TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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BON VOYAGE

Now that the names of Carl Prean and Kenny Jackson have been added to the men's squad and Joy Grundy and Alison Gordon to the women's the time is again due to wish all England's participants in this month's 14th European Championships a successful trip.

After Budapest, Moscow becomes the second city where the championships are to **be** held for the second time, the first **occasion** being in 1970 when Hans Alser of Sweden and Zoya Rudnova ofthe Soviet Union took the major individual titles.

The Minor Arena is the name of the sport facility, where the championships are to be held. It is situated within five minutes' walk from the Main Arena of Lenin Central Stadium, the place where the opening and closing ceremonies of the XXII Olympic Games took place in 1980.

Here's hoping then that Messrs. Douglas, Prean. Sandley, Cooke and Jackson, together with Mesdames Witt, Lisa Bellinger, Grundy and Gordon acquit themselves well and generate sufficient heat into their play to offset the climatic rigours of an early Russian Spring.

We did exceptionally well in Tokyo. much better than anyone forecast. so could it be another medallioned return? 'Bon voya'ge!

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ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

by THE EDITOR

VLADISLAV THE HERO

Last the winners of the Super Division of the European League, in season 1978/79, Czechoslovakia made it a hat-trick of successes in Poznan on March 7 when they beat Poland 4-3 coincident with the defending champions, Yugoslavia, going down by the same score to Hungary in Cegled.

Wins for Jindrich Pansky, Vladislav Broda and Maria Hrachova carried the Czechs to a 3-0 lead in Poznan but thereafter, aftertwo doubles defeats, it became very tight when Leszek Kucharski took the first game of the penultimate set against Broda, only for Vladislav to fight back and take the next two for the set and the match. This reduced Grubba's final set win over Pansky to one of academic interest only. Scores:

L Kucharski lost to J. Pansky -11. ·16;
A. Grubbs lost to V. Broda 18. **-16,** -18;
J. Szatko lost to M. Hrachov8 -14. -13;
Grubbs/Kucharski bt Broda/ Pansky -16. 16. 15;
Grubba/ Szatko bt Pansky/ Hrachov8 13. 17;
Kucharski lost to Broda 15. -19, -, 7;
Grubbs bt Pansky 19. -15. 11.

Despite being 2-1 up against Hungary in Cegled, Yugoslavia then lost the next three sets and the match when wins by Zoran Kalinic and Branka Batinic were countered by defeats inflicted by Tibor Klampar and Zsolt Kriston in the men's doubles, by Janos Molnar and Zsuzsa Olah in the mixed and by Kriston, who beat Kalinic, following up his first set win over Ilija Lupulescu. Scores:-

Z. Kristan bt I. lupulescu 14. -20. 17;
J. Molnar lost to Z. Kalinic **-9,** -18;
Z. Olah lost to 8. 8atinic 12. -14. -15;
T. Klampar/ Kriston bt Kalinic/ lupulescu 14. -21. 12;
Molnar/ Olah bt Kalinic/ G. Perkucin 20. 15;
Kriston bt Kalinic 13. 16;
Molnar lost to lupulescu **-11,** -21.

Sweden, who promised so much at the outset of their campaign, had finally to settle for third place albeit they beat Federal Germany 6-1 in the final match in Ostersund where Eric Lindh and Menni Weizades lost their doubles to Peter Stellwag and Susanne Wenzel. Scores:-

J-O. Waldner bt P. Stellwag -13. 12.1 5;
M. Appelgren bt R. Wasik 13. 12;
M. Weizades bt S. Wenzel 19. 14;
E. Lindh/Waldner bt Stellwag!Wosik 19. -1 9. 13;
lindh/Weizades lost to Stellwag/Wenzel 15. -22. -14;
Waldner bt Wosik 12. 15;
Appelgren bt Stellwag 16. -18. 24.

England's 5-2 win over France in Guildford is written up elsewhere by Mike Watts but equating on points with Sweden, Poland and Hungary, to finish sixth, can be considered satisfactory enough.

Bearing in mind the new ruling passed at the Informal General Meeting in Tokyo on May 5, 1983, whereby teams finishing equal on points the results between them will determine their placings, the final table reads:-

SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	F	A	Pt.
Czechoslovakia	7	6	28	21	6
Yugoslavia	5	2	30	19	5
Poland	4	3	28	21	4
Sweden	4	3	31	18	4
Hungary	4	3	24	25	4
England	4	3	26	23	4
F.R. Germany	1	6	11	38	1
France	0	7	18	31	0

NETHERLANDS PROMOTED

Wins for Henk van Spanje and Mirjam Kloppenburg, both in singles and doubles, carried the Netherlands to a 4-2 win over Italy and to the championship of Division 1, the 7th set not being played. No result sheet with individual scores is, as yet, to hand nor that of Italy's prior home match to Austria in February. Just what happens to the post in Italy I wonder?

Poor old Belgium who, despite bringing off their first win of the season 4-3 **away** to Denmark in Silkeborg, find themselves at the bottom of the ladder facing demotion to Div. 2. Scores in Silkeborg were:-

J. Harkamp lost to R. De Prophetis -20. **-**19;
C. Pedersen bt D. Leroy -18. 20. 16;
C. Polk lost to B. Lippens -5. 21. -14;
Harkamp/ Pedersen bt De Prophetis/ leroy 18. 17;
Pedersen/ Polk lost to leroy/Lippens -19. -17;
Harkamp lost to leroy -18. -16;
Pedersen bt De Prophetis 12. 18.

Austria, at home to Spain in Judenburg won6-1, the one to escape them being the men's doubles won by Jose Pales ' and Ismael Caymel. Scores:-

E. Amplatz bt I. Caymel -13. 17. 18;
D. Palmi bt J. Pales 19. 16;
E. Maier bt A. Godes -17. 8. 13;
Amplatz/G. **Müller** lost to Caymel/Pales 16. -16. -20;
Palmi/B. Wiltsche bt Pales/Godes 19. 17;
Amplatz bt Pales -11. 12. 15;
Palmi bt Caymel 12. 13.

DIVISION ONE

		P	W	I	F	A	Pt.
Netherlands		6	6	0	30	11	6
Italy		6	5	1	24	17	5
Finland		6	4	2	27	15	4
Austria		6	3	3	24	18	3
Spain		6	1	5	12	30	1
16/16	*605/598*						
Denmark				5	17	25	1
16116	*611 /606*						
Belgium		6		5	12	30	1
16116	*595/607*						

NORWAY UP

Despite their loss to Scotland, when playing what was virtually a second team, Norway have championed Division 2 by virtue of beating equal-pointing Luxembourg in their very first match of the season. Their final win was most emphatic; 7-0 against Guernsey who must be now counting the cost of their voyaging in this

division. Scores in Norway's favour against the Channel Isles team were:-

T. Johansen bt M. Pipet 10, 7;
H. Hakon bt P. Hunkin 6. 12;
T. Folkeson bt T. Powell 4. 7;
Johansen/ Hoff bt Hunkin/ Pipet 12. 12;
Johansen/ Folkeson bt Hunkin/ Powell 7, 8;
Johansen bt Hunkin 11 . 15;
Hoff bt Pipet 7. 11 .

Scotland, as reported by H. Roy Evans in his Welsh Corner, beat Wales 5-2 in Cardiff, the final table being:-

DIVISION 2

	p	W	L	F	A	Pt.
Norwey	a	5	1	31	11	5
Luxembourg	a	5	1	32	10	5
Switzerland	a	4	2	24	18	4
Scotlend	a	3	3	22	20	3
W.le.	a	2	4	14	28	2
Irel.nd	a	2	4	19	23	2
Guern.ey	a	0	a	5	37	0

N.B. The score in respect of the match Belgium v Finland was 6-1 in Finland's favour and not 7-0 as previously incorporated in the league table.

DIVISION 3

Bulgaria with wins over Malta (7-0), Jersey (7-0) and Iceland (7-0) championed the Division 3 round robin in Malta with Iceland runners-up beating Jersey (4-3) and Malta (4-3). Jersey beat Malta 4-3 to leave the host country holding the wooden spoon.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pt.
Bulgaria	3	3	0	21	0	3
Iceland	3	2	1	8	13	2
Jersey	3	1	2	7	14	1
Malta	303		a	15	0	

RENVERSE CONQUEST

Patrick Renverse was the winner of the French Championships men's singles title beating Jacques Secretin (13, -22,12 and 7) in the final. Beatrice Abgrall was the winner of the women's singles, her final victim being Patricia Germain beaten 14, 12, 9. Secretin and Patrick Gernot beat Renverse/ Bruno Patietti in the men's doubles final and Nadine Daviaud/Muriel Monteux won the women's doubles beating Patricia Aubry/Isabelle Delepine in the final. Parietti/Daviaud won the mixed beating Renverse/Abgrall.

GRUBBA MAKES HIS MARK

by George R. Yates

There was' no repeat performance from England's Desmond Douglas in the Rhein-Ruhr-Halle, Duisburg where, in the 1978 European Championships, he went through the men's team event without loss.

England, at the first time of asking, went out when beaten 3-1 by Yugoslavia with Douglas, although successful in his opening encounter with Bela Mesaros, beaten by Zoran Kalinic of the tall frame and penhold grip.

Carl Prean put up brave resistance to Kalinic in the first set taking the second game at 23 but, in the doubles, against the world champions, Kalinic and Dragutin Surbek, Alan Cooke and Graham Sandley were seen off 2-straight.

Sweden were the eventual winners coming back from a 1-2 deficit to beat Poland 3-2 in a match that had the spectators enthralled. It was a grandstand finish with Mikael Appelgren beating Andrzej Grubba in the tightest of fashions.

England's women gained bronze medals in their event beating Switzerland 3-0 and the host country's first team 3-1 before losing, in the semis, 3-0 to Yugoslavia's Gordana Perkucin and Branka Batinic. In the final Yugoslavia beat Czechoslovakia 3-2 with Perkucin beating Alice Pelikanova in the final set to give the Yugoslavs victory and the gold medals.

In a star-studded line-up for the men's singles only Douglas emerged with credit going through to the semis with wins over Thomas Busin (SUI), Peter Stellwag (FRG), Stellan Bengtsson (SWE) and Zsolt Kriston (HUN) before bowing the knee to Grubba, the eventual winner.

Sandley met with initial success in beating Stefan Renold (SUI) but, thereafter, he was taken out by Patrick Renverse (FRA) in straight games as was Prean, by the 38-years-old Wilfried Lieck (FRG) and Cooke by Gottfried Bär of Austria, another "old head". Lieck won in four and Bär at 17 in the fifth after being 1-2 down to the Chesterfield lad.

Grubba, the winner, had disposed of Erik Rasmussen of Norway, Milivoj Karakasevic (YUGj, Appelgren and Ulf Carlsson of Sweden, prior to eliminating Douglas, and, in a tremendous final, the Top 12 champion Jan-Ove Waldner, the Swedish wonder boy.

Least said soonest mended seems to be aptly descriptive of the women's events, both singles and doubles, for the general standard of women's play seems to have reached an all-time low.

EMPHASISED

Never was this more emphasised than in the final ofthe singles in which Zsuzsa Olah beat Narine Antonian 16, 11 and 4! It really was dreadful nor was the doubles, won by Anita Zakharian and Fliora Bulatova much better.

Alison Gordon was the player to carry England's colours the furthest, although in receipt of two byes, but her win over Hungary's Csilla Batorffi was memorable as was her defeat by Bulatova predictable.

Joy Grundy failed against Barbara Wiltsche of Austria, Lisa Bellinger to Japan's Masukawa and Carole Moore to Nadine Daviaud of France, all three on their first visit to the tables.

Douglas, paired with RalfWosik, his Bundesliga team-mate for Borussia Dusseldorf, fell in the third round to Eric Boggan of the States partnered by Masao Shimizu of Japan whilst Cooke/ Sandley after beating the van Spanje brothers, Henk and Jaap, fell to Georg Böhm and Stellan Behgtsson.

Zsazsu Olah gives the ball plenty of air when serving in the final of the women's singles.
Photos by courtesy of Ladislav Perenyi of Dusseldorf.

Sweden's Appelgren and Carlsson were the eventual winners with a third Swede, Ulf Bengtsson, partnered by Stellwag the beaten finalists.

Bulatova and Zakharian won the counterpart women's event with a final victory over Olah/Bolvari whilst Miss Olah came up trumps again in the mixed partnering Janos Molnar to victory over Jonny Persson of Sweden and Japan's Tomoyo Nakajima.

THIRD BRONZE

England picked up theirthird bronze in this event, Des and Alison reaching the semis before fall.ing to the Swedish/ Japanese combine. Alan and Joy took a first round defeat at the hands of Jiri

Determination personified by Poland's **Andrzej Grubba.**

Javurek and Miluse Kocova of Czechoslovakia, as did Graham and Carole to Josef **Böhm** and Anja Spengler of the Federal Republic.

Carl and Lisa had the benefit of a first round bye but were beaten 19 and 18 by Kalinicand Perkucin in Round 2.

No denying the tournament was well organised and brought to a successful conclusion, more particularly the men's singles final- it was. worth the trip just for that - but how the crowd loved the exploits of the near veteran Lieck.

Germany's Peter Pan endeared himself to the crowd as he steamed his way past Dietmar Palmi of Austria, Prean, Klaus Pedersen of Denmark, Mesaros of Yugoslavia and Ulf Bengtsson to finally run out of steam against Waldner.

Results:-

TEAM EVENTS

Men

Round 1:
France 3 Netherlands 2
U.S.A. 3 Belgium 1
Yugoslavia 3 Austria 2
Wales 3 luxembourg 0
A. Griffiths bt A. Hartmann 20. -10,7'
N. Thomas bt Y. Maas 18, -16.14;
Griffiths/Thomas bt Hartmann/Maas 19. -14.18.
Poland 3 Denmark 1
Czechoslovakia 3 Israel 1
Finland 3 Canada 2

Round 2:
Sweden 3 **France** a
Norway 3 Switzerland 1
Fed Germany II 3 U.S.A. 2
Yugoslavia 3 England 1
Z. Kalinic bt C. Prean 18. -23.14;
B. Mesaros lost to D. Douglas -10. -15;
Kalinic/ D. Surbek bt A. Cooke/ G. Sandley 16. 14;
Kalinic bt Douglas 19. -10, 18.
Japan 3 Wales 0
H. Abe bt Griffiths 17. 15;
M. **Shimazu** bt Thomas 11. 14;
Abe/M. Maehara bt Griffiths/ Thomas 14. 11.
Poland 3 U.S.S.R. 0
Czechoslovakia 3 Fed Germany I Q
Hungary 3 Finland 1

Quarter-finals:
Sweden 3 Norway a
Fed Germany II 3 Yugoslavia 1
Poland 3 Japan 1
Hungary 3 Czechoslovakia 0

Semi-finals:
Sweden 3 Fed Germany II 0
J-D. Waldner bt G. **Böhm** 17. -19. 21;
M. Appelgren bt R. Wosik 13. -18. 18;
Appelgren/ Carlsson bt Bohm/P. Stellwag 20. 16.
Poland 3 Hungary 0
S. Dryszel bt I. Jonyer 10, 14;
L Kucharski bt Z. Kriston -19. 16. 8;
A. Grubba/ Kucharski bt **G.** Gergely/ Jonyer -19. 9. 17.

Final;
SWEDEN 3 Poland Z
Waldner bt Grubba 19. -16. 13;
Appelgren lost to Kucharski -9. -15;
Carlsson/Waldner lost to Dryszel/Kucharski 19. -19. -18;
Waldner bt Kucharski 15. 9;
Appelgren bt Grubba"1B. 20.

Women

Round 1:
Sweden 3 Belgium 0
Finland 3 Norway 1
Netherlands 3 Denmark 1
Hungary 3 Israel 0

Round 2:
Sweden 3 Japan 1
Yugoslavia 3 Austria 1
Fed Germany I 3 Finland 2
England 3 Switzerland 0
C. Moore bt B. Hirzel 14. 17;
A. Gordon bt I. Messer 5. 17;
L Bellinger/ J. Grundy bt M. Flugel/Messer 13, 11.
Czechoslovakia 3 Netherlands 2
France - Bye
U.S.S.R. 3 Hungary 2

Quarter-finals:
Yugoslavia 3 Sweden 1
England 3 Fed Germany I 1
Grundy bt S. Wenzel 14. 14;
Moore lost to K. Kru"ger -19. 15. -8;
Bellinger/Grundy bt Kruger/Wenzel 14. 22;
Moore bt Wenzel 20. -, 3. 24.
Czechoslovakia 3 France 1
U.S.S.R. 3 Fed Germany II 0

SemHinals:
Yugoslavia 3 England a
G. Perkucin bt Gordon 15, 15;
B. Batinic bt Moore 16. **-13,** 14;
Batinic/Perkucin bt Bellinger/Grundy 19, 20.
Czechoslovakia 3 U.S.S.R. 1
A. Pelikanova lost to F. Bulatova -19.13. **-18;**
M. Hrachova bt N. Antonian 14. -18, 17;
Hrachova/ Pelikanova bt Antonian/A. Zakharian -17. 17, 15;
Hrachova bt Bulatova 15, 19.

Final:
YUGOSLAVIA 3 Czechoslovakia 2
Batinic bt Pelikanova 9. **-17,** 17;
Perkucin lost to Hrachova -18. -16;
Batinic/ Perkucin bt Hrachova/Pelikanova 18. 18;
Batinic lost to Hrachova -13, 15, -19;
Perkucin bt Pelikanova 19. 13.

Men's Singles: Round 4
A Grubba (POL) bt M. Appelgren (SWE) 11, -19, 1J. -17. 11;
U. Carlsson (SWEj bt E. B0990n (USA) 15. -17, -19, 27. 17;
D. Douglas (ENG) bt S. Bengtsson (SWEI 14. 16, 18;
Z. Kriston (HUN) bt Z. Kalinic (YUG) -24. 21, 12. 16;
W. Lieck (FRG) bt B. Mesaros (YUG) -22. 19, -13, 19.16;
U. Bengtsson (SWE) bt L Kucharski (POll 16. -19. 22. 21;
P. Birocheau (FRA) bt G. Gergely (HUN) -14.19.16.11;
J-O. Waldner (SWE) bt M. Orlowski (TCH) 18. 20. 20.

Quarter-finals:
Grubba bt Carlsson 17, 14, 12;
Douglas bt Kriston 18. 13. **-17,** 19;
lieck bt U. Bengtsson -15, 16. -16.18.19;
Waldner bt Birocheau.11. -20, 14. -16. 18.

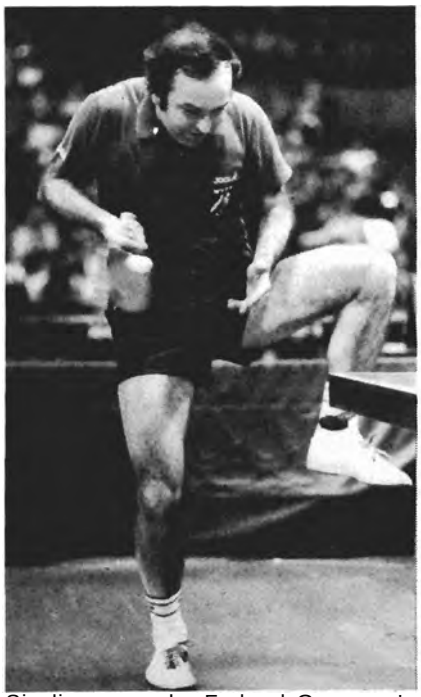
Semi-finals:
Grubba bt Douglas 19. 17. 14;
Waldner bt Lieck 17. 13. 13.
Final: GRUBBA bt Waldner 11. 18, -18, -8. 19.

Women's Singles: Round 4
M. Hrachova fTCHJ bt S. Grefberg (FIN) 16. 17. 18;
Z. Olah (HUN) bt B. Batinic (YUG) 11, -15. 21. IB;
F. Bulatova (URS) bt A. Gordon (ENG) **14,** 18. -13, 15;
S. Wenzel (FRG) bt P. Eliasson (SWE) **-11,** -13.15.8. 13;
G. Szabo (HUN) bt M. Monteux (FRA) 10. 20, 19;
N. Antonian fURS) bt Y. Masukawa (JPN) 11. 18. 9;
M. Kloppenburg (HOl) bt T. Nakajimi (JPN) 15. -14. 19. **-15,** 12;
G. Perkucin (YUG) **bt** E. Kanda (JPN) -10, 11. 16. 18.

Quarter-finals:
Dlah bt Hrachova -14, 10.10. -8. 17;
Bulatova bt Wenzel 14. -18, 16. 17;
Antonian bt Szabo 10. 10. 20;
Kloppenburg bt Perkucin -14. 19,16.18.

Semi-finals:
Dlah bt Bulatova **-15,** 17. 16. -15. 18;
Antonian bt Kloppenburg 11, 8. 18.

Final: OLAH bt Antonian 16. 11. 4.



Sizzling serve by Federal Germany's Wilfried Lieck, but a suspicion of a throw-back.

Men's Doubles: Quarter-final.:
J. Akesson/J. Persson (SWE) bt J. Molnar (HUN)/Orlowski -12, 19,8;
Appelgren/Carlsson bt Boggan/M. Shimizu (JPN) 18, 15;
U. Bengtsson/ P. Stellwag (FRG) bt Lieck/M. Nieswand (FRG) 9. '-15, 17;
A Mazunov/ 1. Minkevich fURS) bt E. Lindh (SWE)/Waldner -12. 19. 20.

Semi-finals;
Appelgren/ Carlsson bt Akesson/ Persson -24. 17. 14;
Bengtsson/ Stellwag bt Mazunov/ Minkevich -15. 15, **16.**
Final: APPEIGREN/CARLSSON bt Bengtsson/ Stellwag 12. 19.

Women'. Doubles: Quarter-finals:
Bulatova/ A. Zakharian fURS) bt C. Batorffi (HUN)/ Szabo -17, 15. 12;
K. **Kruger** (FRG)/Wenzel bt T. Folkeson/K. Hagen {NORj-14. 13. 15;
K. Bolvari (HUN)/Dlah bt Batinic/Perkucin 19. 19;
Musakawa/ R. Wade (JPN) bt Hrachova/ M. Kocova(HUN) 20.15.

Semi-finals:
Bulatova/Zakharian bt Kruger/Wenzel 13, 18;
Bolvari/Olah bt Masukawa/Wada 14. -18. 17.

Final: BULATOVAIZAKHARIAN bt Bolvari/Olah 14. 17.

Mixed Double.: Quarter-finals:
Douglas/ Gordon bt D. Surbek (YUG)/ Batinic 13. **5;**
Persson/ Nakajima bt M. Krumtunger/ A. Mausolf **(FRG)** 13, 19;
Molnar/ Dlah bt Kucharski/ Masukawa -16, 11. 13;
Kalinic/ Perkucin bt Masinov/Antonian 18. -12. 25.

Semi-finals:
Persson/ Nakajima bt Douglas/ Gordon 11. 15;
Molnar/ Olah bt Kalinic/ Perkucin 16. 24.

Final: **MOLNAR/OLAH** bt Persson/ Nakajima -22, 5. 12.

COVER PICTURE

A decade on from when the cover picture was taken, at a Swaythling Club dinner held in conjunction with the 1974 Norwich Union English Open at Brighton, the Hon. Ivor Montagu, ETTA Life Vice-President and Founder President of the ITTF, celebrates his 80th birthday on April **23rd,** 1984. Handing over the bouquet are Joe Veselsky, President of the Irish Table Tennis Association and the Swaythling Club, and Susie Barna.

Photo by Tony Ross, Cottingham, North Yorkshire.

PROBLEMS IN POZNAN

THE POLISH OPEN

By H. Roy Evans

These Championships, the last of the present season's Norwich Union Grand Prix events, were. played at Poznan, about 200 miles south-west of Warsaw, and the venue for the 1980 European Youth Championships.

From the outset, the Organisers were plagued with big problems - the whole of the Chinese party and the French were marooned in Paris because of a strike there. The Chinese, although missing the team events, did arrive in time forthe individuals, but the French did not come at all, so that seeding was affected, and opposition to the Chinese reduced. But the organisation coped well.

As it was, the much improved Soviet men's team took the honours, the expected challenge by Poland not materialising mostly because of indifferent form by Grubba. Poland made their exit in the semi-final, losing to a new looking North Korean team. The Soviets beat Czechoslovakia 3-1 in their semi-'final, and took the final against North Korea by a similar margin.

The Soviet women, although only just scraping home against North Korea 3-2 in the semi-final, beat Rumania 3-O in the final. The latter had chalked up a good win over Czechoslovakia in their semi.

The individual events finished up with an identical pattern to the finals in Tokyo, the Chinese winning everything except the men's doubles, in which Grubba and Kucharski sa.lvaged national pride by beating Wang Huiyuan and Xu Zeng HaL

The highlight of this event was a tremendous 3rd round match between Grubba and the Soviet No.1 Mazunov, who continues to show much improvement. As in the team event, Grubba failed to attack enough, and paid the penalty against a player who hit well from all angles. The fifth game almost produced a sensation, Grubba fighting back from a deficit of 5-16 and 12-18 to at 20-all, only to lose 21-23 despite the understandably Polish spectator-urging.

Kucharski lost in the quarter-final to Teng Vi, whilst Bulgaria's Lukov, taking advantage of the Czech Pansky's withdrawal because of illness, ventured to the quarters, there to bow out to Wang Huiyuan.

The final was a big disappointment, World No. 3 Jiang Jialiang having surprisingly little trouble .beating World No.4, Wang Huiyuan in a match of few interesting rallies.

The women's final was a much more interesting affair, and although World Champion Cao Yanhua' beat No. 7 ranked Ni Xia Liang, the latter put up a good fight.

Bettine Vriesekoop reached the semi-final, but was comfortably beaten by Ni Xia Liang. The Soviet girls Antonian and Bulatova were also victims of the Chinese, Antonian taking a game from the V'/inner Cao in the quarters, and Bulatova taking Guan Tian Hua to the fifth, also in the quarters.

The Polish doubles heroes Grubba and Kucharski, had a good win over Jiang and Teng Vi in the semi-final, probably a harder game thantheirtwo-straight victory over Wang Huiyuan and Xu Zeng Hai in the final. The latter's semi-final victims were Fejer and Florea of Rumania, who had done well to beat Rus'sia's Mazunov and Podnosov in the quarters.

The Women's and Mixed doubles were all Chinese affairs with only academic interest for a good crowd hoping for something European to cheer about. Results:

MT: 1. USSR; 2. North Korea; 3/4 Czechoslovakia and Poland
WT: 1. USSR; 2. Rumania; 3/4 Czechoslovakia and North Korea
MS: S-F: Jiang Jia Liang bt Xu Zeng Ha 3-1; Wang Hui Yuan bt Teng Yi 3-0.
Final: JIANG JIA LIANG bt Wang Hui Yuan 9. 11. 15.
WS: S-F: Cao Yanhua bt Guan Tian Hua 3-1; Ni Xia Liang bt Vriesekoop 3-0.
Final: CAO YANHUA bt Ni Xia Liang 17. 14. -17.21.
MD: Final: KUCHARSKI/GRUBBA bt Wang Hui Yuan/Xu Zeng Hai 11.19.
WD: Final: CAO YANHUA/NI XIA LIANG bt Guan Tian Hua/Zheng Hui Ping 19. 14.
XD: Final: WANG HUI YANG/CAO YAN YANG bt Jiang Jia Liang/Ni Xia Liang 18. 16.
Men's Team:
Semi-Finals: USSR 3 Czechoslovakia 1
North Korea 3 Poland I 0
Final: USSR 3 North Korea 1
Women's Team:
Semi-finals:
Rumania 3 Czechoslovakia 0
USSR 3 North Korea 2
Final: USSR 3 Rumania 0
Men's Singles: Q-F's:
Jiang Jialiang (CHN) bt Cho Jong Chol (PRK) 14.18. -18.23;
Xu Zeng Hai (CHN) bt A. Mazunov (URS) -16.12.16.15;
Teng Yi (CHN) bt L. Kucharski (Pal) -12. 12. 19. 17;
Wang Huiyuan (CHN) bt M. lukov (BUI) 11. -17. 13. 11.
S-F's:
Jiang Jialiang bt Xu Zeng Hai 18. -17. 16. 16;
Wang Huiyuan bt Teng Yi 19. 14. 17.
Final: JIANGJIAUANG bt Wang Huiyuan 9. 11. 15.
Women's Singles: Q-F's:
Cao Yanhua (CHN) bt N. Antonian (URS) -17. 8.15.14;
Guan Tian Hua (CHN) bt F. Bulatova (URS) -17. -18. 11. 13.5;
B. Vriesekoop (Hal) bt Nagy (HUN) 9. 19. 10;
Ni Xialiang (CHN) bt Li Bun Hi (PRK) -23. 15.9. 14.
Semi-finals:
Cao Yanhua bt Guan Tian Hua -18. 11. 20. 9;
Ni Xialiang bt Vriesekoop 8. 11. 13.
Final: CAO YANHUA bt Ni Xialiang 17. 14. -17. 21.
Men's Doubles: Final:
A. GRUBBA/L. KUCHARSKI (POL) bt Wang Huiyuan /Xu Zeng Hai 11. 19.
Women's Doubles Final:
CAO YANHUA/NI XIAUANG bt Guan Tian Hua/Zheng Hui Ping (CHN) 19. 14.
Mixed Doubles: Final:
WANG HUIYUAN/CAO YANHUA bt Jiang Jianliang/Ni Xialiang 18.16.

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EUROPEAN LEAGUE

''AU REVOIR" FRANCE

by MIKE WATTS

1984 is proving to be a most successful year for Peter Simpson and his victorious team as for the third month running England triumphed in the European League Super Division. Wins over Poland 4-3, Yugoslavia 4-3, Federal Germany 6-1, and now France 5-2, makes one wonder what might have been the end result had Desmond Douglas been fit to face Hungary and two more points won- in a Men's Doubles in Czechoslovakia would have turned defeat into victory.

The Guildford TTA played hosts to the most recent match when England doomed France to relegation on Tuesday March 6 at the Guildford Sports Centre. Around 600 spectators attended to help England on their way.

As usual, Douglas gave England a flying start with a win over Francois Farout,a surprise selection by the French, replacing Patrick Renverse who played only in both doubles. However, Farout fully justi'fied his selection taking Douglas to three games before succumbing in the third.

Patrick Birocheau quickly levelled matters with a two-game thrashing of Graham Sandleywho mighthave hoped for more, bearing in mind his great win over Birocheau two years previously in Mansfield.

Alison Gordon, following her impressive performance at the Federal German Championships, was preferred to Joy Grundy for this match, making her League debut in singl.es. Her opponent Nadine Daviaud recently gained an impressive win over European No.1 ranked Marie Hrachova in the European League match against Czechoslovakia and, up to then, was unbeaten in three matches, which made Miss Gordon's position even more difficult. But howwell she roseto the occasion. Having won the first game, the second slipped away at 23-25, but she continued to go for her shots and completed a sound performance with a 21-19 third game win.

At this stage, France pulled another surprise, leaving out Birocheau from the men's doubles and the English Open Doubles finalists, Sandley partnered by Alan Cooke, gained the verdict albeit at 21-19 once again in the third.

England, now with a 3-1 lead, threw Douglas ,back into the fray,' partnered by Alison Gordon, with the French continuing mysteriously to leave out Birocheau. Semi-finalists at the Federal German, an easy England victory was expected, but the French pair took the middle game and provided all kinds of difficulties before the game and match was finally won by the English pair.

Douglas returned to the table, having lost only one singles all season, but Birocheau was brilliant. Try as he could, Douglas could not break down Birocheau's tight game and victory came to the French ace for a we"-taken double.

The last set of the evening saw Sandley continue his good run' of successes against foreign oppositions with another three-game win over Farout to make the final score 5-2. All in all, a satisfactory performance by England which augurs well for the future, but one must feel dreadfully sorry for the French who have played well this season, losing five of their seven matches by the odd set.

Results:
D. Douglas bt F. Farout 14. -14. 12.
G. Sandley lost to P. Birocheau -13. -12.
A. Gordon bt N. Daviaud 12. -23. 19.
Safldley/A. Cooke bt P. Renverse/Farout 16. -19. 19.
Douglas/Gordon bt Renverse/Daviaud 13. -21. 15.
Douglas lost to Birocheau 16. -18. -18.
Sandley bt Farout 14. -19. 15.

At Clements Hall Sports Centre, Rochford, Nr. Southend, Essex, the following evening, in a match sponsored by Rochford District Council, two youthful squads met in a friendly International. Disappointing for the crowd of just under 300 was the fact that the established French stars had returned home, leaving the stars of the future in the shape of Jacques Mommessin and Jean Christophe Aernout, together with Murial Monteux, to face England.

In fact, the England consisting mainly of the first team squad, were far too good for their French counterparts with the only set lost being Phillip Bradbury's defeat by Aernout.

Results:
A. Cooke bt J. Mommessin 19. 19.
P. Bradbury lost to J-C Aernout -21. 8. -8.
L Bellinger bt M. Monteux 13. 16.
Sandley/Cooke bt Mommessin/Aernout 19. 14.
Bradbury bt Mommessin 18. 12.
Cooke bt Aernout 18. 18.
Sandley bt Mommessin 15. 16.

Final score: England 6, France 1.

FINAL SEASON·S PERFORMANCES (EUROPEAN LEAGUE)

	P	W	L
Desmond Douglas	12	10	2
Graham Sandley	10	4	6
Carl Prean	6	1	5
Karen Witt	4	3	1
Joy Grundy	2	1	1
Alison Gordon	1	1	0
Douglas/Prean	2	1	1
Sandley/Cooke	1	1	0
Douglas/Sandley	3	2	1
Cooke/Prean	1	0	1
Douglas/Gordon	2	2	0
Douglas/Witt	2	0	2
Cooke/Grundy	2	0	2
Sandley/Witt	1	0	1

LEADING EUROPEAN POSITIONS (SINGLES ONLY)

MEN	P	W	L
1. DESMOND DOUGLAS (ENG)	12	10	2
2. Jindrich Pansky (TCH)	14	10	4
3. Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE)	14	10	4
4. Andrzej Grubba (POL)	12	9	3
5. Zoran Kalinic (YUG)	12	9	3
6. Patrick Birocheau (FRA)	12	8	4
7. Mikael Appelgren (SWE)	8	7	1
8. Zsolt Kriston (HUN)	12	7	5
9. Leszek Kucharski (POL)	10	5	5
10. GRAHAM SANDLEY (ENG)	10	4	6
11. Georg (FRG)	12	4	8
12. Ralf Wosik (FRG)	12	3	9
13. Erik Undh (SWE)	4	2	2
14. Miroslav Broda (TCH)	6	2	4
15. Vladimar Broda (TCH)	6	2	4
16. Stefan Dryszel (POL)	6	2	4
17. Milivoj Karakasevic (YUG)	6	2	4
18. Tibor Klampar (HUN)	6	2	4
19. Janos Molnar (HUN)	6	2	4
20. Patrick Renverse (FRA)	10	2	8

WOMEN	P	W	L
,. Branka Batinic (YUG)	6	5	1
2. Marie Hrachova (TCH)	6	5	1
3. Nadine Daviaud (FRA)	4	3	1
4. KAREN WITT (ENG)	4	3	1
5. Iolanta Szatko (POL)	7	3	4
6. ALISON GORDON (ENG)	1	1	0
7. Gordana Perkucin (YUG)	1	1	0
8. Menni Weizades (SWE)	1	1	0
9. JOY GRUNDY (ENG)	2	1	1
10. Brigitte Thiriet (FRA)	2	1	1
11. Edith Urban (HUN)	·3	1	2
12. Zsuzsa Olah (HUN)	4	1	3
13. Susanne Wenzel (FRG)	4	1	3
14. Marie Lindblad (SWE)	6	1	5

NATIONAL INTER-LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

QUARTER AND SEMI-FINAL DRAWS

Wilmott Cup
Stockton v Bolton (1)
Birmingham v Leicester (2)
Willesden v Central London (3)
Salisbury v Hastings or Medway (4)

Semi-finals:
1 v 2 3-4

J. M. Rose Bowl
Bradford v Northumberland (1)
Wolverhampton v Leicester (2)
North Middlesex v Harlow (3)
Swindon v Hastings. (4)

Semi-finals:
1 v 2 4-3

Carter Cup
Bradford v Ormesby (1)
Wolverhampton v Chesterfield (2)
Ipswich v North Middlesex (3)
Reading v Bournemouth (4)

Semi-finals:
1v2 3v4

Bromfield Trophy
Northumberland v Sheffield (1)
Derby v (2)
North Middlesex v Oxford (3)
Crawley/Horsham v Bridgwater (4)

Semi-finals:
1 v2 4v3

COMPLETION DATES
Quarter-finals: April 15/8.4
Semi-finals: May 13/84

finals of all events are scheduled to take place at Mansfield Leisure Centre, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield on Sunday, June 10/84 commencing at 2.30 p.m.

NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CLOSED

NEAR BLOW-OUT AT BLETCHLEY

By George R. Yates

Notwithstanding the feat of Desmond Douglas in winning the men's singles title fora record seventh time; that Alison Gordon won the women's singles title for the first time; and that Douglas brought off a seventh men's doubles success, albeit with three different partners, other matters occupied the attention of the media, and indeed others, at Bletchley Leisure Centre over the period March 8/10, 1984.

John Hilton in being allowed to concede a game by an umpire who shall remain nameless, when leading 2-1 in games but 5-9 down in the fourth to Carl Morgan, could not have anticipated what was to follow and how near matters came to a boycott when all eight quarter-finalists in the men's singles refused to play unless Hilton was reinstated.

Referee Doug Young, when having his attention drawn to the conceded game, after the completion of the set, rightly ruled that such a concession was out of order and that Hilton be disqualified. An appeal by the player, through his representative Barrie Johnson, was not upheld by the Championships Committee despite the error having been condoned by the umpire.

Matters went to the very brink of disaster when no response came from the first two pairs of quarter-finalists after they had been called to the tables whereupon the three ETTA main officers prevailed upon the Referee to reconsider. This he did by compromising to the extent of calling for a replay of the set between Hilton and Morgan.

So distraught was Morgan by this time that he, bravely coming to the table, conceded the set to Hilton amidst applause and then those vexed quarter-finals took place with Hilton mown down by Carl Prean in straight games.

Graham Sandley subsequently eliminated Prean whilst Douglas, in the quarters, quietly disposed of Kenny Jackson and, in the semis, was taken the distance of five games by the ever-improving Alan Cooke, the pride of Chesterfield.

But there was to be no repeat of the Basingstoke final when Sandley fought every inch of the way for at Bletchley, despite. the Middlesex player taking the third game, at 20, it was Des who was in command.

Looking back in the draw all the eight seeded players reached their quarter-final objectives, Prean and Jackson without the loss of a game. Douglas had a third game. breather when he lost to Steve Mills -3 in the third round, Cooke battled valiantly in turning a 0-2 defic·it into a 3-2 win against Paul Day, and Sandley dropped a third game to Skylet Andrew. Hilton was forced to pult out all the stops in disposing of young Jimmy Stokes, 19 in the 5th, whiJst Andrew dropped his first game to Nigel Eckersley in a far from friendly third round encounter.

SEDATE

By contrast the women's singles event was a very sedate affair and with Karen Witt withdrawing - still plagued with her back - the title was up for grabs.

But one player intent on showing 'em was Carole Moore .ibut, alas, it was not to be as she succumbed to Joy Grundy in the quarters, the Lancastrian going out in the semis to Lisa Bellinger. Alison Gordon emerged from the top half of the draw with victories over Fiona Elliot, Mandy Reeves and Karen Smith and she ca·rried her momentum into the final there to beat the Dunstable girl.

Douglas and Day, except in the final, were never extended in capturing the men's doubles title for a fourth consecutive time, but Prean and Donald Parker were in never-say-die mood in the first game of the final but never in it in the second.

Miss Gordon picked up her second title of the championships in the women's doubles when she and her Berkshire colleague, Mandy Sainsbury, fought off the challenge of the Red Rose combine of Miss Grundy and Jean Parker, conquerors of the Bellinger sisters in the semis.

Mrs. Moore gained some little consolation when she and Andrew denied Eckersley and Miss Grundy of a retention of their mixed doubles title but there was great rejoicing for the Schofields, Derek and Doreen, in winning the two veterans' titles, Derek beating Ralph Gunnion for the men's title and Doreen, equally competent, in disposing of Connie Moran in the women's final.

But headlines of a players' revolt, although in essence correct, has no place in the annals of this tournament, or indeed any other and John Hilton would be well advised not to repeat this trick ever again. This time it worked, thanks to Doug Young putting the interests of the ETIA first, but next time it won't!

Sadly this was the last championship involving the Norwich Union Insurance Group. But we part as friends their sponsorship, lasting over a decade, having done much for the game of table tennis in general and for the English Association in particular. We bid them farewell and hope theirfuture policies flourish. Results:-

Men's Singles: Round 3:
D. Douglas (Wa) bt S. Mills (V) 15. 15. -3. 12;
K. Jackson (E) bt C. Rogers (Le) 14, 12. 13;
P. Day (Ca) bt S. Scowcroft (La) 14. 13. 17;
A. Cooke (Dy) bt D. Reeves (Bk) 10. 14, 10;
G. Sandley (Mi) bt D. Barr (Bk) 12. 12. 12;
S. Andrew (E) bt N. Eckersley (Ch) -20, 20. 13. 16;
J. Hilton (La) w.o. C. Morgan (Wa) scr:
C. Prean (IOW) bt D. Wells (Mi) 19. 13,8.
Quarter-finals:
Douglas bt Jackson 11. 10, 13;
Cooke bt Day -16. -17. 20. 15. 17;
Sandley bt Andrew 10. 13, -13. 18;
Prean bt Hilton 14, 5, 15.
Semi-finals:
Douglas bt Cooke 10, -17,12, -19.11;
Sandley bt Prean 18, 15. 18.
Final:
DOUGLAS bt Sandley 17. 7. -20. 16.
Women's Singles: Round 2:
K. Smith (Le) w.o. K. Witt (Bk) scr;
J. Bellinger (Bd) bt N. Tsakarisianos (Gs) 14. 17. -15. 17;
M. Reeves (Mi) bt K. Groves (Wa) -20. 17. 13. 16;
A. Gordon (Bk) bt F. Elliot (St) 14. 10, 18;
J. Grundy (La) bt J. Harris (St) -15. 10. 21. 16:
C. Moore (Cv) bt M. Sainsbury (Bk) 17. 14. 10;
J. (La) bt J. Shaw (V) 13. -16. 15. 16;
L Bellinger (Bd) bt R. Russe (So) 11. 13. 11.
Quarter-finals:
Smith bt J. Bellinger 16. 21. -20. 8;
Gordon bt Reeves 16. 14. 6;
Grundy bt Moore 17. 17. 19;
L Bellinger bt Parker 16. 12. 16.
Semi-finals:
Gordon bt Smith 18. 7. 18;
L Bellinger bt Grundy -13, 19. 16. 18.
Final:
GORDON bt L Bellinger 11. -21. 15. 16.
Men's Doubl.s: Quarter-finals:
Day/Douglas bt M. Crimmins (Sy)/L. Taylor (Cv) 11. 14;
Sandley/Wells bt Hilton/Mills 14. 16;
D. Parker (la)/Prean bt Eckersley/A. Fletcher (V) 14. -21, 11;
Andrew/P. Bradbury (Bu) bt G. Baker/M. Oakley (Sy) -21.16.17.
Semi-finals:
Day/Douglas bt Sandley/Wells 14. 19;
Parker/Prean bt Andrew/Bradbury 19, -21. 18.
Final:
DAY/DOUGLAS bt Parker/Prean 23. 8.
Women's Doubl.s: Quarter-finals:
Moore/Smith bt J. Powis (St)/Tsakarisianos 18. 16;
Gordon/Sainsbury bt Groves/S. Peakman (Wa) 14. 16;
Grundy/Parker bt l. Goldsmith (Mi)/Shaw 18. 14;
Bellinger/Bellinger bt S. Sandley (Mi)/C. Maisey (Wi) 12.19.
Semi-finals:
Gordon/Sainsbury bt Moore/Smith -18. 9. 9;
Grundy/Parker bt Bellinger/Bellinger -18. 18.
Final:
GORDON/SAINSBURY bt Grundy/Parker 19. -19. 14.
Mixed Doubles: Quarter-finals:
Sandley/Gordon bt Baker/Tsakarisianos 14. 7;
Andrew/Moore bt A. Moore (Sx)/L Bellinger 18. -22. 14;
Eckersley/Grundy bt C. Wilson (Mi)/J. Houghton (K) 15. 16;
S. Moore (Sx)/J. Bellinger bt Cooke/M. Hams (Sy) 14. -13. 13
Semi-finals:
Andrew/Moore bt Sandl.ey/Gordon 16. -15. 19;
Eckersley/Grundy bt Moore/Bellinger -11. 12. 12.
Final:
ANDREW/MOORE bt Eckersley/Grundy 14. 17.
Men's Veterans' Singl.s: auaner-finals:
D. Schofield (Ch) bt B. Simmonds (Sy) 17. 15;
B. Adedayo (Mi) bt R. Norton (Hu) 12. 20;
H. Buist (K) bt P. O'Arcy (Ch) 8. 12;
R. Gunnion (Wa) bt M. Sheader (Li) 22. 19.
Semi-finals:
Schofield bt Adedayo 22. 17;
Gunnion bt Buist -14. 19 12.
Final:
SCHOFIELD bt Gunnion -21. 13, 17.
Women's Veterans' Semi-finals:
D. Schofield bt S. Coombs (Bu) 14. 10;
C. Moran (Li) bt J. Coop (Do) -19. 16.6.
Final:
SCHOFIELD .bt Moran 11. 13.

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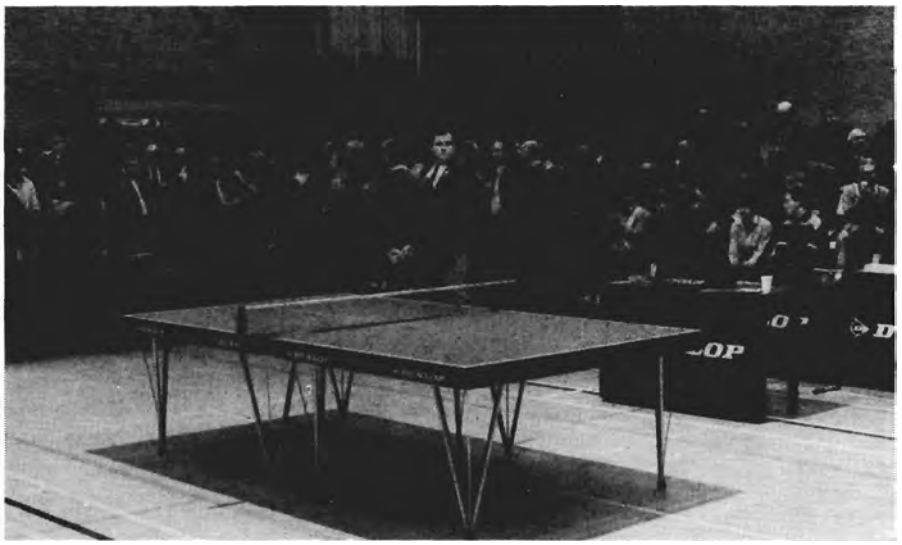
All Photos by Stephen Line, Shoreham-by-Sea.

Skylet Andrew and Carole Moore congratulating each other after their winning mixed doubles final.

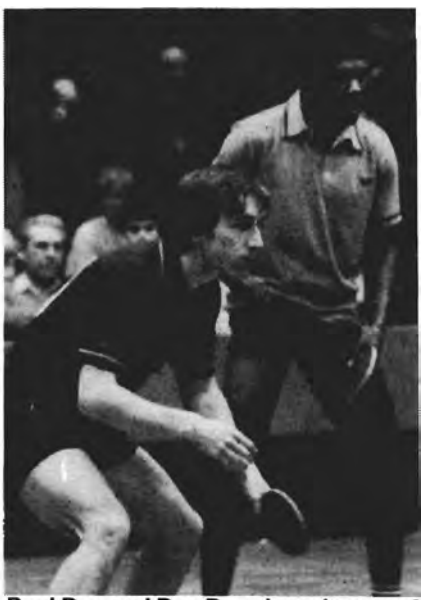
Bletchley Leisure Centre



Officials and crowd await Des Douglas and Kenny Jackson to appear in their quarter-final when players were in dispute over disqualification of John Hilton.

Donald Parker and Carl Prean, the losing finalists in the men's doubles.

Alison Gordon, first time winner of the women's singles event.



Paul Day and Des Douglas winners of the men's doubles.

THE CORBIN STRIP

Photos by Murray Corbin, Wimbledon, London SW19.

Edgar Alloway of Norwich Union presents the men's singles trophy to Des Douglas flanked (l to r) by Carl Prean, Graham Sandley and Alan Cooke.

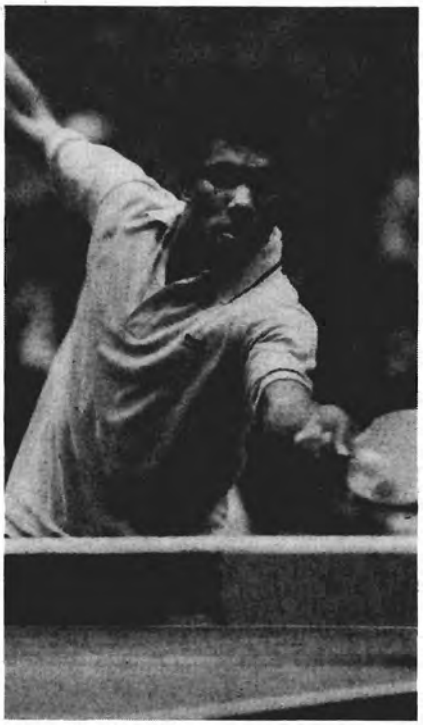
ETTA President Maurice Goldstein, OBE, lines up with the men's doubles finalists Donald Parker, Carl Prean, Des Douglas and Paul Day.

Lisa Bellinger, Alison Gordon, **ETTA** Chairman Tom Blunn and Joy Grundy smile for the camera after the presentations for the women's singles event.

Action from the final of the men's singles between Douglas and Sandley.

Joy Grundy and Jean Parker, **the** defeated finalists in the women's doubles.

BIG ONE



Desmond Douglas, winner of the Men's Singles Title for a record seventh time.

Photo by Stephin Line, Shoreham-by-Sea

Alison Gordon and Mandy Sainsbury, winners ofthe women's doubles title, discuss tactics between games.

SPOTLIGHT ON GRAHAM SANDLEY

By John Oakley of the Press Association

Graham Sandley, who has been a dominating character at every age group in English table tennis during the past decade, could be at the crossroads of his career.

The big-hitting left hander from Potters Bar has proved in recent months that on the domestic front - with Desmond Douglas away in West Germany - there is no-one to touch him.

His record against the other leading home players this season up to the end of the English closed championships at Bletchley has been one long chapter of success.

He is 3-0 up on Carl Prean, 4-0 against Alan Cook, 6-1 against Skylet Andrew, 1-0 against Phil Bradbury and 2-0 against Kenny Jackson. Only Douglas who beat him in the final at Bletchley, but is rarely around to play, is still his superior.

True Prean has a better record against European and world opposition but most of his better wins were before the change in rules. In the past four months Sandley has beaten the Isle of Wight youngster two-straight in the Middlesex Three-Star, two-straight in the National League and three-straight in the English closed.

Sandley is, in fact, running out of opposition and if he is to continue to make improvement he should take advice from Douglas and move to the Continent where the standard of play is far higher.

Douglas said recently: "Graham will not make progress if he is content to stay in England and beat lower-ranked players.

"If he comes to Germany with the one foreign player per club rule he may have to start in a lower division but if he does well the better offers will come."

Sandley, who is off to the European championships in Moscow with the England team this month, is well aware that Douglas has a point but has not yet committed himself.

His present aim is to do well in Moscow and hopefully earn a European ranking for the first time.

This strapping 21-year-old was disappointed when he was not ranked in the latest European list issued in mid-February. "I thought I had a chance of making it" he says, "but that is my next ambition.

"It would be the next step up the ladder and would be also good for my confidence and morale."

Among his victims this season are Georg Bohm of West Germany who is No. 19 in Europe, Vladislav Bröda of Czechoslovakia, ranked 22, Ralf Wasik of West Germany, ranked 29, and Milivoj Karakasevic of Yugoslavia, ranked 31 .

He also has a win over the European No.1, Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden, in a friendly international but Sandley, ever the realist, says: "I don't count that".

Until this season he has always seemed in some awe of the top European players - a drawback in foreign Opens.

He says frankly: "I used to go to some tournaments and think, 'I shouldn't be here. I'm out of my class'. But not any more. Now I know I have a chance of beating people.

"Perhaps I gave European players too much respect because I know that most of them had been practising at a much higher level to me. It meant I had to raise my game straight away or I was dead.

"Now I go on to the table thinking I can win and they also know that I can win. It makes a tremendous difference."

Sandley's biggest problem in England has been fighting against complacency. When he plays in England it is the opposing players who have the 'shakes'.

"The other English players know what standard you are and know they must play well to beat you. So when you go on to the table you have a mental advantage. You are respected so much more at home" he points out.

Sandley, who has been to two previous European championships and one world championship for England as well as five European Youth tournaments, believes he,has improved a lot this season and puts it down mainly to losing weight.

He says: "After coming back from Japan and nearly beating Des in the English closed final in 1982 I was just under 12 stone. But last season my scales at home began to fluctuate. I got into some sloppy eating habits and my weight went right up.

"I used to get cramps at times and though I got to the English final again I didn't play well.

"I suppose I didn't play that badly last season but I did not improve. I had one or two good results but there was something missing.

"I was sluggish at the start of this season and lost to Dave Hannah in the Quadrangular tournament and then to both Steve Turner and Sky Andrew in the National League.

"I just did not feel good and after a chat with my father we put it down to my weight which had gone up to 13 stone 2 lbs. I got down to some really serious training and in one week lost nine pounds.

"Since then I've never looked back. Now I can relax and just play and my confidence has boomed."

Sandley will probably make plans for next season immediately after the European championships but already he has one nice trip planned in May.

He is going to Rio de Janeiro to play in an invitation event from May 10 to 15 which should be quite interesting.

Then it will be a break from table tennis for a while but he will get down to it seriously long before the new season begins.

If he does decide to go abroad he will be sadly missed for Sandley has been one of the most popular as well as one of the finest players on the English tournament scene for so long he has become almost a permanent fixture.

But if he is to make that final jump from top England player to world class it should be "Goodbye England, hello Europe."

Graham Sandley (ENG) Photo by: Malcolm Anderson, Chairman. Photographic Committee. U.S. Table Tennis Association.

JOHN OAKLEY reports on.... DESMOND DOUGLAS

Desmond Douglas, the mainstay of the England team for the past eight years, may have played his last European League game.

Speaking after winning the English closed championship for a record seventh time Douglas said: "I don't want to play in the European League for England again. I have lost my motivation.

"England should be looking to the future when I'm no longer around.

"I think they are scared of being relegated if I drop out but they should not worry about that sort of thing.

"They should be giving the kids a chance. Even if the team went down they would probably soon bounce back and in the end it would be good for the game in this country."

Douglas does not believe that he owes anything to the English game. "I've played for England all over the world, always did my best and I think I have given them good value over the years. It's time I played more for myself."

He has been offered a £10,000 contract by the ETTA to return to this country but he says: "If I do come back I shall lose my competitive edge.

"In Germany there are a lot of top foreign players to play and practice against and the general standard in Germany is much higher than here.

"The standard of play in England is very low and there is no-one to push me."

As Douglas has not been beaten by a home player for seven years he is not being arrogant. Merely stating a fact.

He also points out that he can make far more money abroad. "It's not so much my contract with my German club" he says, "but there are so many four man tournaments in which I get paid £300 to £400 a day.

"I can make far more in that sort of event than by playing in Three-Stars in England:'

Douglas believes that he can play top-class table tennis until he is 33 or 34.

As he says: "If Surbek and Secretin can play at that age with their physical games then I'm sure I can with my game which is nowhere near so strenuous.

"I know my reflexes might go a little as I get older but it would still leave me on a par with the others. I'm banking on at least another five years at the top."

Douglas says he is pleased he won the English closed again but said: "The fact that I broke the record does not bother me. I'm not a man.for records. I just play:'

As for the John Hilton incident at the "English" D0uglas is very outspoken.

"I think the officials responsible should be ashamed of themselves. Hilton did nothing wrong. The only people to blame were the umpires who let him play on and the referee who disqualified him.

"This sort of thing could only happen in England and it makes me feel even more inclined to play abroad:'

Certainly Douglas believes in giving straight answers to straight questions bl t it will be a sad day if he really does stop playing for England.

Graham Sandley is beginning to show real promise, Carl Prean still has his moments and Alan Cooke is on the rise. But Douglas is still the only English name that counts abroad and England could do with him for at least another two years.

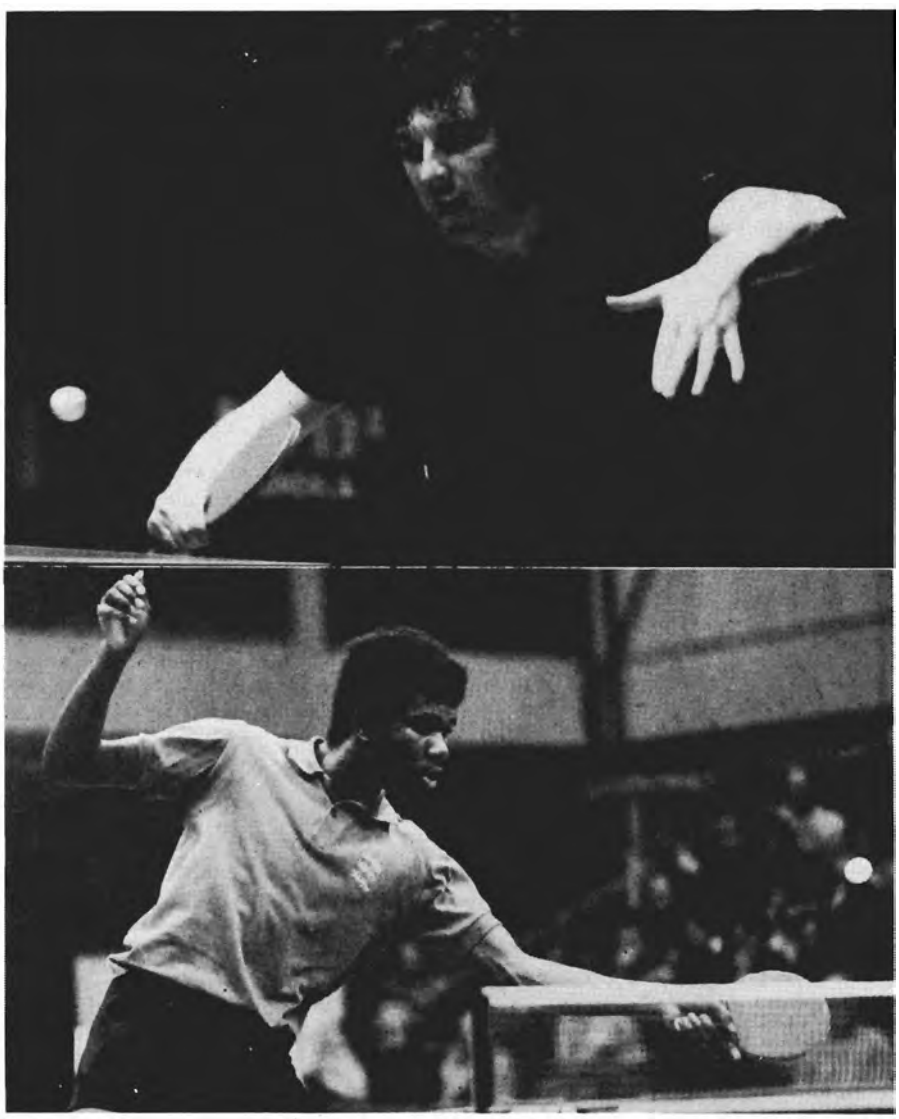
and DENIS NEALE counters.....

I have just returned from the English Closed Championships, my first tournament visit in the years since I retired from the table tennis circuit, to find that nothing has changed regarding arguments between players and officials.

In this case, I think that some of the players have a lot to answer for. In my opinion, any player who concedes at 9-5 down in the 4th, although leading by 2 games to 1, rightly deserves to be dismissed from the tournament. In all my 25 years as a player, I have never known this happen before and I don't think it will ever happen again. Players striking in this situation are absolutely ridiculous - the quicker the whole sham is forgotten, the better.

I must comment on the moaning by players of the Dunlop Super ball. Dunlop supply a great deal of financial support to table tennis, and as with any other sponsor, players must accept the playing conditions of that tournament. When I played table tennis abroad we often endured atrocious conditions, but we got on with the job in hand and accepted the conditions.

Although I have never been a friend of the ETTA, I must say a few words on the running battle between Desmond Douglas and the ETTA. He says that the ETTA can't be trusted, yet he has been treated better than any other player throughout the history of the game.



In 1972 when Douglas first came to prominence in the England senior team, during the Commonwealth Championships, he was selected for the final of the team event although he was only the 5th player. He took the place of Trevor Taylor who was then the reigning commonwealth champion, and who a few days later went on to retain his title.

In 1973, during the World Championships, Desmond Douglas did not win a game for England in the team event. He also lost in the first round of the individual singles, as well as in the 1st round of the consolation singles. Next season he was selected for European League matches when he was clearly only 3rd or 4th best player.

The point I am making is that Douglas was pushed forward by the ETIA, when they could just as easily have got rid of him. Now he has turned out to be a world class player, and the ETIA have offered him £10,000 a year to play in England, which sadly, he has turned down.

During the last three seasons, Douglas has hardly played in any English tournaments, attended very few training camps, thus preventing other top English players from playing him on a regular basis, which could only benefit and improve the game in England. The most striking example must be Graham Sandley who is clearly England No.2, yet he has only played Douglas three times in the last three years, each time being the final of the English Closed.

In my playing years each top player would oppose each other at least ten times in a season, which led to the greater improvement of all players. In my opinion, if Douglas doesn't want to play for England in the European League, he shouldn't be allowed to represent England on a part-time basis just to suit himself. The money the ETIA were considering giving him should be invested to improve the standard here in England, because Table Tennis will still be around long after Desmond Douglas.

THE TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK

Cornish Junior 2-Star Open

Record Entry at Redruth by Jeremy Williams

One hundred and seventy one players from as far away as Liverpool. Birmingham and London entered the Trustee Savings Bank Cornish Junior 2-Star held at the Carn Brea Leisure Centre, Redruth on March 3.

A record entry meant that some competitors had to be turned away although the overall playing standards since the tournament's initiation in 1981 have risen considerably.

Kent was by far the most successful County; its players were involved in no fewer than five of the eight titles and not a bad day for the Houghton family either helping Kent to win three of those titles.

The player that attracted most attention however was No.1 seed in the Boys' Singles, Chris Bartram, who won the event with the loss of justone game. Bartram's main threats were the Goode brothers from Middlesex - he overcame Jonathon in a devastating straight-games semi-final to meet the higher-ranked David in a final that turned into an exhibition match, much to the delight of the hundreds of spectators; David had earlier demolished No.3 seed Rodney Thomas (Dorset) in a surprisingly one-sided semi and in turn Thomas had eliminated Cornwall's last survivor and main hope Mark James. The final however saw Bartram, after a slightly hesitant start eventually winning comfortably; attacking and defending from all over the court to win the event in a similar manner to Devon's Mark Ellett the year previous.

The Girls' events were completely dominated by Juliet Houghton whose later victims in the Singles included Kristina Cox, Sarah Hammond and in the final Avon's Helen Perrott. Miss Perrott had earlier defeated Cornwall No. 1 Alison Clemens and then Suzanne Hegarty of Dorset who reached the semi by virtue of a straight-games win over second seed Sarah Webb (Somerset). Juliet then teamed up with Surrey's Claire Brooks to win the Girls' Doubles.

Bartram also dominated the Boys' Doubles and with Mark Wilding overcame No. 1 seeds Goode and Goode with ease. No. 3 seeds James and Graham Reed (Cornwall) were surprisingly eliminated by the Devon pairing of Richard Aitken and Gavin Hughes who went on to reach the semis. However the Cornish flag was kept flying by Xuong Ly and Phong Tran who beat Andrew Oxley and Jon Hook (Wiltshire) and themselves reached the semis before losing to Bartram/Wilding.

The younger events were again dominated by players from up the line. Andrew Houghton took another trophy back to Kent following his Cadet final win over Lancashire's comedian Andrew Eden. Eden apart, Houghton walloped his opponents although had Cornwall's No.2 seed Leon Jose not decided to go f10werpicking the outcome might have been different.

Karen Broczek was Cornwall's first finalist after defeating No. 2 seed Jane Wright (Devon) in the semis of the Cadet Girls' event; somewhat controversially. But top seed Melonie Carey was in a class of her own in this event and ran out a comfortable winner.

Andrew Eden reached his second final in the Boys' U-12 event and he too was in a class of his own. One of Cornwall's best prospects Neil Bevan did well to reach the final although he might have expected to take Eden a little closer.

There was a strong contingent of Welsh players at the tournament although the only event in which they made any impression was the Girls' U-12 Singles where both Denise Elward and Sian Evans were easy finalists with the former proving too consistent in the final.

The sponsorship from the Trustee Savings Bank has enabled Cornwall to stage a fine Junior Open which was this year extremely well supported. The tournament ran smoothly throughout and despite the large entry, finished well on schedule.

Resutts:
Boys' Singles: Quarter-Finals
C. Bartram (K) bt G. Kemp (Bk) 13. -17. 11.
J. Goode {Mil bt P. Lewis (Av) 19. 9.
R. Thomas (Do) bt D. Smith (Gs) 7. 14.
D. Goode (Mi) bt P. Savins (8k) 16. 12.
Semi-Finals:
Bartram bt J. Goode 17, 16.
D. Goode bt Thomas 8. 9.
Final: BARTRAM bt D. Goode 18. 14.
Girls' **Singl-•**: Quarter-Finals
J. Houghton (K) bt K. **Cox** (La) 14. 16.
S. Hammond (Hal bt E. Stevenson (Co) 14. 18.
H. Perrott lAy) bt A: Clemens (Co) 16. 11.
5. Hegarty (Do) bt 5. Webb (50) '6. '6.
Semi-Finals:
Houghton bt Hammond 18. 18.
Perron bt Hegarty 13. 18.
Finel: HOUGHTON bt Perrott 15. 11.
Cadet Boy.' Single.: Semi-Final•.
A. Houghton (Kl bt M. Mulley (Ov) 12. 13.
A. Eden (La) bt K. Hodder (Bk) 14. 9.
Finol: HOUGHTON bt Eden 16. 21.
Cadet Girl.' Singles: Semi-Finels
M. Carey (50) bt K. **Cox** (La) -19. 10. 9.
K. Broczek (Co) bt J. Wright (Dv) 21. 13.
Finel: CAREY bt Broczek 10. 18.
U·12 Boys' Singl.s: **Semi-Finals**
A. Eden (La) bt M. Bawden (Col 9. 4.
N. Bevan (Co) bt 5. HillIOv) 14. 9.
Finel: EDEN bt Bevan 10, 14.
U·12 Girt.' **Singl**. .: **Semi** Fin.l.
D. Elward (Wall bt R. Plummer (Co) 9. 5.
5. EVens (Wal) bt T. Logg (Col 15. 3.
Finel: ELWARD bt Evans 7, 18.
Boy.' Doubles: Semi·**Finals**
Goode/Goode bt X-Ly/P. Tran (Col 5. 15.
Bartram/M. Wilding (Ha) bt R. Aitken/G. Hughes **(Dv)** 14. 16.
Finol: BARTRAM/WILDING bt Goode/Goode 14. 16.
Girts' Daub...: **Semi-Finals**
Houghton/Brooks bt Carey/Perron 17, ·20. 16.
C. Hunter (Wi)/Hegarty bt Hammond/Webb 10. -16. 19.
Finol: HOUGHTON/BROOKS bt Hunter/Hegarty 13. 4.

Boys' Singles winner Chris Bartram (Kent) receiving his trophy from Cornwall Vice-Chairman. Mr. Peter Hancock.

Photo by Eric Parsons, Redruth.

THE PREMIER DIVISION PLAY-OFFS

By Philip Reid

The 'phone rang at my home "Phil Powell here-I'll pick you up at 8.45 on Saturday, O.K?" said our non-playing captain, Phil Powell. "Fine" I said. So' at the appointed time Phil arrived and we made our way to, Walthamstow YMCA, the venue for the play-offs. To be quite frank, I didn't fancy we (Leicestershire) were in with much of a chance but I was looking forward to meeting old friends. On arrival we were handed very impressive-looking programmes by our 'hosts' for the weekend, Dick and Val Roffe. They worked hard all the weekend and if I had to single out any individuals for plaudits I would mention, apart from Mr. and Mrs. Roffe, Clive Oakman, Alan Shepherd and Ray George, all of whom worked incessantly and cheerfully the whole weekend.

After an enjoyable lunch I attended the impressive opening ceremony at which Johnny Leach, twice World Champion and now president of Essex, welcomed everyone. I am not sure whether Johnny is most proud of Essex or Essex of Johnny! I settled down with John Rogers to watch the opening match after briefly chatting with Steve Sharpe, busily putting glue on his blade. Leicestershire made a good start with their star man, Chris Rogers, but the same old story made itself manifest - no backing. In the third Dave Gannon'led Andy Bellingham 20-19, only to lose 22-20 - yet again. Leicestershire eventually went down 5-4 - a vital loss this - and I consoled myself by going to the buffet, along with the Warwickshire team, who made me very welcome, particularly Carl Morgan and Sandra Peakman.

In the afternoon we made history- our first-ever Premier Division win - over companions in distress, Warwickshire. During the afternoon the lively Murray Corbin, full of vitality as usual arrived. We then retired to the home of the sponsors, the Woodford Moat House. This was excellent indeed, both for accommodation and as a social gathering In particular there were those two Warwickshire defenders, Barry Johnson and Philip Gunn. There was much friendly 'ragging' between Gannon and Phil, which everyone enjoyed, except possibly Dave. There was the enthusiastic Nicky Mason, mixing with everybody and making friends. In the mCJrning after a comfortable night's sleep, we went back to the venue again. There was a problem for skipper Phil Powell. Should he give Martin Pickles a run out against Lancashire or should he persevere with Grahame Hall? After much thinking he decided on the former course of action. Lancashire started off like a house on fire. In no time at all they were 7-0 before Rogers (who else?) stopped the rot with a handsome win over Donald Parker.

I had Sunday lunch with Murray Corbin before returning to the hall for the last time. The position, as far as Leicestershire were concerned, was tense. They needed to beat Yorkshire 6-3 to stay up. Phil Powell decided to change the doubles pairings in a desperate effort to turn the tables. It was an unavailing ploy. While we were fighting for our Premier Division lives, on the next table Essex and Middlesex were fighting for the title. Neither had yet been beaten. I sat down next to Alan Shepherd, having an overdue and well-earned rest. "You Essex people must be the best organisers around" I said. Startled, Alan said ''Er.... yes. We do our best". I looked at these eight teams in combat with their various supporters urging them on. "The National League has nothing like this Alan" I volunteered. Alan's eyes lit up '"No. No. They haven't" he said.

Leicestershire were gradually but inevitably sinking into Division two oblivion. On the adjoining table Middlesex were annihilating Essex. Only the final set, Kenny Jackson v John Souter, prevented Middlesex from winning 9-0. Yorkshire had beaten Leicestershire 6-3 - enabling Yorkshire to stay up at our expense. Surrey were still battling with Warwickshire. Warwicks. hadn't won a match but were still game to the last. The score-4-4. Glenn Baker's attack versus Barry Johnson's defence. The blond Surrey battler finally wins so that Warwickshire, rather than Leicestershire are wooden spoonists. I go to the lounge for the presentation. A few words of introduction by Ian Whiteside and the trophies are presented to Middlesex by our generous sponsors, Mr. and Mrs. Gunter, L. Stohr, of the Woodford Moat House and suddenly it's all over.

We've lost but I've achieved my ambition of meeting old friends. The elegant Dave Wells, the hard-working Glenn Baker, the effervescent Mason, the composed Sharpe, the happy Phil Gunn, Barry Johnson and Morgan (what a trio!), the jovial Murray Corbin and I could go on. Andy Bellingham, Stuart Gibbs, Stan Parr(on the results sheets table yet again), Les Smith, Don Parker (who takes an interest in all the players), Albert Shipley, who had made the trip from Hastings to be present but what I remember most- apart from the expert way Essex organised things - was the friendly atmosphere which prevailed. There was not one unsavoury incident I can recall. The whole thing was alive with people chatting happily to one another. No animosity, just friendship. And that, above all, is what the whole thing is all about.

NORWICH UNION TABLE TENNIS SPONSORSHIP

After more than 10 years of sponsorship and promotion, Norwich Union is ceasing its activities in Table Tennis. The withdrawal is part of an on-going review of sponsorship within the publicity programme, which has obviously changed in the decade. The decision is no reflection upon our excellent relationship with the ETTA which remains on the very friendliest of terms.

During the period Norwich Union's involvement in the sport has ranged from the sponsorship of the World Championships involving over 75 countries to a World Cup qualifying competition for six players in New Zealand, and has included promoting and staging events in Europe, the Far East and the Americas.

One factor which has remained constant throughout has been the sponsorship of the English Open and Closed Championships through the English Table Tennis Association with whom we have always enjoyed.a strong working relationship. The repeated renewal of contracts with the ETTA underlines our satisfaction with the arrangements made by that organisation and at the same time emphasises the policy of Norwich Union, as one of the major insurance groups, in fostering long term business arrangements.

We are pleased that during this long-lasting and mutually beneficial partnership, Norwich Union has been able to help promote the sport and we are delighted to see more companies prepared to support the English Table Tennis Association in its efforts.

The staging of the Norwich Union Masters in June will bring to a close the involvement with Table Tennis which Norwich Union has enjoyed 'and we would like to place on record our thanks to everyone, throughout the world, who made that involvement so rewarding and pleasurable.

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TO IV08 MONTAGU ON HIS 80th

MANY HAPPY RETURNS
from ETTA Chairman, Tom Blunn

My first meeting with Ivor Montagu is just as vivid as my last. which was at the World Championships in Tokyo in April, 1984.

The first was just as exciting though under quite different circumstances. I had attended the annual general meetings of the ETTA since I had become a local league secretary in 1946. I had been greatly impressed by his presence and performance as chairman of the ETIA. He guided more than dominated, and everything always seemed to come right in the end. But I could never dare go up and speak to him as I did not have the courage to do so. I usually dashed off to catch my train back north from where I had come on a cheap day return.

By 1947 I was chairman of lancashire and as the World Championships were to be held in london in 1948, we asked to be allowed to stage the English Open that year at Belle Vue, Manchester. This was agreed and I was asked to be the chairman of the organising committee.

Following the AGM in 1947, I stayed down in london to meet with the top brass of the ETTA, along with my colleagues from lancashire and Cheshire who were with me on that committee. I was very nervous when Ivor Montagu turned up with the ETIA officials and introduced himselfto me. He was very friendly and confirmed the confidence of the ETIA in our ability to stage the Open in Manchester, to the high standards already accepted at Wembley.

The meeting was due to start and I sat with my northern colleagues waiting for the chairman of the ETIA to open the discussions. Ivor came over to me, took me by the arm and deposited me in the chair. He said the championships were now our responsibility and that I should take the chair. My first really important meeting and the chairman of the ETIA was sat down there accepting my control of the meeting! Ivor did not embarrass me in any way and the incident only served to give more confidence in myself and still more respect for Ivor as a person.

There were many more occasions during the following 36 years but I cannot tell them all. One occasion remains vividly in my memory. We had in lancashire a very promising junior called Geoff Pullar, who later turned to cricket and became famous as an England opening batter. This was about 1950 and my contacts with Ivor at that time had been very limited. We thought Pullar should have been chosen to represent England on a junior tour of Sweden but he was left at home as non-travelling reserve. By chance the ETIA for some reason had decided to hold the AGM in Liverpool and this of course was our territory and gave us a good opportunity to turn out in force and make our views known to the ETIA. As chairman of lancashire, it was my duty to put the questions and hopefully to get an admission at the AGM that the selection committee had been unfair to Pullar.

I rose full of confidence and put forward a very provocative question. I had failed to realise that Ivor was also the chairman of the selection committee! For the next forty minutes we listened as Ivor described the duties and obligations of the selectors and the considerations necessary to choose a touring side which would do justice to all concerned. He did not try to embarrass or belittle me but gave me, and everybody else, an insight into the workings and problems of a national body!

Pullar gained his junior international cap eventually and established himself as a good player. I became chairman of the selection committee for lancashire and years later chairman of the national selection committee, and I often used Ivor's arguments to answer criticism of my own Committee's selections - they never failed.

Away from table tennis Ivor has so many interests that it would take too long to list them, but he is a very keen supporter of cricket. particularly of his own county, Hampshire. He knows, of course, of my own passion for cricket in lancashire and during the heyday of one-day cricket by lancashire he neverfailed to send me his two tickets for the Gillette Cup finals at lords, when lancashire appeared on six occaSions.

My fellow lancastrian George Yates went with me on most occasions and we have wonderful memories of great matches thanks to Ivor, and thanks to Hampshire for not reaching those finals as Ivor would have used the tickets himself. A very human and friendly gesture which I appreciated very much.

Now to that last occasion in Tokyo. As the founder chairman (president) of the ITIF the Japanese Association wanted to recognise Ivor's international efforts so they invited him to their championships. He could not make the full trip but came for the last two or three days,which included the finals party where he was the guest of honour.

It was a fantastic party in a huge room and my little table seemed insignificant compared with the array of talent on the top table. I fought my way through the crowds and asked Ivor if he could possibly spare a few minutes to greet our players and officials at our table on his way out. He came over as soon as it was convenient and stayed for a considerable time.

He greeted us all and accepted a small present which we gave him on behalf of the ETTA to remind him of our meeting on foreign soil. He was delighted with the performance of our players and commended us on our courage in selecting such a young team. We talked about almost everything and we all retired happier and wiser.

We managed to take a photograph of Ivor at the table which is reproduced within this article. It is typical of Ivor that he stayed on a little while in Japan to meet many old friends, some of whom travelled many miles to Tokyo to meet him. I am really pleased he was invited, that he had the strength to make the trip, and that he was glad that he had made the effort.

There will be many tributes to Ivor on this his 80th birthday and thanks for his lifetime dedication to our beloved sport from every member of the English Table Tennis Association. May we be greeting him again and again for many years to come.

IVOR MONTAGU

by Richard Eaton
of The Sunday Times

Ivor Montagu, founder chairman of the English Table Tennis Association, founder President of the International Table Tennis Federation, wit, raconteur, linguist, ornithologist, zoologist, author, 'film maker, politician and journalist, and probably the most influential and able man the game has ever known, was eighty on April 23.

It is a birthday he shares with Shakespeare and with St. George's day and neither is entirely inappropriate. Montagu's power with the pen is phenomenal, and while he could never be described as chauvinistically English he is the one person, if one there be, who might be said to have given birth to table tennis in England.

That began at the start of 1922 when the body once called the Ping Pong Association found itself with unexpected problems of nomenclature. Ping Pong, it was discovered, was a trade name, and material for the game under that name could only be sold under that particular' firm.

"Thus it was obvious that an implicit challenge to amateurism lay at the heart of the game," writes Montagu in a memoradum, "and the Ping Pong Association was a mere shell, a straw man, for the firm." An association that was a straw man for a firm was not to be endured.

Instead it became known as the Table Tennis Association. As the Daily Express of November 3, 1922, is reported as publishing: "At the George Hotel, Strand, before a crowd of judges and jurymen, all wearing black caps in advance, Ping Pong, aged 22, of no fixed abode, was indicted for obtaining credit contrary to laws in this case. There was no defence and the prisoner was sentenced to death." By 1927 the preface English had been adopted. The ETTA had emerged from the chrysalis.

In the forty years that followed Ivor Montagu, most of the time in his ITTF role, led the game through extraordinary development. He spoke (and speaks) according to one account, seven languages; he was, according to another, a born organiser; acc,ording to a third a fine diplomat; according to all of them a man of unusual personality, breadth of mind, interests and influence. It was not surprising that more and more nations became affiliated to the ITTF, to the point where there were more nations in it than in the United Nations.

It was therefore perhaps appropriate that when he played it was with a grip that was apparently neither a penholder nor completely a Western grip. He was popular in Eastern countries. And he was well-liked in Communist countries as well.

He was and is a Communist himself. Inevitably this influenced his vision of the game which, his close associates say, was one of a game for the masses and of a cheap game. As such it had colossal potential for popularity. If this was indeed his vision then, in international terms, it was succeeded almost beyond belief. A million people now play in Shanghai alone.

It has not, though, happened with quite the same success in this country. Montagu's critics would say that in our struggling economy it has been impossible to stop a type of game like table tennis from struggling too. The "ordinary" image has, they say, been a handicap and not a help. At the same time Montagu did develop a parlour game into a sporting spectacle.

Whatever the assessments of the merits of the influence of his politics, the merits of the person elicit approval from colleagues that is unequalled in any table tennis official. ''It was his f.riendliness that was remarkable," says Maurice Goldstein. "He didn't ram himself down your throat, he treated you as a human being," says Ron Crayden. "He was perfectly fair in everything," says Bill Vint, the former ETTA chairman.

In support of his view Vint cites Montagu's reaction to the death of King George VI in 1952. Anti-monarchist though he presumably was, no prejudice obtruded. He sent a telegram to the Queen expressing his condolences. Such humanity and consideration was typical.

He was of course an aristocrat 'himself. His mother, Lady Swaythling, gave her name to the trophy for the men's world team championship, and although Montagu was entitled to prefix himself as the Hon., he apparently never did.

He never arrogated anything to himself in appearance either, and if he could possibly avoid it, would not dress up for an occasion. "One of the scrubbiest persons I ever saw," was one rather fond observation. "He had an old baggy suit, old khaki shirt, and an appearance that could be compared, with Patrick Moore. But it was his personal charm, not his outward appearance that won people to him."

This winning eloquence often seemed effortless. He spoke off the cuff, or appeared to. At the recent 60th anniversary dinner of the ETTA, he was only able to decide to come on the day of the occasion, after consulting with a doctor. He would have had little time to prepare anything, yet he spoke for threequarters of an hour.

But then he is full of surprises. His was the script for the film Scott of the Antarctic. While in China he once had a trip to Mongolia to check that a wild camel still existed there. His book "The Youngest Son" .was widely acclaimed. He was awarded the Lenin Peace Prize for his work for the Peace Council.

In return, he too must have been surprised at the way his child, the sport of table tennis, has manifested itself. What for instance does he make of the plastic ball controversy? And what of the bats, the rubbers, the sponges, and the glue? And what does he think of modern commercialism and the tendency of sport to preoccupy itself with gaining sponsors and with image-making? The challenge to amateurism is now more explicit. And it is a far cry from Ping Pong.

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TITLE RETAINED

by Stephen Gibbs

When Gary Wilkins (Abergavenny) withdrew from the Halex Gwent Closed championships, due to a virus infection, Brian Jeanes (Eastern Valley) became the clear cut favourite to win, and thus retain, his 'Open' Singles title.

In an event of 60 players at Abersychan Leisure Centre on Feb. 26, Jeanes took the title dismissing three other Halex National League players in doing so. At the quarter-final stage Kevin Phillips (Eastern Valley) offered only token resistance to Jeanes' fire power but in the semi-final Jeanes' supremacy took a jolt when Warwick Armstrong (Newport) stole the middle game.

The veteran George Evans earned his final place by beating Cranfield Colours Halex Captain Andrew Evans in the semi-final. The Jeanes-Evans confrontation was one eagerly awaited and the many spectators who had stayed on forthe final were not to be disappointed. Faced with Evans' guile and multiplicity of variation Jeanes played one of his best games for months. There were no rash shots or outbursts from the volatile Jeanes who knew that any false step would be punished by one of the most experienced players in the game. Jeanes treated everyone to the full repertoire of his game while for'much of the time George was his equal. However, in the third game Jeanes asserted himself with some heavy top spin shots and took his third Halex Gwent Closed Singles title winning 12, -24, 15.

Both players had played against each other in an earlier final when Jeanes partnered by Andrew Evans took the Doubles title, beating George and Peter Pitfield in another three game battle. Evans and Pitfield (Eastern Valley) did well to reach the final after being originally No.5 seeds. Jeanes and Andrew Evans took the title 15, -20, 17.

For Pitfield his doubles final appearance was his second final of the day. In a disappointing Veteran field, minus George Evans, Pitfield reached the final after a dour struggle with Alan O'Connell (Tredegar). Lincoln Alford (Eastern Valley) was the other finalist, and he too had a tough semi against Roy Ward of Newport. Alford and Pitfield are regular opponents in the Eastern Valley League and results between the two of them are pretty even, but this time Pitfield won to become the first Halex Gwent Veteran Singles winner 14, 18.

Some very enthusiastic Juniors contested for the Junior Singles title, but enthusiasm was not enough to stop a repeat of last year's final between Jeff Turner (Tredegar) and Paul Jones (Newport). Even so, Turner dropped a game to Mark Farrow (Newport) and was forced to retrieve a considerable deficit in the decider before making the final; whil.e Jones lost the middle game of his semi against Ian Street (Eastern Valley). The Turner-Jones final promised to be a closely fought out battle and that's just what it was until the middle of the third and deciding game when Turner opened up a six point lead which Jones could not pull back. Turner, retained his title with a 15, -18, 16 win.

In the final of the Handicap Singles, another promising Junior, Stephen Buck (Eastern Valley) made his mark by reaching the final. He eliminated his brother David (a player with a very promising future) at the semi-final stage for the right to meet Armstrong in the final. Buck played well against the Halex National League player but 13 start was not enough as Warwick took the title 18, 18.

In the addition to the outstanding support received from Halex, this year's event was covered by BBC Radio Gwent.

Finally a word of thanks to Greg Jones (Ebbw Vale) who took charge of all the finals. Greg carries out his umpiring duties impartially and as a County Umpite has the respect of all the players.

EU ROPEAN·CLASSI FICATIONS

DO·WNGRADING FOR ENGLISH PLAYERS

All four English players with European rankings have been downgraded in the revised classifications of the European Table Tennis Union.

The list, dated Feb. 21, sees Desmond Douglas, down from No.6 to No.8, Carl Prean down from No.1 5 to No. 18 and, on the distaff side, Karen Witt demoted ·from No. 12 to No.16 and Lisa Bellinger "from No.1 3 to No. 18.

The only omission from both lists is that of Blanka Silhanova of Czechoslovakia previously at No. 15 in the women's 'category, both categories having been extended by one, from 30 to 31. The newcomers are Vladislav Broda,' Narine Antonian and Mirjam Kloppenburg.

Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner, winner of the Top 12 in Bratislava, takes over the men's top position from his compatriot, Mikael Appelgren, whilst Marie Hrachova of Czechoslovakia retains her top position by virtue of her success in Bratislava. Revised classifications (previous position in brackets) read:-

MEN

1 Jan-ave Waldner (SWE) (2)
2 Mikael Appelgren (SWE) (1)
3 Erik Lindh (SWE) (3)
4 Andrzej Grubba (POL) (7)
5 Jindrich Pansky (TCH) (11)
6 Jacques Secretin (FRA) (4)
7 Zoran Kalinic (YUG) (5)
8 Desmond Douglas (ENG) (6)
9 Dragutin Surbek (YUG) (8)
10 Milan Orlowski (TCH) (10)
11 Ulf Carlsson (SWE) (12)
12 Zsolt Kriston (HUN) (13)
13 Istvan Jonyer (HUN) (14)
14 Ulf Bengtsson (SWE)
15 Patrick Birocheau (FRA)
16 Tibor Klampar (HUN) (9)

17 Leszek Kucharski (POL) (21)
18 Carl (ENG) (15)
19 Georg (FRG) (18)
20 Stellan Bengtsson (SWE)
21 Janos Molnar (HUN) (20)
22 Vladislav Broda (TCH) (-)
23 Bela Mesaros (YUG) (22)
24 Patrick Renverse (FRA) (23)
25 Gabor Gergely (HUN) (24)
26 Miroslav Broda (TCH) (25)
27 Peter Stellwag (FRG) (26)
28 Stefan Dryszel (POL) (27)
29 Ralf Wosik (FRG) (28)
30 Christian Martin (FRA) (29)
31 Milivoj Karakasevic (YUG) (30)

WOMEN

1 Marie Hrachova (TCH) (1)
2 Bettine Vriesekoop (Hal) (4)
3 Valentina Popova (URS) (2)
4 Zsuzsa Olah .(HUN) (6)
5 Fliura Bulatova (URS) (3)
6 Branka Batinic (YUG) (7)
7 Edit Urban (HUN) (11)
8 Gabriella Szabo (HUN) (5)
9 Marie Lindblad (SWE) (10)
10 Kirston Kruger (FRG) (8)
11 Inna Kovalenko (URS) (9)
12 Anita Zakharian (URS) (23)
13 Susanne Wenzel (FRG) (14)
14 Brigitte Thiriet (FRA) (17)
15 Gordana Perkucin (YUG) (16)
16 Karen Witt (ENG) (12)

17 Narine Antonian (URS) (-)
18 Lisa Bellinger (ENG) (13)
19 lolanta Daniliavitchute (URS) (18)
20 Nadine Daviaud (FRA) (19)
21 Barbara Lippens (BEI) (20)
22 Sonja Grefberg (FIN) (21)
23 Sonja Pircsek-Szigeti (HUN) (22)
24 Maria Alboiu (ROM) (24)
25 Mirjam Kloppenburg (HaL) (-)
26 Katalin Bolvari (HUN) (25)
27 Alica Pelikanova (TCH) (26)
28 Menni Weizades (SWE) (27)
29 Eva Malmberg (FIN) (28)
30 Jolanta Szatko (POL) (29)
31 Barbara Wiltsche (AUT) (30)

Seedings in respect of the forthcoming European Championships in Moscow (Apl. 14-22) are noted above the lines.

FLUCTUATION

Form, you are a fickle thing!
Veering from foul to fair;
You make me feel a fulfilled king,
Or "fill me with despair....

KEITH GOOD

A FEAST OF TABLE TENNIS

by David R. Hall

There was a feast of table tennis at the Pavilion Gardens, Buxton on Feb. 18 when Buxton and North Derbyshire TIA staged the Tarmac Open Championships. Twenty-seven teams took part in a two-man team handicap competition, the players coming from Derbyshire, Cheshire and Nottinghamshire.

The event commenced at 10 a.m. and concluded at 8.30 p.m. Players of all abilities took part in a full day which reached a climax with the final stages of the main event when play was of such a high standard that spectators witnessed the best table tennis seen in the Gardens since the English Closed Championships were staged there in 1933.

Fallibroome 'A', Keith Deaville and Simon Mear, representing the Premier Division of the Macclesfield League won the **event,** beating Bollington Cons, Eddie Griffiths and Mike Tew, in an absorbing and well-contested final.

There was healthy spectator interest in the event and League Chairman, Brian Ashfield, expressed his thanks to the Pavilion Gardens management for providing such excellent facilities; to David Hall the event organiser, and to Tarmac Roadstone (North Western) Ltd., for sponsoring the competition.

Eddie Griffiths and Mike Tew (left) line up with Mr. A. F. Rahilly. Regional Director. Tarmac Roadstone (North West) Ltd. seen here shaking hands with Keith Deaville who. with Simon Mear. won the 2-man team event.
Photo by The Cameraman. Barbage. Buxton. Derbys.

Mr. A. F. Rahilly, Regional Director of the Company, presented the prizes and expressed his Company's pleasure in being associated with a well-run local sporting enterprise. He stated that he was particularly impressed with the high standard of sportsmanship displayed, which he felt was most refreshing and compared exceptionally well with other sports.

The event, which is to become an annual fixture, was the second competition to be held by the Buxton and N.D.T.T.A. and it is their intention to upgrade standards year by year. The League were therefore extremely appreciative of the interest taken by Tarmac Roadstone (North Western) Ltd., which will clearly assist them in their objectives.

IRISH RANKINGS

Current Irish Junior and Cadet Ranking Points tables:-

GIRLS

1.	Ellen McManus (L)	570
2.	Nora McEvoy (U)	540
3.	Caroline Anderson (C)	530
4.	Lorraine Cullen (L)	443
5.	aria Stevenson (L)	425
6.	Marie Christie (L)	388
7.	Maria Mullan (L)	340
8.	Helen Curry (L)	250
9.	Leanne Lane (M)	210
10.	Jacqueline O'Connor (L)	205
11.	Ann-Marie Sherlock (L)	195
12.	Ursula Masterson (U)	185

BOYS

1.	Andrew Dennison (U)	520
2.	Stephen Dennison (U)	490
	Maurice Cronin (M)	490
4.	Anthony Redmond (L)	460
5.	Colm Russell (L)	405
6.	Colin In91is (Ul	400
	Niall Bourke (L)	400
8.	Tommy Walsh (LI	335
9.	Brian McGrane (L)	240
10.	Alan Slevin (L)	200
11.	Martin O'Flaherty (C)	190
12.	Peter Robinson (U)	165

CADET GIRLS

1.	Stevenson	600
2.	Kirstin Stafford (U)	497
3.	Rosalyn Comerford (L)	490
4.	Angela O'Brien (L)	357
5.	Michelle Flanagan (LI	307
6.	Sharon Quaid (M)	295
7.	Anna O'Riordan (M)	290
8.	Rachel Byrne (L)	280
9.	Lisa Mullan (L)	270
10.	Cathy McMillan (U)	250
11.	Tara Bollard (L)	210
12.	Niamn Lane (M)	205

CADET BOYS

1.	Sean Spelman (C)	560
2.	O'Flaherty	540
3.	Brian O'Gorman (L)	520
4.	Billy Marshall (M)	467
5.	Peter Stokes (L)	412
6.	David McGellerick (L)	385
7.	Eoin Maher (M)	320
8.	Brian Jeffers (U)	217
9.	Vincent Pettit (M)	210
10.	Eamonn Hornibrook (C)	170
	Leonard Pierce (M)	170
	D. J. Dwyer (M)	170

Abbreviations: C: Connacht; M: Munster; U: Ulster; L: Leinster.

Frank Kannedy.
I.T.T.A.
Junior Management.

Caroline Anderson and Sean Spelman. both from Galway. chosen in the Irish team for the lancashire Junior Open.

NORWICH UNION GRAND PRIX

Leading points scorers after Open Championships of: Switzerland, Hungary, Sweden, England, Federal Germany.

	Pt•.
Vladislav Broda (TCH)	1800
Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE)	1800
Andrzej Grubba (POl1	1750
Desmond Douglas (ENG)	1600
He Zhiyan (CHN)	1600
Jacques Secretin (FAA)	1600
Chen Longcan (CHN)	1400
Ulf Carlsson (SWE)	1350
Ulf Bengtsson (SWE)	1300
Xie Saike (CHN)	1200
Patrick Birocheau (FAA)	1200
Chen Yin Hua (CHN)	11 50
Tibor Klampar (HUN)	1150
Erik Lindh (SWE)	1000
Fan Chang Mao (CHN)	950
Mikael Appelgren (SWE)	950
Georg Böhm (FRG)	900
Jonny Akesson (SWE)	750
Zoran Kalinic (VUE)	750
Ieszek Kucharski (POL)	750
Bela Mesaros (YUG)	750
Jorgen Persson (SWE)	750
Jindrich Pansky (TCH)	700
Christian Martin (FRA)	650

One more event in this season's Norwich Union Grand Prix- the Polish Open Championships - is still to be played and points there will be awarded as follows:-

Winner	1000
Runner-Up	800
Losing Semi-Finalist	600
Losing Quarter-Finalist	400
Last 16	200
Last 32	150

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND-UP

by Murray Corbin

MIDDLESEX - WINNERS SUPREME

MIDDLESEX retained supremacy of the Premier Division of the COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS at Waltham Forest YMCA, during the weekend of Feb. 25/26. Before the start of play, any thoughts ESSEX may have had of gaining the prestigious title from MIDDLESEX were dashed when GRAHAM SANDLEY was included in the Middlesex team at the expense of COLIN WILSON, who was ailing from the effects of an untimely cold.

FIRST DAY RESULTS
Yorkshire 6 Surrey 3
Staffordshire 5 Leicestershire 4
Warwickshire 3 Middlesex 6
Lancashire 4 Essex 5
Leicestershire 5 Warwickshire 4
Middlesex 6 Lancashire 3
Essex 7 Yorkshire 2
Surrey 5 Staffordshire 4

As you can see, there were no major upsets after this session as the results worked out as many had anticipated. However, when LANCASHIRE lost narrowly to ESSEX, it was reasonably clear that they would have to fight harder to retain third place. In the meantime, LEICESTERSHIRE were looking good for demotion but their partner in ascent, out of Warwickshire and Staffordshire, was uncertain.

SECOND DAY RESULTS
Warwickshire 4 Staffordshire 5
Essex 7 Surrey 2
Lancashire 8 Leicestershire 1
Yorkshire 1 Middlesex 8
Middlesex 8 Essex 1
Leicestershire 3 Yorkshire 6
Staffordshire 2 Lancashire 7
Surrey 5 Warwickshire 4

Quite appropriately, the second day started with Warwickshire playing Staffordshire. To these two teams, this match was more important than if they were playing for the Cup. Phil Gunn nor Lester Bertie could not contain the respective skills of either the flambouyantly industrious ANDREW BELLINGHAM or the much improved CRAIG BAKEWELL so it was up to the powerful and explosive forehand of CARL MORGAN to get Warwickshire off the mark when he met the agile defence of Andy Rich. Unfortunately for Andy, Carl waS in a mean mood because at this time of the day he would normally be getting out of bed for lunch and a cuddle from his mother before going back to bed. In the circumstances, Andy grafted pretty well for his 11 and 13. After this both teams kept neck-to-neck and when Carl returned to the table for the eighth set, he had to motor to overcome Bellingham to level the match at 4-4. In came the other Warwickshire Soul Brother LESTER BERTIE but ANDY RICH denied him finding his Calypso rhythm and he soon fell at 19 and 14 to give STAFFORDSHIRE a very well deserved 5-4 victory.

The highlight of the Championships and the crunch match was the much awaited meeting of Middlesex and Essex. This, however, was a bit of a letdown to me in spite of the game having many exciting moments, because I would never have dreamt that Essex would have received such a thrashing. On reflection, when Middlesex went three-up on account of DAVE WELLS beating Skylet Andrew; JOHN SOUTER spanking Dave Newman, and SANDLEY just managing to overcome the red-hot Kenny Jackson in a most fascinating composition of skills and thrills in a three-game set, I should have realised that the backbone of Essex was broken and morale would start getting low. In the end, the lone success for Essex came in the very last set of the match when Jackson struggled but finally got the better of Souter in the third. In all fairness to Essex, this was a very tough match against a great team, who, on this occasion, had the better firepower and used the playing area as an abattoir to inflict the most severe pain, which at times, was merciless.

All teams deserve much praise for going about their business most courteously, competitively and professionally but one team caught my eye continually-STAFFORDSHIRE. I was impressed with their very smart outfits from PATRICK SPORTS of Aldridge, Walsall, their Sponsor. Most of all, overthe two weekends on which these Championships were held, I note that what this team lacked in expertise as a unit, they more than adequately made up for in other departments; for example, they supported one another more than the other teams when they were playing, and probably most importantly, they listened carefully to what advice came from their Team Manager PAUL CHESTER. who was always there motivating them. As a result, they were able to keep clear of the bottom two places. The other team I can also give special praise to is SURREY. In spite of being very short on success in the manner of winning games only from LINDA CLEMEn, who at times played above her par, Team Manager MIKE KERCHER was also handicapped with two players - Max Crimmins and Nicholas Hoare, whom he never really knew how much to expect of when at the table, due to the complexities in character of these two fine players. By the way, these are my observations, not a quote from Mike, who, on landing his team in fourth position, must also qualify as a psychiatrist and the greatest "keeper of the cool". Full credit can be given to MARK OAKLEY. who, as ever, grafted for every point and must have been the nucleus from which Mike built his strategies. GLEN BAKER was brought in for the last match against Warwickshire, and in his usual 'flash and bravado', set about the destruction of Richard Tanner and Barry Johnson. JANE BARELLA. who was also frontlined at this level, played well with Crimmins in the Mixed to defeat Bertie and Sandra Peakman. Due to her recent exploits, Jane has edged ahead of the other Surrey ladies and most certainly, will be allocated with the No. 1 spot. Well done, Surrey! After returning to the Premier, you have done well.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pt,
Middlesex	7	7	0	48	15	14
Essex	7	6	1	40	23	12
Lancashire	7	5	2	40	23	10
Surrey	7	3	4	27	36	6
Yorkshire	7	3	4	26	37	6
Staffordshire	7	3	4	25	38	6
Leicestershire	7	1	6	21	42	2
Warwickshire	7	0	7	25	38	0

Regarding the last two teams, it is a pity that CHRIS ROGERS and KAREN SMITH of Leicestershire, and CARL MORGAN of Warwickshire, have to suffer from the leisure of playing in the Second Division next season. I hope that it will not be for more than a year.

STAGING AND ORGANISATION

The staging of this second Premier Weekend was placed in the hands of the ESSEX COUNTY ASSOCIATION, whose organising Committee of DICK ROFFE, CLIVE OAKMAN, BRIAN PARISH, RAY GEORGE. Referee ALAN SHEPHERD and his Umpiring Staff, and others too numerous to mention, deserve full praise for their efforts and thoughtfulness in making this special occasion so enjoyable to all. I also raise my hat to the Management and StaffoftheWALTHAM FORESTYMCA for their hospitality, kindness and

attention, and last but certainly not the least, to GUNTER L. STOHR - General Manager of the WOODFORD MOAT HOUSE at Oak Hill, Woodford Green, Essex, whose generous sponsorship enabled Essex to organise and promote this jamboree in great style. The Teams and Officials stayed and dined at the Moat House - a most comfortable motel. Mark Oakley and I found its cuisine most tasteful. The COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS COMMITTEE and the EDA is very grateful to all of you. Well done'

GOOD WINS

ALAN FLETCHER and STEVEN SHARPE over Crimmins and Nicky Mason, respectively.... DONALD PARKER - beating Andrew, Wells and then Sandley..... KAREN SMITH dispatching Sandra Peakman 8 and 6..... BAKEWELL two-straight against Mason..... The same CRIMMINS really flowed against Jackson..... JOANNE SHAW'S easy victory over Sarah Sandley stopped Middlesex 'whitewashing' Yorkshire in a Senior Premier match.... BELLINGHAM was superb, almost poetic against Gunn..... MURRAY JUKES dished out 13 and 9 to John Kitchener..... JOANNE PALMER slid home in the third against To Thy Dung: so did STEPHEN BEVAN in meeting David Rook..... KAREN 'Vivacious' GROVES experienced few problems with Jill Powis..... MANDY 'The Legs' REEVES seeme-d to have been in great form against Teresa Moo·re.... DAVID REEVES a good winner with 14 and 12 against Ian Kenyon.... TREVOR MANNING in fine winning form over Stuart Worrell and then David Skerratt..... LYNNE YARNELL in three against Ann Dakin.... CARL PREAN devastated Chris Shetler and Graham 'The Loop' Toole... Wily JIM DALY got the better of Derek Holman..... BECKY RUSSE impressive with 15 and 5 against Alison Boyce.... MARTIN HUGHES excelled against David Wilson, so did KATE LINES in her encounter with Hazel Feltham.... LES WOODING proved too skilful for Andy Conquest and Ian Doughty.... LEWIS SIKET, now aged 17, and in his second outing for Worcestershire 2nd Seniors, whipped Peter Edwards and Gordon Pepper of Bedfordshire.... John Dennison should have employed two ball-boys before he met GLEN BAKER. John kept disappearing to pick up the ball..... HILARY FINCH a surprised but deserved winner over Michele Hams..... DAVID HARDING was very sharp against Trevor Smith, but struggled a little when up against the industrious Martyn Livermore..... JOHN ILIFFE and GEOFF ALDWINCKLE were simply too good on the day for the talented Henry Buist: I gather this is the first time Henry has lost two singles in a County match..... ALF SAUNDERS struggled for a time in facing Alan Lindsay, but then went down to BABS ADEDAYO.... MURIEL LEWIS seemed to have been in great form in beating Joyce Porter..... LEN & DOREEN WAKEFIELD victorious in the Mixed over Roy Smith & Muriel Hooker.... GERRY BATT-RAWDEN two-straight against John Holland.... EDDIE O'HARA gave Terry Donlon a good hiding..... GEORGE TYLER victorious over Karl ... KEITH HARTRIDGE, after losing to the enterprising JOHN GARLAND, played' a match-winning set against the cunning Frank Hams..... Nice Ones - ALISON BOXALL'S over Lisa Hayden and Samantha Scott-Pawson; ANDREW TROD'S spanking of Nick Felton 14 and 5: HELEN LOWER punishing Rosalind Walters 5 and 8..... TONY VINGOE and PHONG TRAN came out ahead when confronted by Christos Hannides and Bryan Mansell, respectively.... RICHARD JONES was spectacular in defeating the promising Jonathan Huckle; but ROBERT LEVED proved he is a pedigree above the ambitious Julian Dudman..... SHAUN CARACCIO must be pleased with his win over the bubbling Damian Holland. In the same match, the improving SARAH GEORGE, in defeating Sylvia Kenyon, stopped Suffolk Juniors 'whitewashing' Essex 3rd Juniors. Bravo

On the other hand, the energetic DAVID COLE of Essex 2nd Juniors sharpened his blade on Trevor Pearson and Derek Roger of Herts 2nd Juniors.

MATCH RESULTS UPDATED TO MARCH 3rd

Senior Division 2A:
Worcestershire 3 Suffolk 7
Derbyshire 3 Cambridgeshire 7
Lancashire 2nd 4 Yorkshire 2nd 6
Warwickshire 2nd 6 Staffordshire 2nd 4
Top 4: Suffolk: Cambridgeshire: Warwickshire 2nd: Yorkshire 2nd.

Second Division 2B:
Devonshire 6 Dorset 4
Middlesex 2nd 5 Sussex 5
Berkshire 7 Kent 3
Wiltshire 9 Avon 1
Top 4: Berkshire: Kent: Dorset: Devonshire.

Senior Division 3A:
Leicestershire 2nd 3 Cheshire 7
Lincolnshire 6 Clwyd 4
Cheshire 2nd 3 Durham 7
Lincolnshire 4 Cheshire 6
Top 4: Cheshire: Lincolnshire: Northumberland: Clwyd.

Senior Division 3B:
Hampshire 6 Isle of Wight 4
Cornwall 4 Berkshire 2nd 6
Somerset 9 Wiltshire 2nd 1 (Amended)
Dorset 2nd 6 Somerset 2nd 4
Cornwall 4 Somerset 6
Top 4: Hampshire: Somerset: Berkshire 2nd: Wiltshire 2nd.

Senior Division 3C:
Northamptonshire 2nd 3 Oxfordshire 7
Herefordshire 6 Glamorgan 4
Huntingdonshire 6 Northamptonshire 4
Buckin:ghamshire 8 Bedfordshire 2
Gloucestershire 9 Worcestershire 2nd 1
Worcestershire 2nd 7 Bedfordshire 3
Top 4: Gloucestershire: Buckinghamshire: Bedfordshire: Worcestershire 2nd.

Senior Division 3D:
Kent 2nd 10 Hertfordshire 0
Norfolk 2nd 8 Cambridgeshire 2nd 2
Sussex 2nd 9 Suffolk 2nd 1
Surrey 2nd 7 Essex 3rd 3
Norfolk 2nd 1 Hertfordshire 9
Kent 2nd 3 Essex 2nd 7
Essex 3rd 0 Suffolk 2nd 10 *(W/O)*
Surrey 2nd 9 Cambridgeshire 2nd 1
Top 4: Surrey 2nd: Essex 2nd: Kent 2nd:' Sussex 2nd: Essex & Sussex have a game in hand.

Veterans' Premier Division:
Kent 7 Leicestershire 2
Essex 1 Cheshire 8
Middlesex 5 Nottinghamshire 4
Lincolnshire 8 Berkshire 1
Top 4: Cheshire: Kent: Lincolnshire: Essex.

Veterans' Division 2A:
Clwyd 2 Oxfordshire 7
Huntingdonshire 6 Bedfordshire 3
Avon 7 Northamptonshire 2
Cheshire 2nd 5 Worcestershire 4
Huntingdonshire 5 Avon 4
Top 4: Huntingdonshire: Cheshire 2nd: Worcestershire: Avon.

Veterans' Division 2B:
Berkshire 2nd 5 Middlesex 2nd 4
Dorset 6 Hampshire 3
Sussex 3 Essex 2nd 6
Hertfordshire 7 Kent 2nd 2
Top 4: Essex 2nd: Hertfordshire: Sussex: Dorset.

Veterans' Division 3A:
Cumbria 2 Cheshire 3rd 7
Buckingham 7 Huntingdonshire 2nd 2
Hertfordshire 2nd 6 Clwyd 2nd 3
Top 4: Cheshire 3rd: Buckinghamshire: Hertfordshire 2nd: Clwyd 2nd.

CLWYD travelled just over 200 miles to BARNET TT CENTRE, to find HERTFORDSHIRE in good form. Two wins for TERRY WILSON, one each for GEOF BAX, GEORGE and SYLVIA TYLER, plus the Mixed from George and Sylvia, put paid to the determined efforts of BARBARA WILLIAMS, RAY HOWLAND, ROY WILLIAMS and KARL HARRISON. Terry's first success came when he beat Karl 9 and 13 and at his second outing, he found himself a game and 14-19 down to the irrepressible Harrison. However, he managed to get over these problems and went on to win the third. Until this match, Karl, in his first season in the Vets, was playing rather well and may have been surprised to lose both singles, the other one to Bax. George Tyler reports that the high-spot of the match was in the Men's Doubles, which the visitors won 28-26 in the third. I also note that SYLVIA TYLER out-fought the hard-hitting Barbara Williams in two. This is no easy task. Well done, dear Sylvia' The Referee was the hard-working STAN TEASDALE.

Veterans' Division 3B:
Somerset 1 Sussex 2nd 8
Surrey 4 Hertfordshire 3rd 5
Wiltshire 2nd 6 Dorset 2nd 3

Top 4: Hampshire 2nd: Sussex 2nd: Surrey: Wiltshire. Surrey has blown it. but Sussex with a game in hand are looking good.

Junior Division 2A:

Warwickshire 5 Derbyshire 5
Yorkshire 2nd 9 Leicestershire 1
Lancashire 7 Cambridgeshire 3
Bedfordshire 3 Cheshire 7
Leicestershire 2 Cheshire 8

Top 4: Derbyshire: Yorkshire 2nd: Cheshire: Warwickshire.

Junior Division 28:

Gloucestershire 4 Sussex 6
Middlesex 2nd 8 Glamorgan 2
Hertfordshire 3 Dorset 7
Essex 9 Hertfordshire 1

Top 4: Essex: Sussex: Dorset: Hertfordshire.

Junior Division 3A:

Cheshire 2nd 10 Lincolnshire 2nd 0
Lincolnshire 1st 6 Nottinghamshire 4

Top 4: Northumberland: Lincolnshire 1st: Cheshire 2nd: Cleveland 2nd.

Junior Division 38:

Hertfordshire/Staffordshire (No Result)
Cambridgeshire 2nd 7 Berkshire 2nd 3
Oxfordshire 1 Worcestershire 9
Northamptonshire 9 Warwickshire 2nd 1
Staffordshire 2nd 10 Oxfordshire 0
Herefordshire 0 Staffordshire 2nd 10

Top 4: Northamptonshire: Staffordshire 2nd: Cambridgeshire: Worcestershire.

Junior Division 3C:

Wiltshire 6 Somerset 4
Cornwall 5 Avon 5
Hampshire 5 Cornwall 2nd 5
Avon 2nd 2 Wiltshire 2nd 8

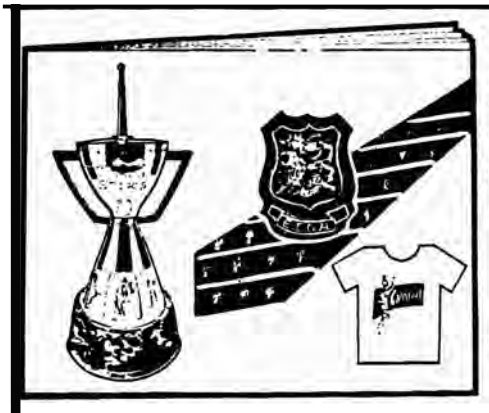
Top 4: Wiltshire: Avon 1st: Cornwall 1st: Cornwall 2nd.

Junior Division 3D:

Surrey 2nd 4 Kent 2nd 6
Suffolk 9 Essex 3rd 1
Norfolk 2nd 8 Hertfordshire 2nd 2
Kent 2nd 8 Norfolk 1st 2
Essex 2nd 10 Hertfordshire 2nd 0

Top 4: Essex 2nd: Kent 2nd: Surrey 2nd: Norfolk 1st.

QUEENS MOAT HOUSES



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COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

Mary Williams reports from....

BEDFORDSHIRE

REVISED RANKINGS

The latest ranking lists issued for Bedfordshire a're':-

Men	Boys
1. D. Sharpe	1. P. Edwards
2.1. Doughty	2. D. Murgatroyd
3. A. .conquest	3. L. Holmes
4. M. Lyons	4. C. Wright
5. A. James	5. N. Stanley
6. D. Hyde	6. G. Black
7. D. Foster	7. N. Apps
8. M. Verdon	8. M. Sharpe
9. D. Cartwright	9. N. Ali
10. D. Gilbert	10. R. Pratley
11. G. Pepper	
12. K. Thompson	

The senior County team lost their last two away matches. They went down 8-2 to Buckinghamshire and 7-3 to Worcester.

The juniors were at. home to Cheshire on Feb. 25. Playing for Beds were Neil Stanley, Peter Edwards, David Murgatroyd, Lisa Robins and Joyce Mitchell. Neil, David and Lisa won one set each to make the score Bedfordshire 3 Cheshire 7.

The County have been holding two competitions during the season.

Event A. The Bedfordshire County Premier Challenge Cup - open to any team competing in the top division of Bedford, Dunstable, Leighton Buzzard or Luton leagues during 1983/84.

Event B. The Bedfordshire County Senior Knock-out Cup - open to any team competing in any division other than the top division of the above leagues during 1983/84.

Quarter-final results in the Premier Division Chal·lenge Cup.

Hall Club 'A' (Leighton Buzzard) w/o Dunstable T.T.C. (Dunstable).
Postels (Luton) 9 Rugby Club 'A' (Leighton Buzzard) O.
Lea Manor (Luton) w/o Dunstable T.T.C. 'A' (Dunstable).
County Knock-out Cup:-
Kier (Bedford) 7 Postels 'A' (Luton) 2
Marlborough 'A' (Luton) 3 Jewson (Bedford) 5
Vauxhall 'B' (Luton) 7 Kents·(Luton) 0
Markyate End (Dunstable) 1 Marlborough (Luton) 8

The draw for the semi-finals is:-
Premier Division Challenge Cup:
Postels v Hall Club 'A'
Lea Manor v St. Neots (Bedford)
County Knock-out Cup:
Vauxhall 'B' v Marlborough
Jewson v Kier

LEIGHTON/LINSLADE LEAGUE

As the end of the season approaches, the position at the top of Div. 1 is very close. Gossard 'A' currently lead from Hall Club 'A', last season's winners. Hall Club 'B' in third place could hold the key. Only five points behind and two matches in hand, they have to play both teams above them. The final.game betweeA the top two teams could decide the championship.

Ex-County player Geoff Giles and current Beds. No.2 Ian Doughty lead the playing averages with 98% each. Andy Conquest, holds·third place on 94%.

In Div. 2, the situation is again very close with St. Christopher '0' leading by one point from Rugby Club 'B', with St. Christopher 'E' two points away in third place.

Runaway leaders in Div. 3 are Buzzard Scouts who have a massive twenty-five point lead over second team, Hall Club '0'. The runners-up position appears to be important in this division, with three teams all in with a chance.

Leading Div. 4 are Hall Club 'E' with Kestrels in second place, and in Div. 5 Corinthians 'A' lead with Hall Club'F runners-up.

The annual Championship Tournament weekend followed by a finals night was a huge success and brought together players who would otherwise not meet and at one point the ages of the competitors spanned 60 years. The league were also very fortunate in , haling a number of events sponsored' by local businesses this year.

The results were:-
Junior Division singles: L. Harris
U-12 G.S: J. Green
U-12 B.S: M. Beaumont
G.S: K. Sibley
B.S: D. Murgatroyd
JxD (Mumford doubles): J. Strode/M. Beaumont
Over 40 V.S: D. Gilbert
Over 50 V.S: D. Gilbert
W.V.S: I. Cooper
1st Season Singles: D. Skeggs
Reg. Cornish Family Doubles: P. Dawson/A. Chandler
H.S: G. Giles
W.D: L. Clarke/J. Banks
X.D: J. Banks/A. Conquest
M.D: Giles/Gilbert
Div. 5 Singles: T. Skeggs
Div. 4 Singles: G. Maunders
Div. 3 Singles: J. Masters
Div.2 Singles: S. Wilson
W.S: I. Cooper
League Singles: I. Doughty

LUTON LEAGUE

For the third year running Ramridge Girls (Luton) (U-11 's) have won through to the National Sch.ools team finals at Lea Green. Joining ..them in the finals this season are Stopsley (Luton) U-13's and Putteridge (Luton) U-16's.

The girls' U-1 3 team from Stopsley High School earned their place after" winning the South & East of England Championships at Orpington, Kent. Hazel Lawrence, Amanda Cotterill, Bernice Satchell and Susan Turner, all aged 11 or 12 beat teams from Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire to get their chance at the national title. The team had already won the Bedfordshire & Eastern Region titles, and Hazel, Bedfordshire County U-13 singles champion, has a place in the national finals at Mansfield in May.

Amanda and Bernice are also the Bedfordshire County U-13 doubles champions. All these girls are coached by Dick Teague.

Caroline Buckley won through to the final of the U-11's in the Beneficial Trust Cleveland event.

After losing the first game to little E. Meddings (a Yorkshire lass) she narrowly won the 2nd and after leading 14-9 in the 3rd game she finally lost -19.

Luton ladies were thoroughly outclassed in the fourth round of the Rose Bowl trophy against Wolverhampt·on. Drawn at home the team of Audrey Robinson, Julie Dimmock and Dawn Campbell lost to Jill Harris, Janet Dunning and Fiona Elliot. Play ended with Luton losing 0-6.

DUNSTABLE LEAGUE

Lisa Bellinger won the Beneficial Trust Cleveland Junior Select. She beat Joanne Shaw. Partnered by Teresa Moore she also took the doubles title beating Laura Goldsmith and Joanne Shaw. Again playing with Teresa she won the team event.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

The latest match between Dunstable & AHW against Jolliffe Poole on March 4 proved to be most entertaining.

Although currently last in the table Jolliffe put up a good fight. After a poor start to the season Dunstable & AHW have climbed to fourth place.

Playing for Dunstable & AHW was Beds NO.1 David Sharpe (who certainly lived up to his name). David took both his sets with wins over John Robinson (Dorset No.4) and Rodney Thomas who recently won the Exeter Junior Open, the Kent 2-Star Junior and is ranked No. 18 England junior.

Doughty won his first set against Martin Hughes (Dorset No.9) but lost his second to Robinson.

The Bellinger sisters were the two remaining players for Dunstable & AHW.

Lisa had fine wins over Thomas and Jason Creasey. Jason (Dorset No.7) lost out to Lisa but had sweet revenge on her sister Jackie.

Jackie however took the final set against Martin Hughes to make the final score Dunstable & AHW 6 Jolliffe Poole 2.

Brian Halliday reports from.....

BERKSHIRE

HONOUR WELL DESERVED

One cold winter evening over 10 years ago I paid a visit to a local Sports Centre to meet a friend. The main hall was closed, in fact the place was in darkness and there was no one about. At the rear of the building is a general purposes room and on the.off-chance that my friend was waiting there I went in. Table tennis was being played on one table in the corner - a very specialised coaching session was taking place on this bitterly cold evening. The instructor was Reg Hart and his very young protégée was Alison Gordon.

Alison's recent magnificent triumph at the English Closed was an honour well deserved. A reward for those years of. dedication, not ,only from personal selfless devotion to the game but also to the tireless expertise of the coaches, parents and friends that have 'contributed to this success.

To a certain extent Alison has fought out her career in the shadow of Karen Witt but her great friend will not begrudge her this very special moment of glory. Her improvement this season has been evident and in National League matches for Gillette - Reading

she has provided a thoroughly professional approach to the game that could well be imitated with advantage, by many of England's senior players.

On the local league front Maidenhead have provided the closest 1st Division championship race in years. With only a couple of matches to be played it looks as if the Cippenham club will just edge out Castle Hill and Springfield. Alec Watson, Frank Earis, Dave Pountney and Steve Brindle have all played consistently well for the winners elect. Steve Brindle is moving at the end of the season and Maidenhead's representative teams will have lost a very loyal and talented performer.

The coveted Wilkinson Sword Trophy for the top player in Maidenhead looks to be at the mercy of the veteran Dave Jones of Springfield - a magnificent achievement for this hard bat all rounder.

The Bracknell title should now go to the Moss Club who may withstand the strong late challenge of Woodley. The Hodder brothers, Keith and Steve, together with the vastly improved Graham Kemp have pressed Moss, led by Bob Sym, all the way.

In Reading Calcot 'B' and either Ibis or YMCA will take their place in Div. 1 next season. Woodley 'B' have been relegated from the top division and will be joined by either Kidmore End or Calcot 'A'. The championship has been won yet again by Omega 'A' with either Woodley 'A' or Omega 'B' as runners-up. Not a vintage year in the Reading League. The standard of play was excellent but there was too much manipulation of certain players for particular matches to make for a true and fair result to the championship - and this applied from the top to the bottom of Div. 1.

The Reading League has a reputation as a progressive outfit and this was again underlined by the recent announcement of a big cash prize for the winner of the men's closed singles title. The local star players who have managed to qualify for the championships by playing the requisite number of games are certain to enter this year. Money talks and the carrot is fat indeed. With the game's finances so insecure and the leagues and counties begging players of all standards to pay yet more to play, it may be that the Reading League's priorities are in question - the rich get richer and the poor get poorer? However judgement is deferred and we will come back to this item again next season.

Those tyvo great rival clubs·Thatcham 'A' and Woolton Hill 'A' are contesting the Newbury Div. 1, and the former may just sneak the title by the narrowest of margins. The improvement of Darren Jones is causing comment in Newbury circles - his recent win over the experienced Clive Payne being particularly impressive.

The big news from Newbury is that they are to celebrate their 50th Anniversary with a Table Tennis Festival to be held at the Corn Exchange, Newbury on Sunday 17 June 1984. There will be coaching demonstrations, a seminar and table tennis exhibition under David Fairholm's direction. The whole event will be climaxed with a special match between a Newbury Select and a South of England team. With Dave Barr, David Reeves, Mandy Sainsbury and Caroline Stevens in the Newbury team the opposition will have to be at international level. All players, supporters, friends and members of the public will be most welcome.

News from the county 'representative teams mainly concerns the 1st senior side who are still in with a chance of regaining their Premier Division status. A resounding win over, Kent means that if we can defeat Avon in convincin'g fash ion, Kent or Sussex may have to be content with the runners-up spot at our expense. A good win over Cornwall revived the fortunes of our 2nd team. Dave Pountn ey made a most impressive debut and there should be more opportunities for this hard-hitting attacker next season.

The juniors ar lined up for their crucial Premier Division matches at the end of March and interest has switched to the 2nd team. Several new players have been given the opportunity to display their skills, among them Andy Childs who has waited longer than most for a representative honour.

Kerry Underwood made a bright return' for the Veterans' 2nd team against Middlesex 2. His two wins contributed to a 5-4 victory - an oasis in a whole desert of veteran defeats this season. The 1st team's abysmal run continued against Lincs and the team have been relegated after one season of Premier Division competition.

Reading men's team have had a fine run in this season's Wilmott Cup only going out to the powerful 'all-star Willesden team by 5-3. Major successes for Andy Wellman over Skylet Andrew and Phil Bradbury and it is always difficult to keep Jimmy Stokes out of the news. Jimmy beat Bradbury and only lost 19 in the third to Andrew after being 19-16 up. As if these performances were not impressive enough, in the same week he beat Carl Morgan in a National League match for Gillette Reading and then only lost 19 in the fifth to John Hilton in the English Closed. If present sensational progress is maintained, Jimmy could reach the senior top 25 ranking next season.

Les Wooding reports from ....

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

What an excellent performance put up by Sylvia Coombs of Milton Keynes to celebrate her 50 years young milestone. She won the County Ladies' singles title for the very first time and she did it in style.

For several years Sylvia, who is the very hardworking secretary of the Milton Keynes League has been the mainstay of the County Veterans; side, 'often turning out also, at very short notice, for the Senior side. She is a very popular personality and there will be very few people in the County who will not believe that the Championship title is not just reward for many years of faithful service. However, there were no favours given by the seeding committee as she first had to overcome the County No.1 Linda Phelps of Slough in the semi and then the inform Jacquie Farwell in the final.

Finally, to cap the most successful day in her career Sylvia partnered Stephen Boyd of AY.lesbury to victory over Mark Curtis and Linda Phelps by 21-19 in the final game of the Mixed.

Full credit, also, to Philip Bradbury. Now ranked No.6 in England, Philip has always supported the County team and his entry in the 'Closed' was, welcomed. Obviously a class above the others he won the Singles Championship comfortably and then laid the rumours about his ineptitude as a doubles player with the Men's Doubles Championship, partnered like Sylvia by Boyd. Richard Nelhams and Tyrone Silcott of Slough only just lost to them having knocked out defending champions Les Wooding and Karl Bushell in the semi-final.

Jacquie Farwell lost the chance of another title when partnered by Jackie Thomas she lost -18 in the final game to Dawn Robbins and Linda Phelps.

Milton Keynes' phenomenal run of successes in the Restricted Singles event came to an end when Mark Curtis narrowly defeated Alan Bolding 19 in the third of thi,s final. Consolation for the North- Bucks side, however, when Stephen Baggaley recorded a narrow victory over J. Wraight of High Wycombe in the Cadet Boys' Singles.

Aylesbury added another title to their tally when N. Wilson won the Boys' Singles title after a ,very close battle against Lee Holloway of High Wycombe. Then he also partnered Darren Butler of Slough to victory over Lee and M. Lloyd of High Wycombe in the Boys' Doubles.

Not to be left out of the limelight those Cippenham stalwarts Alec Watson and Frank Earis fought out the Veterans' title with Alec recording a comfortable victory.

Results:-

M.S: Semi-Finals: P. Bradbury bt M. Butler 13,10; K. Bushell bt L Wooding 20, 17.
Final: Bradbury bt Bushell 16, 18.
W.S.: S. Coombs bt J. Farwell 18, 14.
M.D.: S. Boyd/Bradbury bt R. Nelhams/T. Silcott 19, -19, 17.
W.O.: L Phelps/D. Robbins bt J. Farwell/J. Thomas 18, -12, 18.
X.O.:Boyd/Coombs bt Curtis/Phelps 18, -17, 19.
B.S.: N. Wilson bt L. Holloway -14, 20, 18.
G.S.: C. Dean w/o L. Harris scratched.
B.D.: D. Butler/N. Wilson bt Holloway/M. Lloys 20, -19, 10.
C.B.S.: S. Baggaley bt J. Wraight 12, -17, 19.
V.S.: A. Watson bt F. Earis 19, 10.
R.S.: Curtis bt A. Bolding -18, 17, 19.

COUNTY MATCH

Buckinghamshire 8 Bedfordshire 2

An unexpectedly easy victory for the

home side in this local derby. David Sharpe was unusually nervous in the match against Bradbury and went down in 3 despite earlier recording Bedfordshire's only Mens' Singles victory of the day when he overcome Bushell.

Bucks. gambled in this match playing 3 ladies. Thankfully, the gamble paid off with Dawn Robbins strengthening the ladies' doubles partnership with Linda Phelps beating Julie Dimmock and Dawn Campbell 21-19 in the third. Retained in the ladies' singles position Jacquie Farwell repaid the selectors' faith in her beating Dawn Campbell. Bedfordshire's only other win came whe'n Julie Dimmock proved to be too good for Linda.

Karl Bushell lost to David Sharpe -19, -22.
Les Wooding bt Andy Conquest 16, 15.
Philip Bradbury bt Ian. Doughty 16, 20
Dawn Robbins/Linda Phelps bt Julie Dimmock/Dawn Campbell 13, -16,19.
Bradbury/Bushell bt Doughty/Sharpe -19, 10, 19.
Bushell bt Conquest 18, 13.
Jacquie Farwell bt Campbell 11, 23.
Bradbury bt Sharpe 17, -14, 16.
Phelps lost to Dimmock -19, -18.
Wooding bt Doughty 18, -17, 9.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

What an excellent month for the two Buckinghamshire sides. Dunstable & AHW climbed to fourth place by beating Ashford and taking 5 out of the last 6 points. They then consolidated their position with two more points secured by a 6-2 win over bottom club Jolliffe Poole. Cippenham just failed to draw with Fareham but with the defeat of Poole and their victory over Ashford they only have a mathematical chance of having to reapply for re-election.

Jaques Generation 5 Cippenham 3
Frank Earis lost to Graham Toole -18, -15.
Ray Tilling lost to Ramish Bhalla -12, 15, -20.
Alec Watson bt Chris Shetler 14, 18.
Dave Poutney bt Martin Gilbert 13, 19.
Tilling lost to Toole -12,7, -18.
Poutney lost to Bhalla -12, -21.
Earis lost to Shetler -12, -12.
Watson bt Gilbert 15, 7.
Ashford 3 Dunstable & AHW 5
Les Wooding bt Rupert Bole 14, 20.
David Sharpe bt Michael Hammon 18, 19.
Stuart Lines lost to Peter Simmonds -16, 15, -17.
Jackie Bellinger lost to Darryl Windsor -,13, -19.
Sharpe bt Bole -19, 9, 18.
Bellinger bt Hammond 18, 18.
Wooding bt Simmonds -20, 8, 12
Lines lost to Windsor -19, -16.
Cippenham 5 Ashford 3
Tilling bt Simmonds 16, 21.
Clive Young lost to Hammond -15, 19, -11.
Poutney lost to Mark Butler'15, -11, -11.
Watson bt Windsor 5, 12.
Tilling bt Hammond 19, -20, 20.
Young bt Windsor 9, '12.
Poutney lost to Simmonds -18, -18.
Watson bt Butler 14, 9.
Dunstable & AHW 6 Jolliffe Poole 2
Sharpe bt john Robinson 12, 20.
Lisa Bellinger bt Rodney Thomas 14, 8.
Ian Doughty bt Martin Hughes -17, 9, 16.
Jackie Bellinger lost to Jason Creasey 15, -15, -19.
Sharpe bt Thomas 16, 12.
L Bellinger bt Creasey -19, 14, 18.
Doughty lost to Robinson -19, 20, -19.
J. Bellinger bt Hughes -19, 14, 18.

WILMOTT CUP

Buckinghamshire's last survivor in the Wilmott Cup were well beaten by Willesden, this season's favourites, by 6-1. I did reasonably well but Gary Hamilton and Colin Luscombe found the competition a little too good.

Milton Keynes 1 Willesden 6
Les Wooding lost to Nicky Mason -14,13, -12.
Colin Luscombe lost to Skylet Andrew -10, -12.
Gary Hamilton lost to Philip Bradbury -6, -15.
Wooding bt Andrew -18, 15, 20.
Hamilton lost to Mason -15, -15.
Luscombe lost to Bradbury -14, -14.
Wooding lost to Bradbury -19, -21.

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

A brilliant performance from Dave Poutney secured Cippenham's 5-1 victory over the Bri.dgwater League champions B.C.L. in the third round of the National Club championships. This is the first time Cippenham have reached the last 16 of this competition.

Dave got Cippenham off to a great start with a win against John Crabtree, one of the three current Somerset County players in the visiting side. After saving two set points in the second game, Dave never looked baf;k, hitting with devastating power and accuracy to also record a victory over David Lee.

Alec Watson again played solidly recording two-straight game victories whilst Frank Earis recovered from his earlier mauling by Lee to secure the victory.

Cippenham (Slough) 5 B.C.L. (Bridgwater) 1
Poutney bt Crabtree -17, 22, 11.
Earis lost to Lee -9, -4.
Watson bt David Wilson 13, 13.
Poutney bt Lee 13, 14.
Watson bt Crabtree 14, 17.
Earis bt Wilson -12, 18, 11.

THE PROVIDENCE CAPITOL COUNTY PREMIER LEAGUE

After six rounds of the County Premier League, sponsored by The Providence Capitol Insurance Company, only one point covered the three top teams and the closeness of the competition could be judged by the fact that of the 18 matches played, eleven ended with a scoreline of 5-4 (in many cases, with the outcome decided by the final set). The remaining seven ended 6-3, but in the 7th round, the "A" Team devastated. the Pio'neers 8-1 to further increase their lead at the top by 4 points.

Four teams have topped the table so far but the margin has always been one point and so, with only three more rounds to play, the "A" team's lead could well be decisive - they play their nearest challengers, "Specific Performance" in the next round. Table:

	P	W	L	Pts
The "A" Team	7	6	1	38
Specific Performance	7	6	1	34
The Mojo's	7	3	4	31
The Pioneers	7	4	3	30
Three Stooges	7	1	6	30
The Challengers	7	1	6	26

The "A" Team comprises:- Sylvester Callum, Graham Slack and Paul Tsakarisianos, (Nina's elder brother) who all play in the Cheltenham League. In their victory over The Pioneers both Graham and Paul scored maximums, (which included victories over Steve Moreman), while the losers' sole point came from Steve's win over Sylvester. This was more than ample revenge for the "A" Team's one defeat so far - by 6-3 by the Pioneers.

Specific Performance's No. 1 is, depending on availability, Paul Jackson, Darren Griffin, or Michael Owens and, not surprisingly, 20 out of their 34 points have come from their No.1.

Mojo's star is Andrew Golding who despite his No.3 County Ranking has lived dangerously. He scored a maximum in his last match but only just got through 26-24. in the third ag'ainst Cheltenham's Frank Jones who has certainly risen to the challenge of the competition. Incidentally had Frank won that set his team, The Three Stooges, would have won 5-4 and would now be in third position.

The leading individual singles results are:- Graham Slack P21 W17, Andrew Golding 21-16, Steve Moreman 21-15, Frank Jones 21-14, Mark Owen 15-1 3, Martyn Lane 15-12. Thank you John Boyd, Chairman of the County Premier League, for tendering this report.

GLOUCESTER CITY CLOSED

Held on March 11, at Gloucester Leisure Centre on 10 tables we had a record entry of 80 in the Open Singles. The semi-finalists turned out to be William Dawe (Holder) v Griffin and Slack v Moreman. This event overall should provide us with a jolly good final on March 27.

Other events to be played then are:- W.S: Christine Iacopi v Jenny Ellery. J.S: David Smith v Arron Beckett. The Open D'oubles is between Dawe and Griffin who oppose Slack/Moreman. The Mixed consists of Moreman/C. Iacopi v the defending Champions, Dawe/H. Colwill.

Events played through resulted:-

Diy. 2 Singles: Manny Masih bt Jenny Ellery, 16, 11;
Div. 3 Singles: Dale Saunders bt Ray Poole 11, 10;
Diy. 4 Singles: Trevor Ellery bt Atul Patel 11, -11, 13;
Diy. 5 Singles: David Beard bt Paul Singh 22, 18;
Div. 6 Singles: Graham Dale bt Guy Steel 13, 18;
Diy. 7 Singles: Junior Clemmings bt David Powlesland 15,16.
V.S: Bryan Merrett (Holder) bt Peter Wood 16, 14.
J.S: (U-13): D. Saunders bt G. Thomas, 13, 13.
J.S: (U-15): C. Saunders bt L. Symonds -12,14,14.
G.S: J. Ellery bt C. Symonds 18, 16.

All events ran smoothly, as soon as one table became vacant, the next event was ready to be played. Knocking up was almost non-evident and considerable praise must go to Alan Haines, Chairman of the City League, and Bernard Mowbray, City Match Secretary, for running the entire tournament so well. County Officials please take note'

And finally on the lighter side of life - my seven-year-old Grand-daughter asked me this question the other day:- She said: "Grandad, when we go to heaven - do we take off from Gatwick or Heathrow?" I couldn't answer that one.

Geoff Waters reports from.....

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

ALMOST THERE

By the time that these notes are read HassySoham will have been confirmed as National League champions for the second successive season and we shall also know whether the Cambridgeshire seniors. have reached the Premier Division of the County Championships for the first time.

Soham took a point off Ormesby that clinched the title for them barring some freak results. The Middlesbrough club fought hard to keep alive their

slender chances of overhauling Soham and came back from 3-1 down to lead 4-3. In the first half only Henk Van Spanje with a win over Kenny Jackson had posed Soham any problems, but there was a transformation after the interval. Van Spanje completed a double by beating Hannah and then, somewhat surprisingly, Richard Yule also beat Jackson to level the scores. Donald Parker then put Ormesby ahead for the first time with a win over John Souter, but with Paul Day at No.4 Soham still had something in hand. He comfortably beat Nigel Eckersley to level the match and all Soham need now from their last two matches is four sets and that is if Ormesby win their final match against Dunlop Birmingham 8-0.

Unfortunately, Cambridgeshire do not have control over their own destiny in the County Championships Div. 2a. They come into their last match against Worcestershire needing to win by as many sets as possible and also hopi'ng for a favourable result from the Suffolk v Warwickshire II encounter. All three counties are level on 9 points, with Suffolk having won 41 sets, Cambridgeshire 38 and Warwickshire II 37.

Cambridgeshire must be bemoaning the fact that Alan Cooke made a rare appearance for Derbyshire in their last match which they still managed to win 7-3. However, if Cooke hadn't played and won two, Cambridgeshire may have won 9-1 and the two extra sets could have proved invaluable if, as looks likely, the championship is decided on sets average. All the remaining singles went Cambridgeshire's way, but the women's doubles went astray.

The ,senior team are still without Mandy Judd, who has been out of the game since the beginning of the year, but fortunately Hilary Finch has proved an able replacement having won both her singles since taking over. The second team have been unable to field a full strength team in the last two matches and took two heavy beatings. They lost 8-2 to Norfolk II, to give the East Anglians their first win of the season. They were 8-0 down before Alison Edge beat Sheila- Allen and Julian Wheel got the better of David Smith to add respectability to the scoreline. Even with Geoff Davies and Hilary Finch back in the team a week later they took a 9-1 hammering from Surrey II at Carshalton. Hilary saved the "whitewash" with an excellent win over Michelle Hams.

The juniors are doomed to relegation following their 7-3 defeat against Lancashire at Burnley. Our boys proved a match for the Northerners with Peter Holliday winning two singles and Tim Ashman one, but Lancashire were far superior in the girls' to give them a comfortable victory. The match was honoured with the presence of the Mayor and Mayoress of Burnley and afterwards we were given some good old fashioned northern hospitality with hot meat and potato pies and mushy peas. Only the result marred an otherwise very enjoyable day. Junior two continue to impress and scored their fourth win of the season with a 7-3 victory over Berkshire II.

Paul Oldroyd and Johnny Collins went through the match unbeaten for the second successive fixture and Ruth Hutchinson followed up her first county win at Herefordshire with another singles victory. She also won in the girls' doubles with Samantha Wales. March Halex won their sixth match of the season in Div. 2 North of the Halex National League.

An injury to RIS Stockton's No.4 meant only three of the remaining six sets were required to win the match.

Stuart Palmer's win over Ian Plummer and Geoff Davies' hard fought win over Malcolm Corking soon put the match beyond Stockton's reach and they are still firmly rooted at the foot of the table.

With the improved form of the March players showing in their rise up the National Ranking list, they are looking to avenge their early season defeats by Chan Construction and Salford Target Gold with increasing confidence.

Malcolm Allsop reports from.....

DERBYSHIRE

TITLE CLINCHER

Derbyshire Juniors clinched the Div. 2A Championship with a 5-5 draw against Warwickshire, with Andrew Henry leading the team well with wins over 2 England-ranked boys.

Bradley Billington showed his potential and his win over Nigel Mayo put Derbyshire into a '2-0 lead. Warwickshire fought their way back into the match to take a 4-2 lead; but Henry and our ever-reliable girls set us back in the lead at 5-4; only for Nigel Adams to' complete a disappointing match for himself by losing the final set.

Scores:

A. Henry bt Michael Thomas 19, -19, 19; bt Mark Randle 21, 17;
N. Adams lost to Randle -18, -18; lost to N. Mayo -18, -16;
B. Billington bt Mayo 17, 17; lost to Thomas -13, -14;
Louise Forster bt Melanie McHayle 12, 14;
Joanne Weightman bt Dawn Bromley 11, 20;
Henry/Billington lost to Randle/Thomas -18. -16;
Forster/Weightman lost to Bromley/McHale -21, -11.

With four of this team in the Junior Ranks next season, the prospects of a successful first outing in the Premier Division look bright; and two unbeaten seasons under Keith Weightman's captaincy have boosted morale to an all-time peak.

Unfortunately the story from the Senior Camp is sad to relate; with a 3-7 defeat at the hands of Cambridgeshire leaving the team with the prospect of facing opposition in a lower Division next season.

Two wins from Alan Cooke and a women's doubles victory were the only consolation from a match where five sets were lost in the 3rd game after the first game of each set had been won.

The presence of Maurice Billington as captain or player were essential to lift the team's performance this season, and Maurice has sadly not been available.

Scores:

A. Cooke bt Mick Harper 16. 13; bt Keith Richardson 10, 9;
Steve Yallop lost to Richardson -11, -15; lost to Andy Withers -16, -15;
Dave Hinchliffe lost to Withers 19, -19, -17; lost to Harper 10, -8, -8;
To Thuy Dung lost to Joanne Palmer 21. -15, -18;
Marilyn O'Sullivan lost to Hilary Finch 14. -12. -18;
Cooke/Hinchliffe lost to Harper/Richardson 15, -16. -19;
O'Sullivan/To Thuy bt Finch/Palmer -12,12.10;

In the Derbyshire Challenge Cup, Activity 'B' (Derek Marples, John Paddison and Jackie Billington) of Chesterfield beat Victory Club 7-2 and will compete in the final with Rolls Royce 'A' (Ernie Lough, Bill Fowkes and Barry Taylor) of Eastwood who beat Cromford by 7-2 in their semi-final clash.

BURTON LEAGUE

The Harveys dominated the Burton Championships held at Granville School. Mark, who is at University of Manchester, met Paul in the Men's Singles Final but had to keep his nerve when a 20-15 lead was whittled away in the 2nd game; ho.wever Paul gained revenge in both the Men's and Mixed finals and added the Boys' title for good measure.

Results:

MS: s-1's: M. Harvey bt Martyn Allsopp 16,20; P. Harvey bt Stuart Brooks 12, -15,13; Final: M. HARVEY bt P. Harvey -19.24,18;
WS: Jane Vickers bt Rose Haggar 12. 23;
JS: P. Harvey bt Nigel Adams 26;
XO: Desley Smith/Po Harvey bt Cheryl Smith/M. Harvey 19. -18, 15;
MO: M. Allsopp/P. Harvey bt N. Adams/M. Harvey -19, 19, 7;
VS: Alan Haynes bt Terry Gadsby 17, 14;
Div. 2/3: Andy Walker bt Roger Vernall -20. 15, 14;
Div. 4/5: David Staniforth bt Miss C. Smith 14, 18.

The Burton League's Annual Dinner/ Dance including presentation of Prizes to winners and runners-up in league and tournaments takes place on May 11 at Gresley Old Hall.

BUXTON LEAGUE

There was a feast of table tennis at the Pavilion Gardens, Buxton on Feb. 18 when the Buxton and North Derbyshire TTA staged the Tarmac Open. 27 teams took part in a two-man team handicap competition.

Players from Cheshire, Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire took part with the later stages reaching such a high standard that spectators witnessed the best table tennis seen at the Gardens since the English Closed Championships were staged there in 1933.

Fallibroome 'A' (Keith Deaville and Simon Mear) representing the Premier Division of the 'Macclesfield League were winners of the main event, beating Bollington Cons (Eddie Griffiths and Mike Tew) in an absorbing and well contested final.

There was healthy spectator interest in the event and League Chairman, Brian Ashfield, expressed his thanks to the Pavilion Gardens' management for providing such excellent facilities, to David Hall the event organiser, and to Tarmac Roadstone (North Western) Ltd for sponsoring the competition.

Mr. A. F. Rahilly, Regional Director of the Company, presented the prizes and expressed his company's pleasure in being associated with a well run local sporting enterprise. He stated that he was particularly impressed with the high standard of sportsmanship displayed, which he felt was most refreshing and compared exceptionally well with other sports.

The event, which is to become an annual fixture, was the second competition to be held by the Buxton & N.'D.T.T.A. and it is their intention to upgrade standards year by year. The League were therefore extremely appreciative of the interest taken by Tarmac Roadstone (North Western) Ltd., which will, clearly assist them in their objectives.

CHESTERFIELD LEAGUE

Chesterfield, last season's finalists, were knocked out of the Wilmott Cup by Leicester. Cooke was his dependable best in winning his three sets, but with Martin Kinsella only winning one and David Hinchliffe failing to provide any support, the Chesterfield team went out of the Competition by 4-5.

In Div. 3 of the Chesterfield League, Activity 'E' lead the way closely followed by HPO 'A': Brimington 'B' and BridgeSt. Meths are fighting out the third position.

Transport 'B' lead Div. 4; but Eckington 'B' and Dronfield 'A' are close behind with matches in hand in what could prove to be a close and exciting finish.

DERBY LEAGUE

Lancaster 2nd lead Div. 2, but Granville 2nd have matches in hand to mount a Championship surge; whilst Coop appear to have the third promotion position in their grasp.

Lancaster 5th are runaway leaders of Div. 3 with Darbus and Rolls Royce 3rd the fellow promotion candidates.

Derbyshire Building Society 1st lead Div. 4 with Derwent Scouts 1st and Viking Scouts 1st in the promotion challenge.

YMCA 4th, led by P. K. Gupta, hold the lead "in Div. 5 with Castle Donington 5th and Derwent Scouts 2nd being challenged for the promotion positions by British Telecom 2nd.

EASTWOOD LEAGUE

The Eastwood Juniors are challenging for promotion in the Midland League, with Stephen Taylor, Adrian and Joanne Weightman gaining their latest victory by 10-0 against Mansfield.

The Eastwood League's Annual Dance and Presentation will be held on April 21 at Plumtree Hall, Eastwood.

Harry Black reports from.....

DURHAM

TRIUMPHANT RETURN

Durham returned to winning ways with a 7-3 victory away to bottom-placed Cheshire II at Macclesfield. Due to the unavailability of Tony Gelder and Darren, McVitie, Durham turned out David Blackburne, Cliff" Olsson and Tom Robson together with Lynne Yarnell and Lynne Bainbridge, the latter replacing Joan Suddick who now lives abroad.

It was good to see our reserve men gain maximum rewards both in singles and doubles but Blackburne disappointed in losing to Tony Worthington. Mrs. Bainbridge combined well with Lynne Yarnell providing the per-'feet foil to the latter's attacking style.

Results:—

Blac'.burne bt A. Bevan 10. 18; lost to Worthington -13. -11.
Olsson bt Worthington 18. -9. 16; bt K. Deaville 17. 16.
Robson bt Deaville 16. -17. 8; bt Bevan 16. 15.
L Yamell lost to A. Dakin -23. 11. -18.
L Bainbridge lost to D. Maguire -13. -11.
Olsson/Robson bt Deaville/Worthington 10. -12. 8.
Bainbridge/Yarnell bt Dakin/Maguire 16. 9.

After the recent Boys' ranking trial, held at Washington on Feb. 4, the County selection committee issued the following revised rankings:-

1	D. McVitie (PL)	8	N. Thornley (PL)
2	D. Blackburne (PL)	9	G. McKeown (Ph)
3	P. Stafford (S)	10	J. Smith (PL)
4	P. Young (PL)	11	M. Bridle (BA)
5	M. Roughley (Ph)	12	S. Dixon (S)
6	G. Pearson (PL)	13	G. Milne (BA)
7	P. Swift (Ph)	14	I. Telford (Ph)

Key: BA = Bishop Auckland; Ph = Philadelphia
PL = Peterlee; S = Sunderland

DURHAM SENIOR LEAGUE

Sunderland"A" took maximum points from their final match at home to South Shields to stay top of the men's division. Gelder scored a maximum for Sunderland and combined with Chris Blake to take the doubles. Two wins each came from Blake and Alvin Robson both losing to Mick Grimes. Peterlee kept up their title hopes with a 9-1 win over Sunderland "B" both McVitie and Blackburne claiming trebles.

Leading positions:-

MEN	P	W	L	Pts
* Sunderland "A"	6	5	O	19
Peterlee	5	4	1	17
* Philadelphia "A'"	5	3	1	12
* Void result				

BOYS	P	W	L	Pts
Peterlee	6	6	0	24
Sunderland	6	3	3	12
Philadelphia	6	2	4	9

Sun'derland bowed out of the J. M. Rose when beaten in the zone final by Northumberland 7-2. Shirley Gelder gained the 2 sets when she defeated Christine Burke and Caron Buglass. Clare Mouzon gained a maximum for Northumberland. Scores:-

L Bainbridge lost to C. Mouzon -1 7. -9; lost to C. Burke -1 7. -19; lost to C. Buglass -1 5.-12.
S. Gelder bt Burke 18. -21. 20; bt Buglass 19. 12; lost to Mouzon -15. -18.
L Yamelliost to Buglass -14. -10; lost to Mouzon -16, -5; lost to Burke -18. -18.

Sunderland girls were beaten 5-0 in the Brom'field Trophy by Northumberland at Byker where the scores were:-

Janette Roberts lost to Denise Wilkinson -14. -13; lost to Denise Campbell-17. 19. -16.
Jill Mallon lost to Clare Mouzon -3. -4; lost to Wilkinson -10. -9.
Debra lost to Campbell -9, -16.

NORTHERN ,REGIONAL LEAGUE

After a slow start Washington TTC have won no less than three matches to climb to fourth place. Their wins were against Riversley Insurance Services (5-3), 7th Hartlepool Boys' Brigade (5-3) and Wanderers (Hartlepool) (6-2). Don Mcivor was the most successful Washington player winning all his six sets with backing from Robert Reed, Allan Thompson, Dave Corbett and Secretary Doug Lawrence.

Washington remain in second place in Div. 3 (North) of the National League, after wins over Unity II (6-2), South Yorkshire III (6-2) and Byker Newcastle II (6-2). The 6-2 win over Sth Yorks II was not as easy as the scoreline suggests for both Dave Godbold and Cliff Olsson needed a third end to defeat Paul Longstone and Clive Guest. McVitie was again beaten by Neil Bailey.

PETERLEE T.S.B. CLOS'ED

David Blackburne took full honours at the Peterlee T.S.B. Closed when he won both the Open and Junior singles titles beating McVitie on each occasion in the final. Results:-

M.S: D. Blackburne bt D. McVitie 15. 11.
O.D: Blackburne/McVitie bt P. Smith/W. Reay 18. 17.
B.S: Blackburne bt McVitie -17. 14. 19.
G.S: J. Grant bt C. Martindale 17. 18.
V.S: P. Smith bt D. Camey 14. 6.
C.B.S: P. Young bt C. Russon 14. 5.

Alf Pepperd reports from ....

GLOUCESTERSHIRE'

I am extremely grateful to the ETTA's Offices in Hastings for sending me up-to-date Lentec,Ranking lists and while I am doing this job, long may they continue to do so. Having said that I must admit that I do have certain reservations about these rahkings in general.

As one of three County Selectors, my colleagues Jean Golding and Peter Cruwys, rightly or wrongly, tended to ignore Lentec when we placed Darren Griffin who at the time was 150 above Paul jackson who was 83. At the time Darren appeared to have a slightly better county record than did Paul, (although Paul beat Darren in the final of the County Closed). Jackson is now No. 63 on the computer and Darren 130, a difference of 67 places. Quite a lot one would think? But knowing both quite weill can categorically state that a difference of 67 places is a ridiculous gap.

Bearing this in mind, apart from the top ranked 10 or 15 in all sections, it seems to me that rankings are rather a hit or miss game based almost entirely on: (1) How many tournaments a player is prepared to attend; (2) How far they get, and the possibility of any other outside contributory factors that I am totally ignorant of. Lentec Rankings do however pinpoint the really top players in every category, but I do not think they can be relied upon 100% for a true record of a p.layer's actual ability.

Peter Hirst and Bryan Merrett turned up for' a coaching session one cold foggy night in Mid-February, awaiting them were 5 players all from Cheltenham, plus Peter Cruwys. No one turned up from Gloucester or

Stroud, it was a nasty night yes, but that alone couldn't have been the sole excuse for so lowan attendance surely.

CQUNTY NEWS

Continuing their Div. 3C title quest in the County Championships, unbeaten Gloucestershire played Worcestershire 2nds, at The Nailsworth Boys' Club, and ran o.ut 9-1 winners. Glo'shire now have two more matches to .play, Herefordshire away and Northants at home. Worcestershire had no answer to the home side's undoubted superiority and could only manage to salvage one set. Sensing the championship almost within their grasp the Glo'shire players, as if as one, piled on the pressure and played remarkably well. Scores:-

P. Jackson bt K. Walton 8, 13; bt L Siket 9, 12.
A. Golding bt S. Horton 12. 16; bt Siket -19, 11. 10.
D. Griffin bt Horton 15. 14; bt Walton 15, 15.
N, Tsakarisianos/C. Iacopi bt L. Reid/A. Westwood 14. -19. 15.
Griffin/Golding bt Walton/Horton 19. 10.
Iacopi lost to Reid 18, -17, -15.
Tsakarisianos bt Westwood 10. 11.

It is pleasing to report that there were more spectators than usual.

STROUD NEWS

I have a great admiration for the way the Stroud Officials go about their respective ways of providing for the future, Le. positive planning of coaching and indeed many other aspects. One member of their coaching panel, namely Ray Westbury, sent me the following:

"Coaching in Stroud is continuing along a well-established pattern, use is made of the local Leisure Centre and a course of instruction is held on Saturday mornings from the beginning of October to the end of March using 8 tables.

Two groups are catered for each Saturday, one is of newly-started players drawn from the local Primary Schools, average age between 10-11. The aim is to bring these youngsters upto a standard where they could join local clubs, and play in the lower divisions of the League.

. The other group caters for young League players, average age 14, who do not play in the Junior representative side at present, but all of whom have the potential to represent the town in the future.

There is also separate coaching for Juniors already in the Town-side 'squad. For the first time the Stroud coaches have organised a short course for adult players, there have been many requsts for this service in the past, but with the limited number of qualified coaches available it has always been the youngsters who get the lion's share. However it must be remembered that it is the larger registration fees of the adults which keep a League going financially, and so the experiment of our first adult coaching will be watched with considerable interest". Thank you Ray for this enl<ightened report.

Still with Stroud, Dave Lewis a consistent and regular informant tells me that Nailsworth "A" who for so long have dominated the 1st Division of the Stroud League look like being content with runners-up place this season. Batemans "A" are (to date) at the top with 146 points, Nailsworth have 122 although Nailsworth have a game in hand.

Last, last season to hold their Final's Night, 'First this year and Cheltenham's somewhat NEW FORMAT went down well. Gone were the lengthy inter-event rambles, the whole F.N. was over by 1Opm instead of midnight (last year), and one came away feeling it had all been worth it.

Apart from a few Biblical Names being hollered out at intermittent times, and one player who hurled his bat half the length of the Hall, the entire night gave me great pleasure. Events were kept to a minimum, well umpired by Martin Ball, Jack Greening and others.

And now to the events:- In the one half of the Open Singles, Richard Russell beat Guy Greening, 22, 19, and in the other, Graham Slack beat Adrian Vale 19, 16. In the final Slack won' 14, -17, 18 with' Russell the runner-up yet againl

The Women's Singles saw defending champion Cathy Robb v 17-year-old Julia Evans. Cathy took the first game at 17, lost the second at 17, and in the third retained her title by winning at 16.

In the Men's Doubles final we saw Richard Russell and Norman Preece versus the more balanced pair of Sylvester CaUum and Slack, the latter winning 14 and 10.

Presentations were made by Mrs. D. B. Griffiths, Cheltenham's President.

IS THIS A RECORD:- Cheltenham's Ken Smith who plays in Division 2 has just missed a match through injury. First time in thirty years!

S. Teasdale reports from.....

HERTFORDSHIRE

GAP PLUGGED

I am writing this report on behalf of the Hertfordshire area in the hope of inclusion in the magazine as Herts seems to be one of the few counties which does not appear to have any re'ports sent in.

Firstly, I would like to mention the Barnet Table Tennis Centre, of which I am a member and also help out with various duties within the centre depending on activities. Here I would like to mention the splendid work done by Doug Tomsett. The Centre is used widely both for Herts county matches, tournaments, inter-league, junior 'county coaching and Sunday afternoon coaching sessions.

On the subject of coaching, I would also like to mention the splendid work done by Tony Margerison, Malcolm Waller, David Seaholme, Paul and Bob, as well as Doug Tomsett. Through their efforts are coming through such youngsters as Peter Harris, Peter Witchalls, Philip Witchalls, Mike Levene, Tim Waller, Ian Black, Glen Wilkes, Carolyn Seaholme and Maria, to name but a few.

The foregoing comments just complement the good work which is ,done by the Centre which is manned entirely on a voluntary basis and excellent work is also done by Geoff Mitchell and Brian Gale. The facilities at Barnet have certainly helped me as I run a table tennis club which consists almost entirely of junior players and three of them, Stuart Grassick, Trevor Methven and Paul Flanagan are making good progress.

In conclusion, I would wish that Mr. J.P. would stop making all the fuss over what is wrong with ourgame and start putting some help into promoting the sport. Let's face the fact that if Carl is as good as J. P. keeps saying he is, he would stop forever blaming his tools such as balls, different coloured rubbers etc., for his poor showing of late. Come, come, J.P., if Carl is top grade he must stop blaming equipment for his failure. Now let Carl grow up, J. P., and do us all a favour by stopping all argument and keeping within the rules and regulations which are meant for everyone with no exceptions.

John Prean reports from.....

BEYOND THE ISLE OF WIGHT

RED HERRINGS

I am sorry Peter Simpson wrote his piece (IT News March). My own, which seems to have moved him, was a well-meant essay with satirical undertones which traced 'how one young player in two months went from 'Hero of Tokyo' to 'has-been'. I am sad that it passed Peter by. He has not added to his stature. What excuse CAN there be for losing a player in a London hotel? Since when do England captains attack their players in public? When the player is a 16-year-old boy who has served that captain more than well it all becomes even sadder.

I suppose I shall have to dissect the weary procession of red herrings to which we were treated and I shall, for obvious reasons, do this after the European Championships in Moscow. It will be something for Peter to look forward to, if not for me. Much has been written about the famous Barna ball. I have believed all my life that in democracies commonsense prevails in the end - most of the ti<me, ,that there IS some point in battling on in the face of much personal discouragement and abuse. That chapter looks like ending and Dunlop are to be congratulated. They will do the right thing. The heroes of this affair were John Holland, Barry Johnson, Desmond Carl Prean. They all put their

heads on the chopping block and fought in their respective ways for a better deal for players, unfortunately against their own ETTA and THAT is what hurt. THEY made deals that the majority of their members did not want. That will take some living down as far as I am concerned.

Another hero'in MY book was Editor Yates who, by his respect for freedom of speech, his tolerance of'opposition' views deserves the highest praise. HE kept the ETTA flag flying and so contributed to an honourable solution that is good. for the sport. I shall leave the details of the announcement to others.

I do not want to waste too much time on the English Closed at Bletchley. It was a bad tournament. My face dropped from the moment I saw the small hall, the varying backgrounds, the tiny canteen, only a single 'phone box, the truly awful schedule. On the first day we got to bed at 11 .30, on the second at 1 a.m. after starting at 9.20 a.m. How on earth anybody was supposed to be at their best at,10.30 a.m. on the last day when the Finals started I do not know. There was no practise table for the finalists and they went on tired and out of touch. It showed in the play.

Most of the results,came too late for the newspapers due to the dreadful scheduling. What public-ity we got was mainly bad, an 'industrial dispute' between players and officials in which everybody took up entrenched positions with nobody giving way till player power ('industrial muscle') prevailed. My sympathies were entirely with the players. Who wants to see results achieved ON the table reversed OFF the table on an obscure technicality? Statements like 'The ETTA is more important than the Players' do NOT help. Neither do pathetic attempts at brinkmanship that deserved to fail.

One reads that all this so alienated Desmond Douglas that he will now stay in Germany. A sum of £10,000 has been mentioned in the Press. How this squares with the dire protestations of poverty at the start of the season is difficult to reconcile. It is, of course, a perfectly worthy initiative to bring home our champion. It may bring publicity, TV and sponsorship and raise standards. I just wish they had been a little franker and fairer to the other players in the, England squad, quite a few of whom are on the dole, not the greatest image for the Sport.

The Isle of Wight player DID make it to Moscow in the end. For some time we wondere'd whether, like Napoleon, he would get bogged down on the way - perhaps in a booby trap made of Barna balls. It is not for me to say whether this belated call was wise or deserved. Certainly the Simpson letter must lead the layman to believe that 'Prean' had done nothing since the World and Commonwealth Championships. Not entirely so. True, he has lost some, but he has also won some. These latter include Jonyer, Ono, Nukazuka, Orlowski, Molnar (twice), Plum (twice), Kim Ki Taek, Seemiller, Boggan, Grubba, Waldner. Not a bad bunch: 2 former world champions, a former European Champion, the current Top 12 Champion, some 9 world-ranked players in all.

No, Peter Simpson, I don't make excuses. My attitude to defeat is to start planning the next victory 5 minutes later and that includes analysing what went wrong 5 minutes earlier. I don't like the rather unpleasant hobby of always knocking those who have had a little success and so spoiling it forthem. The rewards in our Sport are so small that, if we keep doing that, we shall quickly run out of players.

It has been a period where every Tom, Dick and Harry seemed to feel unfulfilled unless they could include in their writing at least one nasty phrase about John Prean. One felt at times like General de Gaulle, later saviour of France, but at that time having what he considered a raw deal in exile. The story (which need not be taken too seriously) was that he rose every morning wondering who would insult him that day. However, he survived and prevailed and France benefited greatly. I, too, shall survive in a smaller way in our humble sport, though I have felt at times that a quieter life had attractions. However, I WAS encouraged by the many (and I mean MANY) messages of support I got during the Closed, people who came to me, introduced themselves to tell me that they liked and supported what I wrote.

None felt any burning need to agree with me at all times. I was made to feel that to lay down my pen would be a betrayal of the cause of stimulating a better ETTA and a betrayal of myself. I shall therefore go on as long as the Editor wants me to and people read what I have to say. All I want is a better Sport and for everybody to pu'll together in that cause. If they don't, I shall continue to haunt and hammer them.

The Closed was not an occasion that furthered this ideal. One young chap however can look back on it all with satisfaction and pride. That was the excellent Warwickshire player Carl Morgan who emerged as a real gentleman and for me the star of a show that was otherwise an unmitigated shambles.

Our County Team travelled to Hambledon to meet Hampshire. This was no away match in the true sense as our hosts selected a beautiful, close venue and delivered us to this. I could fault their hospitality only on one count: They gave us a good thrashing. The score was a tight 6-4, but the better side won and with it deservedly the championship of the division. I brushed away a little tear in celebration of myoid county's success and wish them luck. For their sake, not ours, I hope they will have a long stay in the higher division. That really was a nice afternoon. It was almost a pleasure to lose both points. The heroic Jim Daly got himself on that famous computer when he defeated Derek Holman. When some more players get 'mechanised' we shall feel that we have arrived as a table tennis power.

Philip Nicholls won our Junior Title in his last year and he cannot be far away from an appearance for the County. John Poynter won the Intermediate (Divs. 2-7) defeating Mike Gallop in the final. Both put in the practise and that's how you win things. Well done.

Doreen Levey reports from.....

KENT

WELL DONE CHRIS AND ANDREW

Congratulations to Chris Bartram and Andrew Dodd for being amongst the current leaders in the Beneficial Trust Grand Prix with 28 and 16 points respectively.

Junior rankings based on Trials, Kent League, County matches, Open and Closed tournaments,' where known, have been revised as follows:-

Boys	Girls
1 C. Bartram (Woo)	1 J. Houghton (Ton)
2 A. Cunningham (Brom)	2 E. James (Woo)
3 A. Dodd (Woo)	3 A. Wooliven (Ton)
4 P. Amos (Med)	4 S. Clark (Tha)
5 R. Levett (Cant)	5 S. Brame (Folk)
6 K. Ball (Folk)	6 T. Ashdown (Folk)
7 M. Williams (T.W.)	7 D. Jarrett (Med)
8 M. Rutherford (Dov)	8 L. Roberts (Brom)
9 B. O'Grady (Woo)	9 S. Williams (Cant)
10 A. Houghton (Ton)	10 S. Hollingsworth (-)
11 M. Harrison (T.W.)	11 T. Cohen (Ash/Sitt)
12 J. Huckle (Woo)	12 R. Butcher (Sitt)

Final table for Div. 1 in the Kent Junior League is:-

	P	W	0	F	A	Pts
Tunbridge Wells	5	5	0	34	16	10
Tonbridge	5	3	1	32	18	7
Dover	5	3	1	30	20	7
Woolwich	5	2	0	20	30	4
Tunbridge Wells 8	5	1	0	17	33	2
Canterbury	5	0	0	17	33	0

Juliet Houghton topped the averages with 93%, winning 14 of her 15 sets, followed by R. Levett (87%) and M. Williams (86%).

Other divisional winners were:-

Div. 2 Thanet R-U: Maidstone
Div.3 (E) Medway "A" R-U: Folkestone
Div.3 (W) Woolwich "C" R-U: Bromley "A"

The Tonbridge Junior League has been completed with "Otford" being the winners of both Divs. 1 and 2. Leigh were the winners of Div. 3. Father Bernard Rowley joins with Allen Fisher again this year for a 2-year coaching course at Littlehampton. The course, to be held in August, will be split into A and B sections according to standard.

Individual winners in the Kent Junior League were:-

Div. 1 Robert Levett R-U: Mark Williams
Div.2 Jt'hn Ferguson R-U: Darren Boyce
Div.3 (W) John Bonnin R-U: Andrew Whiting
Div.3 (E) Brian Mileham R-U: Colin Tydeman (Boys)
Lynne Roberts R-U: Sarah Williams (Girls)

KENT SCHOOLS T.T.A.

(The K.S.T.T.A. held 'its annual Individual Tournament on Feb. 11 at Cornwallis School, Maidstone. This

was the best-attended tournament for some years with over a hundred competitors in the various sections.

The U-11 Boys' event attracted 29 entrants and the standard of play was as high as ever. Brian Mileman (Margate) defeated Daniel Thompson (Otford) 8,8 in the final. In the U-11 Girls' there were only nine competitors but after some entertaining matches Delia Fulton (Otford) went one better than last year when she had been the losing finalist by beating D. Hothi (Rochester) 19, 17.

The final of the U-13 Boys' was between David Fulton (Judd) and Andrew Houghton (Judd). In the final Andrew's experience told and he won 15, 14.

In the Girls' U-13 the No. 1 seed failed to arrive and the final was between Ley Thuy Tran and Joan White, both of Wilmington Grammar. It was obvious that each girl knew the other's strengths but Ley with her pen-holder grip won 14, 18.

The Boys' U-16 final was the most intriguing. It was a clash between an orthodox stylish player, Michael Rutherford, and Carl Nash, an unorthodox and aggressive player. Both came from Astor Secondary and after a struggle Michael won -15, 14, 16.

There were only two competitors in the Girls' U-16 and Juliet Houghton of Hugh Christie, Tonbridge, had an easy win over Donna Clarke (Thamesview) 14,8.

Once again the finalists of the U-19 Boys' came from the same school, Tunbridge Wells Grammar. This was a first class match between Peter Stace and David Champneys. David had the better all-round game but Peter showed some deft touches especially with his block shots against loop and won -8, 15, 16.

Philip Reid reports from.....

LEICESTERSHIRE

ONLY ONE SNAG

On the face of it, not a very happy time for Leicestershire teams. First the senior team went to Walthamstow in search of Premier Division points. The organisation, conditions and atmosphere was first-class with sportsmanship being of the highest order. There was only one snag as far as we were concerned - they were relegated. None of the blame could be attributed to Chris Rogers, who, playing No.1, registered six out of eight wins. The match with Staffordshire was vital to us, where David Gannon (again) and Grahame Hall threw away big leads, a feat both players repeated. However, we all learn by our mistakes so we will be ready, the season after next, to come back again! My sympathies go out to Phil Powell, our non-playing captain who not only organised the transport and hotel arrangements, but had the worrying job of knowing who to put in the team and having to watch (perhaps suffer would be a better word) every match.

The junior team this season seem to be jinxed. First David Aldwinckle announced his premature retirement from the game. Then Marcus Bellot and Kevin Woodhead declared themselves more interested in playing in a domestic tournament than playing for the county. Worse was to follow as Joanne Murray obtained employment which precluded her from playing. However every cloud has its silver lining. The improved maturity of David Grundy, who was thus enabled to play has been a pleasing feature of the junior team this season and Michael Gillett, with his ice-cool temperament, has stepped into the breach like a veteran. Here indeed is a player of the future. Gail Chapman, another eleventh-hour replacement, performed magnificently, recording a win on her debut against Cheshire.

The veterans lost 7-2 to Kent which virtually assured their relegation to Div. 2 but the remarkable thing here was that Henry Buist lost to both John Iliffe and Geoff Aldwinckle. The second team lost to high-riding Cheshire first in a 3A encounter but reports coming through suggest the women, Yvonne Hall and Julie Revill, saved the team from complete disaster, both taking a singles in a 7-3 defeat, the other victorious set being the men's doubles.

I hear that Leicester may be entering the National League next season, sponsored by the shoe manufacturers, George Oliver, in whose employ incidentally Maurice Newman is. The team is expected to be Hall, Philip Smith, Newman, Martin Pickles and Karen Smith. This looks a pretty formidable line-up for the third division.

A junior tournament at Knighton Park was recently organised by Anita Stevenson. After much time off with illness it was good to see Anita back as her old cheery self. In the Hinckley League Iliffe lost for the first time in 2½ years - to old peroxide head himself, Woodhead. Kevin's team, Brockington, established a 6-1 lead against the league leaders, Kingscroft, and although they faded a bit to lose the last three, look likely to take the Hinckley League title.

Leicester have reached the quarter-final of the Wilmott Cup thanks to a great win over Chesterfield and a rather more easy win over Hull. Chesterfield boasted two internationals in Alan Cooke (England) and Martin Kinsella (Ireland) and although Cooke took a maximum, Kinsella came unstuck against both Rogers and Gannon. With Hall also slipping in with one, Leicester got home 5-4. The game with Hull, however, was an anti-climax. Without star Joe Naser in the team they were never able to extend Leicester, who won 6-0.

Ray Hogg reports from.....

NORFOLK

MARTYN'S MAGIC MOMENT

23-24 down in the 3rd, Julian Wheel let loose with a screaming forehand drive which looked a winner all the way, but Martyn Stevenson somehow blocked a return down the other side of the table with Julian completely out of position. This gave Martyn the set, and the applause for that shot continued well after the players had departed. That episode was part of National League match Norwich Foxwood v Soham II. Norwich won 6-2 and apart from the above and one or two other rallies was not a particularly spectator-type match.

Brian Richardson had an unfortunate day out - starting by colliding with a pheasant that broke his number plate and finishing with yours truly spilling a selection of dirty cutlery on his lap. In between these happenings however he played Doug Bennett and at 6-all in the first with the game just beginning to get interesting he went for an angled shot on his forehand near the net and somehow managed to mangle his thumb on the table and completely smash his racket. We carted him down to the local hospital for a check and luckily nothing was broken - just severe bruising and laceration. Brian came back to the match with a rigid thumb, and perky as ever conceded his sets as he said - "If I had a spare bat I couldn't hold it". We all wished him well for the future as he left to drive his team home with thumb held high. Our other match in N.L. since last report was against lowly Lincoln and the scoreline of 8-nil, all in 2-straight, tells the story.

Our County senior 1st team have been idle for a month now as Essex had to postpone until April. We now have to play 3 matches in succession. Senior 2nd team played Cambs 2nd at Norwich and rather surprisingly beat them 8-2. Messrs. Howlett, Bunn and Smith and MIS Allen and Kowalski deserve congratulations. The very next weekend a much changed team entertained Herts and the story was quite different - a 1-9 defeat. Our only success came from the first set with Simon Steward beating that great defender John Taylor. Then Stuart Seaholme, Keith Samuels (a beautiful player to watch) and Karen Morton with Linda Walters stamped their superiority on the match. A mention for our Linda Kowalski who has been around for some time but has only this season donned a County shirt and has played well above herself every time.

While on the County we have news that my employers for many years May & Baker Ltd. of Norwich are celebrating their 150 years as Chemical Manufacturers by supplying new shirts for the County Senior team for next season. This is in addition to supplying myself with an office, telephone, typewriter, photo-copier and postal service

to enable me to do my bit for the game in this area.

On the local scene CEYMS 'A' look like taking the Norwich premier title with ease. Phil Logsdon, Russ King, Trevor Bunn, David Smith - perm any three from four and'you have strength all through the team. Logsdon could be the first player for many years to go through the season unbeaten in Norwich and .Norfolk domestic competition. Norwich Wilmott cup team made a quick exit 6-0 by trav'elling to Birmingham to meet their 3 ranked-players.

I have found out what happened to Norwich Rose Bowl entry - The committee in their wisdom decided. not to enter. This is the first time since my involvement with the Norwich scene that this has happened. Though female players are not numerous these days there are enough interested in Norwich to warrant an entry I would have thought. Young Susan Jenkinson from Yarmouth dominated the Lowestoft championships recently taking the singles and both doubles. The Yarmouth cbampionships are coming up, let us see if she can continue to shine and become East Coast champion.

Since my comments about the East Anglian League last month and before they were printed Stan Honor has sent a round robin to all local leagues asking for ideas to improve the competition. A meeting has been set up for Thursday, May 3rd at the Miller Centre in Norwich. A final note-watching the elite of English T.T. in the final of the Closed, I as an umpire can now understand why· some of our youngsters query it when asked to flatten their hand when serving. Look at Graham Sandley they say. There is no answer to that!

Dennis Millman reports from.....

NORTHANTS

TITLE RETAINED

The Kettering Closed saw 300 sets packed into a successful marathon which Phil Slade, organising for the first time, concluded at 11 p.m. in the satisfying knowledge that the day's action had produced some of the most exciting finals for years.

Graeme McKim retained his singles title, but he did not have things all his own way as he first had to rely heavily on his reserves of speed and reflex to overcome Steve West in the semi decider and then against a confident Ian Hawes he had to withstand a continuous attack on his backhand in a demanding final.

McKim and Chris Handshaw, who hadn't previously succeeded at Kettering reached' the final of the men's doubles as anticipated but then had the utmost difficulty in coming through to victory against the previously untried combination of Hawes and West who took the first end to 15 and then led 17-13 in the second before letting it slip. The second seeds then edged ahead 17-13 and 19-16 in the decider before five Handshaw services enabled the iron-nerved McKim to pick off five successive winners for the title.

McKim took a third event when from a back mark of -6 he clinched the Premier Division Handicap with a thrilling 33-31 third end semi decider against Dennis Millman, before getting the better of Terry Cardwell in an exhilarating final.

Millman also had'a rewarding day, notching his fifth veterans' title, thirteen years after his first, and then taking the consolation singles at the first attempt while Handshaw completed his day's activities with the Mixed in partnership with Maxine Shears.

The imperturbable Miss Shears also came out on' top in the women's singles, but herfinal opponent Debbie Kimbell gained revenge when together with Anne Nicoll they edged out Shears and Shirley Everard.

The Junior Singles events went to Miss Kimble and Andy Edmonds who earlier had teamed up with Richard Ambrose to dominate the Junior Doubles.

Results:-

M.S.: s-f's: McKim bt West 12. -20.14; Hawes bt Nicoll 18. 17; Final: McKIM bt Hawes 27. 15.
W.S: Maxine Shears bt Debbie Kimbell 7. 9.
M.O: McKim/Handshaw bt Hawes/West -15. 19. 19.
W.O: Anne Nicoll/Kimbell btShears/Shirley Everard -17.18.16.
X.O: Handshaw/Shears bt Nicoll/Nicoll -15. 13. 13.
V.S: Dennis Millman bt Bill Lupton 11. 10.
C.S: Millman bt Mike Cryer 19. 19.
B.S: Andy Edmonds bt Kevin Bird 10. 13.
G.S: Debbie Kimbell bt Caroline Worth 13. 16.
J.O: Edmonds/Richard Ambrose bt Darren Underwood/Michael Newman 9.5.
U-15 Singles: Ambrose bt Chris Ball 13. -18. 5.
U-13 Singles: Neil Atkinson bt Alastair Worth 11. 8.
Premier Handicap Singles: McKim (-6) bt Cardwell (+5) 14. 16.

The last series of County matches again saw the Juniors take pride of place with a scintillating winning performance against Warwickshire Seconds in which regulars Edmonds, Andy Trott, Maxine Shears and Donna Furness all played their part and Richard Elliott coming into the side at the last minute, won twice and played well enough to keep his place. Handshaw made his first team debut against Hunts but lost narrowly to both Tim Speller and Phil Cole, leaving McKim and Hawes to take four singles between them. Ho.wever the talented pair also had a third end reverse in the doubles and the match was lost' 6-4.

West made his presence felt in the Seconds clash with Oxfordshire, winning twice in splendid style. Handshaw added a third but that was all Northants could master. Even this was marginally better than the Veterans who travelled to Keynsham to meet Avon where at the end of the day only a Keith Jones/ Joyce Porter mixed and a Jones singles denied Avon cpmplete dominance.

Former England cricketer David Steele - a ·man who has defied the odds at the highest level of international sport- grabbed a more recent slice of glory in the Kettering Premier Division when he took away McKim's unbeaten record which had stood for two years.

McKim who this season has already accumulated the Northants, the Kettering and the Wellingborough s·ingles titles started well, and took the first end 13 but then his normally fluent backhand faltered, as Steele resisted with all the tenacity that has been his trademark for so long and McKim found himself sliding to a -12, -1 5 reverse.

However Town 'A' weathered the storm and a two-nil deficit, and Rothborough 'A' without honeymooner Keith Nicoll were beaten 8-2 with Town's Edmonds the only unbeaten player. This leaves Town in a commanding position in Kettering's Premier Division with the leading places currently as follows:

	P	W	0	L	Pts
K. Town 'A'	16	16	0	0	143
Rothborough 'A'	16	11	2	3	111
Electricity 'A'	15	11	1	3	107
Thrapston 'A'	14	10	0	4	87

Leading Individual Averages:

1)	Graeme McKim (Town A)	38-39	= 97.5
2)	Steve West (Elec)	40-45	= 88.9
3)	Keith Nicoll (Roth 'A')	34-39	= 87.2
	Andy Edmonds (Town 'A')	34-39	= 87.2
5)	Ken Nicoll (Roth 'A')	39-45	= 86.7
6)	Ian Hawes (Well'ingboro')	33-39	= 84.6
7)	Chris Handshaw (Town A)	37-45	= 82.2
8)	Mark Nannery (Thrapston)	30-42	= 71.4

In Wellingborough, Chapmans 'A', in the shape of the aforesaid McKim, Handshaw and Edmonds, with Mark Nannery and Brian Dangerfield completing, the squad, lead the Premier Division with Electricity 'A' trailing, in second place, with the rest nowhere.

Latest Position

	P	W	0	L	Pts
Chapman 'A'	13	13	0	0	124
E.M.E.B.	13	12	0	1	109
Higham Band 'A'	12	6	0	6	69

Pauline Long reports from.....

NORTHUMBERLAND

BLACKMAN A WORTHY WINNER

Thomas Blackman is the new Northumberland boys' singles champion as a result of his victory in the Junior Closed held on Feb. 25 at Scotswood. Left-handed Blackman beat both leading cadets, David Watson and Darren Shaw, in the later stages of the event before winning in straight games ,against fellow left-hander Keith Patterson in the final. Patterson over.: came Steven Waugh in the quarters and then beat Peter Curry in a close semi..

The two finalists then paired up to win the doubles against Curry and Waugh. They eventually got home, 22 in the third, despite Blackman breaking his bat going for a short ball, and borrowing a replacement. Clare Mouzon also won two titles by defeating Denise Wilkinson in the girls' singles and combining with Curry to take the mixed from Blackman and Wilkinson.

Watson and Shaw had a successful day by reaching the final of both the cadet·boys' and the Class 2 singles, Watson coming out on top in both events. Shaw, however, didgain some consolation by taking the cadet doubles in partnership with Kevin

Shakesheff. In the other event, Steven Riggins had an victory over Martin Douglas to win the U-11 title. Results:-

BS: sot's: T. Blackman bt D. Shaw 14. 9; K. Patterson bt P. Curry 20.18.-
Final: BLACKMAN bt Patterson 10. 19.
GS: C. Mouzon bt Wilkinson 14. 9.
BD: Blackman/Patterson bt Curry/So Waugh -18. 19. 22.
XD: Curry/Mouzon bt Blackman/Wilkinson 8. -19. 14.
CBS: D. Watson bt Shaw 13. 19.
CaD: Shaw/Shakesheff bt P. Swift/I. Telford 15. 21.
Class 2: Watson bt Shaw 15. 7.
U-11 S: S. Riggins bt M. Douglas 9. 9.

The referee for this tournament, Sid Holt, was one of the stalwarts of table tennis in the county for many years, and it somehow seemed fitting that he should receive an award. The ETTA Merit Award for outstanding services to local table tennis was' awarded to Sid before play began. Sid has been League Secretary of the Northumberland League for more years than he cares to remember as well as holding office on the Northumberland Executive Committee and being County Umpire's Secretary. He is also a fully qualified County Umpire and Tournament Referee, and this award by the ETTA Honours Committee was fully merited.

All three Northumberland League teams remaining in the National K-O competitions were successful in their matches played to date. The girls won their Bromfied Trophy match 6-0 against Sunderland with Clare Mouzon, Denise Wilkinson and Denise Campbell each winning twice. The boys' team of Blackman, Patterson and Curry overcame the challenge of Tyneside Summer's Watson, Shaw and Damien Linskill also 6-0.

The Rose Bowl team of Clare Mouzon, Carol Buglass and Christine Burke duly advanced to the next round by beating a depleted Tyneside Summer team of Joan Leslie and Olive Drapkin again 6-0, but whatever the final result was likely to have been, a team is supposed to have three players wherever possible. For obvious reasons I do not wish to say too much about this, but I find it inconceivable that because the No.4 ranked woman is supposed to be reserve to the three players, which would in itself appear obvious, they are unable to help out the other team for which they also happen to be eligible.

The latest Lentec Computer rankings for juniors, as at March 2, show Clare Mouzon taking pride of place at No.7 in the girls' list. Eddie Smith and Curry are included at Nos. 38 and 61 respectively, and it surely cannot be long before Blackman and Patterson join them.

In the cadet boys' list David Watson is at No. 28, Michael Roughley is in for the first time at No. 36 and Darren Shaw is at No. 40. Whoever is responsible for preparing the lists, would they please note the Christian names of the last two players.

The Evening Chronicle Northumberland 2-Star Open will be held on Saturday, May 5, at Concordia Leisure Centre, Cramlington, commencing at 9 a.m. This year a Class 2 event will replace the junior events and will carry a first prize of£70. A new award this **year** will be a prize of £20 for the best performance by a Northumberland League player. Closing date for entries is Apt 16 to Aubrey Drapkin at 49 Beach Ave., Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear NE26 1DZ. 'Phone: 0632-514983.

Roy Williams reports from....

NORTH WALES

IMPRESSIVE WIN

Prestatyn 'A' and Caergwrle will me'et in the North Wales Team Championship final this month at a venue yet to be decided. Prestatyn (Roy Williams, Don Hobbs and Ray Howland) stormed to an impressive win against Llandudno's Lansdowne Club (Glyn Gibbons, Ken Jones and Ken Highfield) with only Gibbons winning two for the losers.

Llandudno Junction's (Arthur Roberts, Sue Roberts and Ian Ault) hopes of reaching the first final were crushed by Terry Turner, Haydn Young' and Neil James. Caergwrle look favourites to take the G. S. Radcliffe Cup.

Prestatyn had more success in the Rhyl League's 2-a-side Cup tournament which took over 12 hours to complete at Millers Cottage, Towyn. They won the Elwun Conway Senior Cup and the Tony Young Veterans Trophy. Rhyl Labour juniors won the Barbara Williams Trophy and Clwyd won the Ann Foot Ladies Cu'p.

ARTHUR'S TITLE

The Llandudno League completed their tournament at Qui'nton Hazell, Mochdre on Feb. 26 with their handicap events. Arthur Roberts (scr) won the open singles beating Dean Philips (+1 7) 31-29 in the third! Philips had beaten Terry Desmond (+10) in his semi while Arthur defeated holder Roy Williams (-3).

Mike Dudley (+16) won the junior singles with a final victory over Steve Nicholls (+15). Dennis Hunt and Bill Curtis (+6) captured the open doubles beating Jeff Nicholls and Gary Talbot (+8). Kath Ashton (+22) won the consolation singles against William Curtis (+7).

The East Flintshire League held their closed championships at Deeside Leisure Centre, Queensferry on Mar. 4 when Terry Turner just pipped Paul Griffiths 20 in the third, to take the men's singles title while former junior internationar Sandra Bennett beat Lynn Bowen to win the women's trophy. Nine events were held the winners and runner,s-up being:-

VS: Derek Stansfield - Peter Williams
JS: Tim Turner - Lynne Bowen
MD: Ivor Jones/Rd Lloyd - Stuart Conway/Paul Griffiths
WD: Bennett/Naida Holden - Bowen/Justine Thomas
XD: Stansfield/Bennett - John Ellis/Thomas
Div. 2 Singles: Bill Thacker - Lee Thacker
Div. 3 Singles: James Tapp - John Sherratt

FIVE FOR MIGS

Meirion (Migs) Williams won 5 titles at the Rhyl Closed and Barbara Williams won 4., The men's sin'g'les with 51 entries provided some exciting matches with Meirion defeating young Craig Thomas who did well to reach the semis. Meirion defeated Roy Williams in the final to win his first Rhyl men's singles crown. Roy dashed Gareth Williams' hopes in the other semi after Gareth had put out Keith Fitzsimmons in the quarters.

Barbara Williams won the women's singles retaining her title against Prunella Oakes in a repeat of last year's final. Perta Williams did well to reach the semis with Carol Parry being the other half finalist.

The men's veteran singles, with 21 entries, was captured by Meirion who defeated yours truly this time 2-1. Meirion put out Les Gramlich in his semi whilst I beat Fitzsimmons. The women's veteran event was a repeat of the singles with Barbara Williams again victorious over Pru Oakes.

Craig Thomas won both the junior and cadet singles as well as sharing the cadet doubles. Andrew Harrison at last won the intermediate singles after being runner-up on two occasions. Lesley Hatton also had a good day winning the cadet girls' singles and Women's Div. 2 singles as well as the cadet doubles.

Gerald Green reports from.....

SHROPSHIRE

SHROPSHIRE 'CLOSED'

The Shropshire 'Closed' held at Market Drayton was, predictably, dominated by Grove ITA players. Malcolm Green and Alison Barker took the Senior titles and made it a double by winning the U-17.

Results:

M.S: Malcolm Green (G) bt Paul Barnett (G)
W.S: Alison Barker (G) bt Carol Wickstead (G)
B.S: David Williams (G) bt David Morris (P)
G.S: Barker (Gl bt C. Wickstead /Gl
C.B.S: Simon Cooper (P) bt Morris
C.G.S: Dawn Wickstead (GJ bt Victoria Boyd (G)
U-12 B.S: Stephen Eaton (G) bt Neil Martin (G)
U-12 G.S: Joanna Dyke (G) bt Caroline Ashcroft (G)
V.S: Graham Phillips (T) bt John Cooper (P)
M.D: Won by Barnett/Colin Wilson (Gl
W.D: Won by C./D.Wickstead.
Key: G = Grove
P = Pontesbury
T = Telford.

The tournament, organised and efficiently run by Ian Marshall - with very able assistance from Mrs.M. Wickstead, Mr. P. Groom, Mrs. M. Williams, Mrs. B. Ainsworth, Mrs. S. Marshall, Mr. D. Williams and Mrs. J. Hanley, ran smoothly and to time.

The Shropshire TTA President, Bill Harris, presented the trophies and, as always, did a lion's share of the umpiring in his usual efficient manner. A pity we didn't have more entries.

TELFORD TOURNAMENTS

John Holding and Pete Jones took the honours in the restricted and Owens handicap tournaments held at Lilleshall.

Holding and Tony Horobin fought their way through to the final of the restricted singles before Holding, who had never beaten his rival in any match broke his duck to take the title in straight games. The event attracted

a large turnout - up on last year's figures - and the standard of play was good throughout.

The Owens Handicap attracted nearly 70 entries. Pete Jones, who plays in Div. 4, came through to make the final against Mark Hughes, who plays in Div. 1. In the final Hughes had to concede a big lead to Jones. But to everybody's surprise he turned the deficit around to take the first game. However he was unable to maintain the high standard and went down -11 , -11 to give Jones the title.

WEST MIDLAND CADET LEAGUE

The second series of matches in the West Midland Cadet League were played at Pontesbury.

The local Pontesbury side represented by David Morris, Justin Goodall and Adrian Phillips, had a good 9-1 win over Telford, despite a spirited performance by Tim McGill. They then played Chester's three England-ranked girls' team of Claire and Helen Potts and Kristina Cox, in the match of the day, with the result a 5-5 draw.

In the final matche.s to be, played on March 31, the league should be decided with the clash between Pontesbury and Gloucester. Other results featuring Shropshire teams saw Grove's team of Dawn Wickstead, Peter Giles and Steven Eaton defeat Telford 7-3.

MIDLAND LEAGUE

In the Midlarid League Senior Div. 4 Telford 'A' have "finished second behind Nuneaton who have not dropped a point during the season. Telford only lost the one match - to Nuneaton.

In their first season in the Veterans' Division the Telford team of Mike Beaman, John Holding and Norman Maycock also finished second - a very creditable performance.

Grove continued their good form in the Midland League with an impressive 7-3 win against local rivals, Shrewsbury. Paul Barnett and Keith Sillitoe were in sparkling form for Grove as they recorded unbeaten performances against the Shrewsbury trio of Ian Baker, Dean Pountney and Keith Williams. A newcomer to the Grove side, Chris Edwards, did well to extend Williams to a close third and underline his recent improvement.

Tony Carey reports from.....

SOMERSET

CONTINUATION OF LEARNING

Glamorgan Open

Once again the Somerset griffin entered the lair of the Welsh dragon andforthe second time this season returned home with some of the spoils, our standard bearer being Melonie, who upheld her No. 1 seeding in winning the U-14 girls' singles. She then continued to show her versatility in the U-17 girls' singles, being unseeded, beating the No. 1 seed, Heidi Cotter of Wales in the quarters and Michelle Cohen of Avon in the semis, to face the No.2 seed, Jane Sully of Wales, in the final. She gave of her best but had to concede to an older and stronger opponent, losing -1 5 in the third.

Our involvement in the later rounds of the other events was confined to our No. boy, Philip Payne, reaching the semi-"final of the U-17 singles where he met Nigel Tyler of Wales, losing two-straight. Well played you Somerset players who took part. Yes folks, there were others, namely Paul Smith, Paul Fowler, Tim Pond and Adam.

I am pleased to report that we now have two further coaching centres, one at Yeovil under the direction of Jim Sadler on Saturday mornings and another at West Huntspill, near Highbridge, under the direction of Peter Bamber at the local Church hall. I have been quite impressed by the enthusiasm and quality of the young players attending, and this season Peter has entered a team in the Bridgwater League 2nd Division. This experience is starting to show; they may not be setting the county alight yet but they have won a few matches, which is helping build confidence. I must try and get over there some time to give a more detailed report which I am sure will reveal that there will soon be quite some competition from that area for the junior Somerset crowns, as has already been shown by Tina Sadl'er, brother Lee, now proving a good senior, and young David Wooldridge, who has played in the Junior county team this season, with a fair success rate and who could improve more providing heis willing to work hard on his weaknesses.

This is meant as constructive criticism, David, as I have seen you develop and I know what you are capable of. We also have other young county players for whom the discipline of coaching sessions seems unnecessary, but the crunch comes when they enter the wide world of tournament play and their limitations are exposed. I am sure I do not speak in isolation on this; perhaps one solution could be to have more schools of excellence with a restricted entry for the 'wanters' and keep the other centres for the 'would likers'. The first would supply the county teams and the second would provide a continuous supply of good League players with the incentive of being assessed for the Centre of Excellence. This would provide for the late developers' and the naturally talented players coming into prominence at an early age.

This arrangement is beginning to germinate very well at Regional level under the direction of Mike Lewis and coaching staff with the Select and Advanced Squad training scheme. With sessions held at various venues throughout the region, encompassing Cornwall, Devon, Wiltshire, Dorset, Somerset, Avon and Gloucester, there have been a few miles travelledl These I am sure have proved tiring, but I know thatthe response from the counties for their efforts has provided satisfaction and reward in itself. But I would like to say 'thank you' in print to them all.

PIXIES AND STARLETS

Once again the Somerset fledglings took off on the long road to Redruth to compete in the Cornish Junior 2-Star Open and it proved a fairly successful day for. us. There were some very good encounters to make the heart race a little, and I don't only mean this in the context of our players' involvement. It was unfortunate that some seeded players failed to turn up, but on reflection I don't think they would have altered the results to any great'extent. All the finals provided a good standard and sportsmanship throughout, unlike some of the preliminary round matches where certain players let their temperament get the upper hand and blamed the pixies' influence forfaillng to make their magic work on their opponents, which I assumed from their expressions was the case! Our major success was Melonie winning the U-14 girls' singles title against the local player Karen Broczec.

I must give a mention to a new starlet -from the land of the dragon - Denise Elward from Barry. She shone like a diamond in the final of the U-12 girls' singles, winning in grand style against another fine prospect from Wales, Sian Evans, and her smile when she won captured the hearts of all. I hope that this win will be noticed and that she will be recognised by the Welsh coaching set-up as a potentially good cadet for the future.

The rest of the Somerset contingent had varying degrees of success. Paul Smith was the best of the boys, even eclipsing Payne. Ourotheryoung girls, Claire Brazier and Joanna Webber, gave a fair account of themselves although they did not progress very far. I am sure the experience will help when they have to travel the circuit next season.

Speaking of the circuit and all the travelling involved, if I wore a hat I would take it off to the contingent from Kent for their stamina and resilience allied to a fighting spirit which sent them home very late on Sunday morning with three titles, these being the U-14 boys' singles, won by Andrew Houghton, the U-17 girls' singles by his sister, Juliet, in a fine final against an equally good and improved Junior, Helen Perrott of Avon. (Juliet also had a hand – her left I believe - in winning the Junior girls' doubles with Claire Brooks, their opponents being Wilt's No. 1 Claire Hunter, and Dorset's Suzanne Hegarty).

Now some reports on our County matches, the majority of which I have had to miss, to other commitments, but I been supplied with some degree of information, the first being a fine 6-4 win by our Senior No.1 team away to Cornwall on Feb. 18 - this

after being 2-4 down, the anchor being supplied by our No.1, Brian Reeves, with 2 wins, David Lee (1), Rebecca Russe (1), Shirley Dark (1) and the women's doubles.

On Feb. 25,there were three Somerset teams in action - the first at home to Wiltshire II at Nailsea where they recorded another win (8-2), our scorers being Reeves (2), Lee (2), Lee Sadler (2), Rebecca Russe (1) and the men's doubles.

On the same day, our Juniors travelled to meet Wiltshire Firsts at Swindon, a match we were hoping to win to give us an outside chance of promotion, but it was not to be, as we lost 6-4.

The same fate befell our Senior and second team away to Dorset Seconds by the same score. But in spite of this, it was pleasing to see two players making their debuts and winning; these were Steve Palmer from Weston and our lucky capture from Hampshire, that fine junior now resident at Millfield, Kate-Louisa Lines. She certainly justified our faith in her ability.

And last but by no means least, let me give a mention to our often forgotten veterans (in name only, I might add) who battle away all season with varying successes and with hardly an audience to cheer them on. Keep up the good work, lads, and fly the Somerset flag high. Well played, all of you!

Jack Chalkley reports from....

STAFFORDSHIRE

POSITION RETAINED

Pride of place this month must go to our senior team for their effort in retaining our position in the Premier Division of the County Championships. ' To hold a place for three years alongside the major counties is a real achievement, and it prompts the comment that it is a pity that, because the matches are staged over two weeke'nds, most of us in the county do not have the opportunity of seeing them playas a team and give them the encouragement and support which they most surely deserve. Our strength lies in the fact that we get full support from our players and they help each other with real teamwork, ably backed up by our non-playing captain, Paul Chester. Paul stepped in a few years ago to take over the administration of the team and he has played an important part in the team's success:

Full details of the matches are, I am sure, included elsewhere in this issue, but it is worth recording here that we had good but close w.ins over our Midland neighbours Leicestershire and, Warwickshire (both 5-4) and a narrow defeat by Surrey, also by the odd set. We lost against ,Lancashire by the convincing score of 7-2. Jill Harris was the star of the weekend, winning all singles, and Andrew Bellingham, ,Andy Rich and Craig Bakewell each contributed important wins in our two victories. Once again, our weakness lies in the doubles, only winning two out of the eight, including losing all the men's. I think we really must put in some work on this part of our game before next season, it puts us at such a disadvantage, particularly in an otherwise close match. Fiona' Elliot and Mark Evans travelled as reserves.

The final table shows that both our Midlands neighbours are relegated. We finished equal on six points (we had previously beaten Yorks.) with Surrey and Yorkshire but with a poorer sets average. Congratulations to Middlesex who once again came out clearly on top. We are the only Midland county left in the top echelon.

Over the same weekend our .weakened second team lost a close match against Warwicks II by 6-4. Nevertheless there is still a chance that they will hold their place in Div. 2 . for next season. The junior second team maintained their 100% record with 10-0 victories over Oxfordshire and Herefordshire and now things are set for a cracker of a match against Northants, also unbeaten, atthe end of March. We have a good number of juniors from which to select, and fortunately the County Closed c'omes in time to help the selectors pick the team for this final match. Matthew Harvey, Neil Harris, Helen Lower, Dawn Gardener (all Wolv.), Stephen Slater, Ian Miller and Karen Rogers (all Potteries) contributed to the latest victories.

'I must apologise for misreading my notes and wrongly listing Wolverhampton 'A' instead of Walsall 'A' in the quarter-final of the Beattie Trophy last month. I do know that they were beaten by Stafford but that is the only result to hand at the moment.

Some surprises in the Potteries Closed. Stan Deakin, having a very good season, beat Mark Evans in the quarters, Nigel Jobling in the semis and then Steve Rowe in the final to take, deservedly, the men's singles and the Finney Cup. With Cara Rowe losing earlier on to Karen Rogers, the other top seed 'Trish' Brookes faced Jenny Callaghan in the women's final forthe BakerCup. Jenny is a new name to this column, even though she has played for England at table tennis. Jenny has been deaf and dumb from birth, but she now plays for the England deaf team and hoping for a place in their Olympic team. Reaching the women's final in the Potteries was a splendid performance, but she was unable to break down the resolute Mrs. Brookes.

Results:-

Finney Cup (M.S.): S. Deakin bt S. Rowe 16. 19.
Baker Cup (W.S.): P. Brookes bt J. Callaghan 11. 17.
Leeding Cup (M.D.): M. Evans/J. Hancock bt N. Jobling/S. Rochelle 15. -20. 18.
Upton Cup (W.D.): K. Dawson/S. Linnell bt Brookes/C. Rowe 20. 19.
Proctor Cup (X.D.): J. Riley/Linnell bt Hancock/Brookes 18. -18 -. 19.
Beryl Broad Trophy (Open Juniors): S. Meigh bt S. Slater 12. 16.
Beryl Thorpe Trophy (Veterans): Riley bt P. Smith 13. 12.
Butcher Trophy (Restricted): D. Cummings bt P. Cadman 20.16.
Consolation Singles: R. Wilkes bt M. Fox -12. 18. 19.

Surprises also ,in the Stafford Closed. Tony Murrell upset the forecast by beating the No. 1 seed Bob Murray surprisingly easily. An off-form Murray had a very disappointing evening, losing also in the men's and mixed doubles finals. Murrell didn't have things all his own way, having been beaten in the Intermediates (under-21) final by County junior Adrian Hough. Lynn Burgess successfully retained the women's title, beating Stephanie Hadley in the final.

Results:-

M.S: T. Murrell bt R. Murray 15. 14.
W.S: L Burgess bt S. Hadley 14. 15.
I.S: A. Hough bt Murrell -22. 15. 19.
M.D: M. Pickles/S. Mylrea bt Murray/P. Birchall -15. 18. 19.
W.D: Burgess/Hadley bt K. Willshere/M. Maud 10. 13.
X.D: Murrell/Burgess bt Murray/A. Roberts 16. -16. 10.
Under-15 Singles: N. Tongue bt D. Gamble 12. 9.
V.S: J. Taylor bt D. Davies 13. 18.
H.S: P. Perry bt H. Waters 19. 17.

At a recent County Ranking meeting, only a few changes in the September lists were found necessary. Fiona Elliot moves up to No.2, Rachel Roberts drops to No.6 below Janet Dunning and Jill Powis and Amanda Hegarty move to 3 and 4. Bill Bridgeman has dropped out of the men's list, Kevin Cartwright, drops to 5 below Kevin Lawrence and Steven Meigh in the boys' and Helen Lower moves up two places to No.4 in the girls'.

In the County League the Div. 4 title remains unresolved with Potteries 'O' and Walsall 'C' level. on both points and sets. In accordance with the league rules a play-off is now necessary. '

It was with considerable regret that the Wolverhampton committee organising the Malcolm Scott Restricted Tournament decided to call off the event. Despite sending out over 280 entry forms, only 20 men and 2 women entered, hardly enough to provide a day's play. Thanks nevertheless to Mike Leach and John Harvey for their efforts. We must try and give more publicity to this event, designed to give opportunities to players a little way down the scale. I am sure there must be many within the county, who would enter if they knew a little more about the event. Fortunately, entries for the County Closed are quite reasonable, although a little down on recent bumper years. Results will probably just miss this issue, but the main news at this moment is that title holders Bellingham and Jill Harris will not be competing. Once again it is the thirst for points in the National Computer listing which has drawn them to the' South of England 3-'star, together with Fiona Elliot. With sponsorship, as I understand, depending on the position they attain in the lists, one has to accept their decision, but they will be missed. On the other hand, the way is open for some tough competitive action from the remaining contenders and our juniors could spring some surprises.

Ian Bullock reports from.....

SUFFOLK

UNFORTUNATE. ACCIDENT

The Ipswich Closed, sponsored by Sun Life at the Corn Exchange was a well organised event and thoroughly enjoyed by all. But everyone was shocked to learn of Joyce Love's unfortunate accident during the week prior to the championships which resulted in a cracked collarbone and severe bruising. We wish you a speedy recovery, Joyce.

Mr. Graham Balfe, representing the sponsors, expressed his pleasure 'at being invited to present the prizes on the Sunday evening.

Results:-

MS: 5-1'5:
J. Kitchener bt S. Caraccio 13, 11;
K. Baskett bt C. Fulcher 14, 17.
Final: Kitchener bt Baskett 15, 12.
WS: Y. Brown bt S. Welham 17, 17.
MO: D. Jones/D. Wood bt Caraccio/A. Warner 20,21.
WO: Brown/J. Dowsett bt S. Butcher/D. Harvey 16, 12.
XO: Kitchener/Brown bt D. Halliday/Dowsett 11, 15.

Shaun Caraccio was the winner of the boys' singles, beating Paul Gooding in the final, and Claire Nicholls won the girls' singles with Julie Mortimer the runner-up. Cadet boys' winner was Richard Hutchinson with Chris Nicholls in second place. Sylvia Kenyon was the cadet girls' champion, her final victim being Lisa Mayne. And the veterans' title was won by Terry Betts who accounted for John Bishop in the final.

Represented by Caraccio, Paul Gooding and Richard Hutchinson, Ipswich boys won their zone final engagement against Brentwood in the Carter Cup 5-4. Ipswich Building Society, the team's sponsors, were highly delighted with the progress made to the last eight in the country.

Scores:-

Caraccio lost to Rd Darnell -1 6, 18, -1 5; bt Martin Cole 7, 8; bt David Co.le 18, -12, 17.
Gooding bt D. Cole 12,12; lost to Darnell-14, -12; bt M. Cole 13, 8.
Hutchinson bt M. Cole 17, 17; lost to D. Cole -10, -10; lost to Darnell -12, -14.

Excitement was mounting in respect of Suffolk's final County Championships match at home to Warwicks ll at the end of March. A win against Worcestershire meant all to play for in the final match although Cambs could well be there at the finish. Nevertheless, the team have enjoyed a very successful first season in- the second division having suffered only one defeat.

Andrea Ambrose and Rosemary Bullock will be attending an ESTIA Coaching Course at Lea Green over the period Api 15/19. They will no doubt return with plenty of food for thought under the guidance of Phil Burwell and his team of coaches.

Mike Green reports from.....

SURREY

HAUL TO SAFETY

In the topsy-turvy Senior County Premier Division, the Surrey 1st team, haunted by relegation fears after the initial weekend's matches, hauled themselves up the table to eventually finish a very creditable fourth.

The first encounter of the weekend saw us squander our chances against Yorkshire and taste another defeat by a 6-3 scoreline. This was a shame really, for Max Crimmins in beating Kevin Beadsley and Mark Oakley in beating Steve Sharpe had given Surrey a super start to the match. The remaining sets were often close, but Yorkshire always seemed able to get the points when they needed them. The doubles were especially tight. Oakley and Linda Clemett lost the Mixed 17 in the third to Sharpe and Joanne Shaw. Mason and Crimmins lost their doubles to Beadsley/Alan Fletcher 19 and deuce.

Having lost three of the four opening Premier matches, Surrey really had to get back on the winning trail in their next match against Staffordshire. This turned out to be a real cliff-hanger, mostly due to an out-of-sorts Nicky Mason who had an up and down weekend. Mason having lost to Andy Bellingham, Oakley defeated by Craig Bakewell and Crimmins beat Andy Rich to put Surrey in front. We lost the Mixed and the Women's Singles, but took the Men's boubles. The next set. was Mason v Bakewll. This was a "banker" for Surrey. You could have put your mortgage on Nicky winning this one. There was no way we could lose. But he did.... Crimmins then beat .Bellingham to make it 4-4 and put the pressure on Oakley"'who thus played Rich for the match. Oakley won the first 21 -13. He lost the second -10. He got himself a good lead in the third only to see Rich graduallyfight his way back. But the deficit was too great, and Oakley triumphed 17 in the third much to Mike Kercher's imm·ense relief. Well done Mark.....

Jane Barella joined the squad for the Sunday matches and found a place in the side in Surrey's next match vs title chasing Essex. Max gave us a great start by beating Kenny Jackson. Oakley then lost to David Newman in a set he could have won. Mason then faced Skylet Andrew. Of course, there was no way Nicky could win this one. He didn't stand an earthly. But he won nevertheless.... Once Nicky had mastered Sky's service there was only one player in it, Mason winning -18, 14, 11. Unfortunately, that was all we were going to get out of Essex as they mopped up the next six to win 7-2.

With one match to go, Kercher knew we were safe from relegation. With Nicky asking to be rested, it was an ideal opportunity for Mike to give Glen Baker a chance to show what he can do. And didn't he take it.... Warwickshire's Carl Morgan gave Surrey something to think about by taking the opener vs Mark Oakley 26-24 in thethird. Baker then proceeded to trounce Richard Tanner to level. With Surrey leading 4-3, Crimmins should have finished off the match against Morgan but couldn't manage it losing 17 in the third. (Max's only black mark during the weekend). This left Baker and Johnson to fight it out for the match. Glen is nothing if not determined and it must have pleased Mike· Kercher to see Glen dispose of Johnson two straight and Surrey take the match 5-4.

In view of David Hannah's unavailability over both weekends, fourth place in the Premier must have been a very pleasing result for all concerned in our first season back. When one considers that Linda and Jane aren't quite up to Premier Division standard, the Surrey men, even with Nicky's occaisonal lapses, certainly did the County proud. If Hannah is available next campaign and if one of our women can Improve sufficiently over the summe'r, Surrey could quite easily be searching for the championship next year.

The Surrey Schools ITA, magnificently run by John Wright, recently held their annual Singles and Doubles Championships at Leatherhead Leisure Centre.

Top-seeded Julian Dudman (Heathside) came up to expectations by retaining the U-15 and U-16 Singles titles. Richard Jones, the 13-year-old Hillcross pupil, really troubled Julian in a three game U-15 final and also provided his stiffest test in· the U-16 event but this time without claiming a game. Richard himself claimed three titles, .including the U-13 Singles where onlyHinchleyWood's Matthew Pernet looked like taking a game, the U-1 5 Doubles partnered by Rohan Mehra, and the U-1 3 Doubles partnered by Jason Howes. The final of the last event was a splendid match with a 3rd game 23-21 to the Hillcross pair over Damon Coles and Alex Hole (Wallop) who played some super stuff with Alex particularly impressive.

Neil Sutton (Rutlish) lifted the U-19 Singles, his task being made easier when schoolfriend Melville Taylor eliminated top seed Andrew Hardy (Beverley) in Round 3 before going out in the semi to Purley's Martin Lowe who had narrowly beaten Julian Dudman.

Downside provided 6 of the U-11 quarter-finalists and only Graham Cocks (Burlington) stopped them having all the semi-finalists. He then went out to Bradley Podpur who lost, predictably, to Tom Courtenay-Evans in a 3 game final. (I wonder who is looking after table-tennis at Downside. Whoever it is seems to be doing a remarkably fine job. Perhaps Messrs. Kercher and Corner should take a look at some of these players.....).

Amanda Dewsbury (Appelgarth) met Karen Ashley (Wimbledon Chase) in the final of both the Girls U-11 and U-13 events each time coming out on top after dropping the first game and being in trouble in the second. Little troubled Jane Barella in the U-19 competition

or Rachel Knight in the U-15. Karen Wilde (Ricards Lodge) caused one of the weekend's biggest upsets when she beat Claire Brooks (Archbishop Tenisons) ina Group of the U-16 Girls and then repeated the feat in the final.

The Surrey Schools T.T.A. was extremely fortunate to have sponsorship from P.S.I. Computers (Waking) whose David Johns was in attendance, and generous assistance with provision of the ptaying equipment from Rodan, the U.K. agents for STIGA.

A' few more County results are to hand. The Senior Second team have beaten Cambs. 9-1 and Essex 3rds 7-3. If they are to give themselves a chance they must win theirforthcoming crunch match vs Essex 2nds. Our Veterans' team suffered a 5-4 defeat to Herts 3rds which probably puts them out of the promotion hunt. Mike Kercher has asked me to thank Margaret Jones on behalf of all the players for her work in providing teas after the County matches. Let's hear a hurrah'for Margaret.....

The South of England 3-Star run by the S.T.T.A. will have been played over the weekend of March 17/18 at Woking. The entry for the event was fantastic, and many potential competitors had to be turned away. The Women'sSihgles received entries from the top 20 English women. The Lambeth Building Soc·iety Men's Singles was missing Douglas, but received entries from the next 13· on the English list plus Hannah to boot. It should have been an excellent tournament.

Congratulations to the Guildford ITA on their staging of the England v France match. Well done.... The only criticism that I would make is that I didn't win a prize in the raffle....

In The Dulwich League, John Burfeton of Irving Sports 'A' is top of the averages and his team are romping away with the title. The League Presentation Disco is scheduled for Saturday May 19.

In Leatherhead, Bill Holder (Fetcham) won their Closed beating Geoff Green (Chessington) in the final. Geoff had beaten top-seeded clubmate Graham Roberts in his semi. John Austin (Fetcham) won the Veterans, and Bob Pearson lFetcham) partnered Mike McGrath (Chessington) to win the doubles.

Finally, I really feel that it must be pointed out that Surrey's tournament organisers and assistants are a bit thin on the ground. The Association runs four tournaments during the season but unless we can find others to take some of the burden I can see at least one of these not running next season. If anyone out there wants to get involved, 'please don't feel shy. Give me a ring on 01-3973180. Believe me, we really need you. Whilst we're on the Subject of tournaments, I really do think it's a bit much moving the South of England Junior from January to November in the forthcoming calendar. It's all very well saying that the programme's congested but the date doesn't suit our sponsor and we can't have our normal venue. If this one doesn't run then the E.T.T.A. will have sale responsibility.

John Woodford reports from.....

SUSSEX

.LANCING MARATHON

With the Sussex senior teams su're to finish in mid-table positions in the County Championships, the end-of-season spotlights fall as usual on the all-Sussex championships at Lancing Sports Centre on April 1st where the usual 16 tables will provide the usual 12-hour marathon, this time for about 160 players with most of the stars in attendance, except Malcolm Francis. His reasons for not appearing are slightly obscure; one is he is not in favour of marathons and he is also not in favour of some of the Sussex selection policies, which will not surprise anyone.

However, the absence of Francis, still leaves the men's championship wide open even with the presence of the mighty Bexhill brothers Stephen and Adrian Moore, who are of course, seeded to meet in the final. Remember, last year, Graham Gillett floored both brothers to win the title, but whether he can do that again, remains a very big question mark indeed.

Gillett is seeded equal third and seems likely to have to stop Crawley's National League star Ritchie Venner to reach Stephen Moore in the top semi-final. In the bottom half, third quarter, a mighty clash could happen between the new West Sussex champion Phil Smith and the frequently impressive Paul Rowden from Eastbourne. The winner of that battle if it arrives on court seems sure to the flashing, violent hitting of Adrian Moore.

There are at least three dark horses amongst the men - Andy Meads, John Green and Mike Watts are clustered around the "Smith-Rowden section and Roger Chandler could still remain a threat to Venner.

Excitement in the women's championship surrounds the third seeding berth for the French invader Catherine Coulombel - the best photo I have ever sent to the Editor and failed to get published - but then look what happens to sponsors when you give them the front page!

Back to the ladies of Sussex - four seeds in draw order - Teresa Moore v Catherine Coulombel and Sally Weston v. Rachel Mackriell.

That leaves three players unseeded, all capable of winning the crown - Sheila King, Carole Hewett and Lynne Trussell; King and Trussell are close to Teresa Moore, whilst there is a first round duel between Mackriell and Hewett.

In common with the nationwide upsurge of veterans, nice forthem, but damn bad news for the sport as a whole (when it should be juniors where there should be an upsurge in terms of the total number playing in local leagues), Sussex have a veterans' championship attracting 30 players with Alan Rowden as the top seed; also seeded are Mike Watts, Gerry Batt-Rawden and Bob Pittard. In the men's doubles the Moores are at the top of course, but unlucky for father and son Paul and Alan Rowden they are also in that half. The other half looks. open with Horton and Smith bringing in the challenge from the bottom as the No. 2 seeds.

Mary Rose reports from.....

WARWICKSHIRE

COUNTY RELEGATED

Warwickshire have been relegated from the Premier Division of the County Championships. In the final play-off held at Walthamstow, the County lost all four matches and so finished bottom without a single point as they had previously lost three matches earlier in the season. "

Five of our 7 defeats were by the narrowest of margins 5-4, but with either Douggie Johnson or Desmond Douglas bein"g available they could have probably been playing for the Championship instead of relegation.

One bright spot in a very disappointing campaign has been the form of Carl Morgan who goes from strength to strength winning 6 of his 8 sets with notable successes against Max Crimmins of Surrey and John Souter of Middlesex.

SENIOR 'B' v STAFFS 'B' (Home)

The Senior 'B' raised our spirits a little when they defeated a strong Staffs side 6-4. Lester Bertie won 2 singles and Richard Tanner and Adrian Pilgrim one each. Karen Groves was too strong for Jill Powis and to complete a fine performance we also won the men's doubles to keep alive our title hopes.

JUNIOR 'A' v DERBY (Home)

In a hard-fought match the Juniors were held to a 5-5 draw by a strong Derby side. Mark Randle, Mike Thomas and Nigel Mayo won one set each and the boys' doubles. Dawn Bromley and Melanie McHayle both lost their singles but paired up to win the doubles.

JUNIOR 'B' v NORTHANTS (Away)

The Junior 'B' side of Nicky Felton, Dave Thomas and V. Chauhan were well beaten by Northants going down 9-1. Our only success being the girls' singles, where Lisa Spilsbury kept up her good record in her first season winning 4 out of 5 singles.

Results of **Round** 2:

FourOaks B.C(rec 162)	435"	Redhill 'A' (scr)	364
Lodge Road 'B' (scr)	336	Free Wheels (18)	313
North Solihull (scr)	367	Shard End (45)	340
Bm Post & Mail (126)	380	Kings Heath (scr)	364
Redhill 'B' (scr)	379	Bm Housing (126)	382

W.M. Police (Sol) (scr)	368	Fircoop (114)	398
Lodge Road 'A' (scr)	331	Newman Hall (40)	379
Coleshill Tennis (63)	323	Post Office (Great Barr) (scr)	323
Replay		Coleshill Tennis (75)	369
Post Office (Great Barr) (scr)	330		

The match of Round 2 was the draw between Coleshill Tennis. and Post Office (Great Barr). Congratulations to the Handicapping Committee. In the replayed tie Coleshill were the winners by 39 points.

The Draw for Round 3 is as follows:-

Four Oaks B.C. v Lodge Road 'B'
'Newman Hall v Fircoop
Bm Housing v North Solihull
Bm Post & Mail v Coleshill Tennis

BIRMINGHAM JUNIOR CLOSED

The Birmingham Junior Closed Championships were held at the BAI aalsall Heath on Sunday March 4.

Results:

BS: V. Chauhan (Olton SlY) bt Nigel Mayo (Hands Vic) 17, 12.
CBS: Nicki Felton (BAI) bt Lee Jeffries (Hands Vic) -17, 16, 19.
BO: Felton/Chauhan bt Mayo/Richard St. Ledger 8, 18.
GS: Dawn Bromley (Westminster) bt Tina Brown (West Warwicks) -19. 7, 17.
CGS: Lisa Spilsbury (Westminster) bt Linos Poole (Yardley School) 19, 15.
GO: Bromley/Brown bt Carol King/Poole -20, 7, 14.

TOWN CHAMPIONSHIPS 1984

The bulk of this year's trophies at the Town Championships went to players from the Genesis club with both Pete Muir and Alan Harrold successful in three events. Juli)e Allsop from AAK collected two winners' trophies when she became one of the youngest ever Ladies' Singles Champion and then partnered Muir to take the Mixed title. NALGO's Arthur Cross regained the Veterans' title against Bert Banks, and this season's top junior, Paul Grice, collected the Junior Singles title despite being pushed all the way by Steve Carson-Rowland of AJAX D. Unluckiest player of the day was Greg Saville, beaten finalist in no less than three events, whilst the best performance probably came from Chris Williams who disposed of Harrold on his way to the semi-final of the Open Singles before succumbing to Muir.

CHAMPIONS!

Undisputed champions is probably the best way of describing the achievements of the Nuneaton team this season in the Fourth Division of the Midland League. Six wins from six matches with a total of 52 sets won and only 8 lost, means that Nuneaton will finish at least two points clear at the top. Muir led the way with only one defeat in 18 sets and this was against a Leicestershire' County player; Greg Saville and Pat McCabe have given him ample backing, each only beaten twice.

LEAGUES

In Div. 1 Genesis 'A' seem well on the way to another title, winning all14 of their matches, with a total of 28 points. Aid Smith are second with 21 points.

Div. 2 pacemakers are Caton Methodists who had a 10-0 success when they met Albion Press 'B'. Running them close are Ajax Wolvey 'B' and Nalgo 'D' both- on 27 points. Caton Methodists having 28 points.

RALPH TAKES VETS' TITLE

Congratulations to Warwickshire's and England's former international Ralph Gunnion who won his first major title since acquiring Veteran status when he took the Essex Open title in fine style. After beating high-ranking Pete D'Arcy he went on to beat England No. 1 Veteran Derek Schofield in the final.

NATIONAL LEAGUE-PREMIER DIVISION

Dunlop put on a great fighting display in beating Unity (Bradford) 5-3 fortheir firsf points of the season. Kevin Beadsley playing his first home match for Dunlop won both his singles in style, against Skylet Andrew 17, 17, and Steve Sharpe 18, 13.

Alan Fletcher also beat Andrew who had a most unhappy afternoon. To complete a fine performance by Dunlop Barry Johnson and Derek Munt both beat D. Indricks.

Dunlop have unfortunately lost two matches since playing Unity and now look certain to be relegated from the Premier Division.

Laurie Selby reports. from.....

WILTSHIRE

SHOCK AFTER SHOCK

Wiltshire senior championships served up more surprises than a lucky dip.

Shock followed shock at the Caine Sports Centre until the unexpected became the norm.

For starters, the hot favourite for the women's singles, Claire Maisey who was bidding for her sixth successive title, crashed to an unsaeded player in the opening round.

Then all four seeds in the men's singles bit the dust before the finals.

But Swindon'sTracey Watkins be*came* top of the shocks when she beat Miss Maisey and went on to battle out the final with Janet Parker, the No.2 seed.

Tracey seemed set for a night of sheer magic when she held five match points in the deciding game. But Janet, a former England' junior champion, conjured up some wizardry of her own to snatch the next seven points and win a breathtaking set.

The spectators were back on the edge of their seats in the ,thrilling men's final which was won by Terry Bruce. "It was like all our yesterdays", 'quipped Terry, who has retired from county play and first won the title 13 years ago.

He defeated John Chandler in a scintillating final. Bruce put out No.2 Brian Powell and Chandler accounted for No. 1 seed Steve McBean and Swindon champion Andrew Metcalfe.

The giant-killing Bruce picked up his second title in the men's doubles when, again unseeded, he teamed with Bill Moulding to beat McBean and Andrew Oxley in the final.

There was also a second title for Janet Parker when she and Tracey Watkins, the top seeds, regained the women's doubles against Claire Maisey and Alison Boyce.

But Claire didn't go home empty handed - she and Brian PoweJl repeated their success in the Swindon tournament by beating Metcalfe and Miss Watkins in the final.

West Wilts had their only winner when John Ford beat Basil Thompson in the veterans' final.

Results:-

M.S: s-f's: T. Bruce bt B. Powell 14, -12, 7; J. Chandler bt S. McBean 16, 15. Final: BRUCE bt Chandler 22, -18, 14.
W.S: so's: J. Parker (Swin) bt B. Lee 11, 16; T. Watkins bt A. Boyce 8, 16. Final: PARKER bt Watkins 14, -17, 20.
M.D: s-f's:, Bruce/W. Moulding bt P. Tuck/R. Powell 9. 5; A. Oxley/McBean bt B. Thompson/V. Miles 16, 12. Final: BRUCE/MOULDING bt Oxley/McBean 13, 15.
W.D: **s-f's**: Parker/Watkins bt L. Cox/So Morse 14, 18; C. Maisey/Boyce bt C. Hunter/H. Wilson -16, 13. 18. Final: PARKER/WATKINS bt Maisey/Boyce 22, 9.
X.D: **s-f's**: Powell/Maisey bt J. Hook/Hunter 20, 16; A. Metcalfe/Watkins bt McBean/Parker 19, 13. Final: POWELL! MAISEY bt Metcalfe/Parker 18, 21.
V.S: **s-f's**: J. Ford bt J. Bright 16, 11; B. Thompson bt B. Freeman 12, 15. Final: FORD bt Freeman 18, 12.

There were three cheers - for Swindon's Claire Hunter at the Wiltshire Junior Closed.

Cheer number one came-when she partnered Jenny Neale to the girls' doubles title.

Cheer number two went up when she chalked up the mixed with Jon Hook and cheer number three rang out when she notched a hat-trick of titles by winning the girls' singles.

Claire, in herfinal season as a junior, grabbed her chance to end on a high note - she also won all three titles at the Swindon Closed a few weeks ago.

She met Jenny Neale in the singles final, a repeat of the Swindon tournament. Everything seemed cut and dried as Claire rattled off the'first game and held two match points in the second.

But then she played too carefully and Jenny took the opportunity to snatch the game.

But Claire made no mistakes in the decider. She raced to a 10-4 lead and allowed Jenny only one more point before picking up the trophy for the third year running.

The drama in the boys' singles was supplied by Raymond Powell. He put out fourth seed Ian Neate and followed up by knocking out No.2 seed Howard Phillips.

Then he lost his bat and the final had to be held up for 'five minutes while a desperate search was. launched.

But with the bat found Powell's giant-killing act came to an end because he could not match top seed Andrew Oxley's power and consistency.

Both the Cadet singles went as expected. Martin Edwards beat Mark Powell in the boys' final and Lorraine Cox, in a repeat of the Swindon final, defeated Alison Stevens.

Michael Auchterlonie showed his dominance of the youngest age group when he beat Nathan Pickett to win the U-1 2 trophy for the second year running.'

Andrew Oxley playing with Jon Hook, found himself facing his brother Michael in the final of the boys' doubles. And Michael, partnered by Richard Vowles, served up a surprise when they toppled the top seeds.

Top seeds Hunter and Neale were never in trouble against Julie Mills and Karen Richards the final of the girls' doubles.

Main upset in the mixed was the defeat of No. 2 seeds Andrew Oxley and Karen Richards by Phillips and Miss Mills who never found the answer to the power of Hook and Miss Hunter in the final.

Both junior and senior tournaments were staged at Caine and trophies were presented by Devizes Mayor Don Raddon.

Results:-

B.S: s-fs: A. Oxley btJ. Hook 16. -18.16; R. Powell bt H. Phillips -12. 15. 19. Final: OXLEY bt Powell 10. 13.
G.S: s-fs: C. Hunter bt S. Vowles 12. 5; J. Neale bt K. Richards 13. 9. Final: HUNTER bt Nea'e 17. -20. 5.
C.B.S: s-f's: M. Edwards bt C. S;ms 8.7; M: Powell bt S. Ely -17. 14. 18. Final: EDWARDS bt Powell 12. 19.
C.G.S: s-fs: L. Cox bt A. Freegard 3. 3; A. Stevens bt R. Watkins 10. 9. Final: COX bt Stevens 11. 8.
U-12 X.S: s-fs: Auchterlonie bt P. Fry 6. 15; N. Pickett bt A. Willis 10. 11. Final: AUCHTERLONIE bt Pickett 16. 18.
B.D: s-fs: A. Oxley/Hook bt P. Tuck/R. Powell -25. 8. 14; M. Oxley/R. Vowles bt H. Phillips/A. Morgan 19. 11. Final: M. OXLEY/VOWLES bt A. Oxley/Hook 22. 7.
G.D: s-f's: Hunter/Neale bt Cox/Vowles 20. 10; Richards/J. Mills bt Watkins/Stevens 16. 10. Final: **HUNTER/NEALE** bt Richards/Mills 13. 8.
X.D: s-rs: Hook/Hunterbt Powell/Neale 14.17; Phillips/Millsbt A. Oxley/Richards -17. 16. 16. Final: HOOK/HUNTER bt Phillips/Mills 13. 18.

There were celebrations for both the senior and junior Wiltshire teams who were in action in Swindon.

The juniors took another step towards promotion with a 6-4 victory over Somerset and the seniors hauled themselves off the bottom when they crushed Avon 9-1 .

In spite of losing the opening set, the juniors reeled off the next five to put themselves in a commanding position.

Somerset hit back to win the next two but Claire Hunter clinched it for the home team when she won her singles. She was the only Wiltshire player to finish undefeated.

Howard Phillips, making his debut, won one and lost the other - as did Andrew Oxley and Jon Hook. Wilts won both doubles.

This left them needing to win their final match against Avon to stand a good chance of winning the league.

And the senior team's final match against Dorset will als'O be vital in their battle against relegation. they did themselves a power of good by beating Avon who are also struggling.

Kevin Edwards gave Wiltshire a confidence-boosting start when he beat Andy Creed who is 31 places above him in the English rankings.

Although Steve McBean suffered Wiltshire's only defeat, it was a red letter day for the Swindon player. For he scored his first win of the season for his side.

Results:

Seniors: K. Edwards bt A. Creed 16. 20; S. McBean to R. Russell -19. -21; K. Satchell·bt P. Hooper 9. -20. 10.
·C. Maisey/J. Parker bt H. Perrett/To Shortman 12. -14. 14. Edwards/Satchell bt Creed/Hooper 12. 9.
Edwards bt Russell -13. 17. 18; Parker bt Shortman 18, 19; Satchell bt Creed 5. 7; Maisey bt Perrett 18. 19; McBean bt Hooper 13. -20. 15.
Juniors: H. Phillips lost to N. Bryant 18. -20. -18; J. Hook bt M. Barter 21. -18. 16; A. Oxley bt P. Payne -14. 14. 18.
J. Neale/C. Hunter bt S. Webb/M. Carey 11. 21; Hook/Oxley bt Payne/Bryant 10. -16. 15.
Phillips bt Barter 11. -13, 12; Neale lost to Carey -19. 14. -17; Oxley lost to Bryant -18. 18. -19; Hunter bt Webb 18. 11; Hook lost to Payne -11. -13.

Wiltshire junior and veteran second teams also hit good form.

The juniors swamped Avon seconds 8-2 while the veterans ran out 6-3 winners over Dorset 'seconds.

The veterans, who had only won one match before this season, chalked up their third victory.

Results:-

Veterans: J. Bright bt Woodcock 17.15; B. Thompson lost to H. Feltham 17. -9. -19; M. Oxley bt B. Bicknell 18. 13.
Mrs. S. Morse/Oxley bt Mrs. D. Robins/Woodcock 19. -19. 14; Bright/Thompson bt Bicknell/Feltham 19. 20.
Morse lost to Robins -8. -14; Bright lost to Feltham -17. -18; Oxley bt Woodcock 12. 11; Thompson bt Bicknell 17. 19.
Juniors: M. Edwards bt J. Rowley 15. -16. 15; A. Powell bt J. Head 12. 13; R. Morgan bt L. Testa 9. 11.
Miss J. Mills/Miss K. Richards bt Miss S. Kettle/Miss J. Nash'19. 20; Edwards/Morgan lost to Testa/Rowley 12. -18. -19.
Powell bt Rowley 16. 16; Richards bt Nash 15. -1 9. 19; Edwards lost to Testa -18. -17; Mills bt Kettle 16.19; Morgan bt Head-19. 15.10.

Doug Moss reports from.....

WORCESTERSHIRE'

SUCCESS FOR BROMSGROVE

Good news from the Bromsgrove League, which has not had a lot to celebrate over the years. Their junior team, led by Tim Holder, who is unbeaten, is top of Div. 4 of the Midland League. They have one match to play-against Walsall B- and on form should win a'nd take the Championship. John Barber tells me the team will·be visiting the "swish" Chateau Impney Hotel if they are successful! Holder recently won the Bromsgrove junior and senior singles titles.

The Malvern League Championships have been completed. This proved to be a successful day for Lewis Siket, a recently addition to the County II team. Lewis won the Men's Singles beating Malcolm Dicks in the semi and Graham Collier in the final. He then won the men's doubles in partnership with David Smith. Janet Hunt took the women's singles.

The Worcester League championships have also taken place - at Christopher Whitehead School. There was a disappointing entry for senior events but a 'most encouraging response from the juniors. Simon Claxton was way out on his own in the men's singles. He defeated Siket in the final to add to his recent County Men's singles title. The men's doubles brought Willy Ahern and Nick Mytton together and they beat the Malvern Champions (Siket and Smith) at 20 in the third. Alison Westwood played well to beat County team mate, Lynda Reid, in the women's singles final. This no doubt compensated for her disappointment in the County Championships. Lynda gained conso'lation in the women's doubles, taking the title in partnership with Molly Hough (when did Molly first win the Worcester women's doubles?I). This win was gained from group play results, which were subject to some mathematical calculations' before the winners could be announcedl Debbie Hough and Claxton dominated the mixed event beating Alison and Alec Westwood in the final.

I consider it most encouraging there were 21 entries in the Worcester League's Cadet and Junior (boys) events and 26 players took part in a draw for partner doubles competition. The junior championships brought 12-years-old Nicola Jones to the fore. She reached the final of three events, winning the U-12 singles, beating Michelle McDornel1, and the Girls' beating Shelley Hope in the semi and Jacki Arnold, the title holder, in the final. Michael Harris played well to win the Cadet championship beating Nicola in the final. Nicola gained her success by some strong attacking play and it is remarkable that 12 months ago she was not really playing. Dean Kloos showed how much he has improved after a season in Div. I of the League and being No. 1 for the County junior team. He beat the reigning champion, Andrew Bullock 18, 8 in the boys' singles final. Mark Jones and Richard Strain beat Martin Snee and Jackie Such in the doubles final.

I recently attended the Schools U-13 singles championshipfor Hereford-Worcester County. \Peggy and John Mytton were also there with their promising Evesham players. In the boys' singles Christopher Cooke (Minster School, Leominster), who plays for the Herefordshire junior team, narrowly beat Stefan Mytton (St. Egwins, Evesham) - with scores of -20,19, 15. There was somewhat of a surprise in the girls' event. Julie McLean (Blackminster, Evesham) beat Karyn Hunt (Sladen, Kidderminster), who was last season's winner, and then Nicola Jones (Nunnery Wood, Worcester) in the final by virtue of sound defensive play.

Since my last report County teams have been in action. The 1st team lost to Div. 2A leaders Suffolk by a 7-3 margin. However in the first set John Kitchener beat Trevor Washington 20 in the third. S. Palmer then followed up beating Claxton 20, 20 Three consecutive 'deuce' games therefore gave Suffolk a 2-nil lead. The overall result could have weH been a draw. A most pleasing feature was the form of Sandra Roden making herdebutforthe 1ststeam. She played' beautifully to beat ranked Sue Welhan 19 in the third. I consider this match, more than any other, proved w.e have a Div. 2 team and it is to be hoped we can remain at this level. The 2nd team lost 9-1 to Gloucestershire but the Juniors excelled themselves with a 9-1 win at Oxford. Jasmine Bartram (Dudley) was brought into the team and she won her singles and doubles. The Veterans,met Cheshire II, the teams having identical records. As expected it was very close with Cheshire winning 5-4. Brett Davis, who reached the final of the County Veterans' Championships, came into the team and, in partnership with Janet Hunt, won the mixed. Janet won

her singles so she has lost only one singles events in the past two seasons.

The County Irs had a further match against Bedfordshire and they did very well to get a 7-3 win. Siket, playing in only his second County team match won his two singles. Ken Walton and Steve each won a singles as did Lynda Reid. Alison Westwood and Lynda Reid took the women's doubles but in her singles Alison lost -14 in the third after being 14-11 up. Credit must be given to Julie Dimmock as Alison did not play at all badly. It probably indicates Alison could do with a little more point winning ability at this level, although I say this rather guardedly as I and two fellow selectors meet her in Div. 2 of the Worçester League where her point winning ability is much more than adequate'

Ies O'Arcy reports from.....

YORKSHIRE

ALL SORTS OF RECORDS

16-years-old Joanne Shaw and 18-years-old Steve Sharpe, both from the Wakefield area, created all sorts of local and possibly county. records, when they represented the Yorkshire Premier Senior Team in the Premier Division inter-county competition on Feb. 25/26. It was the first time that more than one Wakefield player had represented the county at top level in one match. Wakefield's most distinguished player, Kathleen Best (Thompson) achieved a record 69 appearances for the county, in addition to her 24 for England, but she had no one of similar calibre at local level to join her in the Yorkshire side.

Now, Joanne who has had a remarkably good season, which has brought her top spot in the county at junior and senior levels, should soon be capable of improving her senior England No. 13 ranking. Steve, Yorkshire's current Closed Champion, is gradually moving through the ranks in 'Unity's' .Premier Division National League Team and in the most recent match against Gillette Reading played No. 2 behind England No. 5 Skylet Andrew.

Steve's team 'Unity' of Bradford are having a lean time this second half, but are still serving up some entertaining play and will probably put it all together for the big challenge match against South Yorkshire 1st at Leeds University on A'pril 7. The South Yorkshire Team seem favourites for the 2nd Div. (N) title and the 2nd Team look even more certain to take 3rd Div. (N) with the Club's 3rd Team in joint 2nd place on points with Washington. The South Yorkshire outfit are taking no chances when they face their West Yorkshire rivals. Graham Coe, has made preparations to take his team over to Leeds the day before the Indoor Sports Festival sponsored by 'Solana' with table tennis equipment sponsored by Dunlop Sports Co. Players and Manager will spend a quiet evening nearthe venue discussing match plans for the following day when, in spite of Premier Division opposition, Graham and his chief sponsor, Stuart Morte, do not intend to disappoint their many followers who will be there in strength. The party will also, no doubt, contain the Club's nineteen sponsors which must be the envy of every sporting organisation in the county.

It was interesting to read Peter Simpson's reply to John Prean in the March edition of the News. Apart 'from the books he has written, Peter rarely appears in print, but when he does he packs quite a punch. Hope that he continues to keep us informed on current coaching problems and future aspirations through this column or the Y.T.T.A. Newsletter.

SPOTLIGHT ON THE LEAGUES

HALIFAX

Two titles for Dickinson and four for Tracey

Dedicated Alan Dickinson took the men's singles title from defending champion David Bottomley in the Halifax-Hoechst closed championships.

Dickinson also collected the men's doubles - but the other principal events were dominated by 20-year-old Bradford-based county starlet Tracey Robertshaw who won FOUR titles. Dickinson, seeded No.3, accounted for No.2 seed Stansfield in the semis.

Defending champion and top seed David Bottomley accounted for No.4 seed Barry Snowden in the other.

In the final, Dickinson's excellent forehand looping took the first game 21-7.

Bottomley took a much more determined approach in the second Level at five-all and nine-all, Dickinson pulled in front at 11-9, and then produced some amazing winners to lead 20-15.

Bottomley fought back to 20-18 before yet another Dickinson forehand winner gave him the championship.

Tracey Robertshaw, making-herfirst appearance in the Halifax championships, beat the defending champion, 16-year-old Janet Green, in the women's final.

Results:-

M.S: A. Dickinson bt D. Bottomley 7, 18.
M.D: McGorlick bt B. Snowden/Po Stansfield 15, -15.
X.D: T. Robertshaw/Stansfield bt B. M. Gee/Snowden -14, -12, 19.
W.S: Robertshaw bt J. Green -13. -21.
W.D: Robertshaw/R. Mitchell bt D. Scott/Green 16, 8.
V.S: D. Norburn bt B. Cadman -13, 17.
H.S: Bottomley (-10) bt Green (+11) 52-50.
V.S: Robertshaw bt J. Taliku 17, 17.
J.S: P. Wood bt D. Mountain -12, -17.
C.S: S. Pugh bt A. Gee 11, -9.

HULL

Divisional Championships

It was a family night for the Carter brothers, who play for Hull Boys' Club, when the finals of the Hull and District ITA's Handicap Divisional Championshi'ps were played at Reckitts T.T.C., with Hull junior Andy taking the Div. 4 title and younger brother Shaun col·lecting the championship of 5.

Colin Hamilton made it a triple for the Roper Street club with a win in Div. 2, but Dave Temple (Fish Trades) who, with Hamilton and Carter completes the boys'line-up in the Hull Junior No. 2 side, failed in his attempt to move up to the Div. 6 championship after winning 9 and 13 in the previous two seasons.

In the battle between the two youngest players on view Jane Teall (Neasden) became the only girl to taste success with a tight win over Terry Jarvis (B.P. Chemicals), while the only title to be retained was the Premier Division where Joe Naser overcame a ten point handicap to put paid to the hopes of Trevor Brant.

Hull made further progress in the National Knock-Out competition, the Wilmott Cup, when they dismissed ,Potteries in Round 3, Naser and Mike Harrison, with two each, and Sean Madden claiming their side's sets.

In the Yorkshire League only the Veteran side were successful, beating Harrogate, but the young ladies' team emerged with credit from a 3-7 defeat by champions Bradford, Janet Evans including a win over England-ranked Helen Shields among her two successes.

Former Hull player Julie Evans, now studying at Lincoln, is making an impact in the Cathedral city's table tennis circles, having won the Div. 1 Singles championship and being still in contention for both the women's singles and doubles' titles, where she has reached the finals.

County Trials

The first of a number of pre-season trials foryoung players below Advanced Training Centre standard took place at Moor Grange on March 3. The idea behind the trials is to combine advanced coaching with continuous assessment for promising youngsters who have the potential to become Yorkshire-based players next season. These trials will be used in conjunction with the main trial at the beginning of next season and will help to eliminate some of the problems created 'in the past by illness, injury or other factors which may give a false indication of a player's ability. Eight cadet boys from the N.E. Region and another eight from the West Region, but unfortunately, none from the South Region, enjoyed a strenuous six hours of coaching, P.E. and many rounds of competition. The event was organised by Regional Coach Mike Wilcockson, assisted by Tom Burrett, Neil Cafferty, Brian Johnson, Robin Pike and David Wood, all qualified coaches and full of enthusiasm for what they do so well at regional level in a voluntary capacity.

Mark Stephenson (Halifax), with a fine array of strokes and an excellent temperament, emerged top with Graham Cooke (Wakefield Met.) who showed much determination and consistency, a commendable second.

Robert Carle, 3rd; Chris Hewitt4th and David Milner 5th, all from the N.E., looked very promising as did the smallest and probably the youngest on show, Julian Ryder who no doubt is determined to follow older brother' Nicholas into the England Cadet Rankings.

WAKEFIELD

The Wakefield Youth Team directed by Mr. and Mrs. Owen Atkinson have won the' Yorkshire and Humberside Youth Organisations Championship for an incredible seventh successive year. In the Regional Final at Barnsley, Wakefield defeated Leeds 11-2, West Barnsley 11-2, York/Selby 11-2 and Humberside 8-5 to become overall county champions with 41 points. Humberside were 2nd with 39 pts and Leeds 3rd 23 pts. Outstanding individual performances were recorded by Julie and Alison Speight in the girls' doubles; Karen Arnold/Neil Cafferty in' the mixed and Karen Burrows in the girls' singles. The five players all produced maximum wins in their four events. Alaric Bassano/Tony Miller in ' the boys' doubles came close to this standard with three wins out of four. Wakef.ield's top players were given good support from Claudia Oakes, Jonathon Gaines and Phil Johnson who gained valuable experience for future competitions.

Welsh Corner

by H. Roy Evans

THE GLAMORGAN OPEN

This event proved to be the most attractive of the Welsh tournaments this season, the entry actually including more good players from across the border than from Wales itsetf.

But it produced a Scottish triumph, David Hannah adding to the Swansea Open he won earlier in the season, and it was his tenacity and powerful forehand that earned him final triumph in this Foster's Draught-sponsored event, the second tournament they have helped this season.

Hannah defeated the tenacious Steve Scowcroft in a good semi-final and then crushed Alan Fletcher in the final, the latter taking the second game out of the general character of the set. Alan had done well to eliminate ex-European Champion No.1 Seed John Hilton in his semi-final.

Mark Thomas lost to Fletcher in the quarters, going close in the first but fading badly in the second. Gary Wilkins, after beating Phil Bowen, was another Hannah victim. Nigel Thomas disappointed with a lossto Cheshire's Brian Johns.

In an all-England doubles final, Scowcroft and Johns beat Fletcher and Kevin Beadsley.

Although the women's entry was not as strong as the men's, Welsh players did well, Shirley Cain-Williams, playing her best yet to eliminate Diane St. Ledger in the semi-final, and then beating Stephanie Jones in a good final, Shirley showing just that bit more control at the end. Stephanie, playing much better than when she represented Wales in the European League, did well to beat Nina Tsakarisianos and Sandra Peakman.

Heidi Cotter and Jayne Sully added another women's doubles title to their collection with an incredible 23-21, 28-26 win over Stephanie Jones and Elaine Short.

Nigel Tyler beat John Ellis in another of their clashes to win the junior event, whilst Jayne Sully also showed improved form to beat Melanie Carey in the girls' event. Jayne's semi-final victim was Claire Hunter, who had eliminated No.2 seed Evelyn Wright. No.2 seed Heidi Cotter fell to Melanie Carey. John Ellis cruised to an easy cadet win, as did Melanie Carey in the cadet girls.

Results:

MS. SF. A. Fletcher bt J. Hilton -17. 15. 17;
D. Hannah bt S. Scowcroft -19. 13. 15.
Final. HANNAH bt Fletcher 11. -10. 10.
WS. SF. S. Cain-Williams bt D. St. Ledger -21. 18. 8.
S. Jones bt S. Peakman 17. -14. 15.
Final. CAIN-WILLIAMS bt Jones 14. -14. 17.
MD. Final: Scowcroft/Johns' bt Fletcher/L Beadsley 17. -15.20.
WD. Final. COTrER/SULLY bt Jones/Short 21. 26.
BS. Final. Tyler bt Ellis 14. 16.
GS. Final. Sully bt Carey 16; -18. 15.
CBS. Final. Ellis bt Sanders 6. 8.
CGS. Final. Carey bt Poole 11. 9.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE-
WALES v SCOTLAND

Cardiff - March 3rd, 1984.

Hannah's power attack destroyed . Welsh hopes of a European League win over Scotland. The Scots' No. 1 dominated play in four sets, demonstrating his great determination atvital moments, in a 5-2 victory for the Scots.

Mark Thomas tried hard enough in the opening set, getting to 20-all in the second game against Hannah only to see the latter pullout some tremendous attacking winners. Alan Griffiths started shakily against new man Brian Wright, losing the first game, but tactically winning the next two.

Shirley Cain-Williams wasn't expected to beat Carole Dalrymple, but she made the Scots girl's task easier by far too many poor returns of service.

So far, Welsh plans were on course, but then came disaster. The men's doubles was a vital set and Alan and Mark were expected to beat Hannah and the less experienced Wright. But, shaken by some incredible smashing of Welsh services by Hannah, Alan and Mark lost the initiative. They managed to take the second game, but were entirely dominated by the Scots in the decider.

Predictably, Mark and Shirley lost the mixed to Hannah and Dalrymple.

Mark Thomas, using his top spin to good effect, then beat Wright, but Alan went down to Hannah in a fine final set. Alan should have taken the first game, leading 19-16, but then saw that lead disappear in the face of some power play by David. The latter destroyed all Alan's resistance in the decider.

Scores:

M. Thomas lost to D. Hannah -13. -20; bt B. Wright 18. 19.
A. Griffiths bt Wright -18. 14. 13; lost to Hannah -19. 17. -13.
S. Cain-Williams lost to C. Dalrymple -12. 11.
Griffiths/Thomas lost to Hannah/Wright -11. 23. -12.
Thomas/Cain-Williams lost to Hannah/Dalrymple -16. -20.

THE WELSH CLOSED

Cardiff - March 10th, 1984.

Alan Griffiths regained the Welsh Closed title he lost to Nigel Thomas last season, these two meeting in a good final in which Alan rounded off a day of fine table tennis.

Alan didn't drop a game all day. His two-straight semi-final win was over Nigel Tyler, who had beaten Rhyl's John Hook in the quarters after the latter had eliminated John Elward. Elward was in the third round by virtue ,of a surprise win over No.4 seed Gary Wilkins.,

Nigel's path to the final in defence of his title was by way of Neil Darke of Bridgend, Jeremy Hobbs, Kevin Boalch, and Trevor Manning (at a score of 20-all, and then 21-3!) and then a very good win over No.2 seed Mark Thomas in the semi. Mark had been given a hard battle by Andrew Jones in the quarters.

Stephanie Jones improved on her Glamorgan Open performance by beating Evelyn Wright in a final battle between her attack and Evelyn's chop defence. Stephanie had her revenge on Shirley. Cain-Williams by beating her in the semi-final, whilst Evelyn Wright beat team mate Heidi Cotter in her semi.

Griffiths and Nigel Thomas survived a close final, struggle against Andrew Jones and Wilkins, who had equally come home closely against Mark Thomas and Manning in their semi-final. Alan and Nigel beat George Evans and Tony Healan in their semi.

Heidi Cotter and Jayne Sully added yet another women's doubles title to their collection with a win over Evelyn Wright and Joanne Lee.

The Boys' event saw another final between Tyler and Ellis with victory going very decisively to Nigel. Kelvin Roberts did quite well against Nigel in the semi, whilst Ellis was given a good game by Anthony Jones.

Heidi Cotter had her revenge over Evelyn Wright beating her two-straight in the final, after a two-straight win over Jayne Sully. Evelyn had beaten Joanne Lee, who had done well to beat Karen Buckle.

Ellis won his expected cadet event, beating Bridgend's Richard Harry, whilst Justine Thomas from North Wales also, confirmed her continued improvement by taking the girls' cadet

event, although she was given a good game by the also very much improved Lisa Mogford of Newport.

Wilkins and Catherine Jones played well to take the mixed in a strong field. Their semi-final win was at the expense of Tyler and Evelyn Wright, who had done very well to beat George Evans and Stephanie Jones. The runners-up were Andrew Jones and Jayne Sully, who had done equally well to eliminate Nigel Thomas and Shirley Cain-Williams.

Scores:-

MS. SF: A. Griffiths bt N. Tyler 9. 14; N. Thomas bt M. Thomas 15, 19.
Final: GRIFFITHS bt Thomas. 18. 16.
WS. SF: S. Jones bt S. Cain-Williams 20, 12; E. **Wright** bt H. Cotter 18. 11.
Final: JONES **bt** Wright 18. 14.
MD. Final: GRIFFITHS/N. THOMAS bt Wilkins/A. Jones 19, **21.**
WD. Final: COITER/SULLY bt Wright/Lee ·17, IS, 18.
XD. Final: WILKINS/C. JONES bt A. Jones/J. Sully 17, 16.
JBS. Final: Tyler bt J. Ellis 12. 12.
JGS. final: Cotter bt Wright 19. 10.
CBS. Final: Ellis bt Harry 8, 10.
CGS. Final: J. Thomas bt **K.** Mogford 12, 18.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Moscow, April 14th/22nd, 1984
The Welsh Teams:
Alan Griffiths (Pontypridd)
Mark Thomas (Rhyl)
Nigel Thomas (St. Albans)
npc Brian Everson
Lesley Tyler (Finchley)
Heidi Cotter (Mynydd Isa)
npc Les Elias.

HALEX NATIONAL LEAGUE

Butterfly Cardiff suffered a disappointing 6-2 defeat by Grove at Cardiff. Although Mark Thomas beat Hilton, he should have beaten Scowcroft in the opening set. Nigel Thomas beat Bowen, but lost to Hilton. Healan should certainly have beaten Green, and could have beaten Scowcroft, whilst Manning was well beaten in both his outings.

Cranfield Colours ensured their continued presence in Div. 2 when they beat Witham Town 6-2, Brian Jeanes and Andrew Evans winning two each, and Jeremy Hobbs, deputising for George Evans, winning one in his debut. Warwick Armstrong, after losing his first, had last set win against Sweeting.

Kevin Phillips was a deputy for George Evans in Cranfield's match with Spicer, New Malden, which was drawn. Jeanes lost to Shuttle and Holloway, Andrew Evans won one, Jeremy Hobbs won one, and reluctant "stand-in" Phillips won his two!

Alan Griffiths of Pontypridd who spearheads the Welsh men's team bound for Moscow this month.

Don Pritchard reports on....

THE MIDLAND LEAGUE

Gloucester continue to lead in Div. 1 men, their latest victims being Potteries "A" who they trounced 9-1. M. Owen of Gloucester leads the averages with 12 wins out of 12. Birmingham "A" who are in second place defeated Leicester "B" 7-3, and Potteries "A" beat Leicester "A" 6-4. Birmingham "B" in Div. 2 are still unbeaten overwhelming Nottingham "B" 9-1, P. Dimetrious of Birmingham is the leading player with 14 wins out of 15. Wolves "A", challenging, had two wins 7-3 over Rugby and 8-2 against Stroud.

Wolves "C" in Div. 3 slipped up in their match against challengers Stafford, their draw of 5-5 was amended to a defeat 8-2 when they played an ineligible player. Leading individuals are M. Harvey of Wolves and R. Murray of Stafford, 14 out of 15. Market Drayton beat Shrewsbury 7-3 and Coventry "B" and Leamington "A" fought out a draw. Men's Div. 4 has been completed with Nuneaton winning with maximum points and their P. Muir winning the individual title with 17 wins out of 18. Cheltenham "B" finished the season beating Leamington "B" 7-3, drawing with Telford "B" and losing 3-7 to Telford "A".

In the Women's Div. 1 Market Drayton beat Derby 8-2 and then lost to Leicester 2·8, Birmingham "A" lead at the moment but it is still any team to win, Wolves are unbeaten but have played only one match. A lot of matches to report on in Div. 2, Bristol the leaders beat Kidderminster 8-2 but were then slammed by Leamington, **their** first win due to turning up with none of their top players and one player short, Kidderminster slammed Leamington 10-0, Birmingham "B" had 3 good wins 9-1 over Leamington, 8-2 against Stratford twice and Leamington picked up another point with their draw with Stratford. Leading individual is L. Reid of Stratford with 12 wins out of 15.

Nottingham "A" in Vets' Div. 1 went to the top with two convincing wins 9-1 against Gloucester and 8-2 over leamington. Oxford who dropped into second place were held to a draw by Birmingham "A", who then disposed of Walsall 9-1. Birmingham "B" having a good season defeated Leicester 6-4 and Gloucester overcame West Bromwich still without a point 7-3. Leading individual is R. Bolton of Nottingham 19 wins out of 21. In Vets' Div. 2 Stratford trounced Kidderminster 9-1 but were then held to a draw by Coventry "A", W. Cure unbeaten for Coventry, Coventry "A" slammed their "B" team 10-0 and Stroud **defeated** Cheltenham 6-4.

Leading individual is M. Beaman of Telford 18 wins out of 21.

Coventry "A" leaders of Junior Div. 1 trounced Birmingham "A" 9-1 and were then held to a draw by Nottingham "A", M. Thomas being unbeaten for Coventry in both matches. Nottingham "A" in turn beat Birmingham "A" 7-3 and Leicester trounced Market Drayton 9-1. Leading the individuals are B. Billington of Chesterfield "A" and M. Randle of Coventry "A" both 13 wins out of 15. No results to report on Divs. 2 and 3 but leading individual in Div. 2 is P. Bumpus of Loughborough unbeaten in 21 sets. In Div. 3 M. Allsopp of Burton leads with 14 wins out of 15.

In Div. 4 Walsall "B", in third place and unbeaten, defeated Worcester "B" 7-3 with M. Stretton unbeaten and Cheltenham beat Nuneaton 8-2. Bromsgrove are firmly at the top unbeaten after 5 matches and their T. Holder leads the individuals unbeaten after 15 sets. Eastwood in Div. 5 moved into second place with two wins 9-1 over bottom placed Bromsgrove "B" and 7-3 over Walsall "C". D. Stretton was unbeaten for Walsall, Rugby beat Mansfield 7-3 and their R. Fisher is the leading individual in this division, 12 **wins** out of 12.

Jeremy Williams reports from.....

CORNWALL

REVISED RANKINGS

John Bassett retains his top man's position in the revised rankings despite being hit by a falling tree although Barry Cornelius slips to 4 after a tussle with a bucket of hot water.

MEN
1. J. Bassett (St. Ives) (1)
2. J. Williams (Fal) (3)
3. J. Woollins (Laun) (4)
4. B. Cornelius (St. Aus) (2)
5. M. James (Fal) (6)
6. I. James (Fall (5)
7. G. Reed (**Fal**) (10)
8. R. Prendergast (Red) (-)
9. R. 8unt (St. Aus) (9)
10. N. Cock (St. Ives) 171
11. M. Starkie (Red) H
12. R. Jacobs (Truro) (8)

WOMEN
1. A. Clemens (Cam) (1)
2. S. Rapsey (Truro) (2)
3. G. Davies (Truro) (-I
4. S. Collins (Laun) (3)
5. B. Rapsey (Truro) (4)
6. E. Stevenson (Bude) (6)
7. J. Menzel (Cam) (51
8. K. Broczek (Laun) (7)

80YS
1. M. James (1)
2. G. Reed (2)
3. A. Hunt (Laun) (3)
4. A. Vingoe (Cam) (4)
5. M. Peters (Fall (5)
6. X. Ly (Laun) H
7. P. Tr80 (Laun) (6)
8. P. Rees (St. Aus) (-)
9. L. Jose (Cam) H
10. D. Ly (Laun) (-)

GIRLS
1. A. Clemens (1)
2. E. Stevenson (2)
3. K. Broczek (3)
4. L. Jewell (Fal) (4)

CORNISH INTER-TOWN LEAGUE

The big crunch match in this season's Cornish Inter-Town League resulted in a 5-3 win for St. Ives at St.

Austell which means that barring a miracle the final play-off will be between Falmouth and St. Ives at the White' Hart Hotel, Launceston.

St. Austell needed just a draw against St. Ives and the odds were certainly on for a draw until Raymond Bunt failed to arrive in time and St. Austell were forced to concede the set and lost the match. The battle of the invalids saw Bassett defeat Cornelius 2-straight.

Falmouth clinched a final place by virtue of a surprisingly easy 7-1 win over subdued Redruth whose Melvin Starkie registered their only victory. With Ian James available forthe final, Falmouth look to be strong favourites in this season's final play-off.

COUNTY MATCHES

The Senior team were unlucky to lose both their recent County matches. There was a cracker of a match at Truro when Cornwall squandered a 4-2 lead to lose to a strong Somerset team in the best match for years. Bassett made a return to the side after an absence of three years and James made an impressive debut, just losing to Dave Lee at "deuce" in the 3rd in the deciding set to send Somerset home with their tails wagging. Bassett was subsequently picked forthe match against Berkshire but was struck by a tree shortly before the match, and had to withdraw. Thus, with 8 men unavailable, unregistered Xuong Ly made up the team but Ian James and Jeremy Williams were left with too much to do and Cornwall went down 4-6.

The Juniors may have blown their promotion place after a disappointing draw at home to Avon and that being after two sets were conceded. Paul Lewis proved to be the stumbling' block surprisingly beating both Mark James and Graham Reed. However, a much better performance against Somerset has kept the championship hopes alive; notable victories over the strong Somerset team being Alison Clemens over Sarah Webb and James over Philip Payne.

LAUNCESTON KERNOW

In Division 3 West of the Halex National League, Launceston Kernow are currently enjoying their best-ever run and will be looking for promotion in next season's campaign.

Four wins on the trot was most encouraging for the Cornishmen; a convincing 6-2 victory at Solihull was followed by a niggJy 5-3 victory at home to Grove Mkt. Drayton ll - Bassett proving the match winner after defeating Stan Deakin.

Defeat .finally came in the local derby at leaders Pengeley Sports Torbay when the much depleted Launceston team went down 7-1. JeremyWilliams' opening setwin over Gary Lambert promised much for the visitors but the overall strength of the Devonians proved too much.

A much better performance against Hereford Times resulted in a 5-3 defeat for Launceston but only after Jon Woollins had beaten Andy Castle and James and Williams had accounted for Murray Jukes.

Perhaps a word of thanks to Pat Archdale and her band of umpires for the support at home matches exercising firm control for the past two seasons.

A three figure crowd is expected in the final match at home to league leaders Holts Salisbury on Sunday April 1st, a tough match but Mr. Holt can expect no favours.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Mark Bawden (Launceston) was Cornwall's first winner of an open tournament this season beating fellow Cornishman Neil Bevan (Bude) in the final of the U-1 2 Singles at the Exeter Open.... Launceston College U-16 Boys' team defeated Coventry, Kidderminster and Swindon to reach the National Schools' team finals at Matlock - the only Cornwall team to do so.... Redruth 'A' have reached the final of the Cornwall Senior Cup. After surviving a quarter-final affray with St. Ives 'A' they comfortably overcame Dereham (Truro).

JILL HAMMERSLEY-PARKER TABLE TENNIS FOUNDATION

We have now raised somewhere in the region of£1,200 but appear to have exhausted our possible membership. By now I am sure everyone who reads the magazine or attends tournaments is aware of the foundation and what the aims of the Foundation are. It would appear to increase our membership now we have to re-think our promotions and spread the word even more. However I think it is fair to assume that the vast majority of potential members read the magazine and that any promotions elsewhere would fall on barren soil.

Therefore, if any reader would like to invest £10 in the future -of English Junior Table Tennis then please send a cheque payable to Jill Hammersley-Parker Table Tennis Foundation, The Barn, Common Bank, Dolphinholme, Nr. Lancaster.

While we are highly delighted with the response, £1,200 is very quickly spent and at the moment we have several possibilities that depend on various factors. The possibilities are:- a) Two teams in the English Junior Open; b) Training Camp with Swedish Academy; and c) Send team to either French or Czech Junior Open.

In the last magazine we mentioned to members that they could inform Jill of anyone they felt would benefit from the above experiences. Already we have received several suggestions but would be delighted to hear from any further members. Please do not hesitate to contact Jill for'any further details or indeed to make any suggestions.

NATIONAL CLUB K-O CHAM PIONSH IPS'

The quarter-final draw in the Men's competition for the **Ormesby Cup** is:-
Penwortham GRYF (Preston) v 7th Hartlepool B.B. (Hartlepool) (1)
Chesterfield Activity Centre (Chesterfield) v March Town (March) (2)
Fellows Cranleigh (Dagenham) v Dagenham Football Club (Becontree) (-3)
Lloyd's Register (Crawley, Horsham) v Omega (Reading) (4)

Ties are to be completed by Api 22/84 and the semi-final round by May 20, the draw in respect of the semis being:- 2 v 1 and 4 v 3.

In the women's competition for the **Gainsford Cup** the semi-finals were between Redhill (Birmingham) and Omega (Reading) and Fellows Cranleigh (Dagenham) and North Bournemouth .(Bournemouth).

The final of this season's competition will be played at either Birmingham or Reading on a date mutually agreed between the teams concerned, but must be completed before the end of June.

OLDHAM CLOSED

DOUBLE TRIUMPH FOR DEREK

by Stuart Sneyd

The Oldham Closed championships held at the Queen Elizabeth Hall of Oldham Civic Centre on Feb. 26 resulted in a double triumph for England's No. 1 veteran Derek Schofield.

Schofield acquired his first ever title in Oldham by beating Bob Forrest, 14 and 11 , in the veterans' final and then in front of a 300-plus crowd went on to take the men's singles title in a magnificent display beating Tim Hatton -1 3, 10, 16. Other resu Its:-

MS: sot's: Schofield bt M. Hankey 17, 18; Hatton bt P. Collins 18, 6.
WS: Amanda Goodwin bt Lynn Errock 8, 10.
MO: A. and h. Leigh bt Hatton/J. de Pledge 21, 18.
XO: J. de Pledge/Goodwin bt l. McLean/Errock 11, 9.
JS: Lee Brown bt Howard Leigh 8, 18.

halex NATIONAL LEAGUE

by Robert Oldfield

ORMESBY& ELLENBOROUGH LEFT BEHIND

Although technically they could still be accused of premature celebration, Soham table tennis club, sponsored by Hassy Perfection, are the 1984 na'tionalleague champions. Two points ahead, a five sets advantage, and a match in hand will prove to be more than an ample safety net for the twice-former winners.

However, with an eye on second place after a 5-3 home win against Thorn-EMI, Ormesby squeezed a hard-fought point from the Cambridgeshire club on 11 th March. With just a solitary win by Henk van Spanje before the interval, Ormesby recovered to lead 4-3 before Soham captain, Paul Day, disposed of Nigel Eckersley. Interest-ingly, last choice for the European Championships, Kenny Jackson, was demolished by Ormesby's Richard Yule, who considers himself "hardly European-class".

The other final Moscow squad member, Carl Prean, who was pre-viously undefeated, chose to prolong his experiment with short pimples against Ellenborough and Soham. Opponents Sandley, Wilson, Jackson and Hannah, were not unduly troubled.

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
assy Soham	12	10	2	0	73	23	22
Ormesby	13	8	4	1	68	36	20
Thorn EMI Ellenborough	13	9	2	2	84	40	20
Uaqu. Fareham	12	6	I '	6	53	43	13
Gillette Raading	13	5	2	6	52	62	12
Tibhar London	13	4	1	8	61	53	9
Unity Bradford	13	1	2	10	29	76	4
Dunlop 8irmingham	13	1	0	',2	18	86	2

AH SO, NEW SPONSOR!

While Tarmac Wolverhampton's Douggie Johnson and Carl Morgan were grabbing the promotion place from Grove, SIB Bath pulled off a sponsorship coup which could set them up for the Premier in 1985. Bath, currently in third place, have gained the backing oftheir local Toyota dealer to help the club's stability.

"We just missed out on promotion this year", said the man behind the deal, Bath's Paul Hewitt. "We had two chances to topple Grove with Satchell v Hilton and Adrian Moore v Bowen, but in both cases two points went the wrong way in the third."

New sponsors Toyota could change all that, injecting around £2,000 into local table tennis next year. The move came after Hewitt persuaded their general manager, Andy Hayne, to in-crease his support beyond that of the Bath Closed championships. But the link with the tournament remains. "It will help the club move closer to the local league", said Hewitt.

"Initially" the sponsorship is for a one year period", he added, "but we're confident that we will give a good return on the investment. This has definitely happened with his sponsor-ship of the local tournament and the press coverage around here for the national league is tremendous."

"The sponsor sees his company as part of the local community", he continued, "and he's prepared to put in time, money and effort when he sees the players and officials doing the same. So we've decided to use the extra funds on furthering our policy of promoting the matches in a pro-fessional manner."

"However, it may also allow us to contribute towards players' expenses and that, in itself, could mean that we attract the interest of a top player. Even in the First Division you need a leading player or international to have a chance of success". And, perhaps, as Kevin Satchell creeps up the rankings, they already have one.

With Toyota - Everything keeps going right. Which is more than it does at the bottom of the table where Gillette Reading and Ormesby are fighting to avoid the drop. A fortunate postponement of their match against Butterfly Cardiff scheduled for 4th March could swing the advantage Ormesby's way after a problem win for Reading over Byker Newcastle in their last match.

FIRST DIVISION

Tarmac Wolverhampton	13	11	1	, 1	74	30	23
Grove Mkt Drayton	13	10	2	1	74	30	22
SI8 Bath	13	8	0	5	63	41	18
MBS St. Neots	f3	6	2	5	57	47	14
Butterfly Cardiff	11	6	O'	5	43	46	12
Ormeabyll	12	2	2	841	55	6	
II	13	1	4	8	34	70	6
Byker Newcaetla	12	0	1	11	14	82	1

LINCOLN TO STAY UP?

Halex Sincil Lincoln, too, with matches against Stockton and Tarmac Wolverhampton outstanding, could also escape the relegation noose - sinking Bradford Hermits into the Third Division.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

South Vorkshire	13	11	2	0	79	26	24
Salford Target Gold	13	'10	1	2	72	32	21
Chan Construction	13	10	0	3	67	37	20
March Halex	13	7	0	6	60	54	14
Tarmac Worhampton II	12	4	1	7	43	63	9
8redford Hermits	I 3	3	1	9	41	83	7
Sincil Uncoln	12	3	I	8	36	80	7
RIS Stockton	13	0	0	13	20	84	0

LARKHALL IN DAGENHAM'S SLIPSTREAM

Despite the draw with lowly Gunnersbury Triangle on 11 th March, Larkhall Clapham had done enough to secure second place in Second Division South the previous week. TCB Dolphins' No. 2, Phil Smith conquered his combination bat complex but the hard-hitting Derek Holman brought Larkhall a 5-3 victory over their closest rival.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Degenhsm FC	13	13	0	0	88	16	26
Larkhall Clapham	13	9	2	2	62	42	20
TC8 Dolphins	13	8	2	3	63	41	18
Spicer New Malden	13	3	5	5	49	55	11
Cranfield Colours Ha'ex	13	3	5	5	48	56	I I
Gillene Reading III	13	3	3	7	38	66	9
Gunnersbury Triangle	13	I	4	8	41	63	6
Witham Fe	13	0	3	10	26	78	3

VACANCIES

With regulations coming in next season to prohibit two teams from the same club in the same division, there are certain to be spaces in Third Division North. Clubs interested in joining the league should write to Keith Ponting, 21 Southport Avenue, Exeter EX4 1RA to be included on the forthcoming distribution of application forms.

THIRD DIVISION NORTH

South Vorkshire II	13	13	0	0	85	19	26
We.hington	13	10	0	3	72	32	20
South Vorkshire III	13	8	2	3	67	37	18
Ormesby III	13	7	2	4	62	42	16
Byker Newcastle II	13	3	2	8	44	60	8
Unity Bradford II	13	3	2	8	42	82	8
Vickers 8arrow	13	3	2	8	37	67	8
Unity 8radford III	13	0	0	13	7	97	0

CIPPENHAM CHANCE MISSED

Cippenham missed an ideal opportunity to pull away from Jolliffe Poole at the foot of Third Division South when they fell 5-3 to an under-strength Jaques Fareham side on 19th February, *writes Graham Trimming.*

Two of Fareham's players were away at the Beneficial Trust Cleveland Junior Select but Chris Shetler, playing at No.4, proved to be rather better against the defensive Frank Earis than Cippenham had anticipated. The narrow victory kept Jaques at the top of the table with only Tulse Hill to beat for promotion.

THIRD DIVISION SOUTH

Jaques Far.hem II	13	9	'3	I	66	38	21
Bourne Ruislip	13	9	1	3'	75	29	19
Tulse Hill	13	8"3		4'	81	43	15
Dunetable	13	4	4	6'	48	56	12
Lansdown Medway	13	, 5	2	6	43	81,	12
Ashlord	13	3	3	7	46	58	9
Cippenham	13	2	5	6	44	60	9
Jolliffe Poole	13	2	3	8	33	71	7

NORTHAMPTON GO FLAT

In front of Anglia's TV cameras at the Lings Forum on 19th February, Playrite Northampton's chances ofthe Third Division East title slipped away with their 3-2 lead over Norwich Foxwood. Norwich proceeded to win the next three sets with Nol Douggie Bennett fighting off a spirited challenge from Graeme McKim.

At least Northampton's general manager, Ken Marchant, had the consolation of match sponsorship from mineral water firm, Cookes of Wellingborough.

THIRD DIVISION EAST

Norwich Foxwood	11	7	4	0	61	27	18
Nonh'm Racket Sens.	10	8	I	1	58	22	17
Plavrile Northampton	11	6	1	4	52	36	13
Coles Waveney	11	6	3	3	51	37	13
MBS Sl. Neots II	11	4	3	4	46	42	11
Hassy Soham II	11	2	0	9	28	60	4
Halex 'ncoln	11	0	0	11	8	80	0

TORBAY CARPETED

Salisbury, sponsored by Holts Carpets, whipped through Pengeley Sports Torbay on 11th March - ending the seasiders' challenge for the Third Division West promotion spot. Only Paul Whiting was able to win for the Devon club in the 7-1 home win.

THIRD DIVISION WEST

Holt. Salisbury	13	12	1	0	84	20	25
Pengeley Torbey	12	10	1	1	75	21	21
Hereford Timea	13	8	1	4	58	46	17
Launceston Kemow	13	5	2	6	46	68	12
Tarmac Ladia.	12	4	1	7	43	53	9
Grove. Mkt Drayton II	13	3	1	9	32	72	7
WW Solihull	13	2	2	9	34	70	6
Global Plymouth	13	2	1	10	38	68.	5

PREMIER DIVISION RESULTS

Sunday, 19th February
Tibhar London 2 Ormesby 6
David Wells bt Donald Parker 19, -14, 11;
David Dodd lost to Henk van Spanje -7, -28;
Richard Jermyn lost to Nigel Eckersley -18, -9;
Gary Spencer lost to Richard Yule -11, -16;
Wells lost to van Spanje -15, -18;
Dodd lost to Yule -16, 20, -10;
Jermyn bt Parker 14, 22;
Spencer lost to Eckersley -10, -19.

Thom-EMI Ellenborough 5 Jaques Fareham 3
Graham Sandley bt Alan Cooke 9, 17;
Colin Wilson bt Carl Prean 21, 17;
Mark Mitchell bt Tony Clayton 19, 19;
Nigel Tyler lost to Mark Oakley -13, 18, -14;
Sandley bt Prean 18, 18;
Wilson bt Oakley 15, 18;
Mitchell lost to Cooke -13, -19;
Tyler lost to Clayton -9, 20, -9.

Hassy Soham 7 Gillette Reading 1
David Hannah bt David Barr 13, 14;
Kenny Jackson bt Philip Bradbury -19, 13, 16;
John Souter bt David Reeves -14, 19, 14;
Paul Day bt Andy Wellman 14, 12;
Hannah lost to Bradbury 13, -13, -15;
Jackson bt Wellman 16, 18;
Souter bt Barr 14, 20;
Day bt Reeves 11, 16.

Dunlop Birmingham 5 Unity Bradford 3
Alan Fletcher lost to Steve Turner -21, -16;
Kevin Beadsley bt Skylet Andrew 17, 17;
Barry Johnson bt David Indriks 12, 13;
Derek Munt lost to Steven Sharpe -18, -15;
Fletcher bt Andrew 19, -19, 15;
Beadsley bt Sharpe 18, 13;
Johnson lost to Turner 19, -11, -14;
Munt bt Indriks 23, 13.

Saturday, 3rd March, 1984
Unity Bradford 1 Ormesby 7
Andrew bt Parker -15, 12, 17;
Turner lost to van Spanje -13, -17;
Sharpe lost to Eckersley -18, -11;
Indriks lost to Yule -13, -16;
Andrew lost to van Spanje -13, 19, -13;
Turner lost to Yule -15, -22;
Sharpe lost to Parker -14, -7;
Indriks lost to Eckersley -15, -11.

Sunday, 4th March, 1984
Jaques Fareham 2 Hassy Soham 6
Prean lost to Jackson -20, -17;
Cooke bt Hannah 18, -20, 9;
Ian Kenyon lost to Day -14, -17;
Clayton lost to Souter -19, -14;
Prean lost to Hannah 14, -12, -10;
Cooke bt Souter 11. -17, 16;
Kenyon lost to Jackson -17, -14;
Clayton lost to Day 12, -10, -13.

Ormesby 5 Thorn-EMI Ellenborough 3
van Spanje bt Wilson 16, -16, 18;
Parker lost to Sandley -11, -12;
Yule bt Tyler 8, -22, 15;
Eckersley bt Mitchell 14, -12, 12;
van Spanje bt Sandley -16, 18, 13;
Parker bt Mitchell 13, 17;
Yule lost to Wilson 16, -17, -22;
Eckersley lost to Tyler -19, 16, -14.

Gillette Reading 8 Dunlop Birmingham 0
Bradbury bt Johnson 10, 11;
Barr bt Fletcher 15, 12;
Wellman bt Ralph Gunnion 7, 18;
Reeves bt Rupert Sterling 9, 4;
Bradbury bt Fletcher 16, 9;
Barr bt Sterling 19, 5;
Wellman bt Johnson 8, 11;
Reeves bt Gunnion 7, 9.

Unity Bradford 4 Tibhar London 4
Andrew bt Dodd 11, 18;
Turner lost to Wells 18, -17, -14;
Sharpe bt Spencer 19, 11;
Martin Firth lost to Jermyn -16, -13;
Andrew bt Wells -20, 17, 14;
Turner lost to Jermyn -19, -13;
Sharpe lost to Dodd 19, -19, -12;
Firth bt Spencer 13, 19.

Sunday, 11th March, 1984
Unity Bradford 1 Gillette Reading 7
Andrew lost to Barr -9, 10, -23;
Sharpe lost to Bradbury -12, -14;
Indriks lost to Reeves -6, 16, -11;
Firth lost to Wellman 20,-12, -14;
Andrew bt Bradbury -20, 15, 17;
Sharpe lost to Wellman -16, 22, -17;
Indriks lost to Barr -19, -18;
Firth lost to Reeves -13, -18.

Dunlop Birmingham 2 Jaques Fareham 6
Fletcher bt Kenyon 15, -15, 22;
Johnson lost to Cooke -12, -20;
Sterling lost to Glen Baker -11, -7;
Gunnion lost to Oakley -17, -16;
Fletcher lost to Cooke -7, -4;
Johnson bt Oakley 13, 9;
Sterling lost to Kenyon -13, -16;
Gunnion lost to Baker -18, -19.

Hassy Soham 4 Ormesby 4
Hannah bt Parker 14, 18;
Jackson lost to van Spanje -20,-19;
Souter bt Eckersley -15, 20, 9;
Day bt Yule 17, 9;
Hannah lost to van Spanje -5, 21, -10;
Jackson lost to Yule -12, -18;
Souter lost to Parker -16, -16;
Day bt Eckersley 16, 16.

Tibhar London 3 Thorn-EMI Ellenborough 5
Wells lost to Wilson -14, -19;
Dodd lost to Sandley -17, -16;
Jermyn bt Tyler -12, 10, 19;
Spencer lost to Mitchell -11, -12;
Wells bt Sandley -18, 16, 19;
Dodd lost to Mitchell 18, -18, -16;
Jermyn bt Wilson 11,16;
Spencer lost to Tyler -19, -21.

RESULTS
FIRST DIVISION

Sunday, 19th February, 1984
Byker Newcastle 2 Ormesby II 6
Butterfly Cardiff 2 Grove Market Drayton 6
Tarmac Wolverhampton 7 MBS St. Neots 1
Sunday, 26th February 1984
SIB Bath 7 Gillette Reading II 1
Sunday, 4th March, 1984
Grove Market Drayton 5 SIB Bath 3
Gillette Reading II 4 Tarmac Wolverhampton 4
MBS SI. Neots 8 Byker Newcastle 0
Sunday, 11th March, 1984
SIB Bath 5 Ormesby II 3
Tarmac Whampton 5 Grove Mrk. Drayton 3
MBS St. Neots 7 Gillette Reading II 1

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Sunday, 19th February, 1984
RIS Stockton 1 South Yorkshire 7
Sincil Lincoln 6 March Halex 2
Salford TG 7 Chan Construction 1
Tarmac W'hampton II 6 Bradford Hermits 2
Sunday, 4th March, 1984
South Yorkshire 8 Sincil Lincoln 0
Tarmac W'hampton II 7 RIS Stockton 1
March Halex 3 Salford TG 5
Bradford Hermits 1 Chan Construction 7
Sunday, 11th March, 1984
Salford TG 4 South Yorkshire 4
Chan Construction 3 March Halex 5
Sincil Lincoln'5 Tarmac W'hampton II 3
RIS Stockton 2 Bradford Hermits 6

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Sunday, 19th February, 1984
Spicer New Malden 4 Cranfield Halex 4
Dagenham FC 5 Larkhall Clapham 3
TCB Dolphins 7 Gillette Reading III 1
Gunnersbury Triangle 6 Witham FC 2
Sunday, 4th March, 1984
Larkhall Clapham 5 TCB Dolphins 3
Gillette Reading III 4 Gunnersbury Triangle 4
Witham FC 1 Spicer New Malden 7
Sunday, 11th March,1984
Spicer New Maldon 1 Dagenham FC 7
TCB Dolphins 5 Cranfield Halex 3
Gunnersbury Triangle 4 Larkhall Clapham 4
Witham FC 1 Gillette Reading III 7

THIRD DIVISION NORTH

Sunday, 19th February, 1984
South Yorkshire II 5 Ormesby III 3
Unity Bradford III 0 Byker Newcastle II 8
Washington 6 Unity Bradford II 2
Vickers Barrow 3 South Yorkshire III 5
Sunday, 4th March, 1984
Byker Newcastle II 2 Vickers Barrow 6
Ormesby III 8 Unity Bradford 1110
Unity Bradford II 2 South Yorkshire II 6
South Yorkshire III 2 Washington 6
Sunday, 11th March, 1984
South Yorkshire II 6 Unity Bradford III 2
Vickers Barrow 2 Ormesby III 6
Washington 6 Byker Newcastle II 2
Unity Bradford II 0 South Yorkshire III 8

THIRD DIVISION SOUTH

Sunday, 19th February, 1984
Jaques Fareham II 5 Cippenham 3
Ashford 3 Dunstable 5
Jolliffe Poole 4 Tulse Hill Rams 4
Sunday, 4th March, 1984
Dunstable 6 Jolliffe Poole 2
Cippenham 5 Ashford 3
Tulse Hill Rams 0 Bourne Ruislip 8
Lansdown Medway 2 Jaques Fareham II 6
Sunday, 11th March, 1984
Jaques Fareham II 6 Ashford 2
Jolliffe Poole 6 Cippenham 2
Bourne Ruislip 5 Dunstable 3
Lansdown Medway 5 Tulse Hill Rams 3

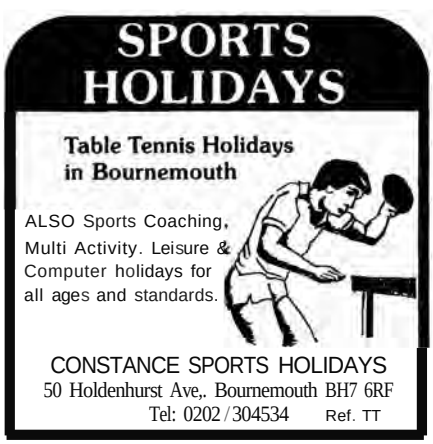
THIRD DIVISION EAST

Sunday, 19th February, 1984
Nott'ham Racket Sense 4 MBS St. Neots II 4
Halex Lincoln 1 Hassy Soham II 7
Playrite Northampton 3 Norwich Foxwood 5
Sunday, 4th March, 1984
Nott'ham Racket Sense 8 Halex Lincoln 0
MBS Sl. Neots II 3 Coles Waveney 5
Hassy Soham II 2 Playrite Northampton 6
SundaY, 11th March, 1984
Halex Lincoln 2 Coles Waveney 6
Playrite North'ton 1 Nott'ham Racket Sense 7

Norwich Foxwood 6 Hassy Soham II 2

THIRD DIVISION WEST

Sunday, 19th February, 1984
Hereford Times 2 Pengeley Torbay 6
Launceston 'Kernow 5 Grove Mkt Drayton II 3
Holts Salisbury 6 WW Solihull 2
Global Plymouth 5 Tarmac Ladies 3
Sunday, 4th March, 1984
Grove Mkt Drayton II 2 Holts Salisbury 6
Pengeley Torbay 7 Launceston Kernow 1
Tarmac Ladies 2 Hereford Times 6
WW Solihull 5 Global Plymouth 3
Sunday, 11th March, 1984
Holts Salisbury 7 Pengeley Torbay 1
Global Plymouth 3 Grove Mkt Drayton II 5
Hereford Times 5 Launceston Kernow 3
Tarmac Ladies 6 WW Solihull 2



SOMERSET CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

18th MARCH
CHILTON TRINITY SCHOOL, BRIDGWATER

By Tony Carey

This was another fine performance by the Somerset and Bridgwater Committee members' in setting up and running these championships. A lot of hard work and time was given by all, under the direction of that stalwart of the Somerset tournaments, Mike Williams. Well done all! It was a long day for the officials and players alike, especially forthe successful ones who are involved in various age groups and events. This continuation of play throughout the day with hardly time to rest took its toll of some players and led to some surprises-some expected on the day but others not so. Some of these were partly due to fresh faces on the scene and others where we had middle order players raising their game for the occasion.

In the first category I would put Kate Lines, ex Hampshire County Junior No.2 and Francis Treece, ex-Devon County Junior No. 3, both resident at Millfield School, Street.

In the second category, I would put two U-13 boys, Paul Fowl'er from Bridgwater and Tim Kevin from Minehead, who gave a fine display of their potential in the final, with Paul having a slight edge, due to his competition experience in tournaments this season. Another person deserving praise for her play was Fiona Stuart, who finally conquered her long-time rival and No.2 seed, Sarah Webb, in the women's quarter-final and followed this with a good win in 3 games over Shirley Dark from Yeovil, the No.4 seed, to reach the final against Judy Craig; No.1 seed from Taunton, who had survived a nail-biting semi-final against No.3 seed, Melonie Carey, at 22-20 in the third. Judy confirmed her No. 1 seeding by winning her first Somerset women's title. Well played, Judy, and keep playing, as I am sure your younger opponents will be eager to test themselves against you in the future.

I was also pleased to see that we finally attracted players from the Mendip League, which has been a grey area for Somerset coaches and officials for some years with regard to the standard of players, but let us hope that the ones who competed in these championships will act as missionaries and spread the word.

I will now continue with the rest of the results. and other aspects of play during the day, the first final, U-13 girls', being won by Tina Sadler of Yeovil against Mandy Williams of Bridgwater in a close contest. Each girl played an all-out attacking game which I thought was an encouraging sign for Somerset's future in the Junior sphere, as we seemed to be developing a defensive-minded attitude in the coaching formula which has, as we have seen this season on the tournamentcircuit, proved restrictive to the success of certain players when they have met the hard hitters. I know that this statement will evoke some comments so I will discontinue and carry on with the results.

The U-15 Girls' final was won by Melonie, seeded No.2, beating Sarah Webb, seeded No.1, two straight, and Melonie completed a double by beating Sarah again in the U-17 final two-straight. The U-15 Boys' final was won by Philip Payne against David Wooldridge of Yeovii and he also completed a double by winning the U-17 final against Francis Treece who had beaten Mark Bryant in the semi-'final with a dazzling display of controlled looping and hitting, which we knew he was capable of but had not seen him display so often in the Bridgwater League, which could have put Millfield School in contention for Premier honours this season.

But this deadly rapier was blunted by the rash of pimples wielded so effectively by Philip in' the final and which he continued to use quite well in his match against Brian Reeves in the Senior event - the King of the Somerset defenders for many years and a joy to watch when he i's on song, which to my eyes seems to be all the time, as he will fight for every point, sweating blood if necessary, and not conceding defeat until the umpire calls game against him, which are few and far between. He is a great captain and inspiration to the Somerset Senior team. I hope also that all our Juniors will seek to emulate his dedi·cation and the will to win when the chips are down.

Some of the older ones have a'iready shown this in tournaments this season and the younger ones like Paul Fowler and Paul Smith are setting the same trend in the lower age groups. It was unfortunate that a different rash of pimples struck Paul Smith (the Chicken Pox kind) to prevent him taking part in these championships, but I hope we shall see him playing in the Bridgwater League' Junior championships next month. Yes, readers, I have gone off course again, but I am now back with the rest of the resu lts!

Winner of the Men's Singles, David Lee, from Brian Reaves in three. Winners of Men's Doubles, Lee and David Wilson, from Brian and his intrepid partner, John Hartrey, another very skilful player and, if he will excuse the expression,"of the old school", the curriculum of which was devised to produce skilful and adaptable players from dedicated practice of all skills and, in most cases, self-taught. Winners of the Women's Doubles, Sarah and Fiona from Shirley and Judy. Winners of Mixed, Lee and Fiona from Sarah and David Wilson. This win made David Lee Grand Slam Winner of the day. Well played, all who took part, young and old, which reminds me, I nearly forgot a very good final between two stalwarts of Somerset over the years, Colin Alsopp and Chris New in the Veterans' event, a title which I would like to see changed to perhaps Masters - more appropriate, as the athletics fraternity use now. The winner was Colin in three. WeJl played, lads, both for your sporting behaviour and the quality of your play.

There were a few regular players missing from the Men's and Women's Singles events, which could (and in certain instances, would) have upset the final line-up at least to the semi-final stage, when it would have been anybody's match. I refer first to our No. 1 ranked lady, R.ebecca Russe, who unfortunately was away at Woking for the South of England 3-Star Tournament seeking to establish herself further up the computer table by winning valuable points and testing herself against some of the best in the country. I know that it was a hard decision for her to make because of the clash of dates, but I think a wise one for the county, as I believe the better Rebecca becomes, the more Somerset will benefit on the county scene in the future, both in the Senior and Junior, providing a stimulus for our older girls.

While mentioning the absence of Rebecca, we must not forget that other pillar of the Somerset table tennis scene, Tony Russe - both in his capacity as coach and player, who was unable to defend his Veterans' title, due to other commitments.

Two otherfine players missing were from Taunton, Dean Sully and Steve Manilow, who have both been playing regularly in their Leagues this season with qu ite some success, Steve being responsible for inflicting one of the few defeats David Lee has suffered this season. But we must not dwell on what might have been (as this game can be quite unpredictable at times) but remember another fine Somerset Championship day.

BRIDGWATER LEAGUE SENIOR CLOSED

Held at Chilton Trinity School, Bridgwater, 25th March under Chairman Mike Williams' controlled direction again.

As in the previous weekends Somerset Championships long-established rivals were competing with each other, either to try and reverse the previous results or to seek further honours. In the Men's singles we had some fresh faces, the best known being Paul Lewis of Avon, who showed good class in reaching the semi-final stage before losing to Lee Sadler, the eventual winner, against David Lee in the final, David featuring in a good semi-final against Somerset's No. 1 lady, Rebecca Russe, who played very well throughout the day, accounting for some good Premier players, reviving memories of Jill Green in past championships. Rebecca won the Women's final, beating Melonie, after beating Fiona in her semi and Melonie accounting for Sarah Webb in the other one. There was consolation, though, for Melonie in the next final. when she beat Murray Barter in the Consolation Singles, thus getting her revenge for a defeat by the same player in the League the previous week.

The winners of the other finals were Colin Allsop in the Veterans against Ray Thornton. An excellent win by one of the youngest finalists, Paul Smith, against the League President and a fine player, Terry Green, in the restricted singles. I was pleased to see Paul's fine display, confirming our thoughts of his future potential.

The Men's doubles created another upset when the No.1 seeds David Lee and David Wilson lost to Murray Barter and Mark Bryant.

The Mixed Doubles was won by Sadler and Rebecca over Melonie and Dave Lee.

I will close this report with a mention of a young girl who I know we will hear more of in the future. She is Mamie Jarvis, 11 years old, and a member of Peter Bamber's troupe, playing in the second division of the League for West Huntspill, the new entrants to the League. She is deserving of this praise for her fine performance in recording a maximum of three singles wins in straight sets against three girls representing Chilton School 'C' team, who are more established in the coaching set-up at the present time, and have attended tournaments around the country.

Well played, Marnie, and I hope you produce that firie play in the Bridgwater Junior Closed, the last domestic tournament - but I will report that in my next report.

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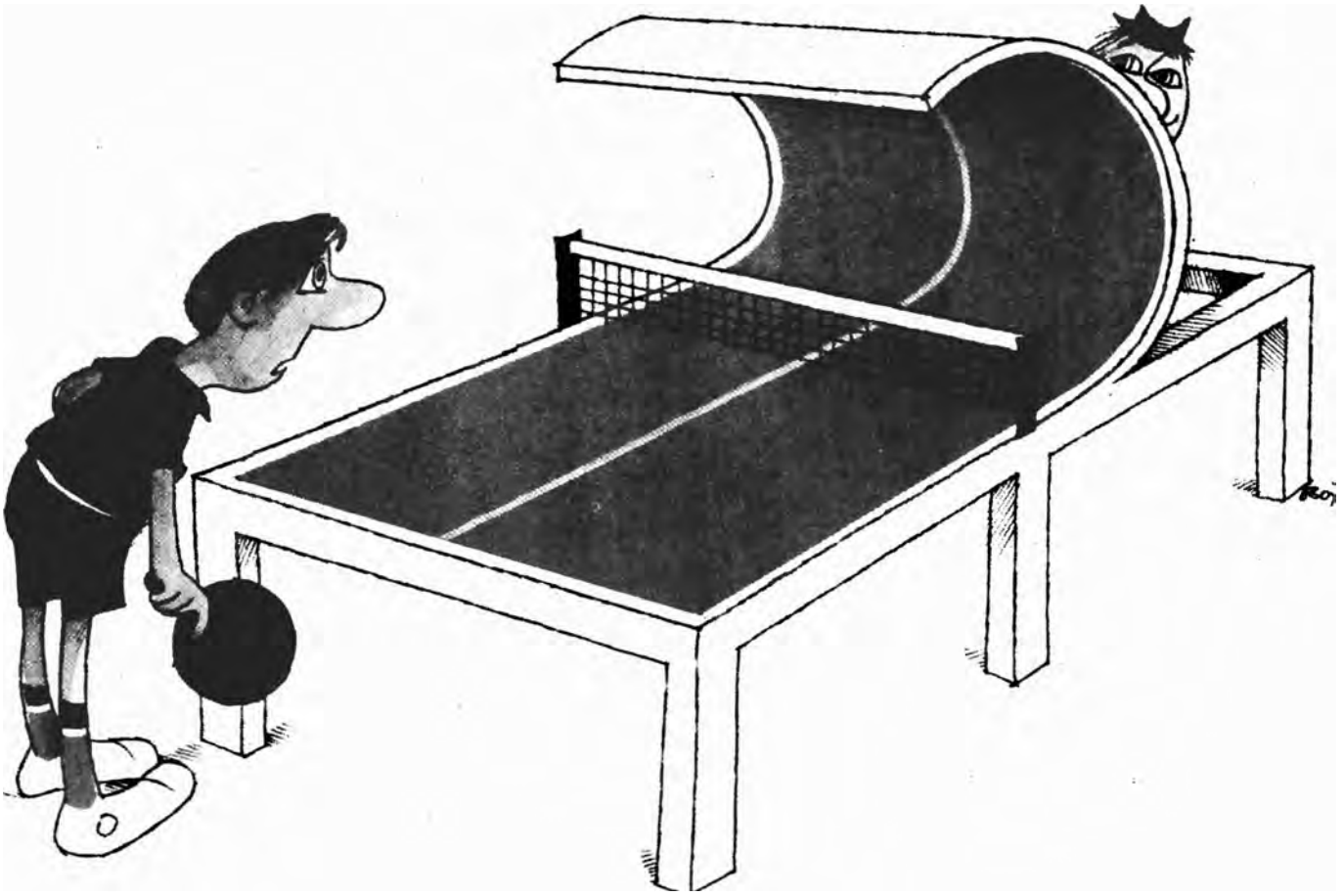
COURSE 3
August 6th- 11th

ROLL-UP

By Budimir Vojinovic, Novi Sad



LANCASHIRE LIFE

By George Yates

PARKER INELIGIBLE

Following on their 10-0 defeat of **Crewe,** the first division title in the Lancashire and Cheshire League has been won by Bolton who last won it in 1972. But it was tough on Preston as their win by 6-4 over Warrington has been amended to 8-2 in favour of the Wires, the four wins credited to Donald Parker having been cancelled because of his ineligibility in not having played the requisite number of matches for his club in the Preston League.

But with Parker spearheading Preston's team against Bolton.in the Zone 1 final of the Wilmott Cup it came as a shock to the proud Prestonians to be beaten 5-3 by the Trotters whose Stephen Scowcroft claimed the scalps of Parker, Steve Turner and Philip Huggon, and Shaun Browne lost only to Huggon! This put Bolton through to the national quarter-finals and on the road to engage Stockton on Teesside.

Fleetwood, for the fourth successive season, won the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy, beating Bury 5-2 in the semis and Warrington 5-4 in a memorable final. Behind 3-4 and Roy Frankland, in the penultimate set, seemingly out for the count with the Wires having one hand on the trophy, the ever enthusiastic seasider clawed his way back to eventually beat Peter Flint -18, 19 and 21 to set up a grandstand finish for Steve Bevan who, despite losing the first game, got the trawler men home 5-4 beating Ian Johns -18, 15 and 13. But, what a match!

Oldham's Stuart Sneyd is to be commended in setting up three matches at Sholver Hall Community Centre, Oldham as a curtain raiser to the Lancashire Junior Open. The matches involved North West Juniors, against Norway and Ireland, and a cadets' match involving the North West and Ireland. "

Howard Leigh, Keith Weatherby, Colin Hogarth and Andrew Taylor saw off the Norwegians 8-2 whilst Philip Crankshaw, David Carse, Claire Potis and Cheryl Clarke made it 6-4 against Colin Inglis, Andrew Dennison, Ellen McManus and Caroline Anderson representing Ireland. Lee Brown, Andrew Eden, Andrea Holt and Kristina **Cox** thrashed Ireland 9-1 in the cadet match, Orla Stevenson saving the 'whitewash' by beating Miss Cox.

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By Mike Lewis

Following a request from the Chief, grant aid from Sports Council to make it possible, and full co-operation from our National Coaching Chairman the South West Region's drive to involve its league players commenced on Tuesday Feb. 14 1984.

Five venues in various Counties throughout were selected as Centres for National Coaches, Bryan Merrett and Peter Hirst to present their varied and interesting programme.

Avon's venue at St. George's Sports Hall, Bristol sawall eight tables occupied throughout the evening where local league players struggled to master the long forgotten basic principles.

Wednesday started with a visit to Thornbury's excellent Sports Centre (all the ladies' teams call themselves "The Thorn Birds" Wow!) coaching local school pupils, then on through the ever thickening fog which dampened Peter Cruwys' effort at Gloucester where we were flattered by the presence of the Local Press.

Thursday dawned clear for the day session at Whitchurch Sports Centre with more local schools, a quick shower and snack smoothed the way to Wiltshire's leagues venue at Swindon where Sylvia Morse's immaculate centre paid fitting tribute to the gallant efforts produced by very active "seniors" (must ask Peter and Bryan why one very attractive young lady was standing at the table on one leg??)

Friday the penultimate day seemed to go on for ever. After the drive to Somerset's venue at Bridgwater, followed by a very interesting afternoon at Chilton Trinity School (Mecca to Les Bridges, John Reekes and Tony Carey) topped only by a very enjoyable evening at the British Cellophane club where highspot of the evening was definitely Bryan and Peter's demonstation of table skills with commentary. It was offforthe long late drive to Plymouth (slowed only by Peter's craving for Chinese food) where Adrian Wright must have wondered if we would ever arrive at all. - Still Saturday 10 am bang on time Bryan and Peter arrived at Plymouth's league's excellent headquarters where the ever busy Chairman Bryan Geldart and players from five local leagues were ready for the day's fray.

5 pm and it was all done! after the journeys home we could relax and consider our efforts, - the many players we had "touched", old friends visited, teachers and pupils encouraged, and above all the positive service to ten of our 30 leagues in the South West-Heigh Ho-20 leagues to go.

(With thanks to the many people who made this venture a success).

Table Tennis Lesson for Teachers

Members of the English Schools' Association had an extra lesson on their timetable recently when they visited Dunlop Sports Company's production facilities at Normanton and Horbury. The Teachers and Headteachers were visiting in their capacity as members of the Executive Council of the Association, which promotes and organises competitive Table Tennis in Schools throughout England.

The party were welcomed to Normanton by Roy Reardon, Works Manager. After a presentation on Table Tennis marketing by Advertising Executive, Alan Priest, the committee were taken on a factory tour, accompanied by Production Managers and representatives from the Company's Research and Development Department.

The Normanton Factory produces the rubber units used on the Table Tennis Bats which are then either assembled onto the blades or sold separately as replacement rubbers.

After leaving the Table Tennis Department the party changed sport completely and toured the Golf Ball production facilities, for the factory also produces the world famous '65' and 'DOH' golf balls.

After lunch, the visitors travelled to Horbury where the bats are assembled and packed before being transported to the Distribution Centre at Wrenthorpe.

The ESTTA have close links with Dunlop. Last year the Association signed a substantial three year, sponsorship agreement with the Company, which should ensure the continuing success of the Schools' Championships and enable even more young people to be introduced to the game. Over the years, the ESTTA has consistently produced players of international standard.

The sponsorship is part of the Dunlop Sports Company policy of Table Tennis development in this country. The Company are also involved with the English, Scottish and Welsh Table Tennis Associations, sponsoring many tournaments throughout the UK. Last year, they announced the opening of five regional centres, developed jointly with the Sports Council, to help advance Table Tennis playing facilities all over the country. Dunlop. Last year the Association signed a substantial three year

ESTTA Officers are shown an early stage in the bat rubber production when they visited the Normanton Dunlop factory.
l to r. Bob Wood (Treasurer), Eddie Mitchell (Competitions Secretary), David Lomas (P.R.O.), Tom Matthews (President).

South of England 3-Star Open

RANKING CONFIRMED

By Michael Green

Graham Sandley gloriously confirmed his claim to that No.2 English ranking by lifting the Lambeth Building Society's men's Singles title at Woking Leisure Centre over the weekend of March 17/18.

This event threw up a number of interesting results and performances, not least of which was the magnificent assault on the trophy by that fiery Middlesex character, the ninth-seeded David Wells.

Wells suggested that it might be his day when comprehensively beating that joker in the pack Skylet Andrew (E) early on. The draw had given him a chance to prove his worth by pairing him with defending champion and No. 1 seed Carl Prean, and didn't he take it.

Prean had already looked somewhat shaky in defeating Surrey's Mark Oakley in three, Mark having defeated County colleague Max Crimmins seeded No. 10 in Round Two.

Wells proceeded to reveal a number of chinks in Carl's armour,.dominating throughout, and roundly thrashed him 14 and 15 to cruise into the semi-final where his opponent turned out to be eighth seeded Kenny Jackson from Essex.

Jackson had beaten Scottish No.1 David Hannah in the quarters, and he certainly looked to be in a devastatingly sharp mood. Not quite sharp enough as it turned out.

The first game went Jackson's way with ease, but a combination of lack of concentration and some superb hitting from Wells allowed the Middlesex player to draw level. In the third, Wells looked the hungrier of the two and having gained a lead he held on to it to reach the final.

The other half saw a few surprises. John Souter (Mi) seeded at twelve lost to Andy Wellman (Bk) in Round One, Andrew Syed (Bk) was magnificent in beating John Hilton (La), and Gareth Spencer of Kent disposed of sixth seed Philip Bradbury (Bu). But having said all this, it was Alan Cooke and Sandley who won through to contest the semi as seeded, although Nicky Mason certainly gave Graham a scare in the quarters.

This semi was, and I do not exaggerate, the most exciting set of table tennis that I have se·en. If only the cameras had been there for both Cooke and Sandley were in tremendous form producing glorious rally after glorious rally.

The score was really unimportant, for it was the sheer entertainment of the stroke play which made this game so memorable. Forthe record, Sandley won 20, -9, 16. Brilliant ...

. The final could not live up to this standard, although Wells too showed that he was capable of some supersonic play. Sandley won two-straight to become the South of England champion, but it was also a great day for Wells.

The Womens' Single's was regrettably without Karen Witt who once again had to scratch because of injury. This left Lisa Bellinger and Joy Grundy as the top seeds, and these two eventually won through to contest the final.

Elsewhere, Sue Collier (Bk) knocked out Jackie Bellinger (Bd) seeded at six, and the ever aggressive Carole Moore beat Alison Gordon 19 and 19, and then took Lisa close in the semi. Joy Grundy beat Jill Harris (St) in her semi-final.

The final was so one-sided as to be extremely uninteresting, with Joy easily overcoming a subdued Lisa 11, 12.

Prean at least had some consolation for his dismal singles performance by triumphing in the Elmridge Plant Hire Men's Doubles with partner Alan Fletcher (Y). These two, seeded at five, certainly deserved their success for they had to beat second seeds Souter and Wilson in the quarters, and third seeds Cooke and Mason in the semis.

The other finalists, Skylet Andrew and Philip Bradbury, had already accounted for top seeds Hannah and Sandley, but they found Prean and Fletcher just a touch too strong losing -17 in the third in a topsy-turvy set which could have gone to either pairing.

In the Foxgrove Construction Women's Doubles, the Bellinger sisters made an early exit at the hands of Sarah .Sandley (Mi) and Sue Collier (Bk) who came very close to beating Joy Grundy (La) and Jean Parker (La) in the semi with the latterwinning -24, 17,20.

In the other half, defending champions Alison Gordon (Bk) and Mandy Sainsbury (Bk) only just scraped home 17 in the third in their semi, with opponents Karen Smith (Le) and Suzanne Hunt (Li) being somewhat unlucky.

In another close encounter of a table tennis kind, Joy Grundy and Jean Parker took the Women's Doubles title 18, -17, 14.

The Playrite Sports Veterans' Singles title went to top seed Derek Schofield (Ch). His final opponent was Surrey's own Gordon Chapman who beat a number of notables to reach that position including Peter D'Arcy, Stan "The Bat", and John Holland. Stan's main contribution to this tournament were two expedite games in which he single-handedly managed to put the tournament way behind the schedule ... The final itself was a typical Veterans' war of attrition in which Schofield always had the upper hand winning 15 and 17. But well played Gordon ...

John B.urleton 'captured the St. Pancras Building Society's Restricted Singles title with a win over Surrey's Steve Holloway -18, 16, 15. Burleton had beaten Ray Tilling (K) in the quarters and John Dennison (E) in the semis, although Dennison had at one time been scratched but then reinstated at Burleton's request. Holloway had beaten Phil Smith (Sx) to reach the final, but had earlier only just beaten a vibrant Jimmy Stokes 19 in the third who came to thetable fresh after a superb performance in defeating Stephen Moore (Sx).

Considering the early difficulties in getting it off the ground, the tournament ran extremely smoothly over the whole weekend. The event was refereed firmly by Len Pilditch with assistance from Phil Goacher. A good deal of credit must go to Norman Hooper who did, as usual, a great job as organiser. May you do many more" Norman ...

Lastly, well done to those Mike Strode minions the Harden Boys, Neil & David, and their Dad. Strong as oxes.

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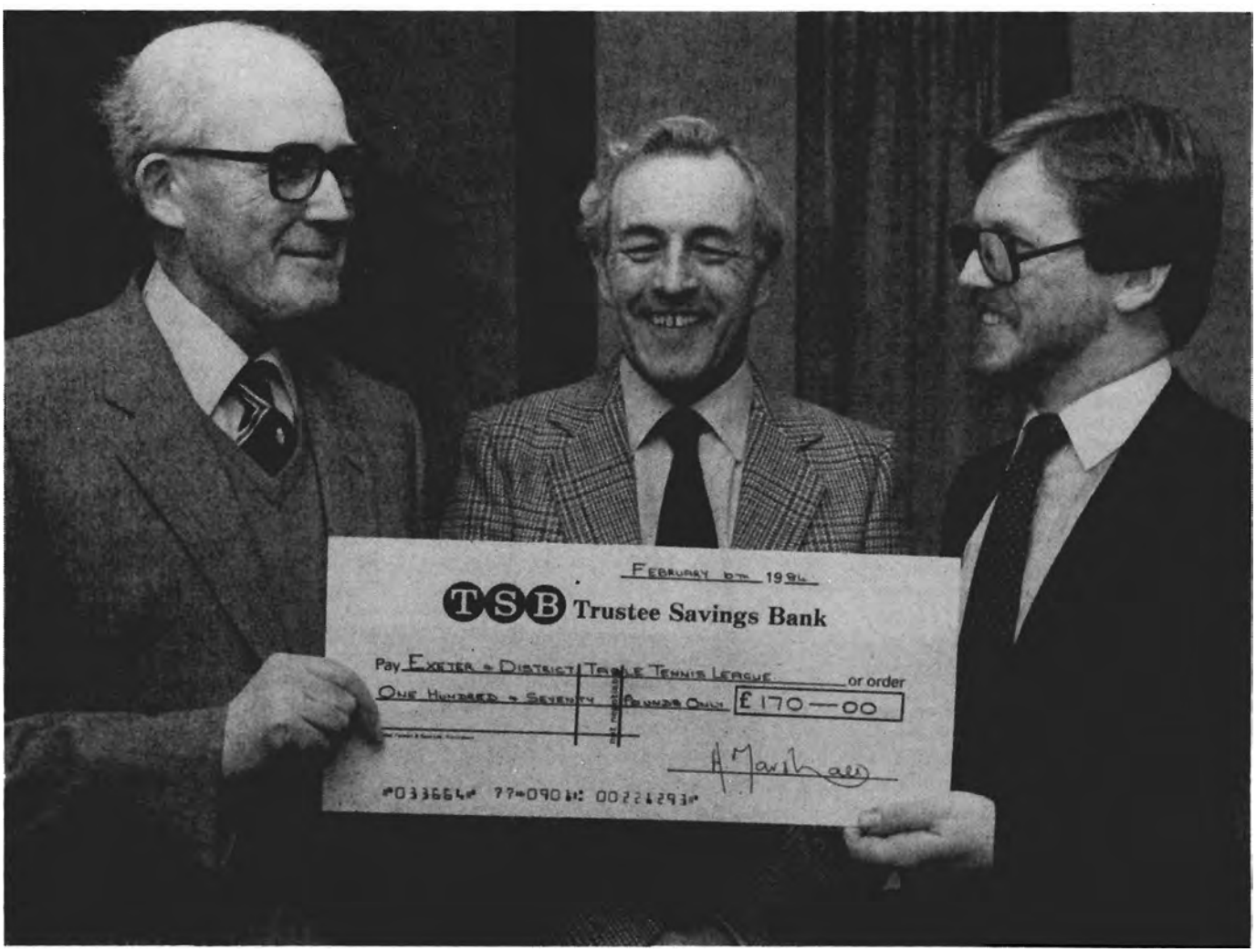

Mr. **Andrew Marshall,** the **Manager** of the **Cowick Street,** Exeter branch of the TSB presents the sponsorship cheque to the League's Chairman, Mr. **Wilf** Gorman. **Looking** on is the League Secretary, Keith Ponting.

Photo by courtesy of Express and Echo Western Times and Gazette, Exeter.

INVITATION EVENT

The Haywards Heath League are running a President's Invitation event on Easter Monday to raise money for a Disabled Housing Trust in their area and their Sponsor, The Sussex Mutual Building Society, have agreed to donate £1 for every ticket sold at 25 pence per ticket.

The Trust is a national charity which provides sheltered housing for physically handicapped people. First project is in Burgess Hill and will consist of bungalows, flats **and** bedsits all built to wheelchair standards and designed with disabled people in mind. So far seventeen bungalows have been built and have families living in them. However, the heart and focal point of the project still remains to be built.

Ernest Kleinwort Court will contain twenty three flats and bedsits for young people with varying degrees of disability. There will also be a medical centre, restaurant and other communal facilities. It will give young disabled people a chance to live in the wider community. For most handicapped youngsters this chance simply does not exist. When they leave full time education, unless they have parents who are willing and able to care for them, they face a lifetime of institutional care. The Trust hope to offer another alternative.

The **Trust** face the prospect of trying to raise £400,000 to bring its plan to fruition.

Tickets can be had from the Haywards Heath Chairman, Keith Jackson whose address is:- 10 Willow Way, Hurstpierpoint, West Sussex. 'Phone: 832127.

PONTESBURY U-12 and U-14 TEAM TOURNAMENT, 1984

by John Morris

With all the pressure of winning Lentec computer points taken away, Pontesbury TTA, in the heart of rural Shropshire, appear to have instigated a successful formula for enjoyable table tennis.

Their team tournament which is now being held for the 4th year, attracts teams from the length and breadth of the land, with many nationally-ranked players saying it is the most enjoyable event of the season.

Pontesbury's formula for success is a maximum of 16 teams of 4 boys and/or girls in each event being divided by known strength and location into four groups of 4. All play all with the group winners competing for positions 1-4 whilst 2nd, 3rd and 4th in each group compete for positions 5-8, 9-12 and 13-16.

In all 16 tables are used with each match being played on two tables and consisting of 8 singles. With each match taking approximately 1 hr 20 mins, the schedule allows ALL teams to play ALL the time, each player playing 10 times during the day which commences at 9.30 a.m. and ends at 5.30 p.m.

If your association requires any particulars about this season's competition, the U-12 competition is on Saturday, June 9 and the U-14 on Sunday, June 10. Please contact me at 2 School Bank, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury SY5 OPP. Phone: Shrewsbury 790303 (b), Minsterley 340 (h). I will supply all details by return.

SUPERSTARS IN ACTION

BATH 2-STAR OPEN

by George O'Brien

Despite the snow and ice in surrounding areas more than 200 players managed to make the journey to Bath on Jan. 15 for the first 'two-star' tournament (sponsored by Bathwick Tyres of Bath) to be held in the City. Held at the Bath Sports and Leisure Centre, venue for TV's Superstars and Superteams programmes, much was expected of the players and we were not to be disappointed.

The tournament opened with the Men's Singles with all players participating in the preliminary groups. The early rounds saw good wins for Andrew Syed over Gary Wilkins, Paul Jackson over Tony Healan and Stephen Moore over Richard Jermyn.

Four members ofthe Bath SIB squad, Kevin Satchell, Adrian Moore, Paul Jackson and Kevin Edwards made very good progress to the quarters to be joined by Darren Griffin, Mark Oakley, Kenny Jackson and Philip Bradbury. At this stage Satchell saw off Griffin, Oakley fell to Kenny Jackson, Bradbury beat Adrian Moore, whilst in the local derby Edwards beat Paul Jackson in the third after losing the first and scraping home in the second at "deuce".

In the semis Satchell won the first against Kenny Jackson but eventually lost 15 in the third, whilst Edwards lost his way against Bradbury. The final played later that evening saw a win by Bradbury over Jackson, Bradbury thus became the first Englishman to win the title in recent years!

The women's singles progressed more smoothly with all seeded players taking up their allotted positions in the final stages. Jackie Bellinger recorded two-straight wins over Julie Dimmock in the first round proper, Elizabeth Hammond in the quarters and Nina Tsakarisianos in the semis. In the other half Carol Butler beat young Teresa Moore but was extended by an ebullient Tina Shortman in the second round before winning 16 in the third; Carol won her semi-final against Mary Denbow convincingly. In the final Jackie Bellinger, although dropping the second game won easily in the third.

The Men's Doubles proved to be a very open event with many scratch pairings to cause upsets in the early rounds but with the established pairings making their way to the final in which Oakley and Glen Baker beat the Moore brothers.

The Women's Doubles again included many scratch pairings with no less than 21 entering 'partner wanted'. However the combination of Jackie Bellinger and Nina Tsakarisianos proved too strong for the opposition and they won the event with a series of two-straight wins.

In the junior events the Boys' Singles was won by David Goode who eventually beat Rodney Thomas in the final after losing the middle game at "deuce". In the early rounds Murray Barter of Bridgwater had good wins over David Smith and Andrew Oxley before losing to Adrian Sainsbury of Plymouth.

In the Girls' Singles Teresa Moore justified her ranking by winning the event without dropping a game leaving Helen Perrott, Susan Butler, Samantha Scott-Pawson and Sarah Webb in her wake. Katrina Baker had good wins over Jayne Sully and Jenny Neale before losing to Sarah Webb in the semi.

Results:-

M.S. ,·r.:
K. Jackson IE) bl K. SatchelllWi) ·19.10. 15;
P. Bradbury (Su) bt K. Edwards (Wi) 13. 9.
Final: BRADBURY bt Jackson 15. 19.

W.s: '-1:
J. Bellinger (Sd) bt N. Tsakarisianos (Gs) 12. 15;
C. Butler (Dv) bt M. Denbow (Ox) 18. 8.
Final: BELLINGER bt Butler 14. -19, 9.

B.S: S'''I:
O. Goode IMil bl B. O'Grady IKI 13. 15:
R. Thomas (Do) bl P. Jones (Wal) 10. 12.
Final: GOODe bt Thomas 11, -22. 11.

G.S: ,-,.:
T. Moore ISx) bt S. Scott-Pawson (Do) 14. 19;
S. Webb (So) bl K. Baker (Mi) 16. 14.
Final: MOOR E bt Webb 9. 12.

M.O: **Final:**
G. e.k.r/M. **Oakley (Sy)** bt A. Moore/S. Moore (Sx) 19. 18.
W.O: Fin.l:
Bellinger/T--karisianos bt Denbow/ Moore 15. 10.

HEART OF ENGLAND CADET LEAGUE

WALSALL THE WINNERS

by Brian Aston

After the final session of matches at Leamington Boys' Club on Feb. 11, Walsall emerged as champions of the highly-successful inaugural season of the Heart of England Cadet League:

The winning team of Robert Till, Roger Brissett, Mark Stretton and Darren Stokes finished with two 10-0 victories over Worcester and Bromsgrove to complete a 100% record in the seven matches played. Rugby finished second with individual average winner David Thomas contributing to a fine team performance. Stratford came 3rd on the same number of points but with a lower games average than Rugby.

The session finished with a singles knock-out competition won by Rugby's David Thomas. He defeated Coventry's Richard Todd in a hard-hitting final. Mr. Charles Macintyre, Deputy General Manager of sponsors Heart of England Building Society, presented the trophies to Thomas and Dodd and the League Trophy was presented to the Walsall team by the man who designed and made in copper, a scale model of a table tennis table - Mr. Mick Fox. Any league interested for next season should contact me at Leamington Spa 29398.

Walsall's winning team of (l to r) Robert Till, Roger Brissett. Mark Stretton and Darren Stokes with Mr. Mick Fox who designed and made the Reynard Trophy. Photo by Malcolm Tandy. Leamington Spa.

Results:-

Evesham 6 Coventry 4
Worcester 0 Walsall 10
Bromsgrove 1 Rugby 9
Bromsgrove 0 Walsall 10
Coventry 4 leamington 6
Worcester 3 Rugby 7
Evesham 4 Stratford 6
Coventry 4 Stratford 6
Worcester 1 leamington 10

Averages:-

D. Thomas (Rugby)	95%
R. Brissett (Walsall)	94%
M. Stretton (Walsall)	90%
R. Todd (Coventry)	90%
R. Till (Wal.all)	83%
N. Betteridge (Strat)	76%
R. Loj (Rugby)	71%
B. Dalby (leamington)	71%

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	0	L	F	A	Pta
Wel••ll	7	7	0	0	59	11	14
Rugby	7	5	1	1	44	26	11
Stratford	7	5	1	1	39	31	11
leamington	7	4	0	3	37	33	B
Evesham	7	3	0	4	37	33	6
Bromsgrove	7	1	1	5	23	47	3
Coventry	7	0	2	5	2B	42	2
Worcester	7	0	1	6	13	57	1

LENTEC JUNIOR/CADET RANKINGS

ANDREA TAKES OVER

In the March issue of the Lentec Computer Ranking lists for Juniors and Cadets (under-14) the only No.1 position to change is in the Cadet Girls where Andrea Holt of Bury has displaced Claire Potts of Chester.

As more results have come in from tournaments. the number of players being accorded a ranking have increased by which' it is hoped to encourage **the** ambitions of those shown as having one foot on the ladder of success.

Revised rankings (previous position in brackets):-

BOVS

		Pts
1	Carl Prean (IOW) (1)	510
2	Andrew Syed (Bk) (2)	423.5
3	Chris Bartram (K) (3)	317.5
4	Andrew Cunningham (K) (12)	296
5	Jimmy Stokes (Bk) (4)	293
6	David Rook (V) (B)	284
7	David Goode (Mi) (7)	268
8	Adrian Dixon (St) (16)	247
9	Billy Gleave (Ch) (5)	245.5
10	Andrew Dodd (K) (6)	245
11	Murray Jukes (Wo) (19)	232
12	Mark Randle (Wa) (11)	219
13	Matthew Syed (Bk) (13)	215.5
14	Philip Huggon (La) (10)	205.5
15	Paul Amos (K) (23)	198
16	Richard Hayward (St) (22)	192
17	Darren McVitie (Du) (9)	190.5
18	Steven Dorking (E) (27)	188
19	Martin Firth (V) (15)	182
20	Richard Darnell (E) (17)	180
21	Clive Guest (V) (26)	173.5
22	David Blackburne (Du) (14)	167.5
23	Michael Thomas (Wa) (21)	161
24	Rodney Thomas (Do) (18)	157.5
25	Anthony Wattis (Cv) (29)	146.5
26	Philip Logsdon (Nk) (20)	145
27	Paul Savins (Bk) (35)	130.5
28	Howard Leigh (La) (39)	130.5
29	Stuart Craggs (Cv) (36)	130
30	Paul Elphick (Sx) (24)	117.5
31	Richard Tilford (Ng) (25)	114.5
32	Neil Pickard (Nk) (-)	96.5
33	Nicholas Newton (V) (28)	96
34	Mark Williams (K) (31)	95.5
35	Sean Gibson (La) (30)	95
36	Jonathan Goode (Mi) (45)	90.5
37	Bradley Billingtol) (Dy) (37)	88.5
38	Edward Smith (Nd) (38)	88.5
39	Andrew Oxley (Wi) (32)	88
40	Peter Holliday (Ca) (34)	84.5
41	Philip Payne (So) (33)	83.5
42	Johnathon Bradbury (Bu) (42)	83
43	John Bult (V) (-)	79.5
44	David Smth (Gs) (50)	77.5
45	Adrian Bolton (Ng) (-)	68.5
46	Karl Ball (K) (-)	66
47	Keith Weatherby (Ch) (41)	64.5
48	Paul Bumpus (Le) (44)	61.5
49	Michael O'Driscoll (V) (-)	60.5
50	Steven Meigh (St) (40)	57
51	Julian Dudman (Sy) (-)	57
52	Michael Rutherford (K) (-)	55.5
53	Shaun Carracio (Sk) (43)	54
54	Bernard Lazarus (E) (-)	52
55	Kevin Cartwright (St) (49)	51
56	Mark Wilding (Ha) (-)	50.5
57	Colin Hogarth (La) (46)	49.5
58	Gregory Barden (K) (-)	48
59	Paul Gooding (Sk) (-)	47.5
60	Arron Beckett (Gs) (48)	45.5
61	Peter Curry (Nd) (47)	44
62	Graham Kemp (Bk) (-)	42
63	Bernard O·Grady (K) (-)	41.5
64	Paul Lewis (Av) (-)	41
65	Craig Saunders (Gs) (-)	40.5
66	Tony West (E) (-)	40
67	Chris Rayment (Nk) (-)	40
68	Colin Wilson (Sp) (-)	38
69	Graham Reed (Co) (-)	36.5
70	David Cole (E) (-)	35.5
71	Alaric Bassano (V) (-)	35
72	R. Buxton (V) (-)	35
73	Simon Steward (Nk) (-)	34.5
74	Michael Harrison (K) (-)	34.5
75	David Fewsdale (Cv) (-)	34.5

GIRLS

1	lisa Bellinger (Bd) (1)	531
2	Susan Collier (Bk) (2)	499.5
3	Joanne Shaw (V) (5)	326
4	Jill Powis (St) (3)	292
5	Teresa Moore (Sx) (4)	249.5
6	Debbie Soothill (Cu) (8)	233.5
7	Claire Mouzon (Nd) (10)	173.5
8	Juliet Houghton (K) (9)	169
9	Laura Goldsmith (Mi) (6)	168.5
10	To Thuy Dung (Dy) (13)	161
11	Amanda Hegerty (St) (7)	158.5
12	Louise Davis (Wo) (11)	157.5
13	Lesley Popkiewicz (Sy) (19)	131.5
14	Sarah Webb (So) (14)	129.5
15	Rachel Knight (Mi) (33)	127.5
16	Alison Boxall (He) (12)	126.5
17	lisa Haydon (E) (17)	114
18	lisa Robins (Bd) (15)	112.5
19	Helen Perrott (Av) (31)	110.5
20	Claire Potts (Ch) (18)	109
21	Angela Sanders (St) (25)	109
22	Sarah Hammond (Ha) (16)	107.5
23	Tanya Holland (E) (-)	94
24	Samantha Scott-Pawson (Do) (21)	92.5
25	Sally Weston (Sx) (20)	85.5
26	Andrea Holt (La) (28)	85.5
27	Amanda Shufflebotham (Ox) (22)	79.5
28	Louise Forster (Le) (27)	71.5
29	Susan Butler (Dv) (26)	71
30	Ruth Bray (V) (23)	71
31	Julie Ballard (Sp) (38)	71
32	Debbie Simmons (Sy) (29)	70
33	Melonie McHale (Wa) (24)	67.5
34	Claire Hunter (Wi) (34)	66
35	Mandy Holmes (V) (30)	61
36	Alison Clemens (Co) (-)	60
37	Julie Billington (Dy) (-)	57
38	Alison Barker (Sp) (32)	47.5
39	Michelle Cohen (Av) (39)	46.5
40	Lynn **Trussel** (Sx) **(35)**	46
41	Gillian Patten (E) (36)	45
42	Alison Evans (V) (37)	43
43	Lesley Souter (Mi) (40)	37
44	Cheryl Bateman (Sy) (-)	36
45	Esme Stevenson (Co) (-)	36
46	Lynne Harrison (Ch) (-)	35
47	Gilliand Blanche (Mi) (-)	32.5
48	Claire Brooks (Sy) (-)	31.5
49	Jenny Ellery (Gs) (-)	31.5
50	Angela Huitt (V) (-)	29

CAD.ET BOVS

1	Matthew Syed (Bk) (1)	396.5
2	Bradley Billington (Dy) (2)	276.5
3	Sean Gibson (La) (5)	271
4	Michael O'Driscoll (V) (4)	184
5	Andrew Ball (V) (-)	179
6	Michael Rutherford (K) (3)	176
7	Neil Pickard (Nk) (7)	169.5
8	Chris Oldfield (V) (8)	153.5
9	Damian Holland (E) (6)	145
10	Michael Harrison (K) (12)	122
11	Adrian Bolton (Ng) (10)	117
12	Andrew Houghton (K) (9)	107.5
13	Gavin Black (Bd) (20)	104
14	Lee Brown (La) (14)	97
15	David Griffiths (E) (17)	89.5
16	David Carse (La) (11)	87
17	Dale Saunders (Gs) (13)	87
18	Nicholas Felton (Wa) (27)	86
19	Stuart Miller (Cv) (-)	84.5
20	Nicholas Ryder (V) (16)	81
21	David Morris (Sp) (19)	71.5
22	Neil Sims (V) (-)	71
23	Philip Szekeres (Mi) (15)	70.5
24	Robert Fearn (Ng) (-)	70
25	Mark Ward (V) (18)	66.5
26	Matthew Pernett (Sy) (21)	66
27	Andrew McKeown (Cv) (-)	64
28	David Wayson (Nd) (29)	60
29	Justin Goodall (Sp) (-)	57.5
30	Michael Roberts (K) (-)	57
31	David Smedley (Dy) (22)	51.5
32	Howard Williams (Gs) (23)	51
33	Adrian Thorp (St) (-)	50.5
34	David Butler (K) (24)	49
35	Andrew Eden (La) (30)	48.5
36	M. Roughley (-)	46.5
37	Martin Edwards (Wi) (25)	46.5
38	Simon Cooper (Sp) (26)	45
39	Richard Hutchinson (Sk) (-)	45
40	Darren Shaw (Nd) (28)	43
41	Michael Smeaton (V) (-)	40
42	Robert Vong (Ng) (-)	40
43	James Lawton (Dy) (-)	39
44	Garry Knights (Dy) (-)	38
45	Richard Todd (Wa) (-)	36
46	Brian Mileham (K) (-)	36
47	Phong Tran (Co) (-)	36
48	Richard Jones (Sy) (-)	36
49	Jonathan Collins (Ca) (-)	36
50	David Thomas (Wa) (-)	36

CADET GIRLS

1	Andrea Holt (La) (2j	324
2	Claire Potts (Ch) (1)	310.5
3	Kerry Hall (Dy) (3)	225.5
4	Amanda Shufflebotham (Ox) (4)	219
5	lisa Robins (Bd) (7)	214.5
6	Melonie Carey (So) (5)	185.5
7	Julie Billington (Dy) (6)	175
8	Tanya Holland (E) (8)	166
9	Helen Lower (St) (9)	149
10	Caroline Dada (V) (10)	117
11	Tracy Scott-Pawson (Do) (-)	91
12	Dawn Wickstead (Sp) (12)	90.5
13	Julie Norman (Bk) (11)	83.5
14	Debbie Toole (V) (-)	76
15	Julie Forster (Le) (22)	75
16	Hazel Kavanagh (Y) (15)	64
17	Sarah George (E) (21)	63.5
18	Joanne Cook (E) (13)	61.5
19	Jane Wright (Dv) (14)	61
20	Judith Grant (Du) (16)	57
21	Susan Richmond (V) (17)	53.5
22	Louise Sherratt (St) (19)	53.5
23	Kristina Cox (La) (27)	50
24	Karen Broczek (Co) (18)	49.5
25	Cheryl Bateman (Sy) (29)	46.5
26	Janine Harrison (V) (20)	44
27	Anne Pashley (Cv) (26)	43
28	Julie Brion (Bk) (-)	34
29	Andria Wood (Dy) (23)	32.5
30	Paula Collett (V) (24)	30.5

Lisa Bellinger, England's top girl and beaten finalist in the women's singles event at Bletchley.
Photos by Stephen Line, Shoreham-by-Sea

ST. NEOTS WINTER LEAGUE

By Leslie Constable

SENIOR DIVISION

Wellingborough have a five point lead at the head of the division and R.A. F. who are behind them are closely followed by St. Neots. Peterborough seemed doomed to take the wooden spoon although they only just lost to Ely by the odd set in nine but Cambridge who are just above them had a fine 6-3 win against Bedford. Another close match was between R.A. F. and Kettering with the Airmen surprisingly taken to the odd set which dimmed their chances of, the championship. Leading positions with two matches to playare:-

	P	Pts
Wellingborough	7	50
R.A.F.	7	45
St. Neots	7	43
Bedford	7	36
Ely	7	34

VETERANS' DIVISION

Although Barnet clinched the title, it was· close as St. Neots "A" came from behind with two resounding victories in their last matches by 90 over Hunts Central and North Herts. As it was Barnet only clinched the title by one point and this was achieved only by beating Cambridge 6-3. In this match there was one set that virtually decided the title between Brian Gale of Barnet and Ken Green. It went to three and the last game going to expedite with the score at 24-23 in favour.of Gale. With Green to serve the position was tense but Green attempted a forehand kill and just-missed the edge leaving Gale the winner which also left a big smile on the face of the umpire (Derek Somers) and handshakes all round. Bad luck for St. Neots but a very good finish to the league.

St. Neots "B" took the wooden spoon. No player was unbeaten although two only lost once - D. Somers of Barnet who lost to Alan Harding of North Herts and D. Seaholme of North Herts lost to Len Saywell of St. Neots. Congratulations to the team of Brian Gale, Alan Lamprell and Derek Somers of'Barnet and to the worthy team from St. Neots of Len Saywell, Gus Albon and Ron Norton. Somers and Seaholme will be Nos. 1 and 2 seeds respectively in the Annual Tournament on April 28.

Note:- Owing to the non-attendance of Northampton on two days all their matches were cancelled and they also forfeit their fee.

Final positions:-

	P	Pts
Barnet	8	57
St.. Neots "A"	8	56
Cambridge	8	46
North Herts	8	44

JUNIOR DIVISION

With Northampton scoring a 9-0 victory against North Herts in their last match of the season they gained the honours despite losing to Bedford 3-6 who have to take runners-up position. What a finish for the headshipl Jimmy Walsh the North Herts No. 1 was unbeaten until their last match with Northampton - bad luck Jimmyl

Finishing positions:-

	P	Pts
Northampton	9	72
Bedford	9	71
North Herts	9	58
Wellingborough	9	46

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Dunlop National School Team Championships

by Lomas

Five of the eight titles at stake were being defended when the Finals of the Dunlop National School Team Championships-organised by the ESTIA-were due to take place at Lea Green, Matlock, Derbyshire, on Saturday, March 24.

The twenty-four finalists teams (4-a-side) had fought their way through local, county, area and regional events which in some localities had started way back last September. The final hurdle to qualify for the Association's eighteenth annual Championships came on Sunday, Feb. 26 when the three Regional Finals were held at Leeds, Stroud and Orpington.

There were some familiar names of schools amongst those who qualified but it seems that' the days of the multiple qualifiers are over. Only one school- Wold Junior High, Hull, have more than one team involved (Girls' U13 and U11). And there are first-ever Finals appearances from Avon (Hayesfield School, Bath) and the "new" Warwickshire (Lawrence Sheriff School, Rugby) as well as local ihvolvement in the shape of Dronfield Junior School, Chesterfield (Derbyshire).

REGIONAL FINALS Results:

NORTH REGION (Leeds)
BOYS' U-19 Robert Pattinson. North Hykeham (Lincolnshire) The Lincolnshire champions (third in the national final in 1983) had comfortable wins. 8-0. 7-1. 6-2. Stuart Worrell Andrew Burwell were unbeaten.
GIRLS' U-19 Buttershaw. Bradford (West Yorkshire)
Former Wibsey Middle School pupils Rachel Beaumont. Julie Stocks. Caroline Stocks and Wendy Pearson dropped only one set as they easily defeated Priors Pursglove.- Guisborough (Cleveland), Fleetwood Hesketh High (Lancashire) and Boston High (Lincolnshire).
BOYS' U-16 **Kettlethorpe** High. **Wakefield** (West Yorkshire)
A return to Lea Green for former Sandal Endowed Middle School pupils who were finalists in the Boys' U-13 event in 1981. Andrew Ball appeared at No. 1 to underline his improvement since his No.4 spot last year. Richard Hurley and Simon Arnold were unbeaten as they pushed Millom into second place.
GIRLS' U-16 Caistor Grammar (Lincolnshire)
Only three teams in this event. Caistor hope to improve on last yea"s joint second place slot. They defeated Castleford High (West Yorkshire) 5-3 to qualify. Lancaster Girls' G.S. in third place.
BOYS' U-13 **Batteyford** CE Middle. **Mirfield** (West Yorkshire)
A rare appearance from Kirklees - but only just! Three 5-3 margins. No.1 Nicky Ryder unbeaten.
GIRLS' U-13 Wold Junior High. Hull (Humberside)
Convincing "clean sweep" by Wold who return to do battle with holders, The Grove, Market Drayton. Their team: Paula Hookem, Rachel Metcalfe. Kerry Jackson and Deborah Leyland.
BOYS' U-11 Dronfield Junior. Chesterfield (Derbyshire)
Dronfield will be hoping to regain the trophy they won in 1982. No.2, Daniel Oakley unbeaten.
GIRLS' U-11 Wold Junior High. Hull (Humberside)
Wold won this title in 1980 and 1982. The qualifying stage for this event onfy was held on a separate day at Sandal Endowed School, Wakefield with five teams involved. Highfield Primary, Chorley (Lancashire) were runners-up.
The main events were held at Moor Grange High School, Leeds. Organiser was John Arnold, Chairman of the ESTIA.

MIDLANDS" WEST REGION (Stroud)
BOYS' U-19 Lawrence **Sheriff,** Rugby (Warwickshire)
England-ranked Juniors Mark Randle (12) and Michael Thomas (23) head this challenge from Rugby. They had comfortable wins over challengers from Staffordshire, Cornwall and Dorset.
GIRLS' U-19 (Avon)
First-ever finalists from Avon al.though they only drew 4-4 with Codsall High, Wolverhampton.
BOYS' U-16 (Cornwall)
Another new name - and a long joumey for Cornwall hopes, Launceston College who have a good, strong quartet.
GIRLS' U-16 **Highfield·· Wolverhampton** (West Midlands)
Defending champions, Highfields, look confident of another national title. Angela Sanders at No.1.
BOYS' U-13 Mary Webb. (Shropshire)
Defending champions, Mary Webb. include two of last year's team in their line-up.
GIRLS' U-13 **The Grove, Market Drayton** (Shropshire)
The Grove - also defending champions - will be hoping to make it another Shropshire U-13 "double". A strong line-up.
BOYS' U-11 **Merridale Primary, Wolverhampton** (West Midlands)
Any team that can ensure the exit of Market Drayton Junior School must be considered as strong contenders.
GIRLS' U-11 **Market Drayton** Junior (Shropshire)
The Market Drayton girts managed to do what their boys couldn't - Qualify.
The venue was Stroud Leisure Centre. Organiser ESTIA Competitions Secretary. Eddie Mitchell.

SOUTH ft EAST REGION **(Orpington)**
BOYS' U-19 **Bedford Modern** (Bedfordshire)
Bedfordshire have four teams through but only one boys' team. The Bedford Modern team had quite a battle with Stapney Green (Inner London) before Winning 5-3.
GIRLS' U-19 **Brampton** Manor. **Newham** (Essex Metropolitan)
A welcome return for a Newham team. Teams from the London Borough of Newham dominated the Championships in the earty seventies. They defeated three times champions Goffs (Herts) 7-1. A good day for Brampton No.1. Gillian Patten. unbeaten, including wins over Alison Boxall and Michelle Hams.
BOYS' U-16 **Maiden Erlegh,** (Berkshire)
Syed brothers, Andrew and Matthew, at 1 and 2 and Paul Savins at 31 No wonder Maiden. Erlegh looked set to retain their title.
GIRLS' U-16 **Putteridge High,** Luton (Bedfordshire)
Runners-up last year. But no match for Highfields?
BOYS' U-13 Wallop. (Surrey County)
Wallop proved too strong for Orwell Park (Suffolk). Last yea"s Boys' U-11 champions.
GIRLS' U-13 **Stopsley** High. Luton (Bedfordshire)
A national final return trip for the second of the Luton trio.
U-11 **Downside,** (Surrey Metropolitan)
A first-ever appearance in the finals for Downside who registered a nail-biting 5-3 win over Old Buckenham Hall (Suffolk) in the final match. Already Croydon and Surrey champions Downside are a competent team.
GIRLS' U-11 Junior. Luton (Bedfordshire)
Ramridge put up quite a fight to deny a Croydon"double" when they defeated Applegarth Junior School, 5-3, in the separately-staged Girls' U-11 event.
Venue was the award-winning Walnuts Sports Centre.
It is hoped to include a full illustrated report of the National Finals in next month's issue.

The eleventh Dunlop English Schools' Individual Championships are due to take place at Mansfield Leisure Centre on Saturday, May 5th (9 a.m.).

ESTTA Competitions Secretary. Eddie Mitchell told me that entries could well top the 300 mark and that there was every possibility that a record number of the Association's 50 counties would be represented.

LANCASHIRE JUNIOR OPEN

VENUE PAR EXCELLENCE

by George Yates

The Lancashire Junior 2-Star Open took on a new lease of life when, after many years in the sombre sports hall of Bolton's Institute of Higher Education, the splendour of Oldham's Queen Elizabeth Hall provided the setting for this season's event which took place on Sunday, March 11.

Placed at the disposal of the Oldham and District League, without charge, by the Arts and Recreation Committee of Oldham Metro Borough Council this venue, with its splendid wooden flooring, lofty ceiling and two **bars** at either side of the hall, was somewhat unique especially with an all-day licence prevailing!

It rated highly both by the players and their parents, expecially the latter, who could either drown their sorrows or raise their glass as needs be. All credit then to Stuart Sneyd, the tournament organiser and referee, who made an impressive debut in this twin role, aptly.abetted on the control table by Marjorie Riddle and Amanda Goodwin: **the** latter a Lancashire county player.

Present too were the Oldham League's President, Don Taylor, who is also the Oldham Chronicle's Sports Editor, and Chairman Ken Jackson the latter also taking on the onerous task of umpiring as indeed did the Lanes TTA Chairman, Arthur Upton.

Providing the icing on the cake were the wins by Lancastrians, Philip Huggon and Andrea Holt. in the boys' singles and cadet girls' singles respectively, their final victims being the higher-ranked David Rook and Claire Potts.

The four other titles at stake went elsewhere. Jill Powis was the winner of the girls' singles, Michael O'Driscoll took the cadet boys' singles title whilst the two double events were won by Bradley Billington and Rook and by Laura Goldsmith and Joanne Shaw.

Entrants from Norway, Ireland and Wales added to *the* prestige of the tournament and it was a pity that two pairs of Irish girls had to concede their quarter-finals because of having to catch a boat, from Liverpool to Dublin, leaving the Mersey at 10.30 p.m. Nonetheless Eddie Limberg was full of praise for his charges especially Colin Inglis, from Ulster, who reached the last 16 in the boys' singles before losing to Chris Bartram.

And another overseas VISitor, Anders Hovden, did even better in reaching the semis at which stage the Norwegian was eliminated by O'Driscoll, the later recipient of "The Jill Hammersley-Parker Trophy" awarded and presented by Jill herself to complete a memorable day.

Lancashire.Junior 2-Star Open

Boys' Singl--: Quarter-finals:
C. **Bartram** (Kl bt A. Eden (La) 19. 13;
D. Rook (Y) bt E. Sm;th (Nd) 13. 17;
P. Huggan (La) bt D. Slackburne (Du). -15. g. 12;
A. Hovden (Nor) bt M. O'Driscoll (Vl **-23,** 16. t 6.

Semi-final.:
Rook bt Bartram' 1**7,** 18;
Huggon bt Hovden 6. **13.**

Final: **HUGGON** bt Rook 9. 14.

Girls' Singles: Quarter-final.:
J. Pow;s (St) bt E. Wr;ght (W.I) 14. 15;
L. Davis (Wo) bt D. Bromley (Wa) -16, 13. 9;
L. **Goldsmith** (Mi) bt H. Lower (St)-13. 18, 20;
J. Shaw (V) bt D. Soothill (Cui 17, 15.

Semi-final.:
Powis bt Davis 15.16;
Shaw bt Goldsmith -17.13.10.
Fln.l: POWIS bt Shaw 14. 16.

Cadet Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
B. **Billington** (Dy) bt A. Bolton (Ng) 16, 12;
C. **Oldfield** (Y) bt D. **Carse** (La) 12. -15. 16;
L. **Brown (La)** bt A. B.IIIY) -14, 19. 20;
O'Driscoll bt N. Ryder (V) 13. 14.
Semi-finals:
Billington bt Oldfield 16. -17. 20;
O'Driscol' bt Brown -20. 16, 18.
Final: O'ORISCOLL bt Billington 16, -19, 18.

Cadet Girls' **Singl--**: Quarter-finals:
C. Potts (Ch) bt E. M.dd;ngs (Y) 6. 7;
K. H.ll (Dy) bt C. O.d. (Y) 10. 10;
D. Wickstead (Sp) bt J. Billington (Dy) -17. 15. 15;
A. Holt (L.) bt H. Low., (St) **11,** 15.
Semi-finals:
Potts bt Hall 18, 8;
Holt bt Wickstead **-21,** 9. 10.
Final: HOLT bt Potts 19. **18.**

Boy'. Double.: Quarter-fina'.:
Blackburne/Smith bt Bartram/Huggon 15. 19;
J. Hogarth/H. Leigh (La) bt Bolton/Bumpus **(La) 19,** 17;
Oldfield/N. Simms (V) bt O'Driscoll/Ryder 8. 19;
Billington/Rook bt L. Brown (La)/Carse 16. 12.
Semi-finals:
Hogarth/Leigh bt **Blackburne/Smith** 16. 19;
Billington/Rook bt Oldfield/Simms 18, 16.
Fin.l: BILLINGTON/ROOK bt Hogarth/L.;gh 17. 19.

Girt.' Doubl--: Quarter-final.:
Goldsmith/Shaw w.o. K. Stafford/O. Stevenson (Ire) scr;
H. Cotter (Wal)/Wright bt J. Harrison/D. Toole (V) 13. 15;
Holt/Potts bt Powis/L. Sherratt (St) 19. 8;
Davis/Soothill w.o. C. Anderson/E. McManus (Ire) scr.
Semi-fina'.:
Goldsmith/Shaw bt Cotter/Wright 13. 11;
Holt/Potts bt Davis/Soothill **-21,** 21, 21.
Final: GOLOSMITH/SHAW bt Holt/Potts 11. 6.

FINALIST AND GUESTS

Back Row L to R: Phillip Huggon. Howard Leigh. David Rook. Bradley Bitlington. Colin Hogarth. Laura Goldsmith. Michael O·Driscoll. Front Row L to R: Clair Potts. Andrea Holt. Don Taylor (President. Oldham League). Jill Hammersley-Parker M.B.E.• CUr Syd Jacobs (Chairman. Arts & Recreation. Oldham M.B.C.), Jill Powis. Joanne Shaw. Photograph by courtesy of Clarke and Ashton (Shaw). Colour prints obtainable - Tel: Shaw (0706) 844369.

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BRITAIN'S NO.1 SPORTS EQUIPMENT RETAILER

CHESHIRE INDIVIDUAL SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIP

By Peter J. Harwood

The new venue of Verdin School, Winsford brought a new era in Cheshire schools table tennis. No longer eligible were former stalwarts who have dominated the 'competition in recent years, and the way was open for new players to make their names.,

The Potts family duo of Claire and Helen swept all before them in the girls' events. Helen won comfortably in the U-11's against Clare Crook who had a tense semi against Nicola Harwood. Helen also reached the final of the U-13's after a close semi against Alison Jones, but in the final Claire proved too strong.

It was Claire again in the U-16's girls' and although scores of 13 and 12 look comfortable, she was made to work for every point by a determined Angie Tickle.

In the youngerbpys' events, Kings School, Chester were dominant, providing three of the semi-finalists in the U-11 's. In the first semi C. Blackmore defeated his schoolmate R. Thompson and in the other James Spencer was just too good for Robin Ainsworth. In the fi'nal, Spencer beat Blackmore and again in the semi of the U-13's. In the second semi the hard-hitting penholder style of Paul Madden provided an interesting tactic in what was probably the closest match of the day, when he defeated W. Barlow 21 in the third. However in the final Paul only really did himself justice in the second game but still lost narrowly to' James Spencer.

There was drama in the U-16 boys' when Martin Thomson defeated No.1 seed and highly-ranked Simon Jones. This was obviously Martin's day because he was irrepressible, with his superbly timed loops producing sustained attacking play. Con,sequently, Colin Eden, who had defeated Matthew Lenton in the other semi, searched in vain for an effective reply.

,Colin was unlucky again in the U-19's when, in the semi, he was up against Jones out to make amends for his earlier lapse. In the final it was J. Treweek versus Jones with Simon the winner.

Results:

Under-11 Girls' Semi Finals:
C. Crook (Murdishaw West) bt N. Harwood (St. Martins) 17. -21.15;
H. Potts (Oldfield) bt W. McGinn (St. Martins) 2.5.
Final: POTTS bt Crook 2. 4.

Under-13 Girls' Semi Finals:
C. Potts (Christleton) bt L Tickle (Dane Valley) 5. 3;
H. Potts bt A. Jones (Kingsway) 21. 13.
Final: C. POTTS bt H. Potts 7.5.

Under-16 Girls' Semi Finals:
C. Potts bt S. Walker (Dane Valley) 7.4;
A. Tickle (St. Chads) bt T. Bromley (Dane Valley) 6. 7.
Final: POTTS bt Tickle 13. 12.

Under-11 Boys' Semi Finals:
C. Blackmore (Kings) bt R. Thompson (Kings) 14. 13; ,
J. Spencer (Kings) bt R. Ainsworth (Murdishaw West) 3. 9.
Final: SPENCER bt Blackmore 11. 13.

Under-13 Boys' Semi Finals:
Spencer bt Blackmore 14. 15;
P. Madden (Henbury) bt W. Barlow (Henbury) 19. -18. 21.
Final: SPENCER bt Madden 9. 20.

Under-16 Boys' Semi Finals:
M. Thomson (Verdin) bt S. Jones (Kingsway) 17. 15;
C. Eden (Culcheth) bt M. Lenton (Dane Valley) 19. 9.
Final: THOMSON bt Eden 11, 15.

Under-19 Boys' Semi Finals:
J. Treweek (Kings) bt Thomson 15, 17;
Jones bt Eden 7, 10.
Final: JONES bt Treweek 16, 19.

OBITUARY - S. H. CREVALD

The Slough and District Table Tennis League suffered a great loss at the end of January when its most faithful servant Sidney Herbert Crevald passed -away.

Mr. Crevald - he was always respectfully addressed as Mr. - had been President of the League since 1958 and only last May' was presented with a silver tray to commemorate twenty-five years in office. He was still President at the time of his death, at the age of 86, and will be sadly missed. His involvement had been curtailed through illness in the last couple of years but hitherto was present at most Management Committee meetings and'even to the,end was always at local tournaments to present the awards.

He came into table tennis in the early fifties, rather late in life and played at a modest level. Life has givers and takers and Mr. Crevald, a man of strong character, gave more to table tennis than most. In 1955 he became a vice-President of the League, and in the same year founded the Langley and District Club which, under his.guidance, ran a number of teams for five seasons. He became a devoted supporter of Slough and Buckinghamshire table tennis and hardly an event of any nature, inter-league, county·or domestic competition, passed without his being present and the players gratefully accepting the refreshments always kindly provided by Mr. Crevald and his late first wife.

Perhaps Mr. Crevald's greatest moment in table tennis came in his second season in office when, on 19th November, 1959, the Slough League played host to the famous Chinese at Slough Community Centre. It was the first match ever to be played by China in this country and it was the first international event of any sport to be played in Slough.

He became involved in county ,table tennis and edited the Buckinghamshire newsletter "Sand to Sponge" and was then elected as President of the county association in 1964, a position he held until June of last year.

Mr. Crevald leaves a widow, Ruth, to whom all in the Slough and District Table Tennis League offer their heartfelt condolences.

Graham Trimming,
Chairman.

OBITUARY

JAMES GORDON BIGNELL

James Gordon Bignell died peacefully on February 16th, 1984 at Leicester Royal Infirmary, after a long illness borne with characteristic courage and cheerfulness, and· those of us who knew him are all the sadder for his passing.

Jim was one of those enthusiasts whose contribution to Northants Table Tennis was all the more remarkable as his participation was solely as an administrator and benefactor.

From 1969 to 1979 he was County President and prior to his departure from the area he even provided the Association with an excellent secretary in the person of his wife Barbara, to whom our deepest sympathy is extended at this time.

In 1970 he donated the County League Cup which is competed for annually, but this was only the tip of the iceberg, and his financial backing and examples when County fortunes were at a low ebb, was the inspiration which gave his c.ontemporaries the necessary enthusiasm to persevere, and the Association to flourish.

One's memories of the Closed Tournaments of his era are not necessarily of the players taking part, but of Jim Bignell's dedication and fortitude, as often into the small hours of the morning he remained watchful and enthusiastic to pay his compliments, and make the presentation to the eventual victors. We have much to learn from his splendid example. May he rest in peace.

Dennis W. Millman.

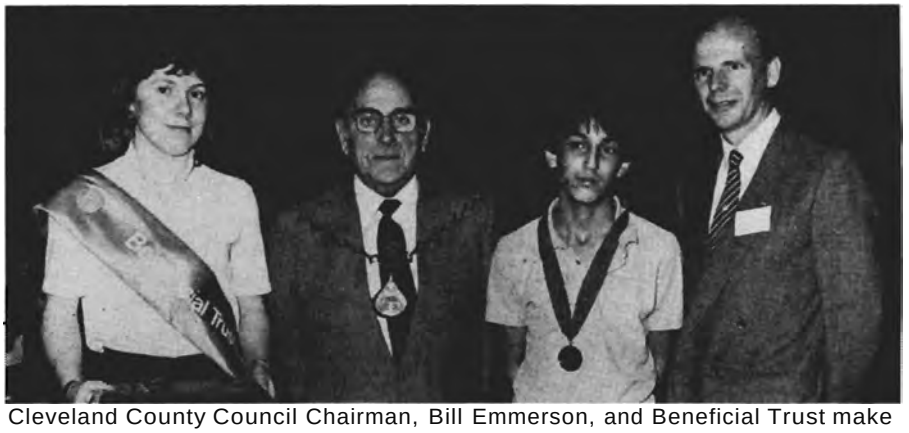
BENEFICIAL TRUST CLEVELAND JUNIOR SELECT

By Alan Ransome

English champions Andrew Syed and Lisa Bellinger added the Beneficial Trust Cleveland Junior Open Championships to their national titles at Eston Leisure Centre on Sunday, Feb. 19.

Syed was troubled only once on the way to the final by Yorkshire cadet Michael O'Driscoll, who won the middle game 21 -1 7. Against Andrew Cunningham, Syed enjoyed a comfortable final.

England No. 2 seed Lisa Bellinger was never troubled on her way to winning **the** title. No player reached more than 14 points against the champion in one game.



Cleveland County Council Chairman, Bill Emmerson, and Beneficial Trust make the presentation to Andrew Syed.

Photo by courtesy of Cleveland Leisure Services.

E.T.T.A. Chairman, Tom Blunn, and Beneficial Trust's Financial Director, **Mr.** G. J. Geary, make the presentation to Lisa Bellinger.

Photo credit: Cleveland County Leisure Services.

R••ult.:
8.S: A. Syed 18k) bt A. Cunningham (K) 15. 17.
G.S: L Bell;nger (Bd) bt **J.** Shaw (V) 10. **8.**
B.O: D. McVitie/O. Blackburn. (Ou) bt B. Billington **(Dy)/S.** G;bson **(La)** 14. -17. 17,
G.D: Bellinger/T. Moore ISx) bt L Goldsmith (M)/ Shaw -14. 17. 17,
C.B.S: M. Syed (Bk) bt G;b.on 1B, 1B.
C.G.S: A. Holt **(La)** bt C. Pan. (Ch) -B. 16. 14.
C.B.D: N. Pickard (Nk)/A Bolton (Ng) bt N. Felton (Wa)/O. Holland (E] 13. B.
C,G.D: A. Shuffle_am 10x)/T. Holland (E) bt pon. / Holt 19, 20.
U-11 8.5: A. Eden **(La)** bt L. Jeffries, (Wa) 15. 13.
B.T: Gillette Reading (A. Syed. J. Stokes) bt **Larkhall** (P. Huggon. C. **Bartram)** 3-0.
G.T: Bexhillians (Bellinger. Moore) bt Melling (D. Southill. C. Moulon) **3-0.**
C.B.T: Pengryff (Gibson. Billington) bt South **Yorks** (C. Oldfield. **M.** O'Oriscoll) 3-0,
C.G.T: **Activity** (J. B;Wngton, K, Hall) bt AIR **(Holt,** Pons) 3-1.

THE VETERAN SCENE

By Gerry Batt-Rawden

The first National Veterans' Championships

We have been very fortunate to obtain sponsorship for this event from Ladbroke Hotels and accordingly they will be held at the Watford Leisure Centre, Horseshoe Lane, Watford, Hertfordshire. Tel. 0923 670644 over the Bank Holiday weekend 26th to 28th May, 1984 inclusive.

Entry Forms:
M. Watts, 53 Solway, Hempstead Park, Hailsham, BN27 3HB. Please include a stamped addressed envelope.

PROGRAMME OF EVENTS:
Saturday 26th. Men's over 40, 50, 60 Doubles. Women's over 40, 50, 60 Doubles. Women's over 40, 50, 60 singles groups. Evening buffet dance.
Sunday, 27th. Men's over 40, 50,60 groups singles. Evening there will be an informal discussion for all society members with your committee where it is hoped that any ideas or suggestions can be discussed with a view to bettering the Society.
Monday, 28th. Knock-out for all singles with the finals being held at 4 p.m. approx.
Membership. At the time of writing we have 78 members with more coming in every day. The cost of membership is £1 0 and forms can be obtained from either **W.** Moran, 9 Rupert Road, Grimsby, South Humberside, or M. Watts, 53 Solway, Hempstead Park, Hailsham, BN27 3HB. Membership cards are currently being produced and for this we are being sponsored by Crest Hotels. The cards should be available by mid April.
NEWS Letter. At a recent committee meeting it was agreed to promote a newsletter with the Press Officer responsible for collating news-worthy material pertaining to V.E.T.T.S. If you wish to air any views please write in to Gerry Batt-Rawden, 18 Nevill Cottages, Ditchling, East Sussex BN6 BUT.
World Veteran Championships.
These are being held in Helsinki, Finland 7th to 10th June, 1984 inclusive. Airline seats have been booked and there are some still available at £174 return.
Details. Wed. June 6th Flight No. BA668 from London Heathrow. Depart 1115 hrs. arrive Helsinki 1610 hrs. Monday 11 th June either Flight No. BA669 departing 1700 hrs. arrive Heathrow 1805 hrs. or Fin Air Flight No. AY831 , depart 0910 hrs. arrive Heathrow 1010 hrs.
Logo. The committee have approved a design which basically contains the letters V.E.T.T.S. in an oval shape coloured maroon and white.

Derek Schofield, Cheshire's veteran supreme, being presented with his trophy at Bletchley by ETTA Chairman, Tom Blunn, after his final victory over Ralph Gunnion in the men's veteran event of the Norwich Union English Closed.

Photo by Stephen Line, Shoreham-by-Sea.

BOOKS ON TABLE TENNIS

By Barry Hayward

Whilst researching Table Tennis literatlJre for the book "Table Tennis Now" (which I co-authored with Phil Burwell) a friend showed me a copy of Richard Bergmann's marvellous book "Twenty-one Up". Bergmann's book which is largely biographical, paints an exciting picture of his table tennis career spanning three decades. Few players today realise that Bergmann was, throwing out £1,000 challenges over 35 years ago (still more than any prize in this country - Charles Church Championship apart - even with today's professionals). Bergmann's book really is compulsive reading and I suppose that this book, more than any other, persuaded me to collect as many books on Table Tennis as I could, but it wasn't until about two years ago that my search started in earnest.

Mostly by scouring second-hand booksellers in the Birmingham area, I was able to collect about 18 books in a matter of about 3 weeks but I do confess to owning about 5 fairly recent publications with which to start. I thought that at this rate of progress, I would soon get the lot! After all there couldn't be more than about 30 or so, could there?

Shortly after this, the first seeds of doubt were sown, when after examining a 1960 copy of Jack Carrington's "Modern Table Tennis", I found much to my consternation, that there were 3 previous editions and two reprints of that book alone. It was about this time that Maurice Goldstein suggested to me that Ron Crayden might be a useful source of information. He thought that he had heard Ron mention" his few books". A quick line to Ron revealed that he had indeed "a few books" - over 300 to be more precise and this is in addition to his huge stocklists of magazines, prograrTlmeS and Table Tennis memorabilia. Ron Crayden's remarkable collection includes some 20-odd books in the' Russian language, over 40 in German plus TT books in another 20 languages and every one different to any other.

'Using Ron's catalogue as my 'bible', I was able to tackle my collecting more systematically, after all it's considerably easier trying to "find something if you know exactly what it is that you are looking for. I then spent a few weekends in selected areas such as Bath, London and Hay-on-Wye, purposely to forage amongst the bookshops of those areas. Unfortunately the finds tend to be few and far between - but when they do come to light, you can be sure that the titles of Kelen or Schiff, Carrington or Leach, certainly do not command the prices asked for first editions of Dickens or Byron. I would imagine that the average price I have had to pay in a second-hand bookshop would be about 75p and quite frequently less than halfof that.

My collection gradually built up and after a while I found my chances of happening across a fresh book were becoming distinctly remote, and so I approached a couple of dealers and asked them to locate specific books for me. Regrettably this means paying anything up to £10 for a book in this country and for some of the ones I have acquired from the States the fees are higher still.

From my collection (for the moment I am concentrating on books in the English language) I gain enormous enjoyment, particularly from the older books which contain some real gems such as when Arnold 'Ping Pong' Parker describes the ladies' game in 1902 "Skirts should clear the ground and trains are to be avoided, the bodice sleeves should be long but sufficiently loose to permit freedom of movement"' or from Coleman Clark's "Modern Ping Pong" 1933 – "A young lady was having the time of her life at a house party and wrote to her father 'am having a lovely time with Ping Pong'. Anxious father hastily wired back 'For God's sake - Don't marry a Chinaman: "

Some of the equipment in use seemed a trifle strange as when Parker again recommends lighting arrangements - "On the wall each side of the room place hooks so that a wire can be stretched between them, crossing directly over the middle of the table. An incandescent burner can be hung on this and toe gas connected with it whenever necessary by means of india rubber tubes from the side burners" or, from the same book "Many people having found the exercise of picking up balls too much for them, several instruments for picking them up without the necessity for stooping have been put on the market:' But there again, some things haven't changed at all - "The future of T.T. hangs on one factor. How much can the public's interest be sustained and what crowds can the game attrack?" - Istvan Kelen, "Success at Table Tennis" 1936 or perhaps - "Table Tennis is a sport, not a battlefield for spoilt children" - Leslie Woollard, "Table Tennis" 1952 but costs certainly have changed "No racket costs more than 5/-" - Eric Hyde "Table Tennis" 1936.

Probably the biggest revelations on Table Tennis, concern its various devotees from the silver screen and the world of sport - "Gloria Swanson plays regularly,...." "Amongst those who play are Max Schmellirfg, Joan Crawford, John Barrymore, Mary Pickford, Fay Wray, Bing Crosby...:' - "Harold Lloyd is the Chairman of the Pacific Coast Ping Pong Association...." - IIBobby Jones thinks Table Tennis is the best indoor game he knows...:' - "Gertrude Lawrence considers the game ideal as a conditioner for her stage appearances....." - "Ginger Rogers is a staunch T.T. Fan...:' C. J. Schaad 1930 and Emily Fuller 1942 and occasionally revelations of another sort - "My consolation was not going to be the privilege of cursing him (Satoh) in German the way Sledgehammer Sido had in Bombay, or calling him a bloody bastard as Bergmann had done, or kicking the table a la the great Hungarian Koczian" - Marty Reisman "The Money Player" 1974 or, in a completely different vein- "I don't know what to buy the twins for Christmas" said Mr. Rowe to his wife- Wyndham Charles "Table Tennis Twins" 1967.

Amongst all the strange and unexpected trivia I think that Cornelius Schaad's description of the Douglas game as played in the U.S.A. in 1928 to be the most peculiar - "There are occasions when a doubles team has one expert singles player and such teams are apt to try what I term modified singles. The partner of the singles expert serves when it comes to his turn and also receives the service of an opponent, then he immediately sits in a comfortable armchair and the singles expert gets into action and plays out the rally" - "A Manual of Ping Pong" 1928. Mr. Schaad goes on to say that "doubles play is particularly appropriate at parties" – I bet it is!

I now have 87 different books in the English language butthere are still some comparatively recent publications that I have been unable to obtain. For example I still need Ian Harrison's "How to play against sponge" or Chester Barnes' "The Championship Game". I should be delighted to hear from anyone who has a collection or who wishes to start one. I have about 20-odd 'swaps' to exchange, including a couple of pre-war books, and I can promise a most interesting and rewarding hobby if anyone decides to cultivate a collection. Alternatively, if anyone has any TT books they would be prepared to sell or exchange I would be pleased to hear from them my address being 38 Aldridge Road, Streetly, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, B74 3TT.

POSTBAG

GENTLEMEN AND PLAYERS

Most offices at all levels in Table Tennis are held byvolunteers, butthey are still accountable for their performance at the AGM. An absence of comment usually indicates apathy and lack of interest rather than approval of one's record. Peter Charters fails to appreciate that the critics wish T.T. to be successful but they are concerned with the continuing decline in our fortunes.

Those persons holding senior offices at National level should be of the highest calibre as their decisions can affect the future of the game and they should not over-react to criticism -as President Truman once said - "If you can't stand the heat, stay out of the kitchen!''

In my experience, most League Committees are not interested in the affairs of the E.T.T.A. as they are fully involved in providing the weekly match. However, the situation could rapidly change if the affiliation fees' show a large increase as the Leagues will be less tolerant of ineffective management.

At the root of many of the problems facing T.T. is that it is unable to decide whether it is amateur or professional and it often ends up with the worst of both worlds. In order to survive in a commercial world, the game needs to be managed with businesslike efficiency but this would involve radical changes at odds with present thinking. It should be recognised that T.T. does not come over well on TV, although its cause is often not helped by inane commentaries and this makes it more difficult to obtain sponsorship. In addition, the sport is in competition for youngsters' leisure time with other activities offering better facilities.

Other sports faced with similar problems of falling attendances and reduced finances have managed to survive by changes in attitudes. Even the traditionally conservative cricket has been converted to commercialism and all competitions bear the name of a sponsor- however, they have avoided the trap of being sponsored by manufacturers who can dictate the equipment to be used. The one day game has proved popular and the rules of the game have been changed where necessary. The queues outside the M.C.C. shop at Lords testify to their success in marketing sportswear and souvenirs.

I list below for consideration, a few ideas for which I do not claim originality, but they may serve as a starting point. The translation of any ideas into practice requires hard. work and dynamic leadership, in which I trust T.T. is not lacking.

1. The best method of raising extra revenue is by increasing membership and campaign should be organised for next season. As an incentive, Leagues achieving an increase should be excused paying affiliation fees for each new team in the first year. The majority of players are unaware of the crisis facing the sport and this is due to the gap which has been allowed to widen between the grass roots and those at National level.

the establishment of further Table Tennis centres is vital and the ETTA in conjunction with local associations should launch joint ventures.

2. Peter Charters refers to a "complicated network" (in administration)- can this be simplified to improve efficiency and decision making. Is a National Council essential. or would a smaller body composed of regional representatives be more effective? Do we need all those sub-committees? If there is nobody within the organisation capable of making such a study then a consultant should be employed.

3. Extra income could be raised by the formation of a "Table Tennis Supporters' Club" with an annual subscription of £10.00. As an incentive to join, discounts be offered on "Table Tennis News," sports equipment and tickets for Championship finals, etc.

4. A full time Commercial Manager with ideas, flair and business experience should be appointed and he would be directly responsible to the Chairman for sponsorship deals. T.T. sportswear and equipment should be sold directly at all events and it should be obtained from whoever can offer the best combination of price and quality anywhere in the world. The manufacture of our own equipment should also be considered, even although it might upset existing arrangements. The person appointed would also handle all aspects of marketing. Obviously, a first-class person would expect to be well remunerated by a basic salary and a good commission on profits.

5. It would appear that T.T., like some British industries,' can learn from Germany and Asia. The Bundesliga can afford to pay our top players a good living. We should learn and implement the lessons of how to successfully market T.T. in this country.

6. The ETTA headquarters should be transferred to Milton Keynes or to some place in the Midlands with easy access from the North and South. Money should be raised through sponsors or collaboration with other sports without facilities for the building of a hall in which tournaments and International matches could be staged. A shop should also be attached for the sale of T.T.and other sports equipment.

With falling membership and income, this is no time for complacency or nostalgia for a past which will never return. There has b.een considerable discussion over plans for T.T. in the 90's but there is. an urgent need for effective action in the 80's. This is the challenge facing the ETIA and there will be a continuing decline in our fortunes unless changes are made now.

PAT SNOXELL

19 Eade Avenue,
Watford, Herts.
WD1710

NEVER ENDING SAGA

Table Tennis decline with the sporting public is the never ending saga of why the media do not want Table Tennis, live or otherwise, but here are some very good reasons why the television and newspapers do not want to know. Attitudes of pigheadedness, nagginess, stubbornness and pernickertiness, we think we know it These are the vibes that outsiders receive from us table tennis people. This is undoubtedly the impression I get, some of the reasons - not all - there is a table tennis drought. Yes, I am almost as bad as you lot. I have gotto be cruel to be kind, even with many hard working and enthusiastic (unpaid) people doing their utmost throughout Britain, I am afraid this is a fact.

As a former Press Officer with the Ilford League, I am happy to say that I had a very successful press coverage and a good relationship with all three papers I worked with. In the beginning when I first contacted the Editors, I got the feeling of ''Oh! no, not you lot again". Luckily his voice changed to friendliness and expressed some of the reasons why his paper did not feature table tennis, which were mainly the inconsistency of reports, page after page one week then nothing for a month. He then said that some other press officers were the other extreme, a stack of statistics which would take a month to get through, usually abbreviated so that he did not have the faintest idea. of what they were and having to scratch around each week for something resembling a story, therefore in the end he said -"That's it, no more table tennis."

If Newspaper Editors suggest something, do it, as they say not everyone is a table tennis enthusiast, they caterfor people who will not understand technical table tennis terms. I learnt by seeing what the Editor left out of my. reports, remembering what he liked and making sure not to make the same mistakes again. Notes should be made on the style each paper adopts, eventually little will be omitted as the Editor begins to trust you.

What the ETTA should do is when the Television Companies give table tennis its occasional chance to appear is to listen to their experts more, if they say do this or do that, DO IT, even if it is not fully to your liking. Get your boot in the door, do not bring your own door. If the chance to assist with the commentary is suggested, arrange for someone with a good command of English and who is well able to explain the problems and difficulty of table tennis to the viewers, acute spin

services, counter moves by opponents etc. All useful for non-table tennis people.

Commentary is a very important part of any televised sport, that is where our expertise can come in, a man like Alan Shepherd, who is a good speaker, he would be perfect. Just as snooker professionals explain side spin, cue ball positioning, we can do the same, if not better. I know table tennis is a much faster game, but it can be done. As far as the public are concerned they need information to add to their interest. No matter how obvious it seems to us table tennis people, it may not be to non-players. Let us therefore emphasise the very high degree of skill, training and difficulty table tennis involves, in fact years of devotion and dedication. In the past I have watched table tennis on television, sometimes there has been hardly a word spoken throughout the session, we must plug the skill, skill, skill.

The Sun newspaper in the past had a weekly column by Chester Barnes, I thought "Hallelujah", at last a national breakthrough. Alas a five minute wonder. Something was said in one article and immediately some upstart wanted to sue the paper, therefore end of series. I wish people would not be so touchy, again we must not be so full of our own importance, demanding apologies, orwriting statements denying any. connections. People enjoy scandals and controversy. Why do people write letters to the Table Tennis News? Yes we enjoy arguments, do not be so frumpy, sit back and listen, learn and then step in quickly with both feet. Keep that doorwell and truly open, it can be done - it must be done.

V. L. ELSTON

30 Belvedere Road,
Leyton, .
London E.10

STAGGERING ACT

I have read Peter Charters' letter (T.T. News, February)' with interest and I understand the explanation provided for the selection of players sent to International Opens. Indeed, I would go further and say that his motives, and those of the Selection Committee, seem entirely reasonable. I would not wish to question these decisions.

However, the news released recently that Carl Prean has been omitted from the England squad for the European Championships must surely be one of the most staggering acts of malevolence in England Table Tennis for many years. In reality I am sure we all realise that Prean will fill one of the two remaining places for Moscow but the delay had to be his inevitable punishment for refusing to play in the English Open.

The truth of this matter is, that Dunlop balls are disliked by all players, from those of international standing through to the most humble league player. For Prean to refuse to play was, in my opinion, tempting fate because retribution was sure to follow. An unwise decision, perhaps, on a personal level but one which nevertheless spotlights the problem and will probably force the hand of the ETTA into finding an acceptable solution. Opposition to the balls has always been widespread but now that one player has made a stand many more are making public their own opinion and the momentum is gathering for an enforced change of material.

It is impossible to discuss this subject without remembering that the ETTA is heavily dependent on Dunlop for the sponsorship money so important to·the game. No Company will take kindly to the type of publicity they have recently received in the National Press. We must not lose sight of Dunlop's support nor consider them to be some kind of sporting pariah. Table Tennis sponsorship is to be warmly welcomed but the ball has to go. At the risk ofasking a naive question, is it impossible for Dunlop to manufacture a celluloid ball of a quality comparable to others on the market?

I seem, like many other of your correspondents, also to receive the Isle of Wight edition of our magazine. To this I can only say long may it continue. It is some years now since I began to read the various articles and letters written by John Prean on table ten.nis matters and I have to confess that in the beginning I found it slightly irritating to pick up a table tennis publication and aJways find the thoughts of John Prean contained within it However, I am always interested to read and consider the views of others, even those with whom I may not concur. I continued month by month to read his offerings and found myself agreeing with much of what he said. Indeed, John Prean is currently one 'of the most articulate and thoughtful contributors to the ETTA magazine.

Having now had the opportunity to meet Mr. Prean I have to say that I found a man far removed from the myopic island-dweller occasionally portrayed by some contributors. I have found him to be most courteous, pleasant and well-informed, similarly his wife and son. Of course" John Prean has no monopoly on truth and wisdom in table tennis matters but he is a man. with knowledge and experience far in excess of many seeking to criticise him. As a Coach his partnership with his son is surely unprecedented in English Table Tennis. I ' very much doubt that more than a handful of professional coaches in England could, almost' in isolation, take a player from beginner level to world class (I am aware that Staff Coaches have been to the Isle of Wight to help, also that Donald Parker's work has been acknowledged by John Prean). At the very least, his views deserve the most careful considera-tion.

Fortunately the- great combination bat controversy is cooling off following the rule changes at the World Championships and most players, it seems, have' accepted the decisions made as the 'correct ones. There are exceptions to this, the letter from Mr. Greenberg (T.T. News, December) being the most notable example containinga truly astonishing barrage of abuse and bigotry. It does him little credit.

In essence, the slower, 'funny' rubbers have only come about as a direct reaction to normal rubbers be'coming ever faster and imparting more spin. To suggest banning these alone is outrageous nonsense. I agree wholeheartedly with John Prean that we must look at the fast rubbers to see where the game is going wrong. The way forward may not be in the direction of long pimples or anti-loop but neither is it, I believe, in the perpetual search for faster and faster rubber.

With or without combination bat we have, in Carl Prean, the most extraordinary talent seen in this Country for many years and certainly the youngest player to reach world class. Although the computer placed him, for a while, in the number one position in England no one would try to argue that he deserves ranking above the superlative Desmond Douglas but, with this exception, he is the most outstanding player in England today. His victories last season are now well documented but even this season in a period of difficulty and readjustment he has intermittently picked off top names - Jonyer, Orlowski, Ono and at least four losing sets in the Top 12 tournament decided in the fifth leg.

I am con"fident that whatever equipment Carl decides to use will not obstruct his progress in the long term and, with the increasing maturity he displays as a player and a person, he will become the spearhead of English Table Tennis. I am also confident that he will one day follow John Hilton and, as we would all wish for, Desmond Douglas, as European Champion. I sincerely hope he does not come to find that there may be better prospects for him in playing for another nation such as Holland or Germany. It would be a sad loss.

In conclusion I will say that there have been a number of occasions on which Carl Prean has routed opponents I expected to defeat him comfortably. This said, I do not believe he will, on this occasion (when selected) win the European Championship. However, if I had laid high stakes against it I might feel just a little insecure in my wager.

NIGEL MAGUIRE

93a Millbrook Rd. East,
Southampton 501 OHP

CORRECTION

Your printers added a "not" to my letter about Olympic Solidarity which made me appear tobe saying the exact opposite of what I intended. What I

wrote was "..... those players who do want to keep open for themselves the option of remaining eligible for the Olympics will still be able to derive a considerable income from table tennis."

The rest of my letter attempted to explain what precautions these players must take, and why the new rules are necessary and in no way on,erous or illogical.

TONY BROOKS
Secretary-General
53 London Road"
St. Leonards-on-Sea,
East Sussex TN37 6AY

CONGRATULATIONS

I am glad of this opportunity to congratulate you, your many sponsors, and committees for organising such a successful and enjoyable Norwich Union Open Championships.

In any event of this size and importance things don't just happen, it takes a lot of preparation, and it was evident that this had been done par exc.ellence, by Albert Shipley and his team. During the event I at times thought that Referee, John Wright, and his team had gone home as they quietly and efficiently got on with their task of keeping things going smoothly and to time.

This was my second visit to "THE OPEN" and to Brighton. Your choice of the Brighton Centre and the Metropole Hotel for the event was absolute magic. The staff of both places helped make the event friendly and memorable.

In closing may I say, on behalf of the STIA contingent, thank you for a most enjoyable event.

BEN DAWSON
Deputy Chairman
Scottish ITA
18 Ainslie Place,
Edinburgh
EH36AU

P.S. As a point of interest to your readers the "Fault" in the final was for throwing the ball straight back on to the bat.

IN GOOD FAITH

I refer initially to the letter from Carl Prean in the January issue and would now make the following comments. Soon after publication of Carl's letter, I wrote a'lengthy response which, I was told by the Editor, would have taken up far too much space in the magazine, hence this more condensed reply!

I did actually send a copy of my reply to Carl and John Prean with whom I have now reached an amicable rapport. The basis of my response was that Carl would, of course, be ableto murder me whether he used, what is in my terms, a normal bat or a frying pan, for it is relative to skill levels.

My point was simply that the surfaces do make'a difference within your relative level. Mine is possibly Premier local league whereas Carl's is of international level. The bottom, line of John's response to me is that we agree to disagree. John has his opinion and I have mine.

Just to dispel any possibility that I was waging a personal attack on Carl, let me make it clear that in no way were my comments intended as an attack on anyone, particularly Carl, who I feel deserves all the support he can get. At his age he can obviously only get better, which can only be good for English table tennis.

I must confess, having received John's response, that I was inclined to let the matte'r rest for I was beginning to feel I was bashing my head against a wall. If the censensus of opinion was such that the game should be allowed to degenerate then so be it.

However, I would like the opportunity to respond to Messrs. S. T. Lenton, N. A. Kendrick and Jerry Dempsey., Mr. Kendrick makes the analysis between "funny rubbers" and sponge bats. Dare I say it, but the difference between using sponge and "funny rubber" is that with sponge the person using it knows precisely what the ball will do. His opponent also knows and has the opportunity to counter. Not so with "funny rubbers" which confuse an opponent. Mr. Lenton and Mr. Dempsey appear to be making the same point, although the latter appears more offended with my comments.

I realise, of course, it takes certain skill to use the type of rubbered bat that offends me, but at the end of the day it remains: in my book at least, trickery. I am sincerely apologetic that my comments have offended Mr. Dempsey but I feel the variants, of rubberon the market should be looked at more closely. in relation to more logical rules. I would respectfully remind all my critics that no other game relies more on equipment than ours for if you compare the variances that. one can now get on bats in relation to other' equipment in other sports, ours is a One now requires a university degree in rubber, wood, carbon fibre and glue technologyr

One player I was recently due to play against sat at a table with an array of canisters busily engaged taking the rubber off his bat and resticking it back on. When I asked what he was doing he said "Oh, I am putting bicycle glue on my bat, don't you know that in the three hour drying period, it makes the rubber go three times faster than it should."

The crazy thing'is he was absolutely right, although he was a brilliant player in his own right. The ball went like an absolute rocket when he hit it!

Our sport has unfortunately become an' farce. Instead of Messrs. Lenton, Kendrick and Dempsey feeling that I am proposing taking away their new lease of life, whydon't we all work together in trying to put some form of logic' into the sport. My comments have always been made in good faith with the hope of improving the game, not with the deliberate intention of upsetting individuals.

STUART A. GREENBERG.
123 Hampden Way"
Southgate, London N.14

DECISION QUERIED

I felt I must write to express my complete and utter amazement at the extraordinary decision of the ETTA in not picking Skylet Andrew, for the forthcoming European Championships, and picking Kenny Jackson in his place.

What on earth is the point of having 'Computer rankings, and indeed any type of ranking if they are going to be completely ignored. Andrew is ranked No.5 in the Country, and Jackson No. 8, as well as Andrew being ranked No. 1 in Essex, and Jackson No.2.

Perhaps more importantly Andrew is also 21 years old, whereas Jackson is 23.

It would seem to me that Skylet has been well and truly maltreated and one wonders why?

Whilst it may be unusual for the ETIA to give its reasons for picking one player over another, I feel in this particular instance the ETIA owe it not only to Skylet but to the public as a whole, in explaining its extraordinary decision.

Unless Andrew has done something which the public are not aware of, and perhaps which he is not aware of, then it would appear that he has been most certainly victimised.

The ETIA have unfortunately not shown themselves in the best light with recent happenings at the EngHsh Closed and this extraordinary decision simply reinforces the general feeling of its absolute ineptness.

I call for you to'lay out your reasons for not selecting Andrew, or alternatively select him as sixth man, as part of the team.

It would appear an injustice has been carried out with Andrew, particularly when considering his omission from the World Championships last year.

STUART A. GREENBERG
123, Hampden Way,
Southgate, London N.14.

The response is surprise at some of the reasons given by Mr. Greenburg for the basis of his reasoning that Skylet Andrew should have been selected for the European Championships in preference to Kenny Jackson. Had Mr. Greenburg just stated that in his opinion Skylet deserved to be selected in front of Kenny, that would have been fair enough; the Selection Committee had a different opinion. However the reference to the Computer Ranking is irrelevent; I thought everybody knew that the Selection Committee have never selected straight

from the ranking list and are unlikely ever so to do for a number of very sound reasons.

The editor was kind enough to omit certain of Mr. Greenburg's comments which would have showed clearly that he is ill-informed about selection matters - Kenny Jackson has played for England before and the age of twenty-three is not considered past-it in table tennis terms.

It is a matter of opinion, Mr. Greenburg - the Selection Committee felt that on this occasion and in the existing circumstances Kenny Jackson would do a better job for England than Skylet Andrew.

Incidentally, as the selection committee were solely responsible for the decision but were not involved with -"the situation" at Bletchley, I fail to see the link. The ETTA is all of us - players, umpires and officials and branding the whole of the ETTA as inept is rather sweeping.

PETER CHARTERS
(Chairman, National Selection Committee)

VIKINGS REBUFFED

I am writing this letter on behalf of Ashlyn Vikings, mostly junior club, playing for the first time in the 12th Division of the North Middlesex League. As is usual with any new team things have not been easy going especially since the club consists almost entirely of junior members. However I have found it necessary to write concerning certain matters which I think are totally wrong and certainly do nothing to help promote the game either with junior or adult members.

Poin't No.1 concerns Thorn E.M.I. Ellenborough Club who are based at Kimberley Gardens, Enfield. This, club is one of the biggest in the country having 22 teams competing in the North Middlesex League alohe but their facilities and attitude leave a lot to be desired.

Although the club is sponsored by Thorn E.M.I., the lighting installed at the club leaves a lot to be questioned namely fluorescent strip lighting with the lights angled towards you as you look down the hall and spotlights situated down the centre of the hall which dazzle as well as giving off a tremendous heat. I would like to know what has happened to the traditional type of t:t. lighting and since when the rules governing lighting have been changed since I am in possession of the ITTF Rules for 1983-85 and can find no mention of lighting rules being changed. See playing conditions 4.2.3.3 and the Ellenborough' club does not fulfil these conditions.

The table requirements (see Laws of Table Tennis 3.1.3) and these do not apply at Ellenborough where on one table the ball will not give more than a 18cm bounce when dropped from 30cm, the table' being completely dead. I would like to know why a club of this standing must have such tables in use when they have others stored away. Could it be class distinction between league standard and elite? I think so. Why, I ask, when our game is going through a bad time with dwindling members, must" a club of this standing make such a distinction? The answer, dear readers, I do not know but I think you will agree it ought not to be.

At the start of our match Mr. G. Yarrow said to me that he had been annoyed at the lack of hospitality offered by other clubs in not providing refreshments. I agreed and then found we were offered none ourselves until a late hour, after the match, when I had to see my charges home. You should practice what you preach.

Finally I would state that having played in the Hertford, Harlow and Bishops Stortford leagues and found that whoever you played against it was an enjoyable evening, I cannot say that in respect of the North Middlesex League. Three clubs, however, have been a joy to visit, namely London Hawks, Mayfield and Bounds Green. What a pity others do not follow their example.

S. TEASDALE
Hon.' Sec., Ashlyn Vikings
7, Eastern Ave.,
Waltham Cross,
Herts. ENS 7JB.

I said it would happen and it did. John Prean and his equally prolific disciple Jobn Holland have made lengthy comment in the March issue of T.T. News that necessitate reply. If the reader has copies of the T.T. News for February and March to hand, it will help.

I did not advocate that everybody should play with Dunlop Barna super balls. I wrote that Dunlop's have sound reasons for the use of plastic rather than celluloid; reasons good enough to suggest that if standardisation was thought to be necessary then the manufacturers at least' would be in favour of plastic as against celluloid. The necessary fire precautions was one of the disadvantages given to me concerning the manufacturing of celluloid equipment.

I did not state that John Prean's letters were silly. If the reader cares to check page 39 of the Feb. T.T. News I wrote that Mr. Snoxell's sugge9tion that-one man has been responsible for the problems of table tennis over the last twenty-five years was silly, and it is. John Prean is most definitely not silly.

I did not write against criticism, on the contrary I actually advocat.ed fair and constructive criticism (again page 39 Feb. T.T. News).

I most certainly did not say that voluntary officers are or have to be inefficient. I said that the hiring/firing situation is different for volunteers than it is for employees. I said that at all levels people give what time they can, some a lot more than others and this situation has to be accepted.

Now to John Holland's comment in the March issueofT.T. News(page55) where he asks me to explain my previous statement regarding his petition at Hinckley.

Firstly, I question the validity of a document where commitments and signatures as to future conduct are obtained from children not only under the age of consent but as young as twelve or thirteen. Secondly, I have it on good authority from members of my own club, who know clearly my per-. sonal views on the Dunlop plastic ball * that the petition was not run in the manner John Holland implies. I am assured that these people were asked the question, ''Do you like the Dunlop pfastic ball?" to which they replied "No" and then they were asked to sign a document without being asked to read anything. They did not know they were committing themselves to a future boycott of events using a plastic ball. If this was the situation in even a small number of cases, it then ,brings into question the whole of the boycott element to John Holland's petition. He does give himself a get-out when he writes: "As far as I have beenable to determine" (line 9, third column) because it seems that for the most part he did not administer the petition himself but asked someone else to do it for him.

I re-emphasise my support for the style of action taken by. the elected players' representative Barry Johnson at the Middlesex 3-Star tournament.

Regarding the conversation between John Holland, Tom Blunn and myself at the Cotswolds Select, my only real contribution was to express surprise at John's statement that the only reason Broda got to the finals of the English Open was because Barna balls were used. At the last count Broda headed the points table for the Norwich Union Masters.

Regarding Tony Brooks' comments (page 54 - March T.T. News), Dunlop have told me that their product conforms in every way to the ITTF equipment regulation and I assume this is so because it is ITTF approved. I did not write 'only' (see Feb. issue page 41) with the ITTF. However, am I wrong when I assume that the ITTF are saying by their approval that the is good enough for international play? I am grateful that the world body are spending $5000 every yearto make sure that the equipment is good enough but maybe now I will question the "by appointment" stamp on .my.marmalade jar. True, the ETTA has its internal problems to solve regarding the plastic ball but I will be disappointed if the negotiations in sponsorship deals etc. cannot use ITTF approval as a guide to quality'and even acceptability. Weight, size, bounce, sphericity and veer are mentioned as tested properties of ITTF approved balls. The controversy at the

moment centres around the material used to manufacture the ball.

PETER CHARTERS
57. Burghfield Road.
Reading.
Berkshire.

* Which is that it is at the moment authorised equipment; avoid obsessions about equipment and get on with the job in hand; make sure that you have practised sufficiently before and after the change from/to celluloid/plastic because it is different. In other words it is part of proper preparation for specific and/or differing circumstances.

OBITUARY
CLAUD KICHENSIDE

Sadly we report the death **of** Claud Kichenside who died last month at the age of **91.** Claud was appointed a Vice-President of the **ETT**A in 1959 and recorded fifty years' service with A.G. Spalding & Co. Ltd. He was a beneficial friend to the Association, particularly in the post-war **years,** and he took a prominent lead in encouraging manufacturers to give material help to the game. Claud is survived by his wife. herself aged 83.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

April

7/8	ETTA Junior Ranking Tournament (Shotley, Nr. Ipswich)
8	8edford 1-Star Open
14/15	Beneficial Trust Essex Junior 'Select' (Harlow)
14/22	14th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Moscow)
15	Hartlepool 1-Star Open
21	South Yorkshire 2-Star Open (Herringthorpe Leisure Centre, Rotherham)
21/22	Grievson, Grant Tunbridge Wells Junior 2-Star Open (The Angel Leisure Centre, Angel Road, Tonbridge, Kent.)
28	ETTA National Council Meeting (London)
28/29	Beneficial Trust Yorkshire Junior 'Select' (Halifax)

May

5	Northumberland 2-Star Open (Cramlington)
5	ESTTA Individual Championships (Mansfield)
5/6	Hollington Junior 1-Star Open (Hastings)
12/13	BENEFICIAL TRUST ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN (Mountbatten Centre, Alexandra Park. Portsmouth)
19	Cumbria Junior 1-Star Open (Millom)
19/22	Czechoslovak Junior Open (Topolcany)

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RE-ELECTED

Re-elected unopposed Tom Blunn (Chairman). George Yates (Deputy Chairman) and Aubrey Drapkin (Hon. Treasurer) thank all those counties and leagues who nominated them for a further term of office.

NEXT ISSUE

The next issue of Table Tennis News. as last season, will be a combined May/June issue taking in as much of the late season events as possible. Deadline for the County Notes is April 30th. 1984.

MOSCOW SQUAD

England's full playing squad bound for Moscow by Flight BA710 leaving Heathrow on Thursday. 12th April at 09.55 hours is:-

Desmond Douglas (Warwickshire). Carl Prean (Isle of Wight). Graham Sandley (Middlesex). Alan Cooke (Derbyshire). Kenny Jackson (Essex), Karen Witt (Berkshire). Lisa Bellinger (Bedfordshire). Joy Grundy (Lancashire) and Alison Gordon (Berkshire). Non-travelling reserves are John Hilton (Lancashire) and Fiona Elliot (Staffordshire). Non-playing captains are:- Peter Simpson. Nicky Jarvis and Donald ParKer. And the delegates for the B.G.M. of the E.T.T.U. are George Yates and Albert Shipley.

The scheduled return is by Flight SU241 departing Moscow at 18.50 hours arriving Heathrow at 19.45 hours, there being a three hour time difference between London and Moscow.

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