourselves to obtain extra revenue by making players change their back rubbers — quite extraordinary!

One presumes that this latest rule will also go through the system down to the leagues which will of course mean that everyone will have to change their rubbers, throughout the country, unless of course, by some quirk of fate, they have just bought a new bat, or made a new bat with the new rubbers. Assuming you do now insist on the rules throughout, then clearly there will be a discrepancy of the rules between tournaments to leagues. Who knows, we could actually get a situation where player A, who has won a major tournament, should accidentally lose to player B, whom he beat in the tournament but should play with his old bat in a league with player A saying — Oh well, of course, I only lost because he was playing with a bat without a stamp on it.

Summarising, I am sure that if you read this letter in the cold light of day, and if you take any of the major table tennis equipment manufacturers' catalogues and read through the extensive range of rubbers and bats, etc. that are available, you must surely realise, if you have any sense of logic about you, that the game is but a caricature

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of the original game that I knew and loved and to a lot of other similar players.

I would mention that, of course, it could be thrown back at me that when the advent of sponge bats came out virtually disposing of the hard bat player there was a major outcry at the time. I am old enough to just about remember that outcry, but this situation is totally different. We have a situation here where the rubbers are made specifically for tricking the opponent and that is not table tennis, that takes away the skill element.

In considering my comments, I also put to you that when you consider every other game or sport, nothing relies on the equipment to trick or fool an opponent as our sport now does.

You will also note that I have sent copies of this letter to a number of national newspapers, because I feel that it is about time that the game was highlighted to the public as the sham that it has now become and hopefully a number of these newspapers will see fit to put pressure on you and the other bodies to start reconsidering the rules of what was once a very great game.

STUART A. GREENBERG,

**123 Hampden Way,
Southgate, London N14.**

THE LATE ERIC FAIRHEAD

I was shocked to hear of the passing of Eric Fairhead of the Norfolk Table Tennis Association as I have so many happy memories of Eric who had much correspondence with me when I was secretary of the Cambs Association.

Norfolk and Cambs have had many tussels with each other in the past years and many a time I have spent with Eric on the "touchline" discussing the various merits of the players and, as always, Eric was full of fun and indulged in much leg-pulling! He was a grand trouper and my heartfelt sympathy goes out to his family also to the Norfolk Association who have lost a "grand fellow" in every sense of the word. I shall miss your Christmas Card Eric so much.

May the turf lie lightly on you my friend.

LESLIE CONSTABLE,

**19 Malcolm Place,
Cambridge CB1 1LS.**

HUMBERSIDE 3-STAR OPEN

Douggie Johnson was the winner of the men's singles in the Humberside 3-Star Open beating Scotland's Keith Rodger 20 and 17 in the final on Oct. 24. The counterpart women's event was won by **Karen Witt** with a final 14, 20 success over Alison Gordon.

Ian Kenyon and **David Wells** took the men's doubles title and **Anita Stevenson** and **Miss Witt** the women's. **Nicky Mason (Hoare)** won the boys' singles beating Alan Cooke whilst the girls' title went to **Jean Parker** with a final win over Sue Collier. **Babs Adedayo** had a final victory over Peter D'Arcy in the vets and the Class 2 singles winner was **David Dodd** who beat Stephen Moore. A full report (by Rea Balmford) will appear in the December issue with all the end results.

NORTH YORKSHIRE JUNIOR OPEN

October 9/10, 1982

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

S. Sharpe (Y) bt N. Sutton (Sy) 9, 13;

A. Wattis (Cv) bt M. Firth (Y) 16, 17;

D. McVitie (Du) bt R. Tilford (Ng)

-13, 14, 18;

D. Rook (Y) bt R. Hayward (St) -15, 12, 21.

Semi-finals:

Sharpe bt Wattis 16, 15;

McVitie bt Rook 19, -22, 10.

Final:

SHARPE bt McVitie 11, 18.

Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

J. Parker (La) bt J. Powis (St) 14, 13;

F. Elliot (St) bt J. Shaw (Y) 14, 19.

Final:

PARKER bt Elliot -11, 13, 18.

Cadet Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

S. Jones (Ch) bt B. Billington (Dy)

19, -18, 12;

J. Bult (Y) bt P. Fisher (Sp) 18, 17;

T. West (E) bt M. O'Driscoll (Y) 17, 23;

S. Craggs (Cv) bt N. Pickard (Nk) 19, 12.

Semi-finals:

Bult bt Jones 18, -20, 16;

West bt Craggs -13, 16, 20.

Final:

WEST bt Bult 9, 17.

Cadet Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

Powis bt L. Davis (Wo) 10, 10;

D. Soothill (Cu) bt C. Potts (Ch) 16, 12.

Final:

POWIS bt Soothill 8, 10.

U-12 Boys' Singles Semi-finals:

O'Driscoll bt Pickard 19, -19, 11;

Billington bt N. Simms (Y) 10, 10.

Final:

BILLINGTON bt O'Driscoll 19, 20.

U-12 Girls' Singles Semi-finals:

Potts bt A. Pashley (Cv) 19, 17;

A. Holt (La) bt P. Hookem (Y) 16, -18, 10.

Final:

POTTS bt Holt 12, 11.

Boys' Doubles Final:

MCVITIE/ROOK bt Sharpe/J. Thatcher (Y) 18, 15.

Girls Doubles Final:

PARKER/M. SEATON (Y) bt Shaw/

R. Baxter (Y) 13, 19.

Cadet Boys' Doubles Final:

PICKARD/WEST bt Billington/S. Gibson (La) 12, 18.

Cadet Girls' Doubles Final:

POTTS/SOOTHILL bt Davis/A. Sanders (St) 14, 12.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Senior Premier Division

Saturday/Sunday, 27/28 November

at Ordsall Leisure Centre, Salford

Sessions-commence

2.30 and 6.30 Saturday, and 9.30 Sunday

Further information from

Mr. G. Campbell 09252-21057

Junior Premier Division

Saturday/Sunday, 18/19 December

at St. Neots Table Tennis Club

Sessions commence

2.30 and 6.30 Saturday, and 9.30 Sunday

Further information from

Mr. C. Olver 0480-72764

Dennis Millman reports from . . .

NORTHANTS

EXCELLENT START

The County Firsts made an excellent start to the new campaign, when they just got the better of their Worcestershire counterparts in the opening County Championships match of the season. Gary Alden, back to something like his best form, won both his singles in straight games, while Keith Nicoll also won twice.

County Rankings

Men

1 Gary Alden, 2 Keith Nicoll, 3 Brian Wooding, 4 Romano Gallo, 5 John Sanders, 6 Brian D'Hooghe, 7 Ken Nicoll, 8 Chris Handshaw, 9 Ashley Bennett, 10 Steve Kendall.

Women

1 Mandy Wallis, 2 Dorothy Marsh, 3 Jane Nicoll, 4 Glennis Hooper, 5 Joyce Porter, 6 Maxine Shears, 7 Donna Furniss.

Junior Boys

1 Graeme McKim, 2 Ian Hawes, 3 Richard Bashford, 4 Robert Allen, 5 Andrew Edmonds, 6 Glen Robertson, 7 Andrew Trott, 8 Paul Eveleigh, 9 Raymond Jacobs, 10 Stephen Rogers.

Junior Girls

1 Maxine Shears, 2 Donna Furniss, 3 Sue Nannery, 4 Julia Kendall, 5 Debbie Kimbell, 6 Anne Nicoll.

Veteran Men

1 Keith Jones, 2 John Palmer, 3 Dave Marsh, 4 Dennis Millman, 5 Cliff Bull, 6 Alan Print, 7 Peter Cottier, 8 Tom Kelly, 9 Peter Bliss, 10 David Steele.

Veteran Women

1 Dorothy Marsh, 2 Joyce Porter, 3 Connie Bane, 4 Marjorie Chambers.

Originally, Steve Lyon was ranked at No. 3, for the ninth time in ten years, but pressure of business has made it necessary for him to make what is hoped to be a temporary withdrawal from the scene. The County Firsts won't seem the same without the cheerful presence of Steve who has figured in its ranks since winning the County Closed Men's Singles in 1969.



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County Championships Round-up

by COLIN TRUNDLE

AN IMPORTANT SEASON AHEAD

Every season is important. 1982/83 could be even more so as far as the County Championships are concerned, with the real possibility of sponsorship on the horizon. To show that the competition would be a worthwhile investment, everyone involved has a part to play in making it smooth-running and efficient. This goes right through the piece, the committee, the organisers of the senior and junior week-ends, County Associations, match secretaries and not least the players themselves. That is the end of the preaching bit and now on to what it is all about — the action.

Inevitably, and perhaps unfairly, most attention will focus on the Senior Premier Division and to a lesser extent on the Junior Premier. The first phase of the senior matches will be at Salford on 27/28 November and the juniors will get into the act at St. Neots on 18/19 December.

At the Northern venue, will Middlesex still be geared up to become champions or will Yorkshire be in a position to re-gain it?

These questions will eventually be answered, but in the meanwhile the two promoted teams, Staffordshire and Dorset, will be all out to show that they are there to stay.

Surrey were junior champions with a lot to spare. Will they be given so much leeway this time? And here again, promoted Cleveland and Devon will want to make an early impact.

But the competition is certainly not just about the top teams, and before they have the opportunity to put bat to ball, the rest will have had three chances to show their paces. These are the highlights of the opening matches of the season with details of the second, already played, following next month.

SENIOR DIVISION 2A

If Cheshire harbour any ambitions of getting back the Premier place which they forfeited last season, the opening match against Cambridgeshire would have been a major set-back for them. The game was well and truly tied up for the visitors by M. Harper and A. Withers for a winning 6-1 lead, before Cheshire made any real impression. Yorkshire II did not have any such problems at home to Derbyshire, D. Illingworth and his lady colleagues H. Shields and M. Seaton seeing them to an 8-2 victory. A Cooke, the Derby No. 1, took the two against with wins over A. Sanderson and A. Sharpe. The clash between Northumberland and Leicestershire finished with the same score, but this time it was the visitors who came out on the right end. Chu

Van Que beat P. Randell, otherwise it was a blank day in the singles for the home side. C. Rodgers and D. Gannon gave them a lot of trouble, but C. Mouzon did give A. Stevenson a good run in the Ladies' singles. Lancashire II raced into a 5-0 lead away to Staffs II and eventually took it 7-3, K. Williams being the star of the show.

Cheshire 3 Cambs 7

Northumberland 2 Leicester 8

Staffs II 3 Lancs II 7

Yorks II 8 Derby 2

SENIOR DIVISION 2B

The closest contest in this division was between Wiltshire and Kent, with nothing separating them at the half-way stage. The visitors then edged ahead from third set wins by K. May and J. Kennedy, with J. Burleton clinching a 6-4 win in the final game. N. Mason, S. Holloway and M. Oakley tied it up for Surrey against Bedfordshire, the Bellinger sisters sharing the home side's three successes. Middlesex II had the edge over Hampshire, John Payne, Tony Stark, John Souter and Helen Williams putting their team in front. Hants best win came from Serena Sinanan over Mandy Reeves by 21-15, 21-10. Sussex came away with nothing really to show for the long journey to Plymouth, Devon beating them 9-1. P. Smith had the lone win over P. Whiting.

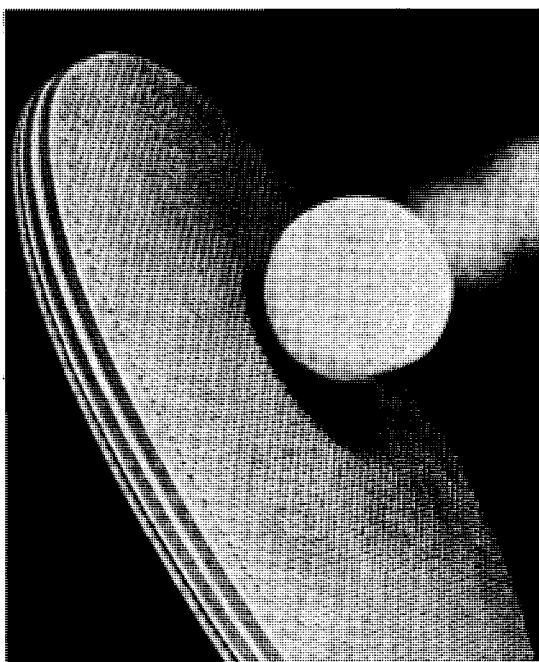
Bedford 3 Surrey 7

Devon 9 Sussex 1

Middlesex II 7 Hants 3

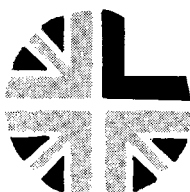
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SENIOR DIVISION 3A

Cumbria 1 Leicester II 9
Northumberland II 5 Notts 5
Warwicks II 7 Lincs 3

SENIOR DIVISION 3B

Avon 5 Cornwall 5
Berks II 5 Gloucester 5
Isle of Wight 7 Dorset II 3
Somerset 5 Hants II 5

SENIOR DIVISION 3C

Glamorgan 2 Bucks 8
Hunts 3 Oxford 7
Northants 6 Worcester 4
Wilts II 4 Hereford 6

SENIOR DIVISION 3D

Essex II 10 KENT II 0
Surrey 7 Herts 3
Surrey II 6 Norfolk 4
Sussex II 9 Cambs II 1

SENIOR DIVISION 4

Norfolk II 8 Northants II 2
Worcester II 2 Cwylwyd 8

JUNIOR DIVISION 2A

There were some close results in this division, the one not falling into this category was the 10-0 handed out to Leicestershire by Warwickshire I. David Blackbourn beat Russell Thompson in the last game to give Durham a 6-4 verdict over Yorkshire II. R. Hayward did the same for visitors Staffs I against Lancs I, coming good in the last set to win 20-22, 23-21, 21-11 over M. Mercer. Graeme McKim and Maxine Shears changed up a gear to push Northants ahead of Lincolnshire, the latter's win over Julie Shippey being a very close 20-22, 22-20, 21-19.

Durham 6 Yorks II 4
Lancs I 4 Staffs I 6
Northants 6 Lincs 4
Warwicks I 10 Leicester 0

JUNIOR DIVISION 2B

Wiltshire did not give up against Gloucestershire when they found themselves trailing 2-4 and 3-5. At this stage, Darren Gritten had done Gloucester proud, but H. Wilson and M. Oxney staged the comeback to make it even. Berkshire were in no trouble against Middlesex II, the 8-2 result including two wins each from J. Stokes and A. Syed. Essex I went one better against Glamorgan, showing that they have promotion in their sights. Steve Dettmar and Richard Darnell, making his debut at this level, were in impressive form. Glamorgan's consolation came in the opening game with David Griffiths getting the better of Mark Taylor. After an even start, Herts went to town and built up a decisive 7-2 margin over Kent II. The turning point stemmed from a third set win in the doubles by K. Samuels and G. Turner over D. Champneys and M. Williams.

Kent I 9 Glamorgan 1
Herts I 7 Kent II 3
Gloucester 5 Wilts I 5
Middlesex II 2 Berks 8

JUNIOR DIVISION 3A

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

JUNIOR DIVISION 3B

Dorset II 4 Worcester 6
Hereford 0 Bucks 10
Oxford 3 Warwicks II 7

JUNIOR DIVISION 3C

Berks II 3 Avon 7
Cornwall 1 Dorset 9
Hants I 10 Wilts I 0
Somerset 2 Surrey II 8

JUNIOR DIVISION 3D

Herts II 0 Essex II 10
Hunts 1 Essex III 9
Norfolk I 3 Cambs I 7
Norfolk II 6 Sussex II 4

VETERANS PREMIER DIVISION

The result of the Essex I and Notts match hinged on the last game, and Fred Lockwood made no mistake with a straight sets win over A. Jesson. This had come after Notts had taken an early 2-0 lead through A. Saunders and R. Bolton. Middlesex were in full command of the situation against Dorset, finally running out 8-1 winners. The one that got away was in the ladies singles when J. Coop beat M. Symes. D. Schofield and D. Schofield (presumably husband and wife) had the major say for Cheshire in their 6-3 win over Kent. Lincolnshire settled it at 5-1 when they met Huntingdonshire, C. Moran getting the necessary victory in the ladies' singles over D. Bushby. The basis of the 7-2 win was unbeaten performances by B. Aillison and M. Sheader.

Essex I 5 Notts 4
Kent 3 Cheshire 6
Lincs 7 Hunts 2
Middlesex I 8 Dorset I 1

VETERANS DIVISION 2A

Bucks 3 Leicester 6
Cheshire II 6 Oxford 3
Herts 9 Northants 0

VETERANS DIVISION 2B

Bedford 3 Hants 6
Berks I 6 Middlesex II 3
Dorset II 4 Essex II 5
Sussex 4 Kent II 5

VETERANS DIVISION 3A

Cumbria 2 Herts III 7
Hunts II 4 Cwylwyd 5

VETERANS DIVISION 3B

Herts II 4 Hants II 5
Sussex II 6 Berks II 3
Wilts II 3 Somerset 6

My first effort is a modest one. Time has not been on my side on this occasion and, of necessity, I have concentrated on the top divisions. Those further down the scale will get a fair crack of the whip in future.

I apologise for the lack of christian names in a lot of cases. The explanation is a simple one — as a new boy, I do not know them. It would be a great help if they could be shown on the scoresheets and I would be grateful if the word could be spread.

NEWS FROM THE E.S.T.T.A. by DAVID LOMAS

The new General Secretary of the English Schools' Table Tennis Association is Mr. L. C. ("Chuck") Henry of Derbyshire.

He was elected at the ESTTA's Annual General Meeting at Sutton Coldfield, in May of this year.

Mr. Henry is headmaster of Dronfield Junior School, Sheffield and his address is: 158 Ashover Road, Old Tupton, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S42 6HG. (Tel. Chesterfield (0246) 862023).



"CHUCK" HENRY
(ESTTA Hon. Gen. Sec.)

The 1982-83 season gets under way this school term with the preliminary stages of the National School Team Championships. These Championships are open to all affiliated schools and colleges and consist of 4-a-side teams competing in any of eight events for girls and boys ranging from under-11 to under-19 (ages as at Sept. 1, 1982).

County winners are determined by December 17 and the school teams concerned compete in twelve area finals which are scheduled for January 23, 1983 with the winners going forward to three Regional Finals on Sunday, February 27 and thence the National Finals at Lea Green, Matlock, on Saturday, March 26, 1983.

The other major events in the ESTTA calendar are the Stiga English Schools Individual Championships (April 30/May 1 at Mansfield) and the International Championships at Gloucester on July 1/2/3, 1983. Further details in due course.

Full details about all ESTTA activities and details of member County Schools' Associations etc. are contained in the 1982-83 Official Handbook which is available NOW from Mr. Henry (address above) for 50p (incl. postage and packing).

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QUESTION:

Where will Martin Chivers (football); Peter Townsend (golf); John Rice (cricket); Colum Slevin (table tennis); Mike Taylor (squash) and many other top sportsmen be this summer?

ANSWER:

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