



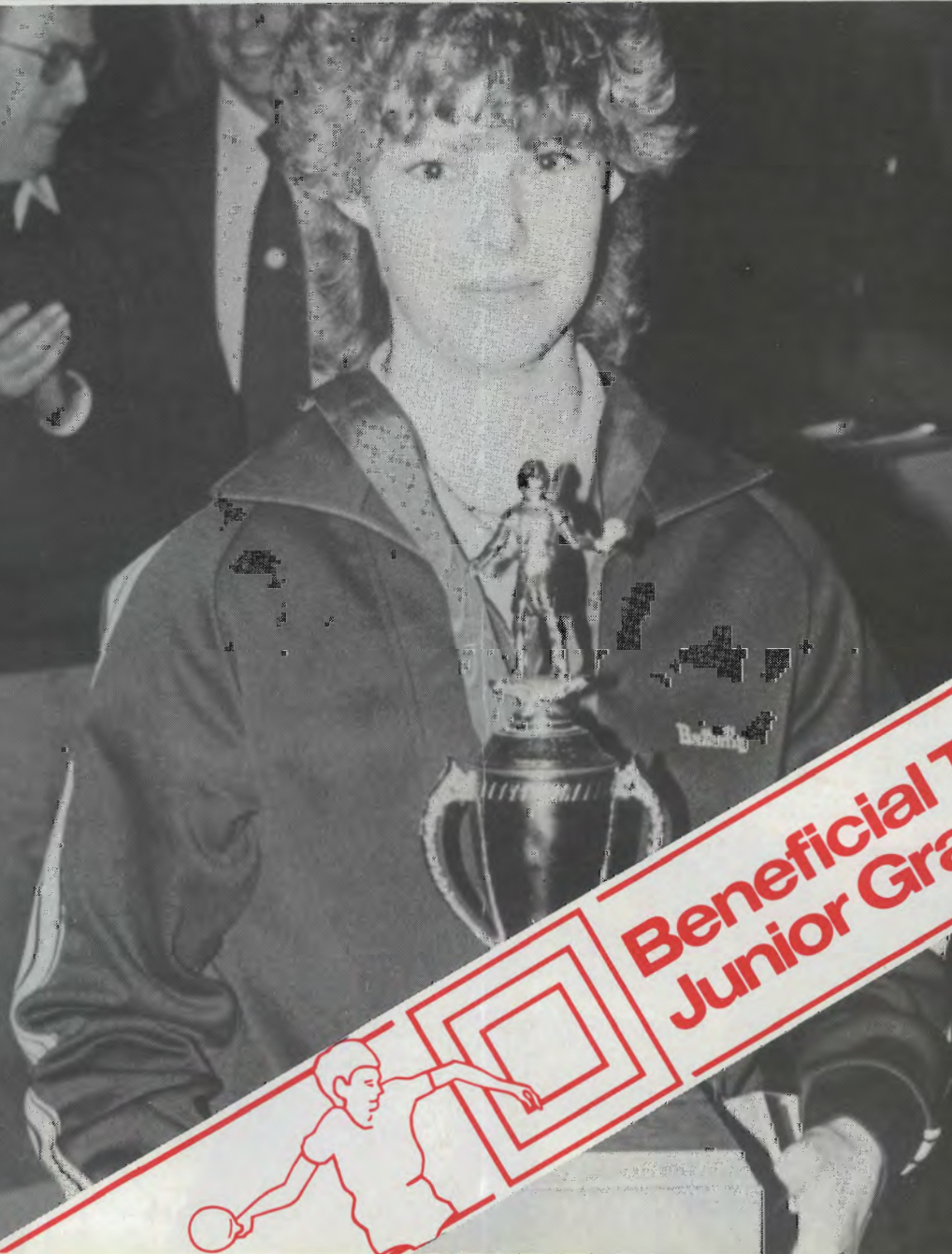
TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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CAUSE FOR CONCERN

The threatened boycott by Carl Prean of the Norwich Union English Open at the Brighton Centre because of the adoption of a plastic ball is an action that gives cause for concern.

Whether a player likes the ball or not the fact remains that the ball is one approved by the International Table Tennis Federation and, as such, cannot be discounted.

It is a poor workman that blames his tools and that old adage still applies, for countless championships have been played with such a ball with no lack of entertainment for the spectators to enjoy.

Supposing, for instance, that such a ball were to be adopted for the forthcoming European Championships in Moscow. What then the predicament of England's selectors in choosing a team?

And think of the manufacturers who, over the years, have poured money, not only into research, but into the coffers of the E.T.T.A. and elsewhere.

Biting the hand that feeds them is one reaction and well might this be so if the boycott becomes widespread. As for young Carl, perhaps he has been ill-advised and, maybe, on reflection, wiser counsel will prevail. For his place is still valid in the draw.

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ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

by THE EDITOR

REBUFF IN HELSINGBORG

Shock result of the season in the Super Division of the European League was the 5-2 home defeat inflicted on Sweden by Poland in Helsingborg on Dec. 17 - and this after Sweden had taken a 2-0 lead!

In the opening set Andrzej Grubba took the first game 29-27 but thereafter Jan-Ove Waldner took the next two comfortably enough as did Mikael Appelgren in his straight-games win over Leszek Kucharski.

Who would have predicted at that stage that Poland could possibly have won? And yet they did taking the next five sets in succession in quite remarkable fashion.

Firstly Jolanta Szatko got the better of Marie Lindblad, in three, followed by a men's doubles win for Grubba and Kucharski over Waldner and Erik Lindh to level the match score at 2-2.

Grubba and Szatko then triumphed in the mixed, against Lindh/Lindblad, paving the way for a grandstand finish in which, in the penultimate set, Kucharski beat Waldner, 20 in the third, and Grubba put the icing on the cake by topping the reigning European champion Appelgren. Scores:-

J.O. Waldner bt A. Grubba 27, 16, 10;
M. Appelgren bl L. Kucharski 12, 15;
M. Lindblad lost to J. Szatko 20, 13, 17;
E. Lindh/Waldner lost to Grubbs/Kucharski 18, 15;
Lindh/Lindblad lost to Grubba/Szatko 13, 5, 15;
Waldner lost to Kucharski 11, 14, 20;
Appelgren lost to Grubba 19, 17, 15.

England, too squandered a 2-0 lead, away to Czechoslovakia in Usti Nad Labem, (as reported elsewhere by Mike Watts) but Federal Germany's loss to defending champions Yugoslavia, who won 6-1, provided the lifeline from the next to bottom position. No scores to hand.

Ralf Wosik was Federal Germany's only winner against Yugoslavia his scalp being that of Oragutin Surbek in the penultimate set. Scores:-

D. Surbek bt G. Bohm 19, 9, 10;
Z. Kalinic bt R. Wasil 15, 14;
S. Satinic bt A. Olschewski 16, 19;
Kalinic/Surbek bt M. Kruntunger/Wosik 15, 18;
Surbek/Batinic bt Wosik/Olschewski 21, 17;
Surbek lost to Wasik 18, 19;
Kalinic bt Bohm 17, 17, 19.

France, the promoted country and still seeking their first win, were beaten 5-2 in Dijon by Hungary the home successes coming from Nadine Daviaud, who beat Zsuzsa Olah, and from Patrick Birocheau, in the final set, against Gabor Gergely. Zsolt Kriston was again Hungary's man of the match - as he was against England - winning both his singles and having a hand in both doubles successes. Scores:-

P. Reverse lost to G. Gergely 21, 18, 7;
P. Birocheau lost to Z. Kristan 18, 17;
N. Daviaud bt Z. Olah 19, 18;
Birocheau/Reverse 10lt to Gergely/Kristan 15, 14, 13;
Reverse/D. viaud lost to Kristan/G. Szabo 19, 7;
Reverse lost to Kristan 10, 11;
Birocheau bl Gergely 11, 19.



SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	4	4	0	22	6	4
Sweden	4	3	1	19	9	3
Czechoslovakia	4	3	1	16	12	3
Poland	4	2	2	17	11	2
Hungary	4	2	2	11	17	2
Engl.nd	4	1	3	11	17	1
Federal Germany	4	1	3	8	20	1
France	4	0	4	10	18	0

Fixtures for Jan. 11/84

Czechoslovakia v Sweden
England v Yugoslavia
(Mansfield)
Federal Germany v Hungary
France v Poland

DIVISION ONE

Netherlands, away to Denmark in Aarhus, maintained their unbeaten record with a 5-2 victory which saw English National League player, Henk van Spanje win both his singles and the mixed with Mirjam Kloppenburg. Scores:-

L. Hauth lost to R. van Spanje 19, 21, 19;
C. Pedersen lost to H. van Spanje 10, 18, 18;
D. Hauth lost to M. Kloppenburg 9, 13, 15;
Hauth/K. Karholm bt H. & R. van Spanje 14, 11, 17;
Pedersen/D. Hauth lost to H. v. Spanje/Kloppenburg 13, 10;
Hauth lost to H. v. Spanje 13, 13;
Pedersen bt R. v. Spanje 16, 18.

Meantime, in Helsinki, Italy also preserved their unbeaten record with a similar 5-2 success over Finland, Giovanni Bisi being the strong man with two singles wins and a doubles with Massimo Costantini. Scores:-

J. Ikonen lost to G. Bisi 15, 21;
J. Jokinen bt M. Costantini 20, 19, 20;
S. Grefberg lost to A. Busardo 16, 13, 17;
Ikonen/Jokinen lost to Bisi/Costantini 17, 16;
Jokinen/Grefberg bt Costantini/Marma Cergol 13, 17;
Ikonen lost to Costantini 15, 12;
Jokinen lost to Bisi 8, 23, 11.

Belgium, languishing like Denmark at the foot of the table, went down 3-4 to Spain in Namur where the scores were:-

R. De Prophetis lost to R. Casares 17, 16;
J.M. Saive lost to L. Caymel 11, 10;
B. Lippens bt A. Godes 15, 14;
De Prophetis/Saive lost to Casares/Caymel 16, 16;
Le Roy/Uppens bt Casares/Godes 24, 19, 17;
De Prophetis bt Caymel 15, 20;
Saive lost to Casares 17, 11, 14.

DIVISION ONE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands	4	4	0	22	6	4
Italy	3	3	0	14	7	3
Finland	4	3	1	18	10	3
Austria	3	1	2	9	12	1
Spain	3	1	2	5	16	1
Denmark	4	0	4	10	18	0
Belgium	3	0	3	6	15	0

Fixtures for January
7th Netherlands v Finland
(Eindhoven)

11th Belgium v Austria
Spain v Italy
Open date: Denmark (U.S.S.R.
withdrawn)

DIVISION TWO

The withdrawal of Turkey means their record has been expunged cancelling out their wins over Scotland and Guernsey and their loss to Norway. Both Switzerland and Norway boast unbeaten records so that much will **depend** on the result of the meeting of these two countries this month when they confront each other in Norway.

Visiting La Mare de Carteret School on Dec. 13 the Swiss dropped two sets to Guernsey whose Ian Powell had a singles win over Maurice Taylor and Powell with Mark Pipet succeeded in the men's doubles against Taylor and Thierry Miller. Scores:-

I. Powell lost to T. Miller -17, -12;
D. Rihoy lost to M. Taylor -15, -8;
Anne Rihoy lost to B. Hirzel -5, -16;
M. Pipet/Powell bt Miller/Taylor 16, 13;
Powell/Rihoy lost to Taylor/Hirzel -15, -18;
Powell bt Taylor 10, 19;
Rihoy lost to Miller -10, -10.

Scotland, at home to Luxembourg, went down yet again, this time at Grangemouth where only David Hannah tasted success in his two singles engagements. Scores:-

D. Hannah bt V. Langehegermann 15, 13;
D. McIlroy lost to Y. Maas -19, -19;
J. Smith lost to C. Risch -12, -8;
J. Brae/Hannah lost to A. Hartmann/Maas -12, 14, -17;
Hannah/Smith lost to Maas/Risch -13, -11;
Hannah bt Maas 18, 17;
McIlroy lost to Langehegermann -8, -17.

As reported by Roy Evans in Welsh Corner, Wales suffered a 6-1 home defeat at the hands of Norway.

DIVISION TWO

	P	W	L	F	A	Pt.
Switzerland	4	4	0	20	8	4
Luxembourg	4	3	1	22	6	3
Norway	3	3	0	15	6	3
Ireland	3	1	2	9	12	1
Wales	4	1	3	8	20	1
Scotland	3	0	3	7	14	0
Guernsey	3	0	3	3	18	0

Fixtures for January
Ireland v Wales
Guernsey v Scotland (Jan. 7)
Norway v Switzerland (Jan. 14)

VICTORY IN PECS

Subsequent to the Hungarian Open in Miskolc players from the People's Republic of China stayed on to engage the Hungarians in a series of matches played on Swaythling Cup lines for both men and women.

Hungary's men, in Pees before 1,500 spectators, started off in fine style by beating their Chinese counterparts 5-3 with Tibor Klampar winning three and Zsolt Kriston two. But in the women's match the visitors triumphed 5-0.

Two nights later, in Budapest before 1,000 spectators, the Chinese men won 5-1 - Janos Molnar beating Xie Saikie - and the Chinese women again had the upper hand winning 5-2 with Edit Urban beating both Jaio Zhinin and Tong Ling.

The final matches were played in Gyor where, before 500 spectators on

Nov. 19, the Chinese were victorious 5-0 in both encounters against weakened home opposition.

NEWS FROM HOLLAND

Rumania's Paul Haldan (18), following his Universidad Crayova European Club Cup side's match away to De Veluwe in Holland, remained behind in the Netherlands (writes Bas den Breejen).

Haldan is now living in Apeldoorn and has the **intention** to study medical arts in Amsterdam or Nijmegen.

Bettine **Vriesekoop** turned out for her Avanti club in the Fair Cities Cup against Frankfurt and complained of feeling tired **afterwards** - this following her recent **illness**. It now seems unlikely that she **will** take up her No. 1 seeded position in the Norwich Union English Open at Brighton this month.

In Gorssel on Dec. 10/11 Henk van Spanje came out on top with 9 wins in

the NTIB Cup competition with his brother, Ron, winning 7 and Hans Gootsen six. The counterpart Limburg Coupe, for women, was won by Mirjam Kloppenburg from Ellen Bakker with Sandra de Kruiff third.

FRENCH AFFAIRS

In the 2nd round of the Championnats de France Individuels, played on Nov. 19/20, Petrick Ronsense came out first with nine victories as against seven each for Christian Martin and Jacques Secretin (writes Jean Devys).

Beatrice Abgrall, with nine wins, topped the women's event from Patricia Germain with Claude Bergeret third with 8 and 6 wins respectively. Nadine Daviaud also had six wins.

US Kremlin-Bicetre, with 18 points, head the national team championships for men, SLUC Nancy, with 14 pts., leading the women's teams by one point from AL Bruz.



Andrzej Grubba of Poland who had a hat-trick of successes against Sweden in Helsingborg.

Photo by S. J. Line, Shoreham-by-Sea.



Marie Hrachova of Czechoslovakia who inflicted the season's first European League defeat on England's Karen Witt.



SOC 1983

QUARTERS ONLY FOR ENGLAND

In a star-studded field in the Lisebergs-hallen, Gothenburg, over the period Dec. 1-4, 1983, England's representatives reached no less than four quarter-finals yet succeeded in none. Nonetheless Karen Witt acquitted herself remarkably well in losing only once in the women's team event and reaching the last sixteen in the women's singles.

Add these feats to reaching the quarters of the women's and mixed doubles, when partnered by Joy Grundy and Desmond Douglas, the Reading girl can be said to have well and truly arrived and to be in line for a considerable uplift in the European rankings from her present No. 23 position.

Major shock in the men's singles event, won by the host country's Jan-Ove Waldner, was the first round defeat of top seed Kiyoshi Saito of Japan, beaten 17, -15, 19 and 12 by Andrei Mazunov of the Soviet Union. And, from England's point of view, the first round elimination of Douglas by Poland's Leszek Kucharski was no less a bitter pill to swallow albeit 19 in the fifth.

Waldner's scalps comprised those of Josef Dvoracek. Georg Böhm, Dragutin Surbek, Jacques Secretin and, in the final, Xie Saike, the No. 2 seed from the People's Republic of China.

As in the previous Swiss and Hungarian Open, China's women proved far too strong with Dai Lili beating Tong Ling in the final of the women's singles just as she had done in Miskolc. Jiao Zhimin and Li Hui Feng annexed the women's doubles with the women's team event making up the hat-trick.

China also won the men's team event but the Europeans came into their own in both the men's and mixed doubles with victories for Hungary's Tibor Klampar and Zsolt Kriston in the men's and Surbek and Branka Batinic of Yugoslavia in the mixed.

In the men's singles Secretin repeated his Miskolc defeat of Erik Lindh and only succumbed -15 in the fifth to young Waldner in the semis at which stage his compatriot Mikael Appelgren went out to Xie Saike.

England's other two representatives in this event, Graham Sandley and Alan Cooke, took early departures the former losing to Kwon Oh Taek of South Korea in the first round and Cooke in the first qualifying round to Mats Andersson of Sweden.

Karen Witt, in the women's singles, began with a 16, 11, -12, 12 win over Kim Eun Hee (KOR) and followed up by beating Pia Eliasson of Sweden 15,

22, -18, 16 subsequently losing to Marie Hrachova (TCH).

Joy Grundy had an opening win over Austria's Flavia Lang but then crossed the path of Dai Lili whilst Jackie Bellinger was beaten in straight games in the first round by Mika Hoshino of Japan.

In the men's doubles Douglas and Cooke were seen off in the first round by Swedish qualifiers Peter Greczula and Frank Gullberg whilst Sandley, paired with Hie Lupulescu of Yugoslavia, fell to Xie Saike and Fan Changmao after winning the first game.

Karen and Joy, in the women's doubles, had an opening win over Barbara Wiltsche and Miss Lang of Austria and an even more impressive success over Sweden's Marie Lindblad and Menni Weizades before bowing out to the South Koreans, Kim Jung Mi and Yang Young Ja.

Jackie, paired with Szonja Szegeti of Hungary, accounted for Mette Mosen of Norway and Angelica Rosal of the United States in Rd. 1 but were then eliminated by Lee Mi Woo and Lee Young Mi of South Korea.

In reaching the quarter-finals of the mixed doubles Des and Karen accounted for Mazunov and Bulatova of the USSR; Rasmussen/Hagen of Norway and, to their credit, Xie Saike and Dai Lili (18 and 18) before losing to Poland's Andrzej Grubba and Jolanta Szatko.



Russia's Andrei Mazunov who brought about the elimination of top seed. Kiyoshi Saito of Japan, in the first round of the men's singles.



Jan-Ove Waldner winner of the men's singles title in Gothenburg.

Alan and Joy had an equally impressive win over Federal Germany's Georg Böhm and Kirsten Kruger before losing to China's He Zhiwen and Li Hui Feng. Graham and Jackie, however, fell in the opening round to Kwon Oh Taek and Kim Jung Mi of South Korea.

In the team events Douglas had wins over Teis Jonasson and the veteran Claus Pedersen of Denmark and Patrick Birocheau and Patrick Renverse in the 3-2 defeat by France.

R. sutta- TEAM EVENTS

MEN
Round 1:
Norway 3 U.S.A. 2
Japan 3 Netherlands 0
Sweden 2 3 Israel 0
Denmark 3 Finland 1
South Korea 3 Italy 0
Round 2:
China 3 Norway 0
Yugoslavia 3 Federal Germany 1
Poland 3 Japan 1
Hungary 3 Sweden 2 0
England 3 Denmark 1
D. Douglas bt T. Jdnasson 14, 19;
A. Cooke lost to C. Pedersen -14, -19;
Cooke/Douglas bt Jonasson/Pedersen 15, -17 6-
Douglas bt Pedersen 14, 11.
France 3 U.S.S.R. 1
Czechoslovakia 3 India 0
Sweden 1 3 South Korea 0
Quarter-finals:
China 3 Yugoslavia 0
Hungary 3 Poland 0
France 3 England 2
P. Birocheau lost to Douglas -19, 19, -17;
P. Renverse bt G. Sandley 13, 19;
Birocheau/J. Secretin bt Cooke/Douglas 15, 10;
Renverse lost to Douglas -16, -20;
Birocheau bt Sandley 13, -15, 14.
Czechoslovakia 3 Sweden 12
Semi-finals:
China 3 Hungary 2
Chen Longcan bt Z. Kriston 14, -18, 12;
He Zhiwen lost to T. Klampar -11, 18, -17;
Fan Changmao/He Zhiwen bt Klampar/Kriston 8, 27;
Chen Longcan lost to Klampar -16, 16, -17;
He Zhiwen bt Kriston -25, 13, 20.
Czechoslovakia 3 France 2
J. Pansky bt C. Martin 14, 10;
V. Broda lost to Renverse 24, -16, -17;
Broda/Pansky lost to Birocheau/Secretin -16, 21, -14;
Pansky bt Renverse 20, 11;
Broda bt Martin 16, 17.
Final:
CHINA 3 Czechoslovakia 0
Fan Changmao bt Broda 14, 15;
Xie Saike bt Pansky 12, 14;
Fan Changmao/He Zhiwen bt Broda/Pansky 15, 8.
WOMEN
Round 1:
Czechoslovakia 3 Norway 0
England 3 Poland 1
K. Witt bt E. Brzezinska 14, 15;
J. Grundy bt J. Szatko 15, -15, 12;
Grundy/Witt lost to Brzezinska/Szatko -17, -17;
Witt bt Szatko -14, 13, 18.
Federal Germany 3 Austria 0
Round 2:
China 3 Italy 0
France 3 Israel 0
Czechoslovakia 3 Sweden 1 1

Hungary 3 U.S.S.R. 2
 South Korea 3 Yugoslavia 0
 England 3 Netherlands 1
 Grundy lost to M. Kloppenburg -15. -18;
 Witt bt S. de Kruiff 20. 13;
 Grundy/Witt bt de Kruiff Kloppenburg -17. 16. 22;
 Witt bt Kloppenburg -16. 13. 14.
 Finland 3 Sweden II 0
 Japan 3 Federal Germany 1
 Quarter-finals:
 China 3 France 0
 Czechoslovakia 3 Hungary 0
 South Korea 3 England 1
 Kim Jang Va lost to Witt -16. -16;
 Yang Young Ja bt Grundy 12. -19. 8;
 Kim Jang Mi/Yang Young Ja bt Grundy/Witt 19. 9;
 Yang Young Ja bt Witt 18. -12. 18.
 Japan 3 Finland 1
 Semi-finals:
 China 3 Czechoslovakia 0
 Tong ling bt M. Hrachova 10. 10;
 Oai Lili bt M. Kocova 9. 8;
 Oai Lili/Huifeng bt Hrachova/Kocov8 14. 12.
 South Korea 3 Japan 0
 Yang Young Ja bt M. Hoshino 17. 17;
 Kim Soak Hee bt M. Mori 12. -17. 7;
 Kim Soak Hee/Yang Young Ja bt Hoshino/Mori 11. 13.
 Final:
 CHINA 3 South Korea 0
 Tong Ung bt Kim Soak Hee 15. 16;
 Oai Lili bt Yang Young Ja 18. 19;
 Oai Lili/Huifeng bt Kim Soak Hee/Yang Young Ja 12. 13.
 Men's Singles: Round 3:
 V. Broda (TCH) bt A. Masunov (URS) 20. 16. 15;
 J. Sacretin (FRA) bt E. Lindh (SWE) 17. -16. 11. 20;
 Fan Changmao (CHN) bt L. Kucharski (POL) 13. 16. 17;

J-O. Waldner (SWE) bt D. Surbek (YUG) 16. 14. 20;
 M. Appelgren (SWE) bt He Zhiwen (CHN) 11. -14. -16. 17. 18;
 Z. Kalinic (YUG) bt P. Renverse (FRA) 13 19. -17. -14. 20;
 Chen Longcan (CHN) bt V. Shevchenko (URS) 14. 15. 23;
 Xie Saike (CHN) bt E. Boggan (USA) 16. -23. 10. 13.
 Quarter-finals:
 Secretin bt Broda -16. 19. -18. 18. 13;
 Waldner bt Fan Changmao 10. 20. 19;
 Appelgren bt Kalinic 11. 16. -16. 12;
 Xie Saike bt Chen Longcan 14. 13. 14.
 Semi-finals:
 Waldner bt Secretin 12. 18. -18. -17. 15;
 Xie Saike bt Appelgren -19. 15. 4. 18.
 Final:
 WALDNER bt Xie Saike 16. 17. -9. 18.
 Women's Singles: Round 3:
 Tong Ling (CHN) bt K. Bolvari (HUN) 11. 18. 18;
 Kim Sook Hee (KOR) bt M. Mori (JAP) 16. 16. 3;
 Jiao Zhimin (CHN) bt S. Szigeli (HUN) 6. 11. 15;
 M. Hrachova (TCH) bt K. Witt (ENG) -13. 16. 16. 9;
 Oai Uli (CHN) bt S. Grefberg (FIN) 5. 11. 9;
 F. Bulatova (URS) bt M. Lindblad (SWE) 20. 15. -12. 20;
 B. Satinic (YUG) bt M. Hoshino (JAP) -17. 14. 12. 20;
 Yang Young Ja (KOR) bt Li Huifeng (CHN) 16. 20. 21.
 Quarter-finals:
 Tong Ling bt Kim Sook Hee 6. 7. 10;
 Jiao Zhimin bt Hrachova -19. 13. 12. 12;
 Oai Lili bt Bulatova 9. 3. 15;
 Yang Young Ja bt Satinic 12. 20. 11.
 Semi-finals:
 Tong Ling bt Jiao Zhimin -12. 17. 9. 13;
 Oai Uti bt Yang Young Ja 20. 15. 7.
 Final:
 DAI LILI bt Tong Ling 16. 11. 11.
 Men's Doubles: Quarter-finals:

T. Klampar/Z. Kriston (HUN) bt Chen Longcan/Cheng Yinghua (CHN) 16. 13;
 Sroda/J. Javurek (TCH) bt Lindh/Waldner 19. 13;
 Appelgren/U. Carlsson (SWE) bt P. Sirocheau(FRA)/ Secretin 19. 19;
 Kim Ki Taek/Kim Wan (KOR) bt Fan Changmao/Xie Saike 9. 16.
 Semi-finals:
 Klampar/Kriston bt Sroda/Javurek 19. 18;
 Kim Ki Tael/Kim Wan bt Appelgren/Carlsson 10. 19.
 Final:
 KLAMPAR/KRISTON bt Kim Ki Taek/Kim Wan 20. -17. 14.
 Women's Doubles: Quarter-finals:
 Oai Lili/Tong Ling bt Hrachova/M. Kocova (TCH) 16. 15;
 Lee Mi Woo/Lee Young Mi (KOR) bt Grefberg/M. Portin (FIN) 10. 12;
 Li Huifeng/Jiao Zhimin bt C. Satorli (HUN)/Bolvari 14. 4;
 Kim Jung Mi (KOR)/Yang Young Ja bt J. Grunby (ENG)/Witt 8. 18.
 Semi-finals:
 Oai Lili/Tong Ling bt Lee Mi Woo/Lee Young Mi 20. 8;
 Li Huifeng/Jiao Zhimin bt Kim Jung Mi/Yang Young Ja 17. 16.
 Final:
 LI HUIFENG/JIAO ZHIMIN bt Dai Lili/Tong Ling -22. 13. 16.
 Mixed Doubles: Quarter-finals:
 A. Grubba/J. Szatko (POL) bt Douglas/Witt 20. 23;
 Surbek/Batinic bt Chen Longcan/Jiao Zhimin 19. 18;
 Kalinic/G. Perkucin (YUG) bt Fan Changmao/Tong ling -18. 16. 15;
 Kim Wan/Yang Young Ja bt He Zhiwen/Li Huifeng 15. 8.
 Semi-finals:
 Surbek/Batinic bt Grubba/Szatko 8. 19;
 Kim Wan/Yang Young Ja bt Kalinic/Perkucin 16. 14.
 Final:
 SURBEK/BATINIC bt Kim Wan/Yang Young Ja 17. 5.

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 July 22nd- 27th
 COURSE 2
 July 28th-Aug. 5th (9 days)
 COURSE 3
 August 6th-11th

ENGLAND IS UNLUCKY!!

by Mike Watts

England came so near to their second successive win in Czechoslovakia on Wednesday, 14th December 1983, in Usti Lad Nadem. Two years ago Duggie Johnson was the hero, beating Milan Orlovski and hopes were high for a repeat of this success, especially after England had gone 2-0 up with excellent opening victories for Douglas and Sandley.

In the end, however, the match became almost a carbon copy of last year's fixture in Harrogate, with Czechoslovakia fighting back to lead 4-2 before Douglas cut the deficit back to one.

An appreciative crowd of about 600 were not at all pleased with the way Desmond Douglas took Jindrich Pansky apart in the opening match. The nearest Pansky came to winning was 14 all in the opening set before Desmond, looking sharp and menacing, steamrolled through 21-14, 21-13. Graham Sandley was next to the table to play Vladimar Broda, a player who he beat in the corresponding fixture last year. The memory of his win must have been very clear as Graham, attacking hard, gave Broda no chance in the first, winning 21-12. But the wily Czech captain, Vladimar Miko, gave heart and encouragement to his young player and immediately Graham was up against it. In the second, Broda served tighter and built up an impressive 19-11 lead. At this stage he appeared to relax for just a moment and at last Graham was able to force Broda's services wide. Three quick points to Graham followed but the fourth went to Broda with a vicious counter hit wide down Graham's forehand 20-14. Then the miracle England's captain, Peter Simpson, was looking for happened. Back came Graham to take Broda's last serve and to great jubilation from the England bench five more in quick succession to bring Graham back to 20 all. Despite losing Broda's next serve, Graham then proceeded to finish the match, winning the next three points in splendid fashion to take the game and match 23-21.

One month ago at the Hungarian Open, Karen Witt gained her first win over Marie Hrachova, the European No.4, and, despite losing to her later, the England team knew that a repeat of that Hungarian win would give us the match. Maybe that played on Karen's mind. No one knows, but certainly Marie knew it and, well as Karen played, Marie always had an answer. The first game was close. The Czech girl led 16-15, 17-16 and 19-17. Karen won the next point to cut the lead to 19-18 but promptly served into the net and lost the first game 21-18. The second game was level pegging up to 10 all. Then Maria went ahead 15-12

and at this point a long rally started, with Hrachova lobbing high from the back of the court. Karen hit three or four tremendous forehands, all of which came back, but in trying to angle the next netted to give Maria a 16-12 lead.

Karen's confidence then drifted slightly as did the game, 21-15 to Hrachova.

The England Captain then threw into the fray a relatively untried Men's Doubles pair of Douglas and Sandley, both left-handers and not the easiest of pairs to combine well. Their inexperience together showed in the first game as Pansky and Broda comfortably took it 21-15. Back came the English boys in the second and from 13 all with Broda serving Graham again attacked hard at Pansky leaving Des to pick off the loose balls to lead 17-13 and to finally take the second game 21-18. Now - could the lads hold the first half of the third game? The confidence was beginning to flow as the English pair led 4-1 and 7-4. The Czechs fought back to 7 all and led 10-9 at the change. From then on it was point for point until Des made two uncharacteristic misses to go from 17-16 to 19-16 down. Still not giving up, the English pair clawed their way back to 19-18 before going 20-18 down. One more point won but finally - disaster - the final point lost and a 21-19 win for the Czechs to put the match all square.

Peter Simpson had already decided that he would play his young lions, Alan Cooke and Joy Grundy, together in the mixed but Pansky and Hrachova are a World-class pair. The first game went to the Czechs 21-14 but in the second the England players, beginning to get accustomed to the pace and pressure, gave a good account of themselves before going down 21-16.

Now the Czechs were in front and the encouragement from the crowd grew to almost a frenzy, particularly in one corner of the hall, where the shouts and almost non-stop chants, more suited to a football or boxing audience, began to play on everyone's nerves.

Pansky then took on Graham Sandley for the match and, as in Harrogate last season, the result was never in any doubt as the European No.15 finally won the match for the Czechs 21-13, 21-16.

But still the last game could be vital, as games average might yet decide which team plays in the lower division next season. Broda also was looking for a piece of the action and the first game started disastrously for Des going 5-0 down from Broda's high throw serves. However, Des is too good a player to allow this to worry him long and although Broda held on

to 19 all, it was Des who won the next two vital points. The second game started well for Des but Broda levelled at 10 all and then went on to take the game 21-16. Again Des built up a useful 9-6 lead in the third only to be pegged back at 12 all. Des led at 16-14 but again was put under immediate pressures with the Broda serve who levelled at 16 all. But at this point Des showed his class, taking the next three of Broda's serves and finally wrapping it all up at 21-18. A near thing, but that last game may prove vital in the end.

So England go into the New Year with only one point from four matches, but both the Hungary and Czech matches might have been won. The team has confidence, and with the excellent form being shown by Karen Witt (three wins out of four) and a new Men's Doubles pairing that certainly deserves an extended run, England should win against both Germany and France and, now that Surbek is finished at international level, must have a fighting chance against Yugoslavia on the 11th January, 1984 at Mansfield Leisure Centre.

Final recollections from Czechoslovakia. The hospitality was excellent and the arrangements for the match very satisfactory, but I was rather pleased when the Russian-built Illyshin airliner touched down safely at London Heathrow. It is not easy for our teams travelling away, especially on the long hauls to the Eastern bloc, but their fighting spirit was there for everyone to see and we have some bright young talent for the future.

MIKE WATTS

SPORTSMANSHIP

The lane becomes a stream of air
Whereon a champion athlete glides;
A nag will suddenly grow wings
When on it an equestrian rides....
The stick seems by elastic joined
To the teasing ball the master guides.

He makes the venue his domain
And rules with economic grace;
Measured might hiding killer touch,
He confounds time and conjures
space,
Yet seldom will let slip the mask
Of concentration on his face.

A man becomes the champion
By never stooping low to cheat;
The champion becomes a man
When he is gracious in defeat.

KEITH GOOD

HOME AND AWAY

By Tom Blunn, Chairman, E.T.T.A.



The international programme of the E.T.T.A. is now very extensive and requires a considerable amount of administration. A complete specified programme requires our players to play both in England and in many other countries, mainly in Europe, but at times in Asia and America.

Whilst the players have their own personal domestic commitments which often take them abroad their E.T.T.A. involvements are restricted to the four English Championships events in England, the European League matches in England and in Europe; any international match arranged on a friendly basis, the European Championships, both senior and junior, the Commonwealth and the World Championships.

In addition to playing in these events the players have an obligation to practice and to train, for which purpose regular training camps are arranged in England.

The organisation of the players' activities is under the control of the National Selection Committee though

other sub-committees become involved in dealing with specific matters, particularly the English Championships Committee for the organisation of the four events.

The detailed administration of the day to day organisation is done by the professional staff in the office in Hastings. This in itself is a formidable task and requires a considerable amount of staff time.

The total amount of money spent (I prefer to say invested) by the E.T.T.A. on the foregoing international programme is about £60,000, though in the current financial year a further £20,000 has been added for the World and Commonwealth Championships in Japan and Malaysia. This money is obtained from three sources 1) the Sports Council, 2) the sports trade and 3) sponsorship, with any balance coming from E.T.T.A. funds.

It is only as a comparison that the normal annual amount spent on our international programme is about the same as the total amount received in affiliation from the whole of the membership. In some quarters we are told that we do not spend enough money on our international players!

The cost as described does not include any charge for services supplied by the administrative staff at Hastings. The annual cost of administering the E.T.T.A. is about £110,000, so even a proportion as low as 10% would add a further £11,000 to the total cost of the international programme.

Nevertheless, every effort is being

made to continue to provide the income to maintain the programme and this is not as easy as it used to be. The Sports Council grant is now very difficult to maintain - this year's expected grant for travel was £9,000 less than our expectations and special approaches have been made to obtain a higher grant.

The grant for administration and training, other than salaries, has not been increased by any element of inflation and in effect amounts to a cut of about £3,000. The sports trade has warned us that the high level of support, about £30,000 per annum, cannot be justified by the level of business done and will therefore have to be reduced. It is already forecast that the support will be £5,000 less next season.

The main sponsorship agreement with the Norwich Union expires after the English Closed Championships in March, 1984 and a new agreement has yet to be discussed.

The task of maintaining the full international programme is one which the Management Committee constantly has in mind as well as many other problems. The importance of a successful English performance at international level must never be underestimated. Our success in Tokyo was an inspiration to us all and it must be a top priority to see that our players are given every opportunity to maintain that standard. This will take a lot of money and a lot of effort to raise it. The players can contribute by taking every opportunity to improve their performances and to demonstrate their skills before the public on every possible occasion.

UNIVERSITIES ATHLETIC UNION CHAMPIONSHIPS

COMPETITION MADE FIERCER

By Mark Horsfall

Leeds University was the venue for this season's UAU Championships, held over Nov. 19/20 and the splendid new sports hall saw a hectic, hard-fought tournament. The five events were played on twelve tables and competitors arrived from 22 universities. Although there were none of the top-ranking players of recent years in attendance the competition was made fiercer by the large number of county players.

In the men's singles the seedings worked out correctly for all but one of the quarter-finalists, scratch entry John Hopkins of Bradford reaching the semis in blistering style before the bubble burst against Paul Rainford of York. The other semi saw defending champion Dave Gannon of Aston ousted after a tremendous duel with Loughborough's Mark Illingsworth. In the final Rainford proved too sharp in

the first game to what 17, but let slip a big lead in the second as Illingsworth's fighting spirit showed itself. However, the effort seemed to exhaust Illingsworth and Rainford remained steady to clinch the title.

The women's singles was thrown wide open by the non-arrival of Birmingham's Sarah Sandley but here the seedings went awry as Cheryl Buttery of Nottingham fell to her old rival Lesley Broomhead, and defending champion Janet Deakin went under to Loughborough's Susan Blackburn. Taking advantage of the weakened top quarter Pam Graham of Bath came through to the semis before meeting the in-form Broomhead. Only Lesley Tyler, of Swansea, came through to her seeded position and in the semis had an epic battle with Blackburn before squeezing home in the 3rd. With Tyler just coming to the boil the final was one-way traffic as Broomhead struggled to find an answer to the Welsh No. 1's two-wing loops; Tyler taking the title 14 and 14.

The doubles events were dominated by Sheffield pairs as their all-round strength began to tell. In the men's the combination of Neil Bailey's ferocious

loop and Phil Aspinall's steadiness took them all the way whilst Broomhead and Deakin teamed up to win the women's from a small field. The mixed for once failed to throw up any surprises but did give the Loughborough combo of Illingsworth and Blackburn some reward for their efforts.

And so we look ahead to Swansea in February where the British Universities Championships will provide a chance for the Scots, Oxbridge and London to knock Neil Bailey off the throne he seized last year. Results:-

MS: P. Rainford (V) bt M. Illingsworth (La) 17. -17, 13.
WS: I. Tyler (Sw) bt L. Broomhead (Sh) 14. 14.
MD: P. Aspinall/N. Bailey (Sh) bt S. Fletcher/J. Okosieme (SO10n)-21. 17, 14.
WO: Broomhead/J. Deakin (Sh) bt S. Blackburn/J. Leonard (La) -18, 18, 19.
XO: Illingsworth/Blackburn bt Bailey/Deakin -19. 21. 10.

Cover Picture

Bedfordshire's Lisa Bellinger who retained her girls' singles title at Hinckley in the Beneficial Trust English Junior Closed with a final win over Sue Collier of Berkshire. Photo by K. J. Miller, R.K.M. Photography, Hinckley.

BENEFICIAL TRUST ENGLISH JUNIOR CLOSED

THE BROTHERS SYED
IN COMMAND
By Philip Reid

Affairs at Hinckley Leisure Centre over the weekend of Dec. 3/4 centred on the success of the Syed brothers from Reading who took two singles titles; Lisa Bellinger the only player to retain a title; and two unlikely doubles wins for Adrian Dixon.

Andrew Syed justified his No. 1 seeding in the absence of Carl Preat by smoothly making his way to the final of the boys' singles without dropping a game. Third seed Andrew Cunningham - who had an unhappy tournament - lost in the first round to Paul Amos after a gruelling 10, -18, 24 battle.

The unseeded Amos finally made his exit at the hands of Jimmy Stokes. Philip Huggon, of the 'funny bat', quietly-spoken and modest, went out in the quarter-finals to Kent's David Dodd but the latter's joy was short-lived for in the semis he lost to left-handed hitter and teammate Chris Bartram. Dixon was defeated only once the whole weekend and that by the controversial Cheshire chopper, Billy Gleave.

In the semis, Bartram, although sporting a bandage on his playing arm, hit fiercely against Dodd and even losing the first game couldn't daunt him. He fearlessly went on hitting regardless to earn a surprise, but well-merited, place in the final.

Earlier Syed had accounted for Gleave. Careful and unhurried in all he did, the Reading player looked a winner all the way. Never spectacular, his placement of the ball is something to be admired. Unfortunately Gleave was involved in the only incident in an otherwise trouble-free tournament.

After losing the first game -15, he trailed 8-17 in the second. The change of service gave him an opportunity to try out a service which Tony Chatwin thought illegal (and I agree with him) and promptly faulted Gleave for not throwing the ball up. Whereupon Gleave did the same thing three times in quick succession to concede the game, although Gleave made his exit as quickly and quietly as possible.

ON MERIT

Bartram then showed he was in the final on merit, having the distinction of being the only player to take a game off Syed which he did to the tune of 12 in the second. Hopes that yet another shock was about to take place, were, however, thwarted by the ever-dependable Syed who kept Bartram at bay comfortably in the third.

Lisa Bellinger, surprisingly beaten in both doubles took her place in the girls' singles final where she beat the

No.2 seed, Sue Collier, the same way as the rest of the opposition, in 2-straight. This was the only event that ran true to form apart from the Cadet boys' singles, all four seeds reaching their appointed place, the other two being Joanne Shaw and Teresa Moore.

The Cadet boys' event enables Matthew Syed to keep the Gymnasia Cup in the family, beating Chesterfield's Bradley Billington in the final, thus retaining the trophy brother Andrew had won last year. Syed's game is pure magic for one so young. Never afraid to give the ball plenty of elevation and retreat from the table, at the same time he breaks up his opponent's attack with sudden hits off both wings.

He reminds me of a pocket right-handed edition of the Frenchman, Jacques Secretin. Even Billington was unable to fathom out Syed's variation of chop, although he tried all he knew to do so.

The shock of the girls' doubles was the elimination of top seeds Lisa Bellinger and Teresa Moore by the Joanne Shaw/Laura Goldsmith partnership which they did to the tune of 15 and 15. Although Jill Powis and Amanda Hegarty played extremely well to take the second game from them in the final - the only game the winners dropped in the tournament - they could simply not withstand the power of the Middlesex/Yorkshire duo in the third.



Tom Blunn, the ETTA Chairman applauds the cadet boys' singles champion, Andrew Syed, after presenting the Berkshire lad with his trophy.

Photos by K. J. Miller. R.K.M. Photography. Hinckley.



Mr. Nigel Parrish of Beneficial Trust presents the cadet girls' singles trophy to Claire Potts.

DIMINUTIVE

The Cadet girls' singles featured the No.1 and 2 seeds, Andrea Holt and the diminutive Claire Potts in combat, with the former, top seed. Both girls showed a marked reluctance to reach 21 points! In the first game Miss Holt led 20-15 before Miss Potts picked up four points to make the score excitingly 20-19, but she was powerless to prevent Andrea hitting a thunderous forehand past her to win the first game.

Miss Potts led 20-8 in the second before Miss Holt, remarkably, took twelve points in a row to level the scores at 20-all. However the elusive points just would not come and the Cheshire girl levelled the scores. Incredibly, in the third, Miss Potts led 20-11 before Miss Holt did her rescue act again, this time collecting a mere six points in succession before Miss Potts ended the proceedings by unleashing a forehand drive which Miss Holt just failed to return. The large crowd gave both girls generous applause and they thoroughly deserved it, playing entertaining and brave table tennis throughout.

The two remaining doubles events were a triumph for Wolverhampton schoolboy Adrian Dixon who, at 14 years of age, plays like a veteran. With Amanda Hegarty they brushed aside the No. 3 seeds (David Rook and Susan Collier) and the No. 2 seeds (Huggon and Jill Powis) before playing the No.1 seeds Cunningham and the mighty Lisa Bellinger.

Although dropping the middle game the underdogs emerged triumphant, much to the delight of the crowd. No praise could be too high for Miss Hegarty, who played like a player inspired and handled Cunningham with ease.

Dixon was back on the table in the boys' doubles final, this time with

Murray Jukes as his partner. The pair had previously beaten the No.2 seeds, Bartram and Huggon, in the semis but their opponents, Andrew Syed and Stokes had gone one better, despatching top seeds Cunningham and Dodd from the event.

The all-action style of Syed and Stokes appeared to be winning the day, hitting continuously at their opponents. However a word from Ray Dixon and there was a remarkable transformation. "Don't contain them-go out and attack them", said Ray. Dixon jnr. did just that and suddenly Jukes sensing they were in with a chance of winning, started hitting like nobody's business with the result that the Berkshire pair were lucky to collect 15 points in the third.

FIRST TIME

This was the first time Worcestershire have collected a National title and doubtless Jukes will be very proud of the title, which will probably earn him the freedom of Kidder-

minster!

My impressions of the tournament was that it was a thoroughly pleasant and happy one. Behind the scenes organiser Mike Holt worked harder than anyone has a right to expect of him, but he was still happy at the end of the day.

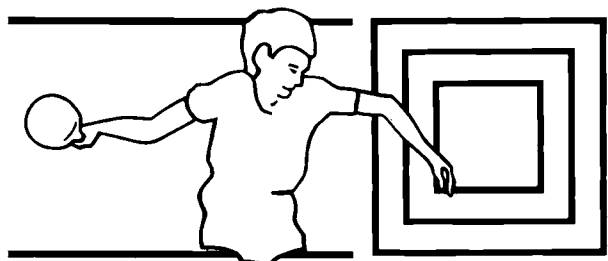
His helpers - John Iliffe, Maggie Johnson, Bob Kettle and his Cheshire second-in-command Roger Moss kept things going. On the umpiring front Doris Moors organised a good squad of umpires, ever willing to turn out at short notice.

And the tournament was remarkable for the number of ETTA officials who were present to make sure of seeing the success the tournament undoubtedly was. President Maurice Goldstein, aBE, Chairman Tom Blunn, Deputy Chairman George Yates, Hon. Treasurer Aubrey Drapkin, Gen. Secretary Albert Shipley, Deputy Gen. Sec. Mike Watts were all there - and you can't get a much more comprehensive list than that!

Our sponsors, Beneficial Trust, were there in force, from Managing Director, Jack France, downwards. Mr. France expressed himself well-satisfied with things and the juniors showed their gratitude to the generous sponsorship by turning out in force.

Mike Watts did a first class job announcing the various finals, keeping the large crowd well informed. On the control desk Peter Roden and his team never flagged and nor did Stan Parr, who was forever entering the results on the draw sheets - a boring but necessary job. Going round the tournament and entering results meant I didn't have much time to talk but I did manage a few words with Philip Huggon of Lanes. and Stephen Dorking of Essex - and Steve - sorry about those things in your ears - I called them washers - it should have been sleepers!

All in all a very happy tournament and enjoyed by players, spectators, and officials alike - which is exactly how a tournament should be run.



Beneficial Trust Grand Prix

Beneficial Trust English Junior Closed Results:-

Boys' Singles: Round 4:

A. Syed bt M. Firth 15, 8;
D. Goode (Mi) bt D. McVitie (Du) 16, 16;
A. Dixon (St) bt M. Jukes (Wo) -10, 15, 19;
W. Gleave (Ch) bt M. Syed (Bk) -19, 10, 16;
J. Stokes (Bk) bt B. Billington (Dy) -18, 17, 15;
C. Bartram (K) bt M. Randle (Wa) -19, 16, 18;
A. Dodd (K) bt S. Gibson (La) 12, -20, 14;
P. Huggon (La) bt P. Logsdon (Nk) -22, 8, 22.

Quarter-finals:

Syed bt Goode 17, 15;
Gleave bt Dixon 17, 16;
Bartram bt Stokes 18, 11;
Dodd bt Huggon 17, -13, 16.
Semi-finals:
Syed bt Gleave 15, 8;
Bartram bt Dodd 17, -13, 16.

Final:

A. SYED bt Bartram 13, -12, 14.

Girls' Singles: Round 3:

L. Bellinger (Bd) bt S. Hammond (Ha) 12, 8;
A. Hegarty (St) bt L. Davis (Wo) 13, -15, 12;
D. Soothill (Cu) bt C. Brooks (Sy) 11, 18;
J. Shaw (V) bt S. Butler (Dy) 7, 12;
J. Powis (St) bt L. Forster (Dy) 11,9;
T. Moore (Sx) bt L. Hayden (E) 13, 16;
S. Webb (So) bt A. Shufflebotham (Ox) 12, 16;
S. Collier (Bk) bt A. Sanders (St) 12, 9.

Quarter-finals:

Bellinger bt Hegarty 7, 15;
Shaw bt Soothill 17, 9;
Moore bt Powis 16, -4, 6, 13;
Collier bt Webb 17, 7.

Semi-finals:

Bellinger bt Shaw 16, 17;

Collier bt Moore -16, 16, 17.

Final:

BELLINGER bt Collier 16, 18.

Boys' Doubles: Quarter-finals:

A. Cunningham (K)/Dodd bt A. Hayward (St)/M. Syed -20, 5, 6;
Stokes/A. Syed bt N. Adams (St)/A. Henry (Dy) -21, 11, 17;
Dixon/Jukes bt Firth/D. Rook (V) 18, 9;
Bartram/Huggon bt D. Smith (Gs)/R. Thomas (Do) 13, 18.

Semi-finals:

Stokes/Syed bt Cunningham/Dodd 19, 22;
Dixon/Jukes bt Bartram/Huggon -15, 18, 18.

Final:

DIXON/JUKES bt Stokes/Syed -14, 16, 15.

Girls' Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Bellinger/Moore bt D. Bromley/T. Brown (Wa) 12, 11;
L. Goldsmith (Mi)/Shaw bt Hayden/A. Knight (Mi) 14, 13;
C. Mouzon (Nd)/Soothill bt H. Lower (St)/D. Wickstead (Sp) 15, 12;

Hegarty/Powis bt A. Holt (La)/C. Potts (Ch) 9, 12.

Semi-finals:

Goldsmith/Shaw bt Bellinger/Moore 15, 15;
Hegarty/Powis bt Mouzon/Soothill 10, 13.

Final:

GOLDSMITH/SHAW bt Hegarty/Powis 18, -16, 12.

Mixed Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Cunningham/Bellinger bt Jukes/Davis 16, 13;
A. Houghton/J. Houghton (K) bt S. Dorking/S. George (E) 11, -20, 13;

Dixon/Hegarty bt P. Elphick/S. Wesron (Sx) 12, 18;

Huggon/Powis bt Firth/Shaw 18, 15.

Semi-finals:

Cunningham/Bellinger bt Houghton/Houghton 16, -17, 14;
Dixon/Hegarty bt Huggon/Powis 13, 21.

Final:

DIXON/HEGARTY bt Cunningham/Bellinger 19, -18, 17.

Cadet Boys' Singles: Round 4:

M. Syed bt Phong Tran (Co) 10, 12;

M. O'Driscoll (Y) bt H. Williams (Gs) 12, 12;

A. Bolton (Ng) bt D. Butler (K) 19, 21;

Gibson bt A. Hutchinson (Sk) 17, 15;

M. Rutherford (K) bt M. Harrison (K) 17, 19;

D. Holland (E) bt D. Morris (Sp) 15, 11;

Houghton bt T. McGill (Sp) 14,21;

Billington bt D. Smedley (Dy) 10, *3.

Quarter-finals:

Syed bt O'Driscoll 22, 2;

Gibson bt Bolton 8, -16, 13;

Rutherford bt Holland 19, 17;

Billington bt Houghton 16, 19.

Semi-finals:

Syed bt Gibson 13, 16;

Billington bt Rutherford -15, 16, 18.

Final:

M. SYED bt Billington 14, 18.

Cadet Girls' Singles: Round 3:

Holt bt S. Kenyon (Sk) 10, 19;

C. Dada (V) bt Wickstead 14, 20;

J. Billington (Dy) bt J. Forster (Dy) 12, 16;

L. Robins (Bd) bt J. Norman (Bk) 19, 18;

M. Carey (So) bt K. Cox (La) 6, 9;

Shufflebotham bt J. Strode (Bd) 7,9;

K. Hall (Dy) bt T. Holland (E) 17, -21, 22;

Potts bt K. Mayall (Ng) 6, 12.

Quarter-finals:

Holt bt Dada 10, 17;

Billington bt Robins 15, 15;

Carey bt Shufflebotham -1, 7, 21, 14;

Potts bt Hall 19, 14.

Semi-finals:

Holt bt Billington -18, 12, 16;

Potts bt Carey 16, 20.

Final:

POTTS bt Holt -19, 20, 17.

HEYWOOD SPORTS

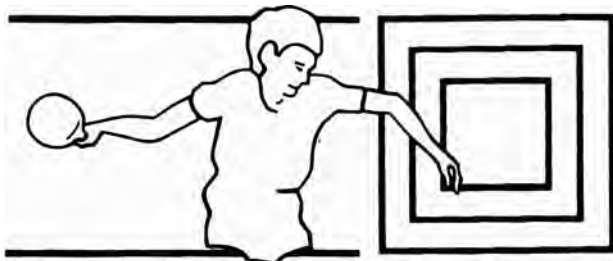
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Beneficial Trust Junior Grand Prix



Cheshire's Claire Potts (r) winner of the cadet girls' singles with her final victim Andrea Holt of Lancs.

Photos by K. J. Miller, R.K.M. Photography, Trinity Galleries, 98 Trinity Lane, Hinckley. LE10 OBJ.



Consolation cheque from Mr. Jack France for Cheshire's Billy Gleave, beaten in the semi-final of the boys' singles by Andrew Syed.



Top rung for mixed doubles winners Adrian Dixon and Amanda Hegarty of Staffs with the beaten finalists, Lisa Bellinger and Andrew Cunningham.



Boys' doubles winners, Adrian Dixon and a bespectacled Murray Jukes with runners-up Andrew Syed and Jimmy Stokes.



A handshake from Nigel Parrish of Beneficial Trust for the cadet boys' champion Matthew Syed of Berkshire with the runner-up Bradley Billington of Derbyshire looking on.



Laura Goldsmith of Middlesex and Joanne Shaw of Yorkshire inspect their gold medals presented by Mr. Jack France, the Managing Director of Beneficial Trust seen here with ETTA President, Maurice Goldstein OBE.



COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND-UP

by Murray Corbin

SENIOR PREMIER DIVISION ESSEX, MIDDLESEX & LANCASHIRE ON TARGET.

The first matches in this division were played at BIRMINGHAM ATHLETIC INSTITUTE, Highgate Branch, over the last week-end in November. Sufficient praise cannot be showered on STAN PARR of Nuneaton and the County Championships Committee, for spotting this excellent centre and subsequently, for his thoughtfulness in organising the week-end. Prior to the matches, there were a few reservations from some about his booking the Teams into a "dry-house" hotel, but in the long run, it worked out to be a splendid mishap. After all, it was a TT weekend we were therefor.

Much credit too can be given to Referee GEOFF TAYLOR and his efficient umpiring Staff of DOT SHERWARD, JILL SQUIRES, VAL ROFFE, LYLIA BEESLEY, JOHN DEVEY, TIM HUC - pronounced H.u..k.e.e., Brothers ALAN & TREVOR OPENSHAW, RAY STON, BOB WEBB and BARRY GRAINGER, all of whom gave up their valuable time to once again be of help to the players and the Organisation. Sadly and unfortunately, due to the untimely death of JACK MELNICK'S mother, he was unable to join the other Umpires on this occasion. I am sure that they, and everyone, will join me in conveying heart felt sympathies to Jack and his family for the loss they have sustained.

I would like to record the 'thanks' of our Chairman - TOM BLUNN, to DUNLOP SPORTS CO. LTD., for its continued support to the County Championships, including provision of all the equipment for the week-end, and also to KEN MUMFORD and his Staff at the Centre, for their total co-operation.

THE LINE-UP, RESULTS & TEMPORARY POSITIONS

ESSEX : ELAINE SAYER, SKYLET ANDREW, KENNY JACKSON, DAVE NEWMAN and STUART GIBBS.
LANCASHIRE : JOY GRUNDY, JEAN PARKER, DONALD PARKER, STEPHEN TURNER and STEPHEN SCOWCROFT.
LEICESTERSHIRE : KAREN SMITH, CHRIS ROGERS, DAVE GANNON, GRAHAM HALL and MAURICE NEWMAN.
MIDDLESEX : ANGELA MITCHELL, DAVE WELLS, MARK MITCHELL, COLIN WILSON and JOHN SOUTER.
STAFFORDSHIRE : JILL HARRIS, ANDREW BELLINGHAM, ANDREW RICH and CRAIG BAKEWELL.
SURREY : LINDA CLEMETT, NICKY MASON, STEPHEN HOLLOWAY, MARK OAKLEY and MAX CRIMMINS.

WARWICKSHIRE : SANDRA PEAKMAN, KAREN GROVES, CARL MORGAN, PHILIP GUNN, DEREK MUNT and BARRY JOHNSON.
YORKSHIRE : MELODY HILL, ALAN FLETCHER, STEVE SHARPE and JOE NASER.

MIDDLESEX 6 Surrey 3: ESSEX 6 Leics. 3: Yorks 4 STAFFS 5: LANCs 5 Warwicks 4: Warwicks 4 YORKS 5: Leics 2 MIDDLESEX 7: Staffs 2 ESSEX 7: Surrey 3 LANCs 6: Yorks 2 LANCs 7: MIDDLESEX 7 Staffs 2: ESSEX 7 Warwicks 2: SURREY 6 Leics 3:

	P	W	L	F	A	P	Ts
Essex	3	3	0	20	7	6	(43-19)
Middlesex	3	3	0	20	7	6	142-20)
Lancashire	3	3	0	18	9	6	
Surrey	3	1	2	12	15	2	
Yorkshire	3	1	2	11	16	2	
Staffordshire	3	1	2	9	18	2	
Warwickshire	3	0	3	10	17	0	
Leicestershire	3	0	3	8	19	0	

However, on speaking to them, I may have mistakenly got the impression that they are pleased to be in possession of the patent for 'laziness'.. The loveliness of MELODY HILL and ANGELA MITCHELL, who, may have added a little weight; the effervescent personality of KAREN GROVES... The choked expletives from MASON and CRIMMINS to Dunlop Balls, whenever they made a weak shot/unforced error. When Max gets going with his 'more-than-most skills', he is something to see. He is one of my favourite players and ideal for a beginner to watch. It appears that Nicky has gained two



A relaxed and happy MIDDLESEX with their Captain LEN PILDITCH, while BARRY JOHNSON seems to be showing concern about part of his Warwick Team of GUNN, PEAKMAN & MORGAN.

THE GOOD, BAD & UGLY

The foot-noises from GUNN/MUNT (Wa) which eventually held up play in the doubles set against ANDREW/JACKSON (E)... the admirable hustle-bustle work rate of GANNON, SCOWCROFT, NEWMAN, NASER, WELLS, JACKSON and SOUTER. I often percent of this ardour could rub off on ANDREW and 'Smiler' MORGAN, the world could be their oyster.

skills during the last eighteen months, but lost four - one being "the eye of the tiger". To add to this, there must be a lot of pressure on him to succeed like ALAN COOKE. Nicky is a completely different type of player and even after those four skills return, it will still take him another two years at least, to establish himself. This period of maturing and learning will serve him well.... Hello JEAN PARKER, JOY



Family Man ALAN FLETCHER, STEPHEN SCOWCROFT & MELODY HILL.

GRUNDY and ELAINE SAYER.... Yes, I did see some very good table-tennis too. Perhaps I could also point out that for those few of you who find it advantageous not to notice "NO SMOKING" signs in halls, SMOKING is NOT ALLOWED. You are not only breaking the fire regulations, but being proudly discourteous to the players and to many people like myself, who cannot bear to smell smoke. Whether you are a pipe-smoking **should-know** better ETTA official; an Umpire catching a quick puff in-between games; players or parents, I mean Y...O...U...! I do not want to name names; but I will, if it becomes necessary.

ALL RESULTS AND TABLES INCLUDE MATCHES PLAYED UP TO DECEMBER 4th

SENIOR DIVISION 2A

Cambs 9 Staffs 2nd 1; Worcs 1st 6 Warwicks 2nd 4; Suffolk 1st Yorks 2nd 5; Derbys 4 Lancs 2nd 6.

In the Derbys/Lancs match, the score was even after the eighth set; then AMANDA GOODWIN and STEPHEN BEVAN of Lancs pulled out the stops to clinch a 6-4 victory by defeating To Thuy Dung and Paul Harvey, respectively. The other stars from Lancashire included PAULA FRENCH, PHILIP ASPINALL and KEITH WILLIAMS. Derbyshire was also represented by Marilyn O'Sullivan, Stephen Yallop and Martin Simpson. This must have been a very hard and interesting confrontation, with seven sets going to three. The Referee here at Burton-on-Trent, was A. G. MORGAN.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridgeshire	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Yorkshire 2nd	3	1	2	0	19	11	4
Staffordshire 2nd	3	2	0	1	14	16	4
Warwickshire 2nd	3	1	1	1	18	12	3
Suffolk	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Lancashire 2nd	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Worcestershire	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Derbyshire	3	0	0	3	8	22	0

SENIOR DIVISION 2B

Devonshire 2 Wiltshire 8; Middlesex 2nd 3 Berkshire 7.

Devonshire's Dana Kratochvila, Sarah O'Leary, Gary Lambert, Paul

Whiting and Gary Wilson, suffered great pain in this 2-8 defeat by WILTSHIRE'S JANET PARKER, ALISON BOYCE, KEVIN SATCHELL, KEVIN EDWARDS and STEVE McBEAN. Notable victories here were Edwards and McBean over Lambert and Whiting, respectively, in the singles. The Referee was W. H. BLIAULT.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Berkshire	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Kent	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Middlesex 2nd	3	1	0	2	16	14	2
Avon	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Dorset	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Devonshire	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Wiltshire	3	1	9	2	11	19	2
Sussex	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

SENIOR DIVISION 3A

Cheshire 7 Northumberland 3 (Amended Result); Cheshire 2nd 4 Northumberland 6; Leicestershire 2nd 4 Lincolnshire 6.

At THE MAGPIE YOUTH CENTRE, Leicestershire's Julie 'Lovely Eyes' Revill Yvonne Hall, Martin Pickles, Keith Fellows and Phil Smith, just failed to clinch a draw in the last set, when Phil was beaten in the third by STUART WORRELL of Lincolnshire, giving great relief to SUE HUNT, SUE RADLEY, DAVE SKERRATT and BRIAN HILL. The competent HARRY WARD was the Referee.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northumberland	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Lincolnshire	3	3	0	0	18	12	6
Ctwd	4	3	0	1	22	18	6
Cheshire 1st	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Durham	3	1	0	2	16	14	2
Leicestershire 2nd	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Cheshire 2nd	3	0	0	3	11	19	0
Nottinghamshire	3	0	0	3	6	24	0

SENIOR DIVISION 3B

Wiltshire 2nd 6 Isle of Wight 4; Somerset 5 Dorset 2nd 5; Berkshire 2nd 7 Somerset 2nd 3; Cornwall 2 Hampshire 8.

At Sonning Common, Berkshire's 2nd Team of RUTH PURSEGLOVE, RUTH CHAMPION, SIMON ROWLAND, STEVE EVERARD and JONATHAN SAMUELS, pulled off a very good 7-3 victory against Somerset's 2nd of Shirley Dart, Fiona Stuart, David Wilson and Mark Bryant. JOHN FREEMAN was the Referee.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Hampshire	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Wiltshire 2nd	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Berkshire 2nd	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Somerset	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Isle of Wight	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Cornwall	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Dorset 2nd	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Somerset 2nd	3	0	0	3	9	21	0

SENIOR DIVISION 3C

Glamorgan 5 Northamptonshire 1st 5; Herefordshire 9 Worcestershire 2nd 1; Gloucestershire 6 Buckinghamshire 4; Northamptonshire 2nd 4 Huntingdonshire 6; Oxfordshire 4 Bedfordshire 6.

Glamorgan's VICKEY SKEATS, PAMELA GRANT, JEFF RIGBY, DAVID THOMAS and CHRIS NASH, after leading 5-4, just failed to record a slim victory over Northamptonshire, when Chris was beaten two-straight by IAN HAWKES, whose Teamsters-GLYNIS HOOPER, "DUSTY" MARSH, GRAHAM McKIM and BRIAN d'HOOGHE, must have been pleased to salvage a point

from the resultant 'draw'. The venue was PYLE LEISURE CENTRE and the Referee was PAULINE BEER.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gloucestershire	4	4	0	0	26	14	8
Buckinghamshire	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Bedfordshire	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Oxfordshire	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Huntingdonshire	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Worcestershire 2nd	4	2	0	2	17	23	4
Herefordshire	4	1	1	2	20	20	3
Northamptonshire	4	0	2	2	13	27	2
Glamorgan	4	0	1	3	15	25	1
Northamptonshire 2nd	4	0	0	4	13	27	0

SENIOR DIVISION 3D

Essex 2nd 7 Essex 3rd 3; Norfolk 1st 8 Cambridgeshire 2nd 2; Hertfordshire 10 Suffolk 2nd 0; Surrey 2nd 4 Sussex 2nd 6.

WENDY HOGG, JOY DIXON, RICHARD & MARTIN STEVENSON and DAVID SMITH of the Norfolk 1st Team must have been satisfied with this 8-2 flogging of Hilary Finch, Alison Edge, Geoff Davies, Martyn Livermore and Julian Wheel, the composite of Cambridgeshire 2nd Team. The match was played at the popular Miller Hall and the Referee was the amiable RAY HOGG.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex 2nd	4	4	0	0	27	13	8
Surrey 2nd	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Norfolk 1st	4	2	1	1	26	14	5
Essex 3rd	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
Kent 2nd	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Sussex 2nd	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Hertfordshire	4	1	1	2	22	18	3
Cambridgeshire 2nd	4	1	1	2	16	24	3
Norfolk 2nd	3	0	0	3	3	27	0
Suffolk 2nd	4	0	0	4	7	33	0

VETERANS' PREMIER DIVISION

Kent 6 Lincolnshire 3; Essex 5 Middlesex 5; Leicestershire 3 Nottinghamshire 6; Cheshire 7 Berkshire 2.

Lincolnshire travelled to GRAVES-END, one of my favourite little towns, to find MARGARET DIGNUM, HENRY BUIST, TOM ADAMS and RON ETHERIDGE of KENT holding a few aces up their sleeves. After a two-nil start by Mat Sheader and Brian Edlington of Lincs over Adams and Etheridge respectively, Kent took the next six sets, including Margaret Dignum's over Connie Moran. However, in the very last set, Etheridge fell to Brian Allison -1 0,9, -11. BILL LAVIS was the Referee.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cheshire	3	3	0	24	3	6
Kenl	3	3	0	16	11	6
Essex	3	2	1	16	11	4
Lincolnshire	3	2	1	15	12	4
Middlesex	3	1	2	14	13	2
Nottinghamshire	3	1	2	11	16	2
Berkshire	3	0	3	7	20	0
Leicestershire	3	0	3	5	22	0

VETERANS' DIVISION 2A

Bedfordshire 4 Worcestershire 5 Oxfordshire 6 Northamptonshire 3 Clwyd 2 Cheshire 2nd 7 Huntingdonshire 8 Oxfordshire 1.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Huntingdonshire	3	3	0	19	8	6
Bedfordshire	3	2	1	17	10	4
Worcestershire	3	2	1	17	10	4
Cheshire 2nd	3	2	1	16	11	4
Northamptonshire	3	1	2	13	14	2
Avon	2	1	1	8	10	2
Oxfordshire	4	1	3	12	24	2
Clwyd	3	0	3	6	21	0

VETERAN DIVISION 2B

Hampshire 5 Kent 2nd 4 Berkshire 2nd 2 Hertfordshire 7

Dorset 2 Sussex 7

Middlesex 2nd 4 Essex 2nd 5

In the Hants/Kent match, RAY LUSH justified his return to the No.1 spot for Hampshire, on account of his constructive defeat of GORDON HARRIS, which clinched victory in the eighth set for his Team of MARY 'Combination Bat' CLEGG, GED HOLLEY and NORMAN STAGG. In addition to Gordon, Kent was made up of Eve Gurr, John White and Jim Bromley. Thank You very much Referee RAY YATES, who not only sent me a typed short report on the match, but also had the foresight to include the names of the match Umpires, who were MICK STRODE and DI WINMILL. Other Referees should note this courtesy and recognition of the 'workers'. Perhaps this will be an induction for Referees not only to write their names clearly, but also to add those of the Umpires at the foot of the Match Score Sheets.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Essex 2nd	3	3	0	22	5	6
Sussex	3	3	0	18	9	6
Hertfordshire	3	2	1	17	10	4
Kent 2nd	3	1	2	13	14	2
Dorset	3	1	2	12	15	2
Hampshire	3	2	1	10	17	2
Middlesex 2nd	3	0	3	11	16	0
Berkshire 2nd	3	0	3	5	22	0

VETERANS' DIVISION 3A

Buckinghamshire 8 Cumbria 1
Wiltshire 8 Huntingdonshire 2nd 1
Cheshire 3rd 6 Clwyd 2nd 3

Buckinghamshire, on their home-ground at New Bradwell, Milton Keynes took on Cumbria's Catherine & Eddie O'Hara, Peter Buxton and Charles Usher. Took them on they surely did; because with the fire-power of SYLVIA COOMBS, LEN PRATT, ALEC WATSON and FRANK EARIS, only BUXTON could dodge the bullets and in the very last set, he dispatched Pratt with a pair of fifteens. I could not understand the signature of the Referee. It would have helped if his name was also recorded in Capitals on the line provided.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cheshire 3rd	3	3	0	23	4	6
Buckinghamshire	3	3	0	20	7	6
Hertfordshire 2nd	2	1	1	11	7	2
Clwyd 2nd	2	1	1	8	10	2
Wiltshire	3	1	2	11	16	2
Cumbria	3	0	3	7	20	0
Huntingdonshire 2nd	2	0	2	1	17	0

VETERANS' DIVISION 3B

Sussex 2nd 7 Dorset 2nd 2
Surrey 7 Wiltshire 2nd 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Sussex 2nd	2	2	0	14	4	4
Dorset 2nd	3	2	1	14	13	4
Surrey	2	1	1	11	7	2
Hampshire 2nd	2	1	1	9	9	2
Wiltshire 2nd	2	1	1	7	11	2
Somerset	1	0	1	4	5	0
Hertfordshire 3rd	2	0	2	4	14	0

JUNIORS DIVISION 2A

Warwickshire 9 Bedfordshire 1
Yorkshire 2nd 9 Lancashire 1
Derbyshire 6 Cambridgeshire 4

Yorkshire, with the talented RUTH BAXTER, RUTH BRAY, JOHN BULT, NICHOLAS NEWTON and ALARIC BASSANO, really dominated this Roses Match with Lancashire, who travelled across the Pennines to the HERMITS CLUB where Referee L. WARD had the perfect setting for a great match. Unfortunately, only COLIN HOGARTH out

of Lindsay McEwen, Lynn Harnden, Philip Crankshaw and Nigel Greenwood, was able to put up a meaningful resistance, when he overcame the business-like advances of Bult.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Warwickshire	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Derbyshire	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Yorkshire 2nd	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Cheshire	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Leicestershire	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Lancashire	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Cambridgeshire	3	0	0	3	8	22	0
Bedfordshire	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

JUNIORS DIVISION 2B

Dorset 7 Gloucestershire 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Sussex	1	1	0	0	9	1	2
Hertfordshire	1	1	0	0	7	3	2
Gloucestershire	2	1	0	1	9	11	2
Dorset	2	1	0	1	8	12	2
Glamorgan	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Middlesex 2nd	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

JUNIOR DIVISION 3A

Lincolnshire 2nd 5 Nottinghamshire 5
Cumbria 3 Northumberland 7
Cleveland 2nd 2 Lincolnshire 1st 8

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northumberland	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Lincolnshire 1st	3	2	0	1	15	15	4
Lincolnshire 2nd	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Cheshire 2nd	2	1	0	1	8	12	2
Cleveland 2nd	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Nottinghamshire	2	0	1	1	7	13	1
Cumbria	4	0	0	4	14	26	0

JUNIOR DIVISION 3B

Berkshire 2nd 9 Warwickshire 2nd 1
Herefordshire 0 Northamptonshire 10
Staffordshire 2nd 8 Worcestershire 2
Berkshire's RACHEL WATTS, YVONNE UNDERWOOD, KEITH HODDER, STUART CHAMPION and GRAHAM KEMP, lost only one set to the visiting Lynn Stanbridge, Carol King, Andrew Albiston, Sion Simon and Richard Todd of Warwickshire, when the Teams met at MORTON BAPTIST CHURCH HALL, NEWBURY. The Referee for this meeting was BRIAN LATHAM.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northamptonshire	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Staffordshire 2nd	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Cambridgeshire	3	2	0	1	13	17	4
Berkshire 2nd	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Worcestershire	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Warwickshire 2nd	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Oxfordshire	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Herefordshire	3	0	0	3	1	29	0

JUNIOR DIVISION 3C

Wiltshire 10 Avon 2nd 0
Cornwall 1st 8 Hampshire 2

Avon suffered another crushing defeat this time at the hands of CLAI RE HUNTER, JENNY NEALE, ANDREW OXLEY, JON HOOK and IAN NEATE of Wiltshire. Although only one set went to three, I do admire the courageous Jackie Nash, Paula Kearns, Lance Testa, James Boley and Jeremy Head of Avon, who keep hanging-on in there. Bravo! The Referee was A. S. DUKE and the match was played at Gorse Hill, Swindon.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cornwall 1st	5	4	1	0	40	10	9
Wiltshire 1st	4	3	1	0	34	6	7
Avon 1st	2	2	0	0	12	8	4
Somerset	2	1	0	1	12	8	2
Hampshire	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Cornwall 2nd	4	1	0	3	11	29	2
Wiltshire 2nd	3	0	0	3	7	23	0
Avon 2nd	3	0	0	3	2	28	0

JUNIOR DIVISION 3D

Norfolk 2nd 3 Surrey 2nd 7

Sussex 2nd 3 Kent 2nd 7

Suffolk 0 Essex 2nd 10

PETER CORNER took his Surrey youngsters to Norfolk and probably did not expect such a sterling performance from his KAREN WILDE, who seems to be getting a better grasp of the game, at last. She received very good support from NICOLA TAYLOR, JULIAN DUDMAN, NEIL DAVIS and DAVID HODSON. The very fast improving Norfolk Team of Melissa Howe, Louise Winter, STEVE FOX - who skillfully defeated Dudman and Davis, Lee Diggins-who slipped-up in the third against Dudman, but afterwards thrashed-off Hodson at 10 in the third; plus lastly but not the least-David Reeson. The ever-popular STAN HONOR was the Match Referee.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex 2nd	5	5	0	0	43	7	10
Surrey 2nd	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Kent 2nd	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Essex 3rd	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Norfolk 1st	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Suffolk	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Sussex 2nd	3	0	0	3	7	23	0
Norfolk 2nd	4	0	0	4	9	31	0
Hertfordshire 2nd	2	0	0	2	1	19	0

PLEASE NOTE THAT ALL THE ABOVE TABLES TAKE INTO ACCOUNT ALL MATCHES PLAYED UP TO THE 4th DECEMBER.

THANK YOU Team Captains and Referees who have responded to my asking you to insert the Christian Names of the Players on the score-sheets. I am very pleased to report there been an immediate ninety six per cent success rate, and without taking much from you, I can only attribute 'this' to my personal charm and to all of you. Thanks very much. Unfortunately, the other four per cent is made up of B. G. FRETWELL, PHIL GOACHER, S. RAISTRICK, F. JENNINGS, R. GARRETT, V. A. LAWRENCE, A. PALMER, T. O'FLYNN, S. TEASDALE, JACK DAWSON, ERIC TEALE, Mrs. P. NEW, C. TAYLOR, A. G. BURGESS, P. J. KIMBER, M. G. JACKSON, K. BEDDALL, Miss D. L. MOORS, Mrs. VALARIE ROFFE, and R. HAZELL. I do sincerely hope that I will be singing their praise very soon.

STOP PRESS.....JUNIOR PREMIER RESULTS

Yorks 8 Staffs 2
Surrey 9 Devon 1
Yorks 9 Clev'd 1
Middx 9 Berks 1
Clev'd 2 Middx 8
Middx 9 Surrey 1
Devon 4 Clev'd 6
Berks 4 Yorks 6
Devon 1 Kent 9
Kent 9 Surrey 1
Staffs 5 Kent 5
Staffs 6 Berks 4

At a quick glance, it appears that MIDDLESEX are just ahead of YORKSHIRE, followed by Kent, Staffordshire, Surrey, Cleveland, Berkshire and Devon.

Thank You All for your many Xmas & New Year Cards. Bless You.
P.S. I have just received your note, ERIC HILL of Yorkshire. I will report on it next month. KEEP WELL, ALU

COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

Mary Williams reports from.....

BEDFORDSHIRE

JUNIOR RANKINGS

The County Junior Trials were held at Trucks on Sunday Nov. 20, 1983 and after analysis of the results the following ranking lists were drawn up:-

Boys	Girls
1. Neil Stanley	Lisa Bellinger
2. Peter Edwards	Lisa Robins
3. David Murgatroyd	Joyce Mitchell
4. Lee Holmes	Caroline Buckley
5. Chris Wright	Ruth Forrester
6. Gavin Black	Christine Lawrence
7. Nick Apps	Hazel Lawrence
8. Martin Sharpe	Michelle Holick
9. Nigel Ali	Nikki Stimpson
10. Richard Pratley	Louise Dean
11. Darren Keane	Susan Evans
12. David Ward	Lisa Tarran
13. Peter Bowler	Bernice Setchell
13. Peter Bowler	Bernice Setchell
14. John Masters	Sara Jarvis
15. Mark Beaumont	Amanda Cotterill
16. Mark Wilkins	Mandy Willis
17. Steven Graham	Joanne Strode
18. Richard Bowler	Allison Clarke
19. Andrew Bradbury	Samantha Dawson
20. Gary Maunders	Michelle Harmer

The County Senior Closed was held at Bedford Trucks on Sunday, Nov. 27, 1983. Ian Doughty became the new men's champion beating David Sharpe -13, 20, 19.

The women's singles title went to Julie Dimmock beating Audrey Robinson 12 and 17.

Mixed Doubles champions for a number of years David Hyde and Audrey Robinson lost their title to David Sharpe and Dawn Campbell who won 20 and 18.

Other results were:-

M.D.: Doughty/Andy Conquest bt Sharpe/Keith Thompson 20, 14.

W.D.: Dimmock/Campbell bt Robinson/Lyn Hanratty 13, 11.

Sharpe, Andy James, Andy Conquest, Julie Dimmock and Dawn Campbell travelled to Oxfordshire for the latest senior County match. Despite being weakened by the absence of Doughty the men managed to win all six sets to give Beds. a 6-4 victory.

The junior team of Edwards, Wright, Murgatroyd, Caroline Buckley and Ruth Forrester travelled to Warwickshire. Weakened by the absence of both No. 1 boy and girl they fought bravely but once again suffered a heavy defeat losing 9-1.

The Veterans at home to Worcestershire lost their unbeaten record. The team of Colin Gill, Jim Wooliscroft, Peter Cutting and Audrey Robinson went down to the visitors 4-5.

In the Wilmott Cup Luton were drawn away to Dagenham. The team of Sharpe, Marc Lyons and David Foster lost 5-1 with Sharpe winning the only set for Luton.

In the same competition Leighton Buzzard beat Northampton 5-4 with Doughty winning 2, Robert Harman winning 2 and Conquest the remaining set.

Brian Halliday reports from.....

BERKSHIRE MONTH OF CONTRASTS

December was a month of dejection and a month of euphoria.

The last month started on the saddest of notes. Our President Harold Larcombe is dead and the county have lost its most faithful servant. These notes cannot attempt to convey the Berkshire Committee's deep sense of loss of so honourable a gentleman. Harold was working for the benefit of Berkshire table tennis right to the end and the numbers who attended his funeral reflected the respect and love that all the players and officials from the four member leagues felt for 'our Harold'.

On a happier note Harold himself would have been mighty proud of the Berkshire youngsters' success in the English Junior Championships. The deeds of those three female musketeers, Karen, Mandy and Alison are so well known but now another young lady has joined their ranks in no uncertain a manner. Sue Collier finished runner-up in the English girls' singles while her Omega Club team mates, Andy and Matt Syed and Jimmy Stokes covered themselves with glory. Andy winning the Junior title and brother Matthews, not to be outdone, clinching the Cadet championship, Jimmy was runner up with Andy in the doubles to seal another tremendous weekend for Berkshire.

The inter-town championship, senior section, became another long drawn out saga and ran several hours behind schedule. Not the administrators' fault and to be fair few grumbles were heard during a very long hard day. Reading, as expected, stole most of the honours going. They won the men's Division I after a hard fight with both Newbury and a lively guest team from Medway. Reading also clinched the Div. 2 title but were pushed desperately close by a surprise performance from Bracknell in the veterans' event.

Individual honours went to Simon Rowland, Wally Allanson, Jenny Collins, Dave Reeves, Mary Stafford and Graham Outrim who battled on with unbeaten records.

The usual Maidenhead threat to the Reading supremacy failed to materialise, only Martin Bartholomew was on form, and they must have been very unhappy with their poor showing. Consolation for them came in the ladies' event when their useful all round team just pipped Reading on a games count back.

The Wilmott Cup and Rose Bowl have thrown up several interesting matches - although why the member leagues have to play each other season after season is beyond comprehension. Regionalisation is one thing but there is a certain boredom of year after year of a match permutation

of Reading, Bracknell, Newbury, Maidenhead and Oxford.

Newbury defeated Bracknell 5-2. A good match this with the inevitable hat-trick from Dave Reeves. A different playing order might even have brought a closer result. Reading crushed Oxford 5-0 in a bad-tempered and best forgotten encounter, and then somewhat surprisingly completed the double with a Rose Bowl victory over the same league, England ranked Mary Denbow hitting a good hat-trick for Oxford.

County progress has fluctuated between success for the senior teams and defeats galore for the veterans. Our apologies must go to Somerset 2 who played our senior 2nds. The match was temporarily delayed by a gentleman who insisted on erecting card tables in the arena. It appears there was a clash of hall bookings; however, a fiasco was averted, and the match was played to its conclusion.

There have been few changes at the top of the Reading, Maidenhead and Bracknell Leagues recently. The Newbury 1st Division has developed into a two-club race between Thatcham 'A' and Wootton Hill 'A'. These two powerful sides clashed recently and the 6-4 scoreline in favour of Thatcham may clinch the championship for them. This club made the news again with their talented young junior Julie Norman carrying off the Kent Open U13 Girls' Singles. Newbury's progressive coaching set-up is now paying dividends and in a few years could pose a serious threat to Reading who not only dominate junior table tennis locally, but also nationally.

Finally a note of a possible record. The 1st Division Reading League match between Sonning Common and Post Office commenced at 7.40 and finished at 1.45 a.m. 6 hours and 5 minutes for 10 sets. Six expedite sets and not even a break for refreshments. All six players are masters of the 3rd ball push and are wondering if this was the longest 10 setter in England this season? Oh yes and the result was a 5-5 draw. We would be interested to know of a longer match.

Geoff Waters reports from.....

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

STRONG POSITION

The senior first team's win over Staffordshire II puts them in a strong position to challenge for promotion to the Premier Division of the County Championships.

Staffordshire II were the only county to have won their opening two matches in Division 2a, but they were completely overwhelmed as they crashed to a 9-1 defeat, at Soham.

Cambridgeshire welcomed back Mick Harper after missing the opening

two matches and he came back in style with a fine straight-games win over Mark Evans in the opening set. From then on the home county had things all their own way winning the next seven also in straight games to take an 8-0 lead.

Janet Dunning who has won three seasons running against Cambridgeshire, stopped the rot with a win over Mandy Judd, but Andy Withers won the final set for a clean sweep for the men.

With five points from three matches and the two pointless counties Derbyshire and Worcestershire to play at the end of the season, the next two matches against Warwickshire II and Lancashire II will be crucial.

The second team had Geoff Davies in their ranks after replacing Harper for the 'first two matches in the first team. However, he lost both singles to the Stevenson brothers in their match with Norfolk I and the team went down 8-2 for their biggest defeat of the season.

They were 8-0 down but the ever reliable Hilary Finch beat Wendy Hogg and Martyn Livermore got the better of David Smith to add respectability to the score. Julian Wheel must have been disappointed at losing his set against Smith. He led 20-14 in the third but lost 27-25.

The juniors met junior 2a leaders Derbyshire at Chesterfield and went down 6-4. This was a brave effort for with Tim Ashman sick and Helen Smith having to work, Cambridgeshire had to bring in Nick Rayner and Ruth Hutchinson as late replacements.

Despite their weakened team, the visitors took a 2-0 lead with Peter Holliday beating Nigel Adams, while Rayner proved his worth with a win over David Slack. Derbyshire hit back, however, to take the next five sets before Holliday completed a double with a win over Andrew Henry. Nicky Ashman completed the visitors' scoring by beating Slack in the final set.

In the first round of the Wilmott Cup, Cambridge had a rare 5-2 win over local rivals Ely at Owlstone Croft, Cambridge.

In a match that had four Cambridgeshire and two Suffolk county players in action, Cambridge were strengthened by newcomers Keith Richardson and Geoff Davies, former Ely and Wisbech players respectively.

It was this pair, who were responsible for Cambridge's first win over Ely for many years.

Richardson had three wins, while Davies won two, which included a splendid three leg victory over March National League colleague Stuart Palmer. Ely's two wins came from Stuart Palmer and Andy Withers, who both beat Martyn Livermore.

Cambridge now meet Leighton Buzzard in the second round.

Results (Cambridge names first)

K. Richardson bt A. Withers -20, 17, 10; bt M. Palmer 15,20; bt S. Palmer 15, 20.

G. Davies bt M. Palmer 16, 7; bt S. Palmer 19, 20, 20.
M. Livermore lost to S. Palmer -15, -14; lost to A. Withers -18, -16.

Hassy Soham maintained their unbeaten record in the Premier Division of the Halex National League with a 5-3 home win over Tibhar London.

Soham were expecting a hard match against third placed Tibhar, but it all looked so easy as they raced to a 4-0 interval lead.

Then things started to go wrong for the champions.

Paul Day lost to former Soham player Dave Wells and then Kenny Jackson surprisingly went down -19 in the third to Richard Jermyn.

John Souter was next on and he was unbeaten this season and with a run of 19 successive wins for Soham behind him. He started well against Max Crimmins, winner of the Midland three-star the previous week, winning 21-13 in the first game. He narrowly lost the second -19 and in the crucial third game, had a dreadful start from which he never recovered to go down -13. Soham's four set lead had now narrowed to one, but it all ended happily as Dave Hannah beat David Dodd to earn the home team two more points.

Champions Ely had a 6-3 win over March in the only Newmarket Construction League match to be played since my last article.

Trevor Smith, John Ashman and Joanne Palmer all won two each for Ely, while Peter Holliday, two and Paul Oldroyd, one were March's scorers.

Ely, like Cambridge have now won two matches, but Cambridge have a superior sets average of 14-4 to Ely's 11-7.

Alan Ransome reports from.....

CLEVELAND

NEW COMPETITION

A new table tennis competition, The Northern Region League, commenced last month. It is aimed at filling the gap in standard between the E.T.T.A.'s National League and the local leagues that operate in towns throughout the Region.

Eight club teams have entered the competition, six from Cleveland, one from Durham and one from Cumbria and they will all play 14 matches between December and May.

It is intended that the League will act as a qualifying competition for clubs wishing to participate in the National League in the future and will give players who are generally regarded as too good for their own local league but not quite good enough to play in the National League, regular competition at a higher level.

Ormesby 1st team includes Malcolm Birrell, David Fewsdale, Les Atkins and John Healy, whilst Ormesby 2nd comprises Mark Simon, Charlie Watson, David Hughes and John Miller. Riversley Insurance

Services (Billingham) have Jevan 'Chan, Phil Webster, Steve Cooper and Paul Borrowdale.

The Seventh Hartlepool Boys' Brigade comprises Graeme Lennon, Martyn Todd, Peter Judson and David Hutchinson and Doyen Middlesbrough have Brian Livingstone, Jim Mason, Barry Pearson and David Bradley. Hartlepool Wanderers team is: Paul Dale, Colin Willoughby, Dave White and Tom Snowdon.

Jeremy Williams reports from.....

CORNWALL

TURN FOR THE WORSE

Hopes of some high placings for Cornish Juniors in the Lentec Computer list took a turn for the worse at the National Ranking Tournament in Middlesbrough on Nov. 26/27.

It was an achievement in itself that our players completed the 1000 mile round trip to the North East but unfortunately they found the competition hard going. Our top Juniors, Mark James, Graham Reed and Alison Clemens were all expected to do well but all three failed to make any real impact. The best performance however, came in the Cadet Section where Karen Broczek won her qualifying group which should ensure a healthy rise in her ranking. Never mind, perhaps the venue will be at Land's End next season!

Most of Cornwall's top players failed to attend the Beneficial Trust English Junior Closed but of those present, Phong Tran stood out by reaching the last 16 of the Cadet Boys' event - a much-improved player this season.

On the Senior side five players; John Bassett, Jeremy Williams, Jon Woollins, Barry Cornelius and Mark James now feature in the England men's rankings with Bassett the highest placed at 169. It is an achievement for Bassett to be England-ranked at the age of 43 - yet he doesn't appear in the Veteran rankings at all. It is a pity though he has not been able to travel around more over the as he would surely be a threat to anyone in the National Veteran and National hard bat championships.

COUNTY MATCHES

Recent Results:

Cornwall 2 Hampshire 8

Cornwall Juniors 8 Hampshire Juniors 2

An inspired Cornwall Senior team showing urgency and aggression could and should have forced a draw against Hampshire when the two teams met in a thriller at the White Hart Hotel, Launceston on Nov. 19. A draw was not the final result though, and the 8-2 defeat was the second loss for Cornwall this season and promotion from Division 3B now seems far away. The large crowd were however, treated to the most exciting County match for

some time and two fine wins were recorded for Cornwall; Ian James who had a more than useful 2-straight victory over Derek Holman; and Cornelius who had an equally good win over Chris Shetler.

Cornwall's Junior 1st team were also in action against Hampshire and maintained their push for promotion from Division 3C with an 8-2 win. The team of Mark James, Graham Reed, Andy Hunt, Alison Clemens and Esme Stevenson gave a fairly lethargic performance but cruised to victory; Alison Clemens losing the only singles to Sarah Hammond.

CORNWALL SENIORS v HAMPSHIRE
B. Cornelius lost to G. Toole -14, -19, -19; bt C. Shetler -16, 15, 17.
J. Williams lost to Toole -17, -19; lost to D. Holman 21, -13, -16.
I. James bt Holman 19, 19; lost to Shetler 18, -10, -9.
Miss A. Clemens lost to Mrs. J. Green -13, -11.
Miss S. Collins lost to Miss B. Clarke -16, 13, -14.
Cornelius/Williams lost to Toole/Shetler -12, -11.
Clemens/Collins lost to Green/Clarke -14, -16.

LAUNCESTON KERNOW

Cornwall's only Halex National League club have had a rather lean spell of matches recently and they had a very lean result when entertaining the in-form Hereford-Times at the White Hart on Nov. 13. The 7-1 home defeat was a disaster for Launceston and halted their attempt for 3rd place in Division 3 West. Mark Owen, Michael Owens and Murray Jukes were, however, very impressive for Hereford; the only home win coming from Jon Woollins who defeated Andrew Castle.

At time of writing, Launceston Kernow had yet to play Holts Salisbury scheduled for Dec. 18 but a good result is essential to maintain any real challenge at the top of the division.

Next home match:- v Tarmac Ladies - Sun. 8th Jan. 2.30 p.m.

NEWS IN BRIEF

St. Ives "A" lost their 5½ year unbeaten record in domestic competition when they fell at home to Falmouth Docks "A" by 7-3 recently in the Gardinia Windows West Cornwall Premier Division. It was a remarkable record by St. Ives but a good win also for Falmouth who included new signing Mark James in their line-up from Camborne - a move that has caused great controversy in West Cornwall.... former Berkshire and England-ranked lady Gail Davies has moved back to Cornwall this seasonand rumour has it that Sharon James could be playing once again... entry forms are still available for the T.S.B. Cornish Junior 2-star open scheduled for March 3rd. Forms are available from John Crocker, 'Falaise', Cliff View Road, Camborne, Cornwall and from most Cornish officials.

Colin Taylor reports from.....

CUMBRIA

EXPENSES SAVED!

With only two teams this season in the County Championships, the County

will certainly save on travelling expenses. The reason behind the drop in teams, however, seems to be a genuine lack of top class players who are willing to give of their time to the representative cause.

The two teams left, Junior and Veteran, have struggled so far and have yet to register a win. For the veterans Clarice Rose (Westmorland) is still proving very hard to beat, but the gents are finding it difficult to string together a run of individual wins.

Ray Carr (Westmorland) has a 50% record but has only been able to play in one match out of the three played. Peter Buxton (Barrow) has won a singles in each of the last two matches. It is the same story for the Junior team.

Having lost such talented players as Debbie Soothill and Ian Sharp, who are both still eligible, the team will inevitably find it hardgoing. The girls, Karen Backhouse (Barrow) and Claire May (Barrow), are proving to be the strongest links, Karen having won three out of four singles and Claire two out of two.

The boys have only been able to win the odd single. Chris Brockbank (Barrow) and Derek Irving (Westmorland) have won two singles each, Chris having played only two matches out of the four possible. David Holmes (Barrow) won a singles on his debut but couldn't add to that in his other two outings.

On the League scene it's the same 'old faces' as far as the Barrow League are concerned, namely Vickers SC in top place at the moment (Alan Fay, Andrew Murphy and Neil Yardley) with Millom FP lying second (Tim Pachul, Andrew Pachul and Ian Sharp). Vickers have beaten Millom FP 6-4 in their first encounter.

The Millom League is proving to be a very tight affair with three teams in contention for the title. With Youth House (John Taylor, Anthony Johnson and Colin Taylor) on 81 points; Millom CC (Ian Sharp, Jeff Smith and Paul Sowerby) on 79 pts, and Millom R.U. (Neil Robertson, Alan Fallows and James Adams) on 76. The points scoring system of one point per set win is proving to be a great success. Ian Sharp is the only unbeaten player in the League.

Westmorland League has lost teams and thus have only two divisions instead of three. Last season's champions, Storeys, are one of those missing so the main contenders for that honour are Natland "A" and Queen Katherine "A". Whether Melling can also make a challenge will depend on the availability of their junior international star Debbie Soothill.

The strongest teams in Div. 2 are Queen Katherine "C" and Ambleside "A". Top of the averages and unbeaten in Div. 1 are Dave Hillbeck (Q.K) and Andrew Dawson (Natland) and, in Div.

2, Mark Tadross (Q.K) and Dave Phillips (Ambleside).

Undoubtedly the top club in the County at the moment is Vickers SC of Barrow. In recent years they have taken over from Millom School to lead in the coaching field and the trophy stakes. The club is currently fielding nine teams in the Barrow League. Four of them are in the first division, two in the second and three in the fourth.

The "D" team in Div. 2 are in the same position as the 1st in Div. 1 - namely top, and the "F" team are lying second in Div. 4. The Halex National League team in Div. 3 North are enjoying a good season and have one win and one draw to their credit with bottom of the table Unity to play. The club's juniors are improving rapidly and John Backhouse and Johnathon Lowes are the established best U-14 and U-11 players in the County respectively. The success of the club is due to a lot of hard work put in by the coaching staff, namely Mike Yardley, who has good help from John Proudfoot and Steve Bates, together with visits from star players like Desmond Douglas, Donald and Jill Parker.

Malcolm Allsop reports from.....

DERBYSHIRE

LOSING SEQUENCE

Derbyshire maintained their losing sequence in the County Championships with the most inept performance I have ever witnessed from a County team. Winning positions were recklessly squandered, with the resultant Lancashire 2nd 6-4 victory, after a marathon match.

Keith Williams gained two wins for Lancashire - Martin Simpson losing after a 10-2 lead in the third game, whilst Steve Yallop squandered a 10-5 third game lead.

No blame can be attached to Paul Harvey, on his debut, who lost both sets in the 3rd game - but he needs more experience and tournament play to compete effectively at this level.

Marilyn O'Sullivan was the only Derbyshire player to justify future selection. Marilyn's experience and steadiness played a vital role in the Women's Doubles victory, and she controlled the set against the powerful strong-attacking play of Paula French to earn her victory.

With the match poised at 4-4, To Thuy Dung let a 19-15 lead slip against pretty Amanda Goodwin: and with that the last realistic chance of a point disappeared.

Scores:

M. Simpson lost to K. Williams -10, 20, -18; lost to Phillip Aspinall -11, 17, -12;

P. Harvey lost to Aspinall 10, -17, -19; lost to Steve Bevan -20, 19, -10;

S. Yallop bt Bevan -24, 16, 14; lost to Williams -14, 10, -19; M. O'Sullivan bt P. French 14, 19;

To Thuy Dung lost to A. Goodwin -15, -20;

Simpson/Yallop bt Williams/Bevan 18, 17;

O'Sullivan/To Thuy bt Goodwin/French 14, -16, 20.

With Harvey on senior team duty, David Slack made his County Junior

debut and although unsuccessful on both visits to the table, the Derbyshire Juniors won 6-4 against Cambridge-shire.

Slack was our most promising player a few years ago and was a Nationally-ranked cadet but seemed to lose direction; I hope that this County Junior selection will see him treading the right path again.

Scores:
Andrew Henry bt Nicky Ashman 11. 10; lost to Peter Holliday 19. -10. -18;
Nigel Adams lost to Holliday -18, 19. -8; bt Nicky Rayner 9. 17;
David Slack lost to Rayner 15. -19. -15; lost to Ashman 12. -14. -19;
LOulse Forster bt Helen Gipp 14. 11;
Joanne Weightman bt Ruth Hutchinson 15. 16;
Henry/Adams bt Holliday/Ashman -10. 8. 18;
Forster/Weightman bt Gipp/Hutchinson 14. 17.

The Derbyshire Inter-Town League has got under way with last season's Div. 1 Champions Alfreton 1st losing their matches in both stages of the Competition played at the time of writing.

Only Geoff Gill of last season's Championship-winning team has turned out so far and his 3 wins were Alfreton's only return from a visit to Burton where Stuart Brooks, Harvey and Nigel Adams won 2 each with the Brooks/Adams combination adding the other in a 7-3 victory.

Upon visiting Eastwood Gill could only manage 1 win as Terry Bull and Billy Fowkes won maximums in a 9-1 victory for Eastwood which puts them at the top of the table having just beaten Derby 1st by 6-4 in their opening match.

Derby 1st brought in Dave Stills for the home match against Matlock 1st in an attempt to gain their first victory over 3 years, but 3 singles and a doubles win with Chris Francis only enabled Derby to share the points - with Dave Fearn and J. Burton winning 2 each and Tony Gregory gaining 1 set for a 5-5 draw.

Alfreton 2nd lead Div. 2 with Clive Holmes winning all his sets in a 6-4 victory over Burton 2nd and 7-3 over Matlock 2nd.

Alan Hearn won a maximum for Derby 2nd in a 7-3 victory over Buxton with good support from Neil Russell; with Chesterfield 1st (10-0 winners over Matlock) and Eastwood 2nd (8-2 winners against Buxton) also looking strong at this early stage of the Competition.

Jane Vickers starred in the only match so far in the newly-formed Ladies Division when Burton entertained Matlock. Rose Haggard won 2 and Desley Smith won 1 for Burton's 6-4 victory, with Pat Thorley proving Matlock's leading player with 2 wins.

Charles Horn and Robin Seale won maximums as Derby Veterans got off to a flying start with a 9-1 victory over Eastwood; but were held to a 5-5 draw by a Mike Padley-inspired Chesterfield. Padley won his 3 singles and combined with K. Fullwood to win the doubles for Chesterfield whilst Dave Smedley and Robin Seale won 2 each for Derby with Charlie limited to one victory.

In the Junior Division, Derby have

steamrollered the opposition with William Hollingworth, Gavin West and Mark Whitehall handing out 10-0 thrashings to Eastwood and Burton.

Chesterfield 1st handed out similar 10-0 treatment to Matlock, but M. Bradbury kept the Buxton flag flying with wins over J. Davies, D. Clay and David Smedley with Chesterfield 1st winning 7-3.

Chesterfield 2nd have won their only match so far with R. Francis and G. Harrison winning 3 singles each in a 7-3 victory over Eastwood.

BURTON LEAGUE

In the Burton League, the Div. 1 Championship fight appears to be between Tutbury 'A' (S. Brookes, P. Bentley & M. Close), Granville Aces, Hill St. 'A' (W. Eccleshall, A. Haynes & D. Wootton) and Bretby 'A' (P. Vickers, J. Vickers & M. Fisher); with Bretby 'B' looking relegation favourites after a poor start.

Central Red (D. Brightman, A. Walker & S. Campion) are making the early running in Div. 2 with Ind Coope Red (S. Sethi, N. Toplis, Mrs Y Sethi) and newcomers Uttoxeter (Mrs. R. Haggard, B. Haggard, J. Finnemore & C. Talbot) challenging strongly.

Bass Specials (J. Farrington, B. Powlson & C. Sabine) lead Div. 3, with Hill St. White (N. Goodhead, M. Footitt & M. Eccleshall) and Rising Sun (A. Smith, J. Elton & D. Newman) contesting second position.

Granville Jacks (D. Staniforth, A. Sharp & A. Mason) and Hill St. Red (D. Fern, Miss S. Reilly, P. Gourlay & D. Cook) look in a class of their own in Div. 4; whilst George St. Club (B. Hughes, S. Clayton & C. Smith) are the early Division Five leaders.

CHESTERFIELD LEAGUE

The Chesterfield League are considering a trip to West Germany this year during the Spring Bank Holiday, to mark the fifth anniversary of twin-town visits between Chesterfield and Niedernhausen. League Secretary Charlie Dunham has contacted all team secretaries, so if you have not replied to Mr. Dunham yet please do so immediately.

There was a disappointing entry for the Chesterfield mid-season Tournament with the following results:-

U-14 B.S.: Bradley Billington (TI B) bt David Smedley (Activity)
U-17 B.S.: Billington (TI B) bt James Lawson (Activity)
U-21 Singles: Steve Young (Activity) bt Kevin Thompson (Kitchen Creation)
Handicap Singles: R. Ioxley (Kitchen Creation) bt James Lawson (Activity)
U-17 G. S.: Kerry Hall (Activity) bt Julie Billington (Activity)
Handicap Doubles: Ioxley/Thompson (Kitchen Creation) bt Mike and Sarah Padley (Hunloke)

As usual the Chesterfield Divisions are very closely contested, with Transport C, NEDDC 'A' and Kitchen Creation 'A' all challenging for the Div. 5 Championship.

In Div. 6, with half the season gone, the Championship could end up with Trebor 'A', Electricity, Civil Service 'B', Staveley Chantry or Robinsons.

In Div. 7, Activity 'J', Hunloke 'G', Trebor 'B' and Activity 'H' are fighting out the Championship. Leading players

in this Division are P. and W. Richards & A. Clay (of Activity).

In Div. 8, newcomers Manor Youth Club are doing well closely challenged by Hunloke 'H' and Kitchen Creation 'C'. Twelve-year-old Stephen Plater is making rapid progress in the Hunloke team playing alongside his mother, father and sister. Other players doing well in this Division are J. Lawson & M. Jones (of Manor) and M. McGirr & N. Elliott (of Kitchen Creation).

EASTWOOD LEAGUE

Terry Bull won the Div. 1 Individual title at the Eastwood Championships with a 14, -15, 19 win over Clive Spate. The Div. 2 title was rather easily won by Tony White 8, 6 over Peter Hodgson; whilst Martin Starr was Div. 3 Champion with a 15, -14, 17 success against Ian Parkin. Junior title winner was Shaun Roper who beat Darren Pacey 3, 14.

Geoff Buxton is leading the Hallam 'B' bid for the Div. 1 title with strong backing from Tony Holland and Mike Pinegar. The title defence of Rolls Royce 'A' is floundering upon postponed matches, and it will mean a lot of matches during the second half of the season for the R.R. trio who are also involved in matches at representative level as well as in other Leagues.

Hallam 'C' and Rolls Royce 'B' are leading the Div. 2 table with the R.R. team of Keith Weightman, Alison and Stephen Taylor favourites at the half-way stage of the season.

January starts off with the Matlock Championships on the 1st (only Matlock would think of having their Championships on this day!); the Derbyshire Championships take place on Jan. 15 at Alfreton Sports Centre; and the Derby Divisional Championships are on Jan. 29.

Harry Black reports from.....

DURHAM

ANOTHER DEFEAT

Durham who were without David Blackburne and Darren McVitie suffered another defeat, 4-6 at home to Clywd, after they had led 4-2.

Cliff Olsson and David Godbold, the replacements, won a singles each. Tony Gelder also won one singles and teamed up with Godbold to win the men's doubles. The Welsh women were too strong for Yvonne Yarnell and Joan Suddick.

The County have issued a new men's ranking list which reads:-

1. Anthony Gelder (S)
2. Darren McVitie (PI)
3. David Blackburne (PI)
4. Cliff Olsson (Ph)
5. David Godbold (Ph)
6. Tom Robson (Ph)
7. Christopher Blake (8)
8. Robert Reed (S)

Key:

Ph - Philadelphia
PI - Peterlee

S - Sunderland

The men's Division of the Durham County Senior League is very close at this stage of the season. There are two unbeaten teams, namely Peterlee and Sunderland, followed by Philadelphia "A" who have lost just once. Leading positions:-

MEN					
	P	W	O	I	Pts
Peterlee	2	2	0	0	8
Sunderland	2	2	0	0	8
Philadelphia	3	2	0	1	8
South Shields	4	2	0	2	7
WOMEN					
	P	W	O	I	Pts
Sunderland "A"	2	2	0	0	8
South Shields	1	0	0	1	0
Sunderland "B"	1	0	0	1	0
BOYS					
	P	W	O	I	Pts
Peterlee	2	2	0	0	8
Philadelphia	3	2	0	1	7
Sunderland	3	1	0	2	5

In the Halex National League Div. 3 (North), Washington have only lost two of their opening six fixtures and are in a good position to challenge for promotion.

Their latest match was against Byker Newcastle II, the local rivals, beaten 5-3. Both sides were without their top players with Byker having had Nigel Jobling and Neil McMaster promoted to their first team. Washington, in the absence of Dave Svenson, also had McVitie and Robson unavailable because they had entered the Maureen Kerry Memorial tournament.

Thus it was a particularly interesting derby match since Olsson and Godbold played for Byker last season. Indeed, the results show that the final scoreline could easily have been reversed. They were:-

C. Olsson bt Eddie Smith 18. -20.19; bt Alan Matthewson 19. 17. D. Godbold bt Matthewson 20. 15; bt Peter Curry -19. 14. 19. Allan Thompson bt Keith Patterson 14.9; lost to Smith -14. -15. Doug Lawrence lost to Curry -10. -14; lost to Patterson -6. -17.

SUNDERLAND

In the National Leagues Championship, Sunderland have been drawn away three times out of the four competitions. The men's team travel to play Tyneside Summer League in the Wilmott Cup; the women travel to Westmorland for their Rose Bowl clash, while in the Bromfield Trophy the girls' take on Northumberland. The only team to be drawn at home is the boys' and they entertain Hartlepool in the Carter Cup.

Current leaders in the Sunderland and District League are:-

Premier - Murton C.C.
 First - Ryhope I.M.
 Second - Boldon C.A. "A"
 Third - Burn Park Meths.
 Fourth - Emplex "B"

Any other Durham County League wishing to have mention in these notes should contact me at 174 Queen Alexandra Road, Sunderland SR3 1XH.

John Holland reports from.....

ESSEX

MESSAGE RECEIVED

Our seniors are hunting to regain the Premier Division title in the County Championships. That was the message from Birmingham in late November. At

the first Premier week-end Leicestershire were felled 6-3, Staffs and Warwicks by 7-2 in both cases. Skylet Andrew was impressively unbeaten, with a particularly convincing win over Chris Rogers, who had inflicted his only defeat on Kenny Jackson. Skylet had a close encounter with Warwickshire's Carl Morgan, squeezing home at 19 in the third. The Essex team was Andrew, Jackson, Dave Newman and Elaine Sayer. Making her Premier debut, Elaine had a singles win against Warwickshire.

Realism forces me to admit that the second week-end, which Essex stage - will be much tougher. Then we shall face reigning champions, Middlesex; Lancashire with Don Parker and Joy Grundy; and a revitalised Surrey. Yorkshire were unimpressive in Birmingham but may be stronger in February at Walthamstow YMCA.

Our senior 2nd team remained on course for promotion by defeating our third team 7-3. Les Eadie, Des Charlery, Kevin Caldon and Kim Mudge comprised the team. The beaten thirds were Peter Hayden, John Dennison (who won both his singles), Richard Darnell, Julie Askem and Sandra Alborough.

Our Veterans I and II teams both won narrowly against Middx I and 11.5-4 in each case. 'Stan the Bat!' lost to Babs Adedayo for the first time, at 19 in the third. The score is always the same when these two meet, it just went the wrong way this time. Stan evened things out with a great win over Alan Lindsay. Debutant Brian Parish also fell under Babs' mesmeric spell but both Brian and Fred Lockwood defeated Don Smith. The second team can thank the determined Laurie Fountain and charming Shirley Carroll for their success. Both took maximums (or maximal!).

The juniors and cadets have been experiencing a hectic programme with the National Ranking Trials and English 'Closed' on consecutive weekends at Cleveland and Hinckley, respectively. I am told that the Lunar Sports Hall was regrettably unavailable for either event. Next year Outer Mongolia? However, having emptied the bank account on hotel and travelling bills it was heartening, on arrival at Hinckley to receive a 50p concession on the admission fee. Well done big-hearted ETTA!

On the table our players were impressive. Darnell dispelled any doubts that he is our No.1, at Cleveland, by advancing to the last eight of the Boys' Singles before meeting the Jimmy Stokes whirlwind. Richard's victims included Richard Blackburne and Chris Bartram. The new England list shows Richard up from 26 to 17 and how richly he deserves it.

Lisa Hayden is finding her best form too. At Cleveland her group victims included Alison Barker (Salop) and she progressed to the last 16 before nearly ousting Debbie Soothill at 23-25 in the third. At Hinckley she reached the

last eight before losing to Teresa Moore. This defeat was avenged just a week later i', the Middlesex 3-Star. Lisa is also ranked 17 and poised to ascend.

Steve Dorking performed solidly at both Celveland and Hinckley, without achieving any special scalps. It's good to report that he is up in the rankings too, at 26.

Our cadets made a steady all-round showing at Cleveland without hitting the high spots. All six - Sarah George, Joanne Cook, Tanya Holland, David Griffiths, Paul Pesce and Damian Holland - performed creditably. Only Paul failed to progress beyond the group stage. Tanya was unbeaten in her group, including a convincing win over Julie Billington, but fell to Julie Norman in the last sixteen. Damian finished second in his group to Neil Pickard, then defeated Andrew Eden (Lancs) and Andrew Houghton (Kent) before succumbing to Matthew Syed in the quarter-final. David, Sarah and Joanne all reached the last 32.

At Hinckley, Joanne and Sarah each fell in the second round to Julie Billington and Amanda Shufflebotham (axon), respectively. Griffiths showed welcome composure in coming from behind to defeat the Surrey No. 1 cadet, Richard Jones. He then went down to the powerful and talented second seed Bradley Billington (Derbys) who has even been known to beat father Maurice, I'm told. Damian survived a tough encounter with the all-action Chris Oldfield (what a striking, compact little player young Chris is) in the second round. Thereafter it was a comfortable ride to the quarters before being eclipsed by Michael Rutherford (Kent).

Tanya again played very well in defeating Andrea Wood (Derbys) and Helen Lower (Staffs). She then played a marvellous match with the athletic and aggressive Chesterfield prospect, Kerry Hall. Kerry just shaded it at 24-22 in the third. So it was another last sixteen exit for Tanya.

The finals of the Essex County Schools team events were played at Halstead Sports Hall on Dec. 10. It was almost a clean sweep for the Brentwood and Basildon area.

Winners were: U-19 Boys - Brentwood School; U-19 Girls - Southend High.
 U-16 Boys - Brentwood School; U-16 Girls - St. Martin's. Hutton.
 U-13 Boys - Mayflower. Billericay; U-13 Girls - Mayflower. Billericay.
 U-11 Boys - Buttsbury Junior; U-11 Girls - Buttsbury Junior.

Our best prospects for further progress seem to lie with the Mayflower U-13B team with Damian Holland and Russell Thornton and the St. Martin's U-16G with Lisa Hayden and Joanne Cook.

In the National League Division 2 (S) it has been tales of Gwent for both Witham F.C. and Dagenham F.C. The Daggers went there and won, despite a maximum by evergreen George Evans and Witham received them and lost. Dagenham won 5-3 thanks, in particular, to a double by Steve Dett-

mar, who won the last set to extend a 4-3 lead - 18 in the third against Warwick Armstrong. However, folklore has it that it was manager Peter Cranmer's 'lucky strip' which really won the day. For the first time this season, Peter had forsaken his uniform of dark blue cords, blue check shirt and DFC sweater for some new and jumper. He was ribbed about changing Daggers' luck before the game but was quite contented with a 1-4 lead. By the time Steve went into the third end with Warwick, Cranmer had been sent out to don his lucky gear which he'd brought in a carrier bag, just in case! Apparently, witchcraft still flourishes in East London!

Witham must have felt the black magic was directed against them when Nicky Standen failed to clinch his encounter with Evans after standing at a game and 20-16 up. It sounds as though George is already warming up for the World Vets in Helsinki next June. It's good to report that Robin Lang broke his NL duck with a good win over A. Evans in Witham's 2-6 defeat. Peter Hayden also beat Armstrong. The match was sponsored by Delta Paper Sales and had a crowd of sixty people present.

Which brings me to the mystery of the disappearing tables. The ETTA have seen fit to withdraw fourteen newish tables from Beauchamps School. Wickford which were previously at the disposal of the Essex County Association through former coaching officer Ron Gore. Apparently the tables have gone to various locations, all outside Essex. It is claimed that a National Coach invited our coaching officer Stuart Gibbs to a meeting to discuss the future location of the tables. Stuart disclaims all knowledge of such an invitation. Anyway, the tables have gone, much to the chagrin of the Essex Association which has many alternative venues for them.

According to one informant four of the tables are for the use of MR. Gore at his new home in Kent. I understand that he may have stables there. Now a famous American psychologist, B. F. Skinner, once taught pigeons to play ping pong. Now could it be that MR Gore is going to astound the table tennis world by emulating this feat with horses?

If I may end on a serious note. A lot of attention is now being given to the use of plastic balls in major competitions. Barry Johnson is conducting a survey of players' attitudes towards them and Mrs. Potts and I started a petition against their use in top competitions as from next season. The reasoning behind the petition is that balls just as much as bats affect the spectatorvalue of table tennis and that players cannot be expected to perform well with balls which they perceive to have different playing characteristics from the usual celluloid ones. It's time to standardise the balls and players like Carl Prean who decline to parti-

cipate in events using plastic balls merit support.

Alf Pepperd reports from

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

DEFIES RECOGNITION

Over the past few years I have been writing these notes one cannot fail to note the trend of some contributors on the state of the game in their particular part of the country.

I have also played a part, from time to time, in formulating certain criticisms through the medium of these columns, where and when I have thought it justified. I often wonder however as to the authenticity of some writers whose apparent lack of basic table tennis knowledge defies all positive recognition in relation to what they have been writing about.

However back to GLORIOUS GLOUCESTERSHIRE. Surely one of the smallest table tennis counties in England (only three Leagues). But, nevertheless, one of the greatest for help and assistance on the news front. (Readers, I do not write all this unaided). My correspondents are like the Scarlet Pimpernel!, NOT ONLY SOUGHT HERE AND THERE, they are HERE AND THERE, and very active as well.

This edition heralds a new year. I salute it, and wish to thank publicly those who have provided me with NEWS and HELP in other matters. They are:- Tom Blunn, Albert Shipley, Bryan Merrett, Les Smith, Peter Cruwys, Paddy Jackson, Gillian Smith, Jean Golding, Ann Smith, Bernard Mowbray, Andy Browett, Dave Lewis, Alan Lardner. And one other person who simply cannot be left out is our new Head of Sport at Radio Severn-Sound, Graham Gardner. The times that I have pestered him this season for portable tape recorders for outside interviews have been innumerable - I shall get kicked out one day for sure!

The Staff at Gloucester Leisure Centre have also been exceedingly kind to me, in helping with live broadcasts such as the Cotswold Junior Select and The Stiga Schools. I again look forward to their help for the Beneficial Trust Cotswold Junior Select Grand Prix.

All three Leagues in the County now have newsletters. 'Gillian Smith continues to edit "Net & Edge" in Cheltenham, Andy Browett is in his second year with "Bat - Chat" in the City, and over at Stroud Dave Pobjoy and friends have started up a Newsletter called "The Stroud Block". At first I thought the title a trifle off-beat (kept thinking of the "H" Block in N. Ireland). But on reflection if the Stroud lads keep the rest of the issue as the first, then "The Stroud Block" is O.K. by me.

COUNTY CLOSED

Played for the second year running

at Newent, this local event took longer to complete than perhaps was generally expected. Graham Lee, though not on the County Executive, did early Trojan work to get the tournament off the ground, the fruits of his labours being well rewarded by a fairly smooth-running affair which in the end did tend to doddle into a much later hour than should have been.

Paul Jackson won the Men's Singles final beating Darren Griffin, the defending champion.

The surprising result came from 14-years-old Craig Saunders from Lydney who beat the County's No.4 senior Sylvester Callum.

Another upset occurred in the Veteran singles when unseeded 4th Division player Trevor Ellery beat one of the top seeds Alan Giles. Trevor was eventually beaten by Peter Wood the ultimate winner. (Bryan Merrett was not present).

Possibly the greatest shock of all came when unseeded Frank Jones and scratch partner Graham Slack beat the much fancied combination of Steve Moreman and Andrew Golding to win the Men's Doubles.

Results:-

B.S.: C. Saunders bt Anthony Wilson, 16, 14.

G.S: (Group ranking) No.1 J. Ellery, 2. C. Slack, 3. A. Wyeman.

E.G.S: (Group ranking) No.1 Jenny Egan, 2. Martina Cole, 3.

Natalie Cole.

e.B.S: Gary Thomas bt Keith Rodway, 17, 8.

V.S: P. Wood bt T. Ellery, 13, 19.

W.D: Nina Tsakarisianos/Heather Colwill bt Jean Golding/Cathy

Robb, 15, 17.

J.D: Tony Wilson/Thomas bt Lawrence Symonds/Atul Patel, 17,

-13, 18.

W.S: Tsakarisianos bt Christine Iacopi, 10, 13.

X.D: Jenny Ellery/Darren Griffin bt Steve Moreman/Iacopi, 16, -

16, 18.

M.D: F. Jones/G. Slack bt A. Golding/Moreman, 24, -8, 10.

M.S: Paul Jackson bt T. Griffin -17, 18, 15.

COUNTY MATCHES

Gloucestershire in the Senior field have unquestionably experienced some very close results but are still unbeaten. One match in question could have gone either way, that was versus Bedfordshire. Playing far below his best Jackson lost both his singles to Ian Doughty and Andy Conquest. Fortunately our women produced great form, Christine Iacopi beat Dawn Campbell and Nina Tsakarisianos beat Julie Dimmock. Griffin held the fort with two wins and Golding chipped in with a singles beating Conquest 14, 15. Final result was 6-4 in favour of Gloucs.

If the foregoing was a cliff-hanger then the match against Bucks was no exception. Both teams were unbeaten and tension at the venue was electric. Bucks had brought in Phil Bradbury whose flamboyant attacking game meant that Gloucs. came to be dependent on the distaff element of Nina and Christine. They won their doubles in three after being 1-11 down in the first.

Sympathetic applause went to Golding whose opponents Les Wooding and Bradbury produced top form in the singles.

Wooding's display was to be one of the evening's highlights. Final result was 6-4 in favour of Gloucs.

Despite the success of the Seniors,

our Juniors (much weaker this year since Griffin's entry into the Senior team) are not doing quite so well. Nevertheless old timers Arron Becket and David Smith DO HAVE Craig Saunders and Jenny Ellery who both, by now, should have the experience to pull off a few wins in the new year. Carole Slack a comparative new-comer to the Junior team is without doubt finding the going a little hard. Get as much coaching as possible Carole - your heart's in it.

WARNER SHIELD CHAMPIONSHIP

A purely personal opinion and one that will undoubtedly provoke criticism in certain parts of the County, but I think it high time that this out-dated local Derby is scrapped. Let's just look at the facts. It's a Round-Robin between Gloucester, Stroud and Cheltenham; it's been in operation since the early 50's, and one team has dominated it - namely Gloucester City. Results to date:- In the first round Stroud beat Cheltenham 5-4, and then were drawn to play Gloucester - the result, City 9, Stroud 0. I predict much the same score when Gloucester play Cheltenham. It's very nice to win, but when winning becomes a mere formality then I think it's time to call it a day.

PROVIDENCE CAPITAL COUNTY PREMIER LEAGUE

After months of speculation and words spelled out with guarded caution in previous copies of T.T.N. the League is now well under way and, on the basis of the first six matches, can be regarded as a great success.

As a new venture it is perhaps worth while looking for the reason behind this. **Firstly** the format in which all six teams play three matches at the same venue on one evening, and in which the usual playing order is reversed so that the last three sets are 3 v 3, 2 v 2, and 1 v 1, brings matches to an exciting **climax**. Half the matches have been decided by the 1 v 1 match, there are NO DOUBLES, so each match has a definite result. Secondly the six teams appear to be very evenly matched - all matches except one have resulted in 5-4 scorelines but sets have not gone according to form and several No. 3's have scored notable wins against higher-ranked opponents.

Thirdly the players have responded with enthusiasm and matches have been contested very keenly but in a very sporting spirit.

The range from Junior to Veteran and this mix of attacking and defensive players has led to some very exciting play that has been a real pleasure to watch.

Although the teams were arranged it is very noticeable how players in a team support each other. Finally one must not overlook the work of the Committee in organising the matches and the very generous sponsorship of The Providence Capital Insurance Com-

pany, which has enabled venues to be hired, large enough to stage three matches at the same time.

The Committee also wish to express thanks to Terry Warners Sports and Bill Hook for supplying the balls.

After six matches "The Pioneers", (Captain Steve Moreman) lead with 11 points, followed by, "Specific Performance", (Captain Darren Griffin) with 10, and the "Mojo's" (Captain Andrew Golding), with 9 points. All other teams have 8. Griffin is the only player with a 100% record, Golding, Martyn Lane, Moreman and Mark Owen have all lost one.

Undoubtedly a factor in the success of "The Pioneers" has been the form of veteran Alan Giles, who, at No. 3, has won two sets in each of his matches.

My grateful thanks to the Chairman of the C.P.L., John Boyd, for this report and also for allowing me to interview him on Severn-Sound on Nov. 12.

SNIPPETS

In the recent Stroud Junior Trials Sue Webley beat all the boys including the much-fancied Howard Williams and Neil Gingell. Miss Webley is worthy of her No.1 Junior status, but why, oh why, outside of Stroud do we see so little of her?

Sorry to hear that former County Player Dave Harvey from Cheltenham is (at time of writing) in Gloucester Hospital. Get well soon, Dave.

Congratulations to the following upon selection for the 'All England Junior Trials' at Cleveland:- Aaron Beckett, David Smith, Dale Saunders, Howard Williams and Neil Gingell. Well done lads.

Three years ago, I began broadcasting table tennis news on Local Independent Radio Severn-Sound. Came Christmas 1983 I had done 83 weekly Broadcasts and 14 interviews. I would like to hear from anyone doing similar work, perhaps we could pool ideas.

Finally, (did I hear someone mutter "about time too,"), a well-known table tennis playing Gloucesterian told me that in his opinion, I write too long a report and that quite often he falls asleep reading it. I likewise invariably fall asleep while writing it!



Alf Pepper on the air for Radio Severn-Sound.

David Cosway reports from.....

HAMPSHIRE

SENIOR CLOSED

Recent main event was the senior closed. I will start for once with the ladies! At the start of the season there was some criticism and doubts from the Table-Tennis public at the ranking of 15-years-old Sarah Hammond as No.1 woman, despite the fact that she did not play in the pre-season trials. This pressure on Sarah's status had been strengthened by the good performance turned in at county level by both Jill Green and Barbara Clarke. For the first time therefore the selectors' decision was to be put to the test with Sarah the top seed in the women's singles. Her first main stumbling block was in the semi where she faced No.3 seed Barbara Clarke, who took the first game 16 but Sarah came back to win the second at 12. A 13-7 lead for Barbara in the third and things looked black for the county's new Junior international. Sarah gradually pulled back this lead but still trailed at 17-20 only to win five points on the trot to give her a 22-20 passport into the final.

In the other half the non-appearance of the No. 4 seed Jan Turley gave No. 2 seed Jill Green an easier passage and she duly disposed of Ann Longland in the semi 16, 11. So the main contender for Sarah's No. 1 ranking was her opponent in the final. Sarah won the first comfortably at 11 but lost the second even easier at 8. The third was even all through with, I thought, Sarah not playing her best shots and getting bogged down. I know Jill's strength is her excellent attacking shots but to play **into** her hands and not break up her game with the occasional hit seemed dangerous tactics. However, with nerve ends showing from both players the game progressed to 20-18 in Sarah's favour only for Jill to level at "deuce". Sarah showed her metal however, to take the next two points and with it her first senior title. To win two close sets at "deuce" in the third against experienced senior county players showed that Sarah not only deserved the No. 1 spot but also spoke teams for her temperament and she must now go on to greater things.

In the men's singles all went more or less according to plan! Early surprises however were the defeat of Miki Sinanin by Adrian Lee and the exit of seeded Steve Billmore, beaten by Gary Longland. All the other seeds reached their allotted quarter-final spots. At that stage top seed Graham Toole beat Nick Frost 15 and 17, No. 4 seed Rhamish Bhalla beat Lee 22, -16, 16 and No. 3 seed Derek Holman beat Longland 19 and 16. The first major upset was the defeat of No. 2 seed Chris Shetler by Graham Green 21, 18. The semis were relatively straightforward affairs with Toole beating Bhalla 13 and 13 and Holman beating Green 18 and 17. Holman, who won this title

first around the time Toole was born, gave his young opponent the run around in the first game of the final and with his usual verbal encouragement to himself he led 20-17. He then appeared to run out of steam and some careless shots rather than his opponent's good play, lost him the next five points and the game at -20. Only one player in the second game and Graham comfortably won at 14 to retain his title.

The men's doubles title was retained by Holman and Bhalla. They had a 15 and 17 semi victory over Frost and Mark Thomas while their final opponents Toole and Sinanan beat Shetler and Longland 16, -13 and 17. The final a 9 and 20 win for Holman and Bhalla.

A poor entry in the Women's doubles with Barbara Clark and Jill Green beating Sarah Hammond and Ann Longland in the final 14 and 18, and both getting their name on a county title for the first time. The mixed semi turn-up was the beating of top seeds Toole and Sarah Hammond by Ian Schwartz and Barbara Clarke 18, -17, 20. They showed it was no fluke by disposing of Graham and Jill Green in the final 11, -22, 17. The Veteran singles had a few early surprises including Schwartz knocking out No.2 seed Norman Stagg and Tony Nixon beating Ron Powell. Ian continued his good day with a 13 and 13 semi-final win over Maurie Shave to push his claim for a county team place. Top seed Ray Lush had a close semi-final encounter with Nixon before emerging the 15, -20, 15 victor. Lush gained his ninth Veteran title and revenge over Schwartz, who knocked him out of last year's event in controversial circumstances, with an easy final victory, 10 and 11.

A poor entry of only 32 in the men's singles gave the tournament secretary Harold Albery and referee Peter Thorne no problems with an early finish for all concerned. Surely more entries should be received for an event of this stature but no entries at all from some member associations. Notable by their absence were Bournemouth in particular and in view of their past strength this can only be regretted. Now they are "outsiders" as far as county boundaries are concerned, one can only wonder as to their future in Hampshire if Bournemouth players now appear to give preference always to Dorset.

In the County Championships good wins for the senior team by 7-3 over Somerset and 8-2 over Cornwall must now put them in with a good chance of promotion. Against Somerset Toole was outstanding winning his two singles with Jill Green and Barbara Clarke unbeaten. The same results against Cornwall with the same team and this time the men's doubles was also won. The junior team went down to Cornwall 2-8 with Sarah Hammond winning the girls' singles and combining with Caroline Jenvey in the girls' doubles to score the county's

only victories. The Veteran "A" team went down 0-9 to Essex II, that hot bed of veteran table-tennis, but went on to beat Kent" 5-4. Lush back to his deserved No.1 ranking collected two wins while Ged Holley and Mary Clegg recorded singles wins. Ray and Mary gained the vital mixed victory. Shave justified his recall to the county second veterans' team with two wins in his team's 5-4 win over Surrey. Ann Abrahams won her singles and combined with Nixon to win the mixed while Shave and Ken Giles won the men's doubles. With Somerset unable to field a team the county had a walk-over in their next match.

It is good to see the Alton Association join the county this year for the first time and become affiliated to the ETIA. A brave decision by that Association for short term they may have little to gain but surely long term it is right that all table-tennis should be played under the ETTA banner and reap the benefits that affiliation brings! I see that Kathy Ridgard (nee Conlon) has produced her first offspring, Susan Ann, who weighed in 5lb 14oz. Congratulations to Kathy who has given loyal service to the county and hopes to pick up her bat again at the end of January. What a patchy fixture list for the National League premier division for Jaques Generation's first season after promotion. After three home matches in the first 7 weeks of the season they have a wait of two months for their next match and they started the season playing each of the first four Sundays. I know there is a congestion of fixtures of all kinds but surely some priority must be given to a balanced fixture list for what is now generally accepted to be a major league' Generation's last match now seems too long ago for comment but it resulted in a very good 8-0 win over Dunlop Birmingham. I am pleased to see Harold Pearce's "21 up" is back in regular publication in Bournemouth. How I envy this excellent magazine. It is a model for other associations but how many leagues have a Harold Pearce'

John Prean reports from.....

THE ISLE OF WIGHT AND BEYOND

CARL'S BAD SPELL

I went down with 'flu before the ETTA's annual showpiece, the Charles Church International at the Wembley Conference Centre and missed the fun, except the 25 minutes on Television, the Douglas victory, the Prean defeats which caused one well-wisher to conclude that "Prean is finished".

He certainly had a bad tournament. My mind went back to September when he seemed a lone, heroic figure that had put English table tennis on the map as a result of those 34 victories in the World and Commonwealth

Championships, 6th in the Norwich Union World Masters, 6th too in the 555 World Cup. "Prean saves England" "Prean glues Waldner" were some of the headlines. Two months had passed. We were in November. Is fame really as fleeting as that?

WHAT HAS GONE WRONG?

Have international legislators inflicted more damage on the player than his on-the-table opponents ever did? Certainly the change in the service rule hurt. The famous back-to-the-table serve is now dead. Despite the interest of public, media and TV in this gambit, we did not mind, because we thought ALL hidden serves would be illegal. It has not happened. Quite stupendously obscured services continue to carry their owners to victory. But that rule already existed in Barbados during the World Cup where Carl was practically the only player who served in front of the body and still sent three world-ranked players for what Eddy Waring described as an early bath.

COLOUR CHANGE

It was Carl's intention to switch to two colours on Jan. 1. Unfortunately 'Friendship 729' went out of stock in the black colour and red had to be used which anticipated the wishes of the legislators and that is what he played with at Wembley.

Nevertheless the theory that this brought about his downfall has yet to be tested, because every victory in that 'bad' spell of two months was also achieved with red/black. Victims included Engel, Plum (3 times), Minkevich (victor over Klampar the previous day) and Molnar (winner this season of the Hungarian Top 10). The double defeats against Poland and Sweden were obtained with black on both sides. Playing with sponge on both sides in the Humberside was an experiment. Carl played technically quite well, tactically rather less so, but it was a new challenge. None of the panic chronicled by John Holland in combination bat circles took place. He played with what he could get, i.e. normal production line rubbers in whatever colours were in stock.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE DEBUT

In September the trip to Poland was Carl's first European League Match. He had been given no opportunities the previous season, but as he had beaten Grubba 4 times and Dryszel twice, and had never lost to either, one felt reasonably hopeful. He played with black on both sides and lost both sets. The trip proved a disillusioning experience. The travel schedule was unbelievable. Not being a travel agent, I don't know whether it was the best or merely the cheapest available. The player was told to check in at a hotel in Bloomsbury, not noted for its closeness to London Airport. There was no sign of England captain Peter Simpson either that evening or the next morning

when he departed for the Airport leaving the player behind. The plane was nearly missed, there was understandably much panic which we shared on the Isle of Wight as indeed did Peter Charters at Reading and Roy Stevens at Hastings. There was no reserve and we nearly created a new record of turning up one short in the European League.

The journey was a long one with a number of changes and arrival in Wroclav rather late at night with the match the following day. After a short night in a small room with cold and cold running water our hero went to the table the following day and duly lost his two. The more experienced travellers pulled us through and we won 4-3.

I learned later that travel arrangements were similar to usual procedures which have players arrive as tired as possible. Cash shortages no doubt dictate such policies. My view is that, when you play in such matches, you should try to win. The first condition is that players arrive at the table in peak condition. This is not achieved by long journeys. Therefore to try to arrive a day earlier is elementary. If it costs more, you have to cut elsewhere. The alternative is not to compete at all. There is no point in doing everything on the cheap and losing. Frankly, it is hard to imagine England winning any European League Match AWAY from home except against a very weak or experimental foreign side.

DROPPED BY ENGLAND?

Carl was not picked for the Swedish Open. The official explanation was that no English player would be picked for more than two foreign Opens before Christmas. I assume that this means that a rationing system is in force which replaces previous criteria like picking the best available team. In Carl's case it was an absolute tragedy as he needed one or two good wins to keep his place in the European Top 12 which would have ensured his participation in the tournament of the same name and the chance to play against the best 11 players in Europe on a best-of-5 basis. What an opportunity for a boy of 16 and reward for his play in the World Championships. Publicity, media exposure too for our under-publicised Sport. No such thoughts entered the heads of our Selectors. When the player needed help he looked in vain in that direction.

In vain too to his team captain Peter Simpson, from whom not a word of comfort or 'How can I help?' during that barren, unhappy spell, but, as they say, that's show business.

THE FUTURE?

As Terry Griffiths has said, there can be beauty in defeat. That is when you learn. In victory you have got away with your bad shots and learn little. A new era starts in 1984 when Carl will play Table Tennis full-time at least for

a couple of years. Practise will be easier to plan when it need no longer be snatched for an hour or two between school and sleep. He will no longer be an amateur competing with professionals.

Carl has enjoyed immense success which made the Wembley fiasco harder to bear, but as he sat sadly in his chair over came George Yates and said: "I know you will be back, Carl. I know you won't let me down". We shall always remember that kindness. It will be repaid soon. We hope in Moscow in April.

Philip Reid reports from.....

LEICESTERSHIRE

DISMAL PICTURE

A pretty dismal picture all round I'm afraid as far as county matches go. That's the first thing I have to say. First the senior first team, in the Premier Division for the second time, made the short journey to Birmingham and were soundly thrashed first by Essex (6-3), Middlesex (7-2) and finally by Surrey (6-3). True the first two teams are undefeated but it was Surrey's lone win. What makes it all the more remarkable was that Karen Smith was unbeaten in singles and doubles, the only other sets coming from Chris Rogers, who had wins over Kenny Jackson and Mark Oakley.

But Gannon, Hall and Newman couldn't manage a solitary set between them. The unpalatable fact is, therefore, that apart from Karen and Chris, we just haven't got anyone capable of winning sets at this level. David Gannon - all theory - flattered to deceive. His habit of rushing in to hit the ball is disastrous and he could well take a leaf out of David Wells' book. Calm and unhurried in all he did, he had the hallmark of a class player, with heaps of time to play his strokes. I rate him as easily the best player there. Incidentally the standard of play was first-class and the County Championships look anything but a 'dead duck'. However, despite what I have said there is still hope in that we have to play teams similarly in distress with the notable exception of Lancashire.

The Veterans - also in the Premier Division - were engaged in a dour struggle with Nottinghamshire and eventually lost 3-6. Only one man had any pretensions at attacking Leicestershire skipper John Iliffe - and three of the sets went to 'expedite'. This was grim stuff indeed but music to the ears of "Mr. Expedite" himself, Mike Jackson, who had made the journey from Cambridge especially to see these games and could scarcely believe his luck. Incidentally Mike has officiated at eleven games so far with the season not yet half way through.

The 2nd senior team were involved in a titanic struggle with Lincolnshire which they eventually lost 4-6. In the

deciding rubber, Phil Smith led Stuart Worrell a game and 20-17, but eventually lost the rubber and the match. So ends our sorry tale of county matches.

Sadly I have to report the death of one of popular veteran Phil Overend's sons, Martin, who was killed in a car accident near home. About twelve months ago Philip had a mishap with his other son, Andrew, when an acid tank exploded in his face. We offer our deepest sympathies to Mr. and Mrs. Overend.

In the Midland League things are progressing satisfactorily. Leicester Veterans lost to Oxford (with the ageless Alf Davies appearing for them) 4-6, despite a fine maximum by Geoffrey Aldwinckle, but got back to winning ways by beating West Bromwich 7-3. The Men's 'B' team, operating in the 1st Division of the Midland League had a splendid 6-4 win over Potteries, Nick Standen and Simon Griew getting a brace each and Keith Fellows taking one.

In the Leicester League there was excitement when Knighton Park played Loughborough Kingfishers in the league knock-out cup, the Rose Johnson Cup. Tony Kinsey and Mark Illingsworth took a couple each and only a maximum by the ever-dependable Chris Rogers saved the Park. In the Hinckley League, Brockington (Enderby) are going great guns and are likely to top the league's first division. With players of the calibre of David Grundy and Kevin Whitehead to the fore, this young team will take some beating for many years to come.

Finally, I must express my disappointment at the turn-out of local juniors at the Beneficial Trust English Junior Closed. Despite having this superb tournament on their doorstep, they cold-shouldered it. Here is the dismal score - Leicester League 2 (Andrew and Tracey Clark). Loughborough League 2 (Paul Bumpus and Richard Grimley), Melton League - Nil and - worst of all - Hinckley League - Nil. What a way of expressing gratitude to organiser Mike Holt and his team of willing workers!

Leicestershire Veterans 3 Nottinghamshire Veterans 6
J. Iliffe lost to A. Saunders -20. -17. bt R. Bolton -16.15.14. C. Truman lost to Saunders -8. 15. -10 lost to J. Ellis -19. -18 G. Aldwinckle bt Ellis 20.11. bt Bolton 14. -9.18. Mrs. P. Kilsby lost to Mrs. P. Hammond -6. -13. Truman/Aldwinckle lost to Ellis/Bolton -10. 12. -20. Iliffe/Mrs. Kilsby lost to Saunders/Mrs. Hammond -12. -20.
Leicestershire II 4 Lincolnshire I 6.
M. Pickles lost to D. Skerratt -19. -15. bt S. Worrell 18. 18. K. Fellows lost to Skerratt -18. -11. bt B. Hill 11. 18. P. Smith lost to Worrell 20. -21. -15. lost to Hill -16. -18. Miss J. Revill lost to Miss S. Hunt -12.16. -11. Miss Y. Hall bt Miss S. Radley -18.8. 13. Fellows/Smith bt Worrell/Skerratt 17. -19.15. Miss Revill/ Miss Hall lost to Miss Hunt/Miss Radley -13.15. -16.

Iris Moss reports from....

MIDDLESEX

SOME SUCCESSES

At last I can record some successes in the County Championships! Despite our No.1, Graham Sandley, not being available to us, our team beat Surrey 6-3, Leicestershire 7-2 and Stafford-

shire by the same score. In congratulating the team, which I do most sincerely, I would beg them not to be complacent, as the "crunch" will come in the next weekend when we come up against the other 2 unbeaten teams, Essex and Lancashire, as well as Yorkshire and Warwickshire. But I know our lads and lasses can do it, and I will be rooting for them even though it will be a long way from a distance.

As our Press Officer, Ken Muhr, has promised to do a full report on our major event since the last issue, i.e. the Middlesex 3-Star Open, I will only mention this briefly. But I would like to say that despite all our misgivings about running this event without Geoff James at the helm, it went off extremely well. We finished off with 275 entries, having rejected 57 and not accepting any scratch entries, so with a bigger hall we could possibly have had our largest entry ever. We asked the competitors whether they would still enter if we reduced the number of players in a Group from 4 to 3, but despite giving them a slip which they just had to tick and sign, very few of them bothered to complete them. From the 21 forms which did come back, only 1 person said he would not enter if there were groups of 3, a few said that they would enter but preferred groups of 4, and 2 suggested groups of 3 plus Class 2 Singles. The latter of course would be impossible as it would not save us the time we need. So the Tournaments Sub-Committee has the job of interpreting the wishes of the players from the few who expressed an opinion and if any readers still have the slips and would like to return them to me, their views, too, could be taken into account.

Our grateful thanks go to the Arts and Recreation Committee of the Greater London Council, Levomex Exports and Butterfly Table Tennis UK Ltd. for their sponsorship of this event, and to the staff of the Picketts Lock Centre for their help and co-operation. We are most grateful to all of them for enabling us to run our Tournament.

Our next event will be the Middlesex Junior Closed Championships which are due to take place at Brent Table Tennis Club, Aylestone School, on 3rd and 4th March. If any Club in Middlesex has juniors who might want to enter, please contact me and I will ensure that entry forms are sent to you. We are planning to have the Cadet events on Saturday (when the venue is only available to us in the afternoon) and the Junior events on the Sunday, so the younger players will be able to have a whole weekend of competitive play.

Ray Hogg reports from.....

NORFOLK

BACK IN PRINT

Norfolk is back in print- regretfully we missed the last three issues as too few people are trying to do too much work so I was volunteered to do the necessary. First and foremost I must comment on the Halex National League match played in Norwich. Racket Sense and Norwich Foxwood were both unbeaten and met at Miller Hall, Norwich on Sunday Dec. 11 and what ensued was the most enthralling match I have had the pleasure of officiating at for many years.

No doubt, or at least I hope, a full report of this match will appear under the proper column but just to put you in the picture Norwich won 5-3 only in the third game of the final set and that went to 24-22. The atmosphere was electric throughout and although the gathering of some 70 persons were biased toward Norwich they all appreciated the standard of play which was well above what we are accustomed to. My congratulations go to both teams for the entertainment provided, and my sympathies go to those who were going to come but did not.

Miller Hall is a purpose built T.T. centre in Norwich and is named after Len Miller (not in memory of as he is still with us) as it was he who originally had the idea many, many years ago and started to do something about it, like starting a fund-raising team. To cut a long story short about £50,000 was raised by various means including local councils, Sports Council, Norwich Union etc., and the centre opened last September.

Already 24 local teams play their matches there and the five tables are in much demand for practice at other times. It is also the home venue for all East Anglian, County & Nat. League fixtures. Some problems with heating and ventilation appear and have been overcome and as more money becomes available other improvements will be made.

At County level we have 2 Senior and 2 Junior teams, but it has been a bit of a struggle to find regular teams. At Senior level our first team is having a fair amount of success without setting the league alight, but the second team is struggling both for results and for players. We had to call off at the last moment against Kent as only 2 men and 1 woman would travel. Note I said travel - as most county match secretaries know home matches are no real problem. Whether or not this team keeps going should be decided by the time these notes appear in print.

Our Juniors are meeting their obligations with no trouble mainly through the efforts of Alan Pickard and Les Rayment who between them juggle the youngsters around - particularly the girls - to make sure they all get a game. I gather that someone got it all wrong with the Carter Cup. Norwich

should have stood probably their one and only chance of making some progress in this competition this season with Philip Logsdon, Simon Steward, Steve Fox available. The match away to Wisbech was arranged for the same day as all the foregoing players were at the English Junior Closed! Norwich lost. What is happening to Norwich in the Rose Bowl and Wilmott Cup I cannot find out. Come to that what is happening to King's Lynn, Yarmouth, Dereham? If nobody tells me I can't report it.

Dennis Millman reports from.....

NORTHANTS

BACK-IN-THE-SADDLE

Following the resignation of Ashley Bennett, I find myself once again recording the rise and fall of all aspects of table tennis within the boundaries of Northamptonshire.

The first local tournament of the season became the Midland Bank County Closed, when that generous organisation sponsored it to the tune of £250 for an event staged by the Kettering League at Kettering Recreation Centre on the first Saturday in December. It was nice to see the enthusiasm with which the staff of Kettering's Midland Bank tackled an unfamiliar task on a bitterly cold day. Indeed when the last ball was played just after ten o'clock, six of their number including the Manager Mr. Eric Bamforth, who presented the awards, were still present. Their enthusiasm was matched only by that of Tournament Organiser Phil Slade who master-minded the whole operation, and the Kettering League Committee who backed him to the hilt.

On the playing side, holder Graeme McKim again looked a cut above the opposition, winning all six of his Men's Singles sets in straight games, culminating in a 12, 11 win over Wellingborough's Ian Hawes in a one-sided final, characterised by some fierce and consistent rallies on both wings. So great was McKim's superiority throughout the day that his third round 16,13 success over Steve Lyon was his closest call.

The other high spots in the Men's Singles, were the fine wins of Chris Handshaw against Brian D'Hooghe 10, - 18, 16, and Ken Nicoll's expedite success over Keith Jones 12, 18 but although this put the Kettering pair in the semi-final they made no further progress as they were speedily despatched by McKim and Hawes respectively.

The hot favourite for the Women's Singles - Stephanie Dunkley, the former Bucks No.1, who has always proved too strong for Northants' opposition, had a difficult semi-final passage before overcoming Joyce Porter 17, -20, 11 and then seemed to be on her way to the title at her first attempt, when she led Margaret Maltby

by ten points mid-way through the first end of the final. Until this juncture, Mrs. Maltby had failed to cope with her opponent's looped drives, but then she came to terms with the situation, employing her unorthodox forehand chop to such telling effect, that she pulled back the deficit and destroyed her rival's composure, to take the first at "deuce". Gaining confidence with every point, Mrs. Maltby brought her attacking shots into play, and displaying her full repertoire she never looked like losing the second game which she finally took to 15 to take the title for the first time, proving a most popular winner.

Earlier Mrs. Maltby and Mrs. Porter had retained the Women's Doubles title, with a convincing 11, 11, win over old rivals Dorothy Marsh and Glennis Hooper, but she was denied a hat-trick when partnered by Keith Jones in the Mixed, she went down 14, -12, 18 to John Sanders and Mrs. Dunkley - the first time that either had got their names on a County Championship trophy.

Jones was also on the losing side, when he and D'Hooghe met Handshaw and McKim in the final of the Men's Doubles. The attacking flair of the latter pairing, and the defensive expertise of their opponents promised a match of the highest quality, but this was not quite attained due to the brilliance, on the day, of both Handshaw and McKim, who produced their best display since coming together two years ago.

Northampton's Keith Jones finally got his name on a trophy, when he retained his Veterans' title with a typically competent 13, 12 success over Kettering's Dennis Millman.

In the Boys' Singles, County No.3 Andy Edmonds turned the seedings and the County rankings upside down by accounting for No.1 Andrew Trott in the semi-final, and then repeating his Men's Singles win over No. 2 Richard Bashford in the final. After taking the opening game with ease, Edmonds trailed by seven points in the second, only for sheer determination to pull him through to a two point victory margin.

The Junior entry was disappointing in a County with a flourishing Schools' Association and numerous local coaching schemes, and so there was little opposition as Edmonds joined Trott to take the Boys' Doubles, Maxine Shears took the Girls' Singles by accounting for Donna Furniss, and Ian Bird beat brother Graham 17, 12 to ensure victory in the Cadet Boys' Singles.

Results of the County Closed Tournament sponsored by the Midland Bank.

MENS' SINGLES

Quarter-Finals:
Graeme McKim bt John Sanders 9, 8;
Chris Handshaw bt Brian D'Hooghe -10, 18, 16;
Ken Nicoll bt Keith Jones 12, 18;
Ian Hawes bt Tim Chamberlain 9, 15.
Semi-Finals:
McKim bt Handshaw 11, 5;
Hawes bt Nicoll 11, 15.
Final:
McKim bt Hawes 12, 11.

WOMEN'S SINGLES

Semi-Finals: Stephanie Dunkley bt Joyce Porter 17, -20, 11;
Margaret Maltby bt Glennis Hooper 9, 18.
Final:
Maltby bt S. Dunkley 21, 15.

MEN'S DOUBLES

Final:
Handshaw/McKim bt Jones/D'Hooghe 18, 16.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Final:
Maltby/Porter bt Hooper/D. Marsh 11, 11.

MIXED DOUBLES

Final:
Sanders & Dunkley bt Jones & Maltby 14, -12, 18.

VETERANS' SINGLES

Semi-Finals:
Dennis Millman bt Dorothy Marsh 12, -10, 7;
Keith Jones bt Greg Dobrowski 15, 12.
Final:
Jones bt Millman 13, 12.

BOYS' SINGLES

Semi-Finals:
Richard Bashford bt Raymond Jacobs 11, 17;
Andrew Edmonds bt Andrew Trott 18, 17.
Final:
Edmonds bt Bashford 10, 19.

GIRLS' SINGLES

Final:
Maxine Shears bt Donna Furniss 14, 15.

BOYS' DOUBLES

Final:
Trott/Edmonds bt Jacobs/Glen Robertson 18, 17.

CADET BOYS' SINGLES

Final:
Ian Bird bt Graham Bird 17, 12.

In the County Leagues, McKim is trying to repeat his 1982-83 feat of playing for the champions of Kettering, Wellingborough and Northampton, and with the formation of a new Lings Forum side in Northampton he is joined in his bid by Chris Handshaw. However the Lings' side can expect fierce opposition from Abington, A.C.C. 'A' and Barclaycard before the season is through. McKim currently tops the averages with Ian Hawes in second place followed by Tim Chamberlain, Nat Richardson, Keith Jones and John Sanders.

Although the faces may have changed it is the familiar name of Kettering Town which sits on top of the Kettering Premier Division and already the trio of McKim, Handshaw and Andy Edmonds have opened up a sizeable gap with the occasional help of Nat Richardson and John Palmer, a gap which pursuers Electricity 'A' and Wellingborough Town may find impossible to close.

In Wellingborough's top flight it is again McKim, Handshaw and Edmonds but supplemented more frequently by Mark Nannery and Brian Dangerfield, who enable Chapmans to remain favourites to retain their title, with the main opposition coming from Kettering Electricity, for whom Steve West continues to prove a tower of strength.

Drafted in at the eleventh hour to write these notes, I have had insufficient time to collate Northants' affairs at County Championships level, but I can record that the Juniors have made a good start to the season, Keith Jones and Joyce Porter continue to excel for the Veterans, while the County Firsts and Seconds have no great desire to play in the same division, with the availability or non-availability of players a continuing source of frustration to Senior Match Secretary Chris Handshaw.

The latest men's ranking list is: 1. McKim, 2. Hawes, 3. Richardson, 4. Keith Nicoll, 5. Ken Nicoll, 6. Keith Jones, 7. Chamberlain, 8. Romano Gallo, 9. Sanders, 10. D'Hooghe, 11.

Handshaw, 12. Brian Wooding, 13. Steve West, 14. David Gallo, 15. Steve Lyon, 16. Phil Snelling.

Finally may I wish all table tennis enthusiasts a happy and successful New Year.

Roy Williams reports from .

NORTH WALES GIBBONS RETAINS TITLE

Lansdowne's Glyn Gibbons retained his men's singles title in the Llandudno Closed held at Quinton Hazell, Mochdre on Nov. 27. The tournament attracted a good entry and Glyn fought his way to a final victory against Karl Harrison.

Caron Jones won the women's singles but one must ask how the North Wales Counties' No.1, Sue Roberts, was not included in the draw. It seems to me that to be omitted was a serious error.

Ray Howland and Roy Williams won the men's doubles and Howland also won the veteran singles. The two new events introduced, the 2nd and 3rd division singles, proved to be popular, Jeff Nicholls and Caron Jones being the first winners.

Meirion Williams (Clwyd) with a handicap of -5 won the 5th Rhyl Hardbat singles title, and the Malcolm Hook Trophy, with a very competent display during eleven hours of competition. He also won the veteran singles title and the veterans' doubles with Tony Smith (scr). 8-years-old Natalie Hughes (+17) beat Natasha Williams (+17) in the U-9 final then went onto win the Div. 2 singles and junior doubles. She also reached the women's final from an entry of 18.

The tournament held at Millers Cottage Leisure Holiday Camp on Dec. 11 had 13 events which ensured plenty of play for the contestants.

Wrexham blunted Rhyl's hopes in the Senior Division and by their narrow win against the champions look set to win the division themselves. For Wrexham, Paul Griffiths beat John Hook, Keith Fitzsimmons and Geoff Hollis with Hadyn Young and Peter Williams winning a singles each, Wrexham winning the vital doubles. Hook won two for Rhyl and Hollis one, with Hook and Fitzsimmons winning the other doubles.

Rhyl won their veterans' match with Anglesey with Roy Williams beating Don Hobbs, Tony Toth and Owen Williams and pairing with Howland to win the doubles. Howland, with two singles and Meirion Williams with one completed Rhyl's tally. Hobbs (2) and Toth (1) replied.

Karl Harrison rescued Llandudno against Wrexham in their veteran match and, with Rhyl, remain unbeaten. Karl won all his sets with George Mynott winning the vital fifth set. For Wrexham Peter Williams and

Brian Thacker each won two with Malcolm Buckle obtaining the other. Wrexham, with Sheila Rogers, Karen Buckle and Joyce Jones easily won the women's division beating L1an/Rhyl (Barbara Williams, Caron Jones, Ann Young and Janet Manning) who finished runners-up. The session was held at The Pavilion, Eirias Park, Colwyn Bay.

No change at the head of the four leagues with Holyhead Sealink, Wylfa P.S. and St Mary's heading Anglesey's League. Colwyn Bay TIC "A" seem to be forging further ahead from their rivals but Colwyn Bay C.C. are still in the hunt. In Rhyl's first division a ding-dong battle has emerged with Clwyd "A" and Prestatyn "A" level on points. Wrexham's first division pacemakers Gravel have Caerwrlle and Malpas in close contention.

Gerry Chapman reports from.....

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE KIMBERLEY SPORTS TROPHY

Robert Watson's, the Notts County No.1, was the winner of the Kimberley Sports Trophy which he received from the hands of the Mayoress, Mrs. Ann Morris after beating Terry Bull 19, 17 and 17 in the final. The beaten semi-finalists were Mark Pearson and Mick Bishop with Paul Chaplin, Randford Scott, Orford Spencer and David Fynes the other group winners.

Broxtowe County Council held this annual tournament on Nov. 26, sponsored by Demerva Sports with Les Allwood the Referee. The picture shows (from l to r), Mark Pearson, Robert Watson, Terry Bull, Mrs. Ann Morris and Mick Bishop.



In recent County Championships matches the only result to have reached me was the veteran encounter against Leics. which Notts won 6-3, our winners being Alf Saunders (2), John Ellis (1) and Pat Hammond (1). Notts won both the men's and mixed doubles.

Mansfield Juniors were beaten 6-4 by Walsall the home winners being Darren Moore (1), Dean Renshaw (2) and Paul Wilcockson (1).

It is more than a decade since I last visited an English Closed tournament but after seeing the youngsters perform in the Beneficial Trust English Junior Closed at Hinckley the future seems to be in good hands. Notts contributed 10 players to the championships and congratulations to Adrian Bolton on reaching the quarter-final of the cadet boys. Other Notts players taking part were:- Alan Dion, Robert Fearn, Kay Mayall, Tommy Oldham, Garry and Tim Sheppard, Stephen Taylor, Richard Tilford and Robert Young.

You cannot keep young Bolton out of the news. Invited to play in the national cadet trials at Eston he came second in his group which otherwise comprised N. Gingell (Gs), L. Brown (La) and D. Thomas (Wa). Tilford was also a junior invitee and if my information is correct finished 3rd in his group.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Why not come and support our own top players who, under the banner of Nottingham Racket Sense have to date, played seven and won seven! On that form Division 2 here we come. The team, managed by Terry Bull, play at Sycamore Leisure Centre on Sundays starting at 3.30 p.m. 1984 home fixtures are:-

Jan 8 v Halex Grantham
Jan 29 v Coles Waveney
Feb 19 v M.B.S. St Neots
Mar 4 v Halex Lincoln
Mar 25 v Norwich Foxwood

And the players - Brian Hill, Robert Watson, Trev Kerry, Mick Bishop and Terry Bull with juniors Adrian Bolton and Tim Sheppard.

Both Trev Kerry and Robert Watson boast 100% records in the Nottingham and Dist. TIL the leading positions in the Premier Division being:-

	P	Pts
Green Lane	9	33
Sycamore	9	31
Wimpey	9	28
YMCA "A"	9	28
YMCA "B"	9	28
Calverton	8	20

Mansfield have sent me their report in the form of a light-hearted news bulletin. There appears to be 5 divisions who report to their Publicity Officer Marie McQuinn-Roberts (she is to become a mum in April and we wish her well). Racket Sense, who sponsor the National League team, also sponsor a Mansfield Youth League and full marks to Terry Bull for this venture. Clubs taking part are:- Club 617, Mansfield Colliery, Garibalsi YC., Notts Rd. Meths., Woburn Centre and Townroe Centre.

There is no report from the Premier Division, only league positions with Mansfield Hospital leading from Packer Sports. In Div. 1 Colin Airby says Alan Lockyear appears the star performer for leaders Opencast. A couple more names mentioned are those of Gary

Long and Kev Cope- perhaps because they took him to the cleaners!

Pete Booth, reporting on Div. 2, predicts Festival Hall will win this division but they currently trail Denmans Head "B". Joe Zygadlo reports Dukeries Youth Wing "A" and Mansfield NALGO "B" are joint leaders of Div. 3.

League coaching officer, Joe Zygadlo, offers coaching for senior players who are asked to ring Mansfield 653821.

Pauline Long reports from.....

NORTHUMBERLAND SETBACK

The senior County team suffered a setback to their hopes of a quick return to Div. 2 when both Ian Robertson and Clare Mouzon had to withdraw from the team which travelled to Cheshire for a "double header" on Nov. 26. They still managed to beat Cheshire II 6-4, but crashed 2-8 to Cheshire's first team.

The juniors, however, kept up their 100% record when they won 7-3 away to Cumbria. All three boys - Peter Curry, Keith Patterson and Thomas Blackman - were unbeaten in both singles and doubles, but Denise Wilkinson and Denise Campbell failed to get the better of the Cumbria girls.

The seniors will be hoping to make amends in their next match on Dec. 17, when they are due to entertain Durham in the local derby at Byker Community Centre. Victory in this match should keep Northumberland in the Div. 3 promotion picture, and hopefully the home side should have the edge with England-ranked Clare Mouzon in the team. Clare has now risen to No. 8 in the Lentec Computer junior girls' ranking list, and also enters the women's list for the first time at No. 40.

The juniors will be defending their 100% record on the same day against Nottinghamshire, also at Byker Community Centre, with Clare returning to the side to replace Denise Campbell as the only change. They have been very successful so far despite being unable to field the No. 1 junior boy, Eddie Smith, in any of the matches because of work commitments.

New County ranking lists were recently issued for the senior men and junior boys. Peter McQueen and Ian Robertson still hold the first two positions in the men's list, but Neil McMaster moves up to No.3 in place of Andrew Clark, who drops down to No. 5 and to whom we send belated congratulations on his recent marriage. The rest of the list shows only minor changes, but two more juniors, Thomas Blackman and Martin Schapira, have now made the breakthrough and are ranked at Nos. 15 and 16 respectively, while Martin Moore is omitted from the previous

list. Eddie Smith still heads the junior boys' list, but Keith Patterson and Peter Curry have now changed places and apart from minor changes, the only new names are Andrew Beattie (Electrics) and Derek Fairbairn (Blyth Town B.C.) at Nos. 11 and 12 respectively.

In contrast to the success of the county sides, Byker Newcastle are finding life very difficult in the Halex National League. The loss this season of Chu Van Que, Peter McQueen and Andrew Clark has been a tremendous blow to the team, and although experience is being given to the younger players, they have yet to record their first victory. In their last match, they lost 2-6 to S.1.B. Bath, but all four first-half matches were very close, with Bath just having the edge in three of them. Their next fixture is a home tie with fellow strugglers Gillette Reading and obviously Newcastle will be desperately hoping for their first victory. The second team also have a vital match away to Unity II, who are just above them in Div. 3 (North).

NORTHUMBERLAND SENIOR CLOSED

The Northumberland Senior Closed tournament was again held at Scotswood Sports Centre, Newcastle, on Dec. 19, but once again the entry was rather disappointing, perhaps because of Christmas shopping and other diversions.

Once it was confirmed that Chu Van Que was to be allowed to enter the tournament, it was fairly obvious that barring a major catastrophe, he and Peter McQueen would contest the men's singles final. This proved to be the case, with Chu coming out on top in a most entertaining final. The same two players combined to take the men's doubles, beating the double left-handed pairing of Ian Robertson and junior Thomas Blackman, and for good measure, Peter also retained the Premier/Dive 1 handicap title, having to make up 15 points in the final against Jim Purves.

The main shocks of the day were to come in the women's events. Caron Buglass, retrieving splendidly and fighting hard for every point, overcame a very tense and nervous Clare Mouzon in straight games to take her first-ever women's singles title. Worse was to come in the women's doubles, when Clare and Pauline Long, holders for the past two years, were literally flattened into oblivion by the powerful hitting of Caron and Christine Burke, and were hardly given a chance to get into the game. Only in the mixed doubles, when Caron and Neil McMaster were the beaten finalists, did Clare, partnered by Cliff Olsson, manage to retain her title. I believe on this occasion, Clare unfortunately succumbed to considerable pressure, but everyone is entitled to have one bad day, and she is far too good a player

not to have - hopefully - learned something from the experience.

Of the remaining events, Larry Cartmell retained the veterans' singles title, but credit must also be given to Charles Mouzon who reached the final unseeded. John Russell beat Neil McMaster surprisingly easily in the hard bat singles final, while Paul Bullars became the first recipient of the Trevor Frost Memorial Trophy when he finally overcame Bill Ellison in the Div. 2/3/4 handicap final. Our sincere thanks go to Mrs. Frost, Trevor's widow, for coming along to present this trophy in person.

Results

Men's Singles:
CHU VAN QUE bt P. McQueen 16.21.
Women's Singles:
C. BUGLASS bt C. Mouzon 15. 14.
Men's Doubles:
CHU/McQUEEN bt T. Blackman/I. Robertson 14. 22.
Women's Doubles:
BUGLASS/C. BURKE bt Mouzon/P. Long 7. 10.
Mixed Doubles:
C. OLSSON/MOUZON bt N. McMaster/Buglass 14. 20.
Veterans' Singles:
L. CARTMELL bt Charles Mouzon 17. 8.
Hard Bat Singles:
J. RUSSELL bt McMaster 12. 6.
Premier/Div. 1 Handicap Singles:
McQUEEN (scr.) bt J. Purves (+15) 19,20.
Div. 2/3/4 Handicap Singles (Trevor Frost Memorial Trophy):
P. BULLARS (+7) bt W. Ellison (+5) 19. 16.

Gerald Green reports from.....

SHROPSHIRE GROVE ON TV

BBC Television cameras were at The Grove School, Market Drayton recently to film some of the school's leading table tennis players. They were in training for the England Junior Closed at Hinckley and the film was shown on the 'Midlands Today' slot. Very impressive it was too, with Grove's top instructors, Ian Marshall, John Hilton, Malcolm Green and Paul Barnett featured.

The youngsters at the session were Alison Barker, Carol Wickstead, Dawn Wickstead, Karen Rogers, Louise Sherratt, Audrey Barnett, Julie Ballard, Colin Wilson, Sean Groom, David Williams, Tim McGill and Mathew Jeffrey.

It makes a change to see any table tennis at all on TV these days, let alone schools' table tennis - well done The Grove.

TELFORD RANKINGS

Telford TTA have announced their December ranking list as follows:

1. M. Green
2. M. Langford
3. W. Herbert
4. M. Beaman
5. G. White
6. D. Elkin
7. P. Fisher
8. G. Rose
9. D. Russell
10. M. Hughes
11. R. Fettes
12. W. Harris
13. H. Hunt
14. G. Phillips
15. A. Horobin
16. T. Jones

MIDLAND LEAGUE

Telford Veterans - M. Beaman, N.

Maycock and J. Holding - continue to do well in the Midland League with two recent wins. First of all beating Kidderminster 6-4 at home, then travelling to Coventry and coming away with a decisive 7-3 win. Mike Beaman was unbeaten in both games.

Unfortunately the other Telford Teams are not doing quite so well - the 'B' Team were crushed 10-0 by Nuneaton, before regaining some of their pride when they clinched their first point of the season at Cheltenham.

The 'A' team - G. White, D. Elkin, M. Langford - travelled to Nuneaton, having been warned of their potential by the 'B' Team, and lost 2-8. G. White winning the two.

NATIONAL RANKING TRIALS

Grove's Dawn Wickstead and Simon Cooper of Pontesbury were the pick of the Shropshire players at the Junior Ranking Trials at Middlesbrough. Dawn returned a series of victories to keep her in the top ten of the Cadets and Simon qualified from his group to reach the last 32.

Meanwhile Louise Sherratt of Grove may well have gained a place in the ranking list having returned a good series of wins in her group matches. Sadly it was a tough day for the other Grove players, with Julie Ballard, Carol Wickstead and Karen Rogers all fighting hard in group matches but failing to reach the final stages.

LEADING PAIR SHINE

There was a tremendous display from Grove's two leading players at the Kirklees Open Championships, with John Hilton and Steve Scowcroft recording a series of fine victories.

Scowcroft started off the tournament in brilliant style, beating Irish number one Colum SleVIN in a tremendous match and continuing in superb form to beat England International Philip Bradbury, before losing to Hilton in the semi-final.

Hilton beat Alan Cooke and Donald Parker before losing a close final to Graham Sandley.

Four Grove players are in the latest England Ranking list - John Hilton falls two places to 5, Steve Scowcroft moves up to 37, Phil Bowen up to 52 and Malcolm Green the biggest climb of all up to 73.

NATIONAL JUNIOR CHAMPIONSHIPS

Grove's Tim McGill was in excellent form at the English Closed Junior Championships at Hinckley. The rapidly improving Market Drayton player gave a first class display in the Cadet Boys' singles. McGill (14) displayed all his fighting qualities in a series of hard-fought matches to reach the quarter-final stage.

Pontesbury's David Morris also gave an excellent display to reach the last 16. He fought all the way and gave another spirited performance before losing to Damian Holland.

Dawn Wickstead of Grove reached the latter stages of the Cadet singles, including a fine win over Rachel Skinner.

Colin Wilson underlined his recent progress in the boys' singles, where he reached the third round before losing a tense match to England No.2 Cadet Bradley Billington.

GRADED SINGLES

The third Grove School SKH Graded Singles Tournament proved to be an outstanding success with a maximum entry of 80 players contesting the five grades.

Grade 'A' - There was a win for favourite Colin Wilson, who scored a final success over Justin Goodall of Pontesbury. The consolation final was won by newly promoted Tony Harrison, with a win against Pontesbury's Darrell Corfield.

Grade 'B' - Dawn Wickstead of the home club was in splendid form, beating Oswestry's Alan Maynard in the final. In the consolation event Grove's Karen Rogers accounted for Brian Eaton in a hard fought final.

Grade 'C' - The rapidly improving Alison Durber (Grove) fought all the way to take the title and in the final beat Peter Giles. Simon Edwards underlined his recent progress with a consolation final success over Oswestry's Gary Doyle.

Grade 'D' - Telford's Kevin Crump gave a fine performance to win the Grade at his first attempt and beat Oswestry's David Powell in the final. Andrew Boughey captured the consolation title beating John Hughes of Oswestry.

Grade 'E' - Grove's Gregory Lovatt beat Claire Marshall in the final. The consolation event went to eight-year-old Laura Talbot who scored her final success over Andrew Haynes.

Jack Chalkley reports from.....

STAFFORDSHIRE

BELATED CONGRATULATIONS

To start with, may I apologise for missing the last two months of County Notes; I will attempt to make up for the omissions this month. I also forgot to mention in my October notes the outstanding performance of Wolverhampton in winning both the Carter Cup (Junior boys) and Bromfield Trophy (Junior girls) at the end of last season. Belated congratulations to the players concerned - details were reported in the October issue - and to the Wolverhampton officials who have put so much effort into coaching juniors over the years. The 5-1 and 5-0 scorelines in the finals against Plymouth boys and North Middlesex girls respectively demonstrate the strength of Wolverhampton at junior level which of course carries over to the County as well.

In the County Championships, Staffordshire teams have started the season reasonably well. The senior II side travelled to Derbyshire and with

both sides weakened by absentees, Staffs. did well to run out winners 7-3. Mark Evans and John Hancocks, team-mates in the James Birk club in the Potteries, were unbeaten in both singles and doubles, Stan Deakin contributed a singles win and Janet Dunning and Rachel Roberts did well to contribute a win in the doubles. Since that first match, the team have gone on to beat Worcestershire 6-4 to gain a second win, but then they hit trouble at Cambridgeshire, losing 1-9 to the home team. Still, not a bad performance so far, bearing in mind that they are in Div. 2A.

Having just missed promotion from Div. 3 last season, our junior seconds appear to be determined to put that right this season, starting with 7-3 and 8-2 wins over Berkshire seconds and Worcestershire. No doubt Murray Corbin is a little embarrassed over misreading the Berkshire scorecard and reporting the reverse score in his November round-up, but this was put right in the Berkshire column. Our strength in depth is shown up by the fact that the team against Worcs. showed three changes from the earlier selection and still recorded a convincing win. Angela Billings came in to play, what I believe to be, her first match for the County and contributed a good singles win. Dawn Gardener is also a new name this season, and performing creditably.

Following their nail-biting success in retaining their Premier Division place last season, our senior team did well to gain a win in their first three matches at the November Weekend. Against a weakened, but still strong, Yorkshire team, Andrew Bellingham, Andy Rich, Craig Bakewell and Jill Harris each gained a singles win and with a doubles win ran out with a 5-4 victory. The same team, which has remained unchanged from last season, came up against tougher opposition from Middlesex and Essex, losing 7-2 in each match. Bellingham and Bakewell had singles wins against Middlesex and, as if to maintain the balance, Rich and Jill Harris had wins against Essex. We again seem to be in difficulty in the doubles and we cannot afford to ignore this if we are to retain our place next year. However, a reasonably good all-round performance, and I only regret that I was unable to attend the weekend.

Congratulations to Pat Brookes on gaining her County Umpires badge. Let us hope her effort will start a train of new umpires from the north of the County. Congratulations also to Louise Sherratt and Stephen Meigh on good performances in the regional trials, performances likely to lead to national ranking, joining our other ranked players at junior and cadet level - Jill Powis, Angela Sanders, Amanda Hegarty, Adrian Dixon, Richard Hayward and Kevin Cartwright. Karen Rogers, Siobhan Hawkes and Robert Till did well to reach the regional trials

also.

The County League has got under way with 5 divisions this year. Regrettably, Stone "A" have withdrawn, apparently as a result of the change in team composition agreed at the last general meeting.

Entry forms for the County Closed are being circulated to league secretaries. The tournament date is March 18.

Ian Bullock reports from.....

SUFFOLK

INTERNAL ASSESSMENT

St. Neots

In the November issue, when discussing the progress of the Suffolk squad at the Eastern Region Training Centre, I wrongly stated that some trials had taken place in order to produce the October Ranking Lists. It was, of course, an internal assessment rather than a trial and I offer my apologies to anyone who may have been adversely affected.

Forthcoming Events

The County Junior Championships for 1983/84 will take place on Saturday Jan. 21 at the Waveney Sports and Leisure Centre, Water Lane, Lowestoft. This is a new venue for the event and it is hoped that there will be a good entry despite the Ipswich players having to travel for the first time. Entry forms are obtainable from Mr. Ron Clarke at 3 Roy Avenue, Ipswich, telephone Ips. 74613 or from any of the coaches but please make sure the forms are returned to Ron by Jan. 7. Refreshments and a licensed bar are available and the centre also caters for squash, badminton, swimming and sauna at reasonable charges. Spectators who wish may avail themselves of these facilities.

NATIONAL SCHOOLS TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS - AREA FINALS AT ST. NEOTS ON SATURDAY JAN. 28.

Congratulations to these schools who will represent the County next month at St. Neots:-

	Boys	Girls
U-19	Ipswich School (5. Area)	Ipswich High (5)
U-16	Thurleston High (5)	Stowmarket High (W)
U-13	Orwell Park (5)	Thurleston High (5)
U-11	Old Buckenham Hall (W)	Dale Hall Primary (5)

If previous years are a guide, our strongest opponents will be Bedfordshire who virtually monopolised the event last year. Can we change things this year or will Cambridgeshire or Norfolk take the honours?

RECENT RESULTS

The Juniors, represented by Paul Gooding, Shaun Cariaccio, Richard Hutchinson, Sylvia Kenyon and Claire Nicholls went to Surrey and returned with a 5-5 draw with Shaun and Richard winning both their sets. Unfortunately, Gooding's form was affected by illness and our girls found their opponents in particularly good form.

The Senior I team travelled to Derbyshire and a fine all-round performance resulted in a 9-1 victory for John Kitchener, Mick Palmer, Stuart Palmer, Sue Welham and Julie Dowsett.

The Senior II team entertained Norfolk I on the same day, Dec. 17, in Ipswich and conceded victory 4-6 to Norfolk. Terry Dowsett, in commanding form won his sets, Sue Butcher had a very convincing win and Julian Hall's win came in the third against Simon Steward. David Henderson and Jane Leonard were the other two Suffolk players.

Finally, I should like to wish everyone associated with the best game in the land a happy and prosperous New Year.

Mike Green reports from

SURREY

STACK OF TITLES

The Challenge Trophies Junior Closed, held at Elmbridge Leisure Centre, produced a stack of titles for the Croydon-based pair Jerome Jonah and Lesley Popkiewicz.

A racing certainty for the Girls' U-17 title, Lesley made no mistake in beating an in-form Claire Brooks in the final, Claire having disposed of the No.2 seed in her semi triumphing over Jane Mills two straight. Lesley partnered Claire to take the doubles title and teamed up with Jerome to take the Mixed.

Although only the No. 2 seed, Jonah always looked the likely winner in the Boys' U-17 event. Opposition was slight as he defeated Julian Dudman in his semi and then the No.1 seed Julian Daniels in the final. Croydon Y.M.C.A.'s Steve Carpenter was the other semi-finalist. Jerome also took the Boys' Doubles title with partner Reuben Ramos beating Carpenter and Martin Lowe 18 in the third.

The Saturday events saw defeat for three of the top seeds in the singles events with the most notable being Cheryl Bateman's inexplicable (or was it?) defeat in the Cadet final against Graham Spicer colleague Lisa Pritchett in an incredibly tense and nerve-tingling game.

Richard Jones saw to it that form prevailed in the Cadet Boys, although the rapidly improving Matthew Pernet also looked impressive. The gap is closing....

Matthew and Elmbridge colleague Paul Bennell triumphed in the Cadet Doubles, with the jubilant Pritchett twins winning the Girls' event.

There was some super stuff played at U-12 level, with both the No. 1 seeds faltering in the final. The big-hitting Alexander Hole defeated Damon Coles in the all-Elmbridge Boys' final. Little Mandy Dewsbury, whose forehead is already like a tornado, blasted her way fearlessly to victory over Elizabeth Cocks in three in the Girls'.

My vote for the performance of the tournament goes to the Elmbridge pair of Darren Johns and Jeremy Krzystyniak who were quite magnificent in the Cadet Doubles semi-final beating the No.2 seeds Nigel Willis and Nicholas Csillag.

The Surrey Senior first team contested the initial Premier Weekend over Nov. 26/27, the squad originally comprising David Hannah, Nicky Mason, Stephen Holloway and Mark Oakley, along with Linda Clemett. Max Crimmins, returning to the County fold, had been ranked at No.5 in the County list as Mike Kercher wanted to play the team who had won promotion last year.

These noble sentiments came a bit unstuck, however, when Hannah had to withdraw being on duty for Scotland. Max was drafted in to the squad but because of his lowly County ranking could not play any of the opposition's better players. Complicated, eh?

Peter Corner informs me that the weekend was fairly successful, with the team losing two and winning one with a 6-3 scoreline in each case.

The second team lost its first match of the season against Sussex II at Tweeddale 4-6, this result being particularly disappointing as Sussex were playing one short. I do understand, however, that we may well be awarded the points as the Sussex men played at positions two and three on the scorecard instead of one and two. By hook or by crook we'll get the points....

The Junior second team won again at Norfolk thus retaining its unbeaten record. Our Veterans' team, with Greta Linter making her debut, got off the mark at their second attempt.

The Midland 3-Star proved particularly successful for the Surrey men with Hannah, Mason, and Crimmins all reaching the semis.

Max went on to lift the trophy beating David Wells in the final.

There was Surrey success at the Kent Junior 2-Star at Folkstone on the same day. Richard Jones reached the semi-final of the Boys' U-13 event, Cheryl Bateman going one better reaching the Girls' U-13 final where she succumbed to Berkshire's Julie Norman. Julian Dudman and Simon Hurley won the Boys' U-15 Doubles title, Claire Brooks winning both the U-15 and U-17 Girls' Doubles titles with partner Julia Houghton.

I have not been advised of any Surrey success at the recently held Cadet & Junior ranking trials in Cleveland. No doubt, however, a lot of effort was expended....

The Jim Forest Memorial Trophy was presented to Nicky Mason by Surrey President Ron Crayden at a "Mike Kercher get-together" at Bob Lewis's house. Nicky, not unnaturally, proceeded to drop his trophies one of which did not come out of the experience too well.... By the way, Bob, I think you've got a wonderful wife. And I'm not the only one.... A number of

other trophies and county badges were presented at the same time. All those of you who were invited and couldn't make it missed a treat.

The clash of the titans in the Thames Valley League resulted in a victory for Chessington over Graham Spicer 5-4. Chessington thus retained their four-year unbeaten record but had to sweat it out as the score was four-all with the final set being Mike Hammond against Andy Sexton. Fortunately for Chessington, Mike's ever expanding stomach did not interrupt his play too much and Andy succumbed two-straight.

In Leatherhead, Chessington are again topping the League having defeated their two closest rivals Fetcham I and Fetcham "A" 6-3 in each case.

South of England Junior and Senior

At the time of writing, the draw for the Cornilleau (UK) Ltd-sponsored South of England Junior 2-Star Open has just been made. The competition will have been played at Woking Leisure Centre over the weekend of Jan. 7/8.

Not all entries were accepted, and the final total was still a staggering 330, not bad for a tournament outside the Junior Grand Prix.

There were 150 contestants in the U-17 Boys' Singles with the No. 1 seed being Kent's Andrew Cunningham, ranked No.4 in the English list. The defending champion, David Rook from Yorkshire, was seeded two, with Chris Bartram (Kent) at three, Andrew Dodd (Kent) at four, and the Welsh No. 1, Nigel Tyler, at five. The tournament will have produced a stiff test for the much-improved Surrey champion, Jonah, playing in such exalted company.

The Girls' U-17 entry had quality as well as quantity. Missing the English No.1, the seeds comprised the next four girls on the English ranking list. Susan Collier (Bk) was seeded at one, Jill Powis (St) at two, Joanne Shaw (Y) at three, and Teresa Moore (Sx) at four. Surrey hopes in this event rested with the Croydon based pair of Lesley Popkiewicz and Claire Brooks but they would have had to upset the form book to prevail.

The Cadet (U-14) events seemed to hold out very little hope of a Surrey victory although one should never write off Surrey champion Richard Jones.

No.1 seed in the Boys' was Derbyshire's Bradley Billington ranked in England at No.2. Seeds two to four were Michael Rutherford (K) Sean Gibson (La) and Damian Holland (E).

Melonie Carey from Somerset took the top seed position in the Cadet Girls', with Lisa Robins (Bd) at two, Amanda Shufflebotham (Ox) at three, and Helen Lower (St) at four.

Further interest will have been added in that this tournament was the first to have been played under the new regulations which require a player to have different coloured rubbers on

each side of the bat. No doubt tournament referee, Phil Goacher, will have had a few problems to sort out in this respect....

The South of England Junior 3-Star will run over the weekend of March 17/18 at Woking, sponsorship having been secured for five of the six events. The events are as follows..... 1. The Lambeth Building Society Men's Singles. 2. The Elmbridge Plant Hire Men's Doubles. 3. The Foxgrove Construction Women's Doubles. 4. The Playrite Sports Veterans Singles. 5. The St. Pancras Building Society Restricted Singles. 6. Women's Singles (as yet unsponsored). Equipment will be provided by Jaques. Entry forms are available from Jimmy Anderson, 1 Derwent Close, Folly Hill, Farnham, Surrey. Phone 0252 722712.

John Woodford reports from

SUSSEX FRENCH INVADER

Colin Hyland will be the next supremo of Sussex. At the last meeting of the Sussex T.T.A. at Eastbourne the popular Hastings administrator took the chair in the absence of Bert Fretwell, who is now coming to the end of his seven-year stint. After seven years in the hot-seat he deserves a well-earned rest after taking over from Keith Watts.

Bert will continue in office until the July AGM but any challenge to Colin Hyland as the new man at the top is most unlikely. Hyland is chairman of the Hastings league and also organiser of the Stamco Sussex Open for a number of years, following in more well-known footsteps - Derek Tyler who now lives in Belgium.

Graham Gillett playing on his home tables at Bexhill is the new champion of East Sussex. Champion of all Sussex - due to defend the Big One at Lancing on April 1st - Gillett landed the Eastern title by lashing Stephen Moore in the semi-finals and then Adrian Moore in the final - one of the best ever men's singles finals in this event which is now seven years old. Gillett lifted the title with a 23-21, 17-21, 21-17 success over Adrian.

Catherine Coulombel, at present living in Hastings until next July is the new women's champion of East Sussex. The delightful French girl from Le Havre lifted her game in the final round to defeat for the second time in a fortnight Sheila King 16-21, 21-15, 21-9.

The last game between the two girls was worthy of mention. King seemed set to clinch revenge as she led 8-4, but incredibly the tables were turned. Dramatically, the huge crowd was stunned into silence as King lost 15 points in a row and then lost the match 21-9!

It now looks as though Roger Chandler has finally bowed out of the

top ranks of Sussex table tennis. After winning the Sussex crown 12 times, the looped top-spin that won him so much fame is at last beginning to look like a strictly limited approach. At Bexhill on Nov. 27 he lost to the evergreen Sam Ogundipe -21, -19.

The only player to have beaten Coulombel in women's singles so far is Rachel Mackriell, the Sussex champion, so it now looks as though after being seeded No.3 in the East Sussex, the French invader, more vivacious than her photograph, is going to play a big part in the all-Sussex event and is almost certain to be seeded No. 3 behind Mackriell and Teresa Moore.

Miss Moore is having a great season. A win over Jill Powis at Hinckley took her through to the semi-finals of the Beneficial Trust English Junior Championships. So a new upgraded ranking is on the way, one that could take her towards clinching a place in an England team for the next European Youth Championships in West Germany.

Three more young players who are making the selectors sit up and take notice are the county junior champion Paul Elphick from Haywards Heath, Richie Venner (Crawley) staking his claim and doing well for Dolphins in the National League and last but certainly not least Eastbourne's Paul Rowden whose recent string of successes included Malcolm Francis, 21-8,21-15.

Malcolm has however, admitted that his business commitments are beginning to dramatically affect his game and he now considers that tournament play must take second place.

Laurie Selby reports from.....

WILTSHIRE HISTORY MADE

A piece of Wiltshire table tennis history was made when the king of English table tennis paid a visit.....and played against the county second team in a school hall.

This unique situation came about because the England No.1 Carl Prean plays for the Isle of Wight whose only senior team is in Division 3C of the County Championships.

Wiltshire's second team is in the same division and so Prean, who is also the country's leading junior found himself playing in somewhat humble surroundings.

One can only applaud Prean's loyalty to his county team and perhaps there's a moral here for other players.

But even Prean couldn't stop his team from sliding to a 6-4 defeat.

He won his two singles and took control of the men's doubles but the home side's greater strength in depth - they dropped only one of the remaining sets - gave them victory.

It was a day of joy for Wiltshire whose first senior side defeated Devon 8-2, the junior first team who defeated

Avon seconds 10-0 and the veterans' first team won 8-1 against Huntingdonshire seconds.

INSPIRED

Kevin Satchell gave the senior firsts a good start but Gary Wilson pulled Devon level when he beat Steve McBean.

Wiltshire, inspired by a fighting victory from Kevin Edwards over Gary Lambert, spurred to a 4-1 lead after winning both doubles.

Paul Whiting beat McBean to halt Wiltshire's rush but the visitors made sure of at least a point when Alison Boyce beat Sarah O'Leary.

A tough three-game victory from Satchell over Lambert gave Wiltshire both points and then the Moonrakers mopped up the two "dead" rubbers.

Wiltshire junior first team, entertaining Avon seconds at Swindon, scored a devastating victory.

The home side swamped the visitors and lost only one game during the match.

Wiltshire veterans moved into top gear against Huntingdon at Monkton Combe. They swept through the opposition, losing only the final sets.

Three cheers for Alison Boyce who became the triple queen of Devizes table tennis.

Alison, who has dominated the town's table tennis scene for more than a decade, majestically swept to three more titles in spite of the increasing challenge from Swindon players.

She won the women's singles final when she beat Swindon's Brenda Lee 17 and 17.

Title number two came when Alison teamed with Karen Richards to beat Brenda Lee and Julie Mills 14 and 10 in the women's doubles final.

Alison's hat-trick was in the bag after she and John Webb beat Mark Colyer and Sue Stone 15 and 16 in the final of the mixed.

The men's singles provided several upsets with both the top seeds going out.

Top seed and holder Michael Oxley (sen) was a first round casualty, going down to Mark Colyer.

No. 2 seed Jon Hook lost in the semis to his Swindon team-mate Alan Duke.

The title went to Duke who beat Colyer 18, 10 in the final.

Michael Oxley gained some consolation when he scooped up the veterans' singles title with a 14, 12 win over John Bright. He then partnered David Richards to victory over Bright and Hook to take the men's doubles final 15 and 16.

Swindon's Jenny Neale became the girls' singles champion when she beat Julie Mills 13, 8 and Ray Powell, another Swindon player beat Hook -12, 15, 15 to win the boys' singles.

Les Howse, who is retiring as chairman of the League, was presented with the English Table Tennis Association's award of merit for his services to table tennis.

Trophies were presented by Mr. Doug Parsons and the tournament was staged at the Devizes football club.

Five Wiltshire players were put through their paces in the England junior ranking trials at Middlesbrough.

Three of the players competed in the cadet section. Both Mark Powell and Martin Edwards, qualified for the top four of their groups and went forward into the knock-out competition.

Both lost their opening sets against stiff opposition. Lorraine Cox, another Swindon player, didn't qualify for the knock-out competition.

In the U-17 section were Andrew Oxley and Claire Hunter, Wiltshire's two number ones.

Andrew won three of his six sets and narrowly missed second spot which would have given him a place in the knock-out competition between the group leaders.

But he did score a good win against England No. 11 Michael Thomas 20, 11 which gave him vital computer points.

This victory will almost certainly lift him from 56 to around 30 in the England rankings.

Claire won two of her sets. One of her wins was against Miss T. Weissell and should earn her enough points to get into the top 50.

WILTS INTER-TOWN LEAGUE

Under 17:	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Salisbury	4	4	0	30	6	8
Swindon	4	3	1	27	9	6
Devizes 'A'	4	2	2	22	14	4
Devizes 'S'	4	1	3	8	28	2
West Wilts	4	0	4	3	33	0

Under 15:	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon 'A'	3	3	0	22	5	6
Swindon 'S'	3	2	1	15	12	4
Salisbury	3	1	2	13	14	2
West Wilts	3	0	3	4	23	0

Under 13:	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Swindon 'A'	2	2	0	14	4	4
Swindon 'S'	2	1	1	8	10	2
Salisbury	2	0	2	5	13	0

Doug Moss reports from.....

WORCESTERSHIRE

MURRAY MAKES THE NEWS

The prime news last month was of Murray Jukes' successes at the Woodfield Tournaments, Wolverhampton. Murray again makes the news by winning the England Junior Doubles Championship, in partnership with Adrian Dixon (Staffs). In the final they beat Andrew Syed and Jimmy Stokes (Berkshire) 16 in the third. This is the first time in its history that the County has had a national champion. Well done Murray!

The County Junior Closed clashed with Junior ranking trials (an alteration in the date being a sore object with many Counties). Louise Davis attended the trials, which was quite appreciated, so she was not available for the County team on the Saturday and was unable to defend her Junior Girls' and Doubles titles. Jukes chose to stay with the County and he won the Junior Singles and Doubles titles. In the Singles final

he beat Tim Holder (Bromsgrove), who had eliminated Dean Kloos, 8, 8. In the Doubles he partnered Mark Roden (Kidderminster) and in the final met last season's runners-up, Dean Kloos and Mark Jones (Worcester). There were some very good rallies with the Worcester pair taking the first game at 20. Murray and Mark hit back to win 6, 14. Helen Jones (Kidderminster) met Jasmine Bartram (Dudley) in the final. Jasmine had played very well beating Lisa Hunt (Kidderminster) on the way to the final. It was a good final with Helen pulling away at the end of each game to win 17, 16. The Cadet championship remarkably saw four players from Evesham in the semi-finals - a credit to the coaching of John Mytton. In the final the more experienced Neil Betteridge beat Darren Smith 17, 15.

Congratulations to 14-years-old Peter Canavan (Dudley). He was selected from the West Midlands area to receive a special award of £1 00 and 2 track suits presented by the Trustee Savings Bank.

I hear that Joyce Lloyd (13 times County Women's singles champion) who has not played for a few seasons has been playing a few matches in the West Birmingham League. Shall we be seeing her play in the County Closed this season?

Molly Hough, former County team player, who has done so much for young players, has recently had a spell in hospital. She was unable to be at the County Closed Junior Championships. Everyone was most keen to send her best wishes and a "Get Well" card was signed by the young players and all the officials. Happily Molly is now on the mend and keen to get into action again.

Kidderminster has a strong Ladies' team in the Midland League. They recently beat Leamington 8-2 with Louise Davis winning her 3 singles, including a 21-8, 21-16 win over L. Silbey. Alison Westwood and Sandra Roden each won 2 singles.

In the last round of County Championship matches the 1st team came to form with a fine 6-4 win over Warwickshire II. The match was staged by the Evesham League at Bengeworth Club after a break of a few seasons. The conditions were very good and it certainly brought the best out of the team. Jukes won both his singles, including a two-straight win over Lester Be. rtie. Trevor Washington and Steve Dunning won one each and Trevor and Murray, after another close fight, kept their unbeaten doubles record. Lynda Reid came into the team and acquitted herself very well by beating Di St. Ledger (17, 17) at a vital stage in the match.

The County II team's visit to Hereford was a catastrophe. Because of misunderstandings only one lady played. An unusual black mark for Worcestershire! The one event was won by Steve Horton - in his first season for the County he has won one in each match.

The juniors visited Staffordshire losing 8-2. Jasmine Bartram came into the team as Lisa Hunt was not available, and she teamed up with Helen Jones to win the girls' doubles. The Veterans beat Bedfordshire 5-4 but Janet Hunt lost her unbeaten record which had lasted through last season.

Best Wishes to all TT players for 1984- may you get your share of "nets and edges".

Les D'Arcy reports from.....

YORKSHIRE

FESTIVAL

One of the biggest-ever table tennis and sporting festivals to take place in Yorkshire will be held at Leeds University on April 7/8, 1984. In a combined event involving the Yorkshire and Humberside Sports Council, directed by Cyril Villiers, one of the county's top organisers; the Y.T.T.A. and Leeds University officials, led by Mr. Bill Butterworth; Dunlop Sports Company; Beaver Promotions, plus a squad of international players and officials who will be using their expertise to stimulate the growth of table tennis and other sports in Yorkshire.

Leeds University's two palatial sports halls will be involved. One hall will accommodate 25 tables and other equipment, sponsored by Dunlop, as a basis for a giant coaching jamboree and exhibitions involving 200 boys and girls and a large squad of qualified coaches directed by National Coach, Donald Parker for morning and afternoon sessions. Youngsters attending the coaching will be able to attend the Sports Exhibition in the adjoining sports hall, free of charge.

A squad of outstanding young players from Yorkshire and Lancashire will be involved in a curtain raising match on four tables simultaneously. Top international players will then take part in a series of matches. Table tennis cabaret will also be included which will be directed by England Team Trainer and Coach, Peter Simpson. The amazing double world record holder, Albert Rayner, who has appeared regularly on TV and was guest of a Japanese TV Company on a two weeks visit to Japan for a programme featuring world champions, will also take part. Sixty-years-old Albert who does 128 skips in ten seconds and spins his skipping rope at two hundred miles an hour (a speed checked by scientists at Birmingham University) will be out to break another record in the interval.

Spotlight on the Leagues: HUDDERSFIELD

Had the pleasure of meeting several top Huddersfield players recently in a Huddersfield v Wakefield, Yorkshire Premier Division match. Geoff Brook, Steve Brailsford and Errol Bernard comprised the team on this occasion and with Tim Dyson and William Cratchley to call on last season came'

second to Bradford I for the Yorkshire Championship. Tim, Steve and Stuart Sykes, also came second to Bradford Hermits in the Yorkshire Clubs' K.O. Cup.

Huddersfield do not normally make a habit of coming second as their great tradition - particularly in the 50's and 60's - shows. During that period they were Yorkshire League top division champions 13 out of 17 seasons. In the 40's evergreen Howard Birch, who still plays in Huddersfield Veterans' 1st team, was taking all before him. He was Yorkshire Junior Champion in 1945 and Senior Champion the following season and became an England trialist before emigrating to Canada in 1947. Howard continued playing in his new surroundings and was runner-up in the Canadian Closed in 1948. This achievement gained him representative honours against the U.S.A. in '48 and in '49. Probably his greatest victory was in the men's doubles when HoWard and his partner defeated former World Champions Richard Miles and Sol. Schiff, the finger spin experts who became so good at this facet of the game that they became almost unplayable and finger spin was banned. Another memory which Howard cherishes is when he played the famous Lou Pagliaro in an exhibition match in Erie, Pennsylvania, also in 1948.

Of the great Huddersfield players past and present, Howard rates Raymond Hinchliff as the undisputed No. 1 both as player and gentleman. Although Ray played only four times for England he recorded wins over former world champions Richard Bergmann and Johnny Leach. He was very successful in open tournaments with 26 wins and had the unique distinction of representing his county at senior level a record eighty times. County players Stewart Dyson and Geoff Wadsworth who won the Wil-mott Cup with Raymond in '51-'52 rank with John Kedge, who with Stewart and Geoff, clocked up over a century of county appearances.

Twelve-years-old Michael O'Driscoll already England's No.5 Cadet and 17-years-old Errol Bernard have both impressed Howard with their sportsmanship and skill. Michael won all three singles playing for the senior second team against Wakefield 2nds and Errol has recently gained promotion to the men's 1st team. David Wood and Jim Cockburn deserve a lot of credit for the League's coaching scheme and Stuart Sykes is breaking new ground coaching the disabled. The Huddersfield League recently celebrated its golden jubilee. With its present excellent blend of youthful talent and senior players dedicated to the promotion of table tennis, the future of the game in Huddersfield is in very good hands.

PONTEFRACT

Tony Trigg, Press Secretary for the Pontefract and Castleford League is full of praise for the Pontefract Coach-

ing Club's young teams who are dominating the top places in the 1st Division with help from the Club's senior players.

Andrew Ball, Alaric Bassano, Tony Miller and Nicky Carr are having a great time in their first season at top league level. Defeat is almost unknown, unless they play one another or the senior players from the Coaching Club; Brian Frost who recently won a national holiday camp championship, county player Karren Burrows and inter-league players Neil Cafferty, Gerry Hill and Rowden Fullen.

In Div. 3 the Club's 5th string of 11-years-olds (cadet champion of five, counties Debbie Toole, and Ian Ball) plus 14-years-old Tracy Butterfield, are in 2nd place with a match in hand. All three are in their first season of league play.

There is just one problem, the Coaching Club's youngsters are becoming so successful that several older players who are being regularly annihilated by the youngsters are quickly losing interest. They cannot compete against an increasing number of youngsters receiving 'first class coaching and many hours of practice each week. An example was one local champion at senior and veteran levels who was given a beating by all three youngsters from one youth team, average age 14.

In one game he managed to score 5! What happens to the senior players of average and below average standard is difficult to imagine. Should the older players who have never had the benefit of coaching call it a day or should they muddle on, hoping that some coaches will begin to take more interest in those seniors who are never likely to make the rankings, but have a sincere desire to improve their game? Age group divisions could be another answer: for example, under-14's, 20's, 40's and veterans. For players from the other three groups who want the toughest opposition possible, provide open age divisions, depending on the size of the league.

The age division idea of over forty for veterans is becoming more popular at inter-league level, where, in spite of a general decline of membership, the veterans' divisions have grown in size from one to three during the last three seasons. At world level the Veterans' Championship is split into over 40's, over 50's, over 60's and over 70's. Some countries, including Japan and the U.S.A., also have similar age division championships. Below national level it would be difficult to have such age divisions, but at league level it may be worth considering some divisions by age as well as by ability. Perhaps we should make a start by opening the many coaching club doors, throughout the county, a little wider for both the young and older players in pursuit of improvement and possibly excellence.

Look forward to hearing your views

on this matter and will pass them on to Tony.

LEEDS

Good work by one-star diploma coach, John Stallard and the Committee at St. Benedicts R.C. School, Garforth has resulted in the establishing of a Dunlop Coaching Centre by the School. The Centre was officially opened recently by former international, Alan Hydes, of Dunlop Sports. Donald Parker, marked the occasion by giving a table tennis exhibition with outstanding Leeds junior 14-years-old Matthew Connell.

Leeds University's Sport Centre Manager, Bill Butterworth, was in difficulties when members of the University's T.T.C. withdrew their help from the staging of National Universities T.T. Championships because of an internal dispute. Y.T.T.A. official Keith Shepherd and Eric Hill came to the rescue and with Bill and a small group of other officials had the Championships ready on time. Over 200 students took part with Mark Illingsworth reaching the men's final and Lesley Broomhead the women's. Sadly no students from Leeds took part. It is hoped that the Leeds University T.T.C. resolves its differences with the parent body before other golden opportunities pass by. Having enjoyed playing against several Leeds University sides in recent seasons many players, like myself, must have been disappointed at the 1st team's withdrawal from the Leeds League, who are not involved in the internal disagreement. I'm sure the Leeds T.T.L. or the Y.T.T.A. would be pleased to help negotiate a solution acceptable to both sides.

BRADFORD

E.T.T.A. National Councillor, Eric Hill is so busy these days on table tennis duties he has had to relegate himself to reserve for his Clayton Heights team in Bradford. Things must be getting really tough for Eric who like most of us, enjoys playing. Recently, in addition to serving on three county sub-committees, he has, because of a resignation from the Y.T.T.A. Management Committee, had to take over again the demanding job of county teams' secretary - a task he gave up six months ago when appointed National Councillor. After a 750 miles trip transporting players to and from two matches during a recent week-end he must be wondering 'Is it worth it'. He's no doubt heard the saying about going the extra mile, but 750 of them is a bit much. Hope the players appreciated your efforts and more power to your elbow, Eric.

SELBY

Regional Coach for N.E. Yorkshire is really concentrating on youth these days and would like to hear from any other coach who would like to arrange matches for teams of U-12's, 11's, 10's, 9's - and wait for it - Under-8's. I suppose they all play with combination bats, too. The Chinese have

nothing on Mick Wilcockson. Hope he doesn't join them!

HULL

REPRESENTATIVE MATCHES

Hull made their way into the second round of the Wilmott Cup, the national knock-out competition for Men's teams, with a very comfortable 5-1 win over Grimsby on the South Bank.

Even without Joe Naser, on County duty, and Mike Harrison, Hull were never in trouble as they built up a winning lead with five successive victories, all in straight games, before the final set went Grimsby's way at 19 in the third.

The Women's side maintained their undefeated Yorkshire League record with a 10-0 trouncing of Barnsley, while both Veteran teams were in action, the No.1 accounting for Barnsley 7-3 at Reckitts and the No. 2 coming back with a 5-all draw against York No.2 in the Minster city.

Results:

Wilmott Cup, Round 1 - Grimsby 1; Hull 5 (Sean Madden (2) Dave Randerson (2) Stan Dixon (1)).
Yorkshire League - Hull Ladies 10 (Angela Hudson (3) Angela Huitt (3) Joanne Young (3) doubles); Barnsley 0.
Hull Veterans 7 (Mike Farrell (3) Eddie Beedle (2) Ron Jackson (2)); Barnsley 3.
York No.2 5; Hull Veterans No.2 5 (Tony Lane (2) Roy Storer (2) Frank Ledger (0) doubles).

Welsh Corner

by H. Roy Evans

STEPHANIE RETURNS

Andrew Jones and Jeff Morgan contested the men's final at the Glamorgan Closed, Andrew getting home in the third against an opponent who "appears to have opted out of competitive play for the moment, but can still give a good account of himself. He certainly continues to have some sort of sign on George Evans whom he again beat in the quarters.

Jeff Rigby, playing with more success this season, beat Nick Williams and then gave Jeff a good run in the semi. Andrew Jones's semi-final victim was Warwick Armstrong, who had beaten Tony Healan, the No.2. seed, and who continues to be a difficult person to beat.

Stephanie Jones made a re-appearance in Welsh table tennis, and took the women's title with a third game win over Cath Jones. Veteran Betty Gray was Stephanie's semi-final adversary, whilst Cath eliminated team-mate Cheryl Jewells.

Results.

MS. SF. A Jones bt Armstrong 12. 15.
J Morgan bt J Rigby 18. 18.
F Jones bt Morgan 19. -14. 18.
WS. S Jones bt B Gray 16.17.
C bt C Jewells 16.-17.18.
F. S Jones bt C Jones -11.18.18.
MD. F. T Healan/G Evans bt D Chan/Armstrong 20.-19.15.
WO. F. Jayne Sully/Joanne Lee bt S Jones/Chantal Nicholls -13.14.19.
XO. F. Evan/S Jones bt A and C Jones 18.-13.12.
BS. F. Kelvin Roberts bt Andrew Henn 18,12.
GS. F. Sully bt Lee 14.17.
CBS. F. David Campbell bt Simon Henn 17.-19.11.
CGS. f. Denise Elward bt Sian Evans 16.13.

Cardiff Open

A band of English players from London and the West Country made this an interesting tournament, with a good entry numerically, and with reasonable quality. There were many very good

games during the day, the pleasing feature from a Welsh point of view being that the "foreign" challenge was beaten off in all but the women's singles.

Gary Wilkins came through to take his first big title, maintaining a sharp game throughout. It was Devonian Mike Short who halted the London challenge in its tracks with a splendid win over Richard Jermyn. But Mike was then beaten by Welsh No.1 Nigel Tyler.

Wilkins' victims included Bob Garraway of London, after which he got home in a tight match with George Evans. Gary then beat Tyler in the semi-final after the latter had survived a long battle with Trevor Manning after Trevor had beaten Nigel Thomas.

Mark Thomas went out to Andy Creed, who had been give a much harder battle by Tony Healen.

Meanwhile Wrexham's John Ellis, who had already won the cadet and junior titles, was making sensational progress, beating the other Garraway, then eliminating Andrew Jones. In the quarters John met Brian Jeanes, who had played very well to beat Kent's Joe Kennedy. Brian won the first, looking comfortable enough. But then came some of his extraordinary recklessness, losing the second, and after a long lead in the decider, lost it with almost gay abandon. Ellis met Creed in his semi-final, but he was clearly tired having played almost continually through four events, and he was well beaten by Andy.

Gary lost the first game of the final to Creed, took the second in good style and had a good lead in the third. He survived one of his vague patches, and took the title with some good final shots.

Elaine SbDrT took the women's title with a controlled and steady game against Evelyn Wright, who had beaten Cath Jones and Shirley Cain-Williams, the latter in a long hard set. Jayne Sully lost to Elaine Short in her semi-final in a set of wildly differing scores. Heidi Cotter was Elaine's quarter-final victim.

Ellis had his revenge over Tyler, who narrowly beat him in the Aberdare final. This time John got home in a tense set 23-21 in the third.

Evelyn Wright, too, had a revenge win against Heidi Cotter, who prevailed in their Aberdare clash.

Results.

MS. SF. A Creed bt J Ellis
G/Wilkins bt N Tyler 20.13.
F. Wilkins bt Creed -19.14.17.
WS. F. E Short bt E Wright 17.15.
MD. F. Thomas/Thomas bt Evans/Jeanes 18.7.
WD. F. Cotter/Sully bt Cain-Williams/Cath Jones
BS. F. Ellis bt Tyler -17.17.21.
GS. F. Wright bt Cotter -14.19.18.
CBS. F. Ellis bt Smith 9.4.
CGS. F. Thomas bt Elward 18.14.

European League

Following our two bad results against Switzerland and Luxembourg, the Selectors were left with few options for the clash with Norway at Cardiff.

Mark Thomas and Gary Wilkins were again entrusted with the men's

sets but Evelyn Wright, as a recognition of her continued good form in senior *events* was to be given her chance in European League.

In the event, we fared little better than against Luxembourg, but it has to be remembered that Norway, relegated from Division 1 last year, are much the strongest side in Division 2 and will surely be promoted.

Mark Thomas, after a promising start, which suggested a return to form, faded away badly and lost to both Rasmussen and Johansen. Wilkins, true to form, started very well with a first game win over Tom Johansen. But then that fatal indecision crept in, and he lost the next two badly. Against Rasmussen, in the last match, Gary actually lead 13-8, but then lost that at 17, and also lost the second.

Evelyn Wright, in her baptism, was nervous and her chop returns were out of range against Tone Folkesson's consistent attack, and the Welsh youngster was well beaten. But showing that unflaffability the selectors are counting on, she played really well in the mixed, and had Mark played to his ability, they could have beaten Gustarvsen and Folkesson. As it was, it was left to Mark and Gary to register our only win with a doubles defeat of Johansen and Gustarvsen.

Scores.

Thomas lost to Rasmussen -17.-14; lost to Johansen -16.-18
Wilkins lost to Johansen 21.-10.-13. lost to Rasmussen -17.-18
Wright lost to Folkesson -13.-5.
Thomas/Wilkins bt Johansen/Gustarvsen 20.19.
Thomas/Wright lost to Gustarvsen/Folkesson -19.-14.

Halex National League.

Butterfly Cardiff, facing what is rapidly becoming a bogey team, went down 1-7 to St. Neots, Mark Thomas's win against Peter Taylor being Butterfly's only success. This was followed by a return with Tarmac, the 3-5 defeat being notable only for Mark Thomas's defeat of Douggie Johnson and Andrew Bellingham. Wilkins also beat Bellingham.

Cranfield Colours, after a good 6-2 win against Witham F.C., which pulled them out of the relegation zone, played their second match against the fancied Dagenham F.C. side at Abersychan. The Gwent side could have won, and as it was nearly forced a draw, with Warwick Armstrong only just failing to win in the last set. George Evans again won his two sets, whilst skipper Andrew Evans won one. Brian Jeanes lost his both.

Welsh Teams

For the English Open - Mark Thomas, Gary Wilkins, Lesley Tyler, Shirley Cain-Williams.

For the Cleveland and Butterfly Team Event - Nigel Tyler, John Ellis, Evelyn Wright, Heidi Cotter.

For the Junior Internationals against Scotland - Nigel Tyler, John Ellis, Jeff Turner, Kelvin Roberts, Evelyn Wright, Heidi Cotter, Jayne Sully, Karen Buckle.

halex NATIONAL LEAGUE

by Robert Oldfield

SOHAM PERFECTLY POISED

Defending champions. Soham, sponsored by their local firm. Hassy Perfection, changed places with Tibhar London on 20th November to move into third place in the Premier Division. Captain Paul Day lead the home team to an immediate 4-0 lead but then found David Wells much-improved since his days at Soham. In the end, Hassy Soham were fortunate to emerge with both points, relying upon the Scottish international, David Hannah, in the final set.

The 5-3 victory set the Cambridgeshire club up for their match against Thorn-EMI Ellenborough on December 18th. Just in time for this issue of the magazine came the news of a nerve-wracking 5-3 win for Soham - more details in next month's edition. The league tables following illustrate the half-season position and include the results of Sunday, 18th December.

PREMIER DIVISION							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ormesby	7	5	2	0	39	17	12
Thorn-EMI Ellenborough	7	5	1	1	34	22	11
Hassy Soham	5	4	1	0	26	14	9
Tibhar London	7	3	0	4	32	24	6
Spicer New Malden	6	3	0	3	27	21	6
Gillette Reading	7	2	1	4	24	32	5
Unity Bradford	6	1	1	4	17	31	3
Dunlop Birmingham	7	0	0	7	9	47	0

GROVE HELD BY MBS

In the First Division, Tarmac Wolverhampton, with a one-match advantage, have jumped over the previous leaders, Grove. The Market Drayton club found themselves held to a surprising draw at MBS St Neots just before Christmas but are still favourites for promotion.

FIRST DIVISION							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tarmac Wolverhampton	8	7	0	1	45	19	14
Grove Market Drayton	7	6	1	0	41	15	13
S.I.B. Bath	8	5	0	3	39	25	10
M.B.S. St Neots	7	3	2	2	30	26	8
Butterfly Cardiff	8	4	0	4	30	34	8
Gillette Reading II	7	1	2	4	22	34	4
Ormesby II	7	1	0	6	22	34	2
Byker Newcastle	8	0	1	7	11	53	1

CHAN'S CHRISTMAS DEMOLISHED

Although Chan Construction still lead Second Division North, the league table hides a 1-7 defeat on December 18th to South Yorkshire (details not yet to hand). Otherwise, the division has seen little change apart from Sincil Lincoln pulling away from the relegation zone - the 2-6 home defeat looking ominous for RIS Stockton.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chan Construction	8	7	0	1	42	22	14
South Yorkshire	7	6	1	0	41	15	13
Salford TG	7	5	0	2	36	20	10
March Halex	7	4	0	3	26	30	8
Bradford Hermits	8	2	1	5	30	34	5
Tarmac Wolverhampton II	7	2	1	4	23	33	5
Sincil Lincoln	7	1	1	5	22	34	3
R.I.S. Stockton	7	0	0	7	12	44	0

DAGGERS SUPREME

Confidence was not the word to describe Dagenham's attitude before their match against TCB Dolphins on 18th December. The home club had Santa Claus throwing crackers to the crowd of 150 and, before the match, spokesman Brian Parrish predicted, "The only thing that Dolphins are likely to win is the 221b turkey in the raffle"

Out-psyched, Dolphins crashed 6-2, with only Phil Smith and Richie Venner, both of Crawley, able to make any impression against the strong Dagenham team. Daggars, with a three point lead half-way through the season, look safe bets for the First Division next year.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dagenham F.C.	7	7	0	0	47	9	14
Larkhall Clapham	7	5	1	1	34	22	11
T.C.B. Dolphins	7	4	1	2	32	24	9
Cranfield Halex	8	2	3	3	29	35	7
Spicer New Malden	7	1	3	3	25	31	5
Gillette Reading III	7	2	1	4	20	36	5
Witham F.C.	7	0	3	4	18	38	3
Gunnelsbury Triangle	6	0	2	4	19	29	2

NO CHANGE IN THE THIRDS

In the Third Divisions, none of the leads have changed hands, though Norwich Foxwood (one of the few clubs, incidentally, who send me details of their matches) are now within a set of Nottingham Racket Sense in Third Division East.

THIRD DIVISION NORTH							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Yorkshire II	7	7	0	0	49	7	14
Washington	7	5	0	2	37	19	10
Ormesby III	7	4	1	2	33	23	9
South Yorkshire III	7	3	2	2	30	26	8
Byker Newcastle II	7	2	1	4	27	29	5
Unity Bradford II	7	2	1	4	26	30	5
Vickers Barrow	7	2	1	4	19	37	5
Unity Bradford III	7	0	0	7	3	53	0

THIRD DIVISION SOUTH							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tulse Hill	7	6	0	1	43	13	12
Jaques Fareham II	7	4	2	1	32	24	10
Bourne Foxwood	7	4	0	3	37	19	8
Aahford	7	3	2	2	29	27	8
Lansdown Medway	8	2	2	4	24	40	6
Cippenham	8	1	3	4	25	38	5
Dunstable	7	1	3	3	22	34	5
Jolliffe Poole	7	1	2	4	19	37	4

THIRD DIVISION EAST							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Not'm Racket Sense	6	5	0	1	34	14	10
Norwich Foxwood	6	4	2	0	34	14	10
Playrite Northampton	6	3	1	2	29	19	7
M.B.S. St Neots II	6	3	1	2	28	26	7
Colas Waveney	6	2	2	2	25	23	6
Hassy Soham II	6	1	0	5	15	33	2
Halex Lincoln	6	0	0	6	3	45	0

THIRD DIVISION WEST							
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pengeley Torbay	7	5	1	0	45	11	13
Hells Salisbury	7	5	1	0	42	14	13
Harford Times	7	4	1	2	31	25	9
Tarmac Ladies	7	3	1	3	29	27	7
Launceston Kernow	7	1	2	4	21	35	4
WW Solihull	7	1	2	4	20	36	4
Global Plymouth	7	1	1	5	20	38	3
Grove Market Drayton II	7	1	1	5	16	40	3

A NEW YEAR RESOLUTION?

Perhaps I can just end with a suggested resolution for National League Clubs - particularly as I no longer have the advantage of office time to dig out quotes and stories. "Send copies of your Press releases/match reports to the Halex National League Press Officer at 193 Cuckfield Rd, Hurstpierpoint, Hassocks, BN6 9RT." In the press cuttings war, Cippenham still lead, challenged hard, on my evidence, by TCB Dolphins, and Launceston Kernow. Useful contributions made too by Playrite Northampton and Norwich Foxwood. Happy New Year!

RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

Sunday 20th November
Hassy Soham 5 Tibhar London 3
Paul Day bt Max Crimmins 21, 10
Kenny Jackson bt David Wells 13, 13
John Souter bt David Dodd 18, 18
David Hannah bt Richard Jermyn -18, 12, 14
Day lost to Wells -15, 7, -11
Jackson lost to Jermyn -15, 12, -19
Souter lost to Crimmins 13, -19, -13
Hannah bt Dodd 15, 16

FIRST DIVISION

Sunday, 20th November
MBS St Neots 7 Butterfly Cardiff 1
Sunday, 4th December
Tarmac Wolverhampton 5 Butterfly Cardiff 3
Byker Newcastle 2 SIB Bath 6
SECOND DIVISION NORTH
Sunday 4th December
Chan Construction 5 Tarmac W/hampton II 3
Sunday 11th December
Bradford Hermits 5 Sincil Lincoln 3

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Sunday 20th November
Cranfield Halex 2 TCB Dolphins 6
Sunday 27th November
Witham FC 2 Cranfield Halex 6
Sunday 4th December
Cranfield Halex 3 Dagenham FC 5

THIRD DIVISION SOUTH

Sunday 4th December
Jaques Fareham II 6 Tulse Hill Rams 2
Lansdown Medway 5 Cippenham 3
Sunday 11th December
Lansdown Medway 4 Dunstable 4

THIRD DIVISION WEST

Sunday 27th November
Global Plymouth 4 WW Solihull 4

FIXTURES

PREMIER DIVISION

Sunday, 29th January
Unity Bradford v Hassy Soham
Gillette Reading v Thorn-EMI Ellenborough
Jaques Fareham v Ormesby
Dunlop Birmingham v Tibhar London

FIRST DIVISION

Sunday, 29th January
MBS St Neots v SIB Bath
Gillette Reading II v Butterfly Cardiff
Grove Mkt Drayton v Ormesby II
Tarmac Wolverhampton v Byker Newcastle

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Sunday, 15th January
March Halex v South Yorkshire
Sunday, 29th January
Chan Construction v Sincil Lincoln
March Halex v RIS Stockton
South Yorkshire v Tarmac Wolverhampton II
Salford TG v Bradford Hermits

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Sunday, 15th January
Dagenham FC v Gunnelsbury Triangle
Sunday, 29th January
Witham FC v TCB Dolphins
Larkhall Clapham v Cranfield Halex
Gunnelsbury Triangle v Spicer New Malden
Gillette Reading III v Dagenham FC

THIRD DIVISION NORTH
 Sunday, 15th January
 South Yorkshire III v Byker Newcastle II
 Sunday, 29th January
 Unity Bradford II v Vickers Barrow
 Byker Newcastle II v Ormesby III
 Washington v South Yorkshire II
 South Yorkshire III v Unity Bradford III
 THIRD DIVISION SOUTH

Sunday, 22nd January
 Cippenham v Tulse Hill Rams
 Jaques Fareham II v Jolliffe Poole
 Sunday, 29th January
 Lansdown Medway v Jolliffe Poole
 Tulse Hill Rams v Ashford
 Dunstable v Cippenham
 Jaques Fareham II v Bourne Ruislip
 THIRD DIVISION EAST

Sunday, 29th January
 Norwich Foxwood v Halex Lincoln
 Notfham Racket Sense v Coles Waveney
 MBS St Neots II v Hassy Soham II
 THIRD DIVISION WEST
 Sunday, 29th January
 Tarmac Ladies v Holts Salisbury
 WW Solihull v Launceston Kemow
 Grove II v Pengeley Torbay
 Global Plymouth v Hereford Times

LANCASHIRE LIFE

by Geo R. Yates

Both the Bolton League and the Lancashire and Cheshire League have taken severe disciplinary action against Stephen Cowley and Billy Gleave following complaints as to their conduct in inter-league matches when representing Bolton against Wirral and Stockport.

They have both been banned sine die by Bolton from both representative and domestic league play and for evermore by the Lancs and Cheshire League, the latter being subject to appeal.

On a happier note, in December, Lancashire's junior team brought about the first defeat of the season for

Warwickshire in Junior Division 2A of the County Championships. It was the first time that Lancashire had the services of their top players and in winning 6-4 had to thank Howard Leigh, Sean Gibson, Andrea Holt and Lindsay McEwen for their success. Scores were:-

H. Leigh lost to M. Randle - 16, -18;
 S. Gibson bt M. Campbell 13, 17, -12;
 C. Hogarth lost to M. Thomas -11, -12;
 A. Holt/I. McEwen bt D. Bromley/T. Brown 15, -22, 12;
 Leigh/Gibson bt Randle/Thomas -12, 14, 21;
 Leigh bt Campbell 22, -17, 21;
 McEwen bt Brown 19, 14;
 Hogarth lost to Randle -15, -13;
 Holt bt Bromley 10, 13;
 Gibson lost to Thomas -15, -19.

In the Senior Division 2A Lancs II recovered from a 3-5 deficit to share the spoils with Worcestershire in a 5-all draw in which Oldham's Phil Aspinall won two singles, Keith Williams, Steve Bevan and Amanda

Goodwin one each.

Clive Heap was the winner of the Bolton League's first division individual championship adding same to his men's singles title of last season. Ron Durose was the beaten finalist.

DUNLOP LANCASHIRE 2-STAR OPEN

Entry forms in respect of the Dunlop Lancashire 2-Star Open, to be played for the 29th year at the premises of British Aerospace Dynamics, Lostock, nr. Bolton, can now be had from Mr. G. R. Yates, 43 Knowsley Road, Bolton BL1 6JH. 'Phone: Bolton 42223. The tournament, which now includes a Mixed Class 2 singles, is scheduled for Saturday, February 4, the closing date being Monday, January 23.

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SPOTLIGHT ON..... MAX CRIMMINS

By John Oakley of the Press Association

Max Crimmins is nothing like the usual run-of-the-mill table tennis player. Possessed of a magnificent playing technique he can be moody, mellow, magnanimous or just plain mad.

He is a real character, universally popular with his fellow players but not one to enjoy the undivided support of the Establishment.

Over the past five years he has had more ups and downs than a lift in an office block but in recent months a new, more mature Max has emerged. A new model who could be challenging for selection for the European championships in Moscow if he continues in his present form.

Crimmins, himself, believes his England days are behind him. "I'm not the most popular guy in the world with the E.T.T.A." he says with a wry smile, "but I would love to play in the European championships again.

"I played in them in 1978 in Duisburg when I was only 20 and quite frankly at the time I just wasn't up to it. I felt out of place. I had no confidence, played badly and simply froze.

"It didn't help when I sprained my ankle on the second day and missed the team events. I lost to a Norwegian called Gierloff in the first or second round after being 2-0 up in the singles and the only good part of the trip was when Paul Day and I reached the last 16 of the doubles.

"But after the Europeans I was dubbed as a player with a suspect temperament and whatever you do later it is hard to convince the selectors that you might have changed. Give a dog a bad name and it sticks".

This season, however, Crimmins has shown he can keep his cool under fire, has moved up from 21 to eight on the computer ranking list and since then has won the Midlands Three Star Open with a series of superb displays.

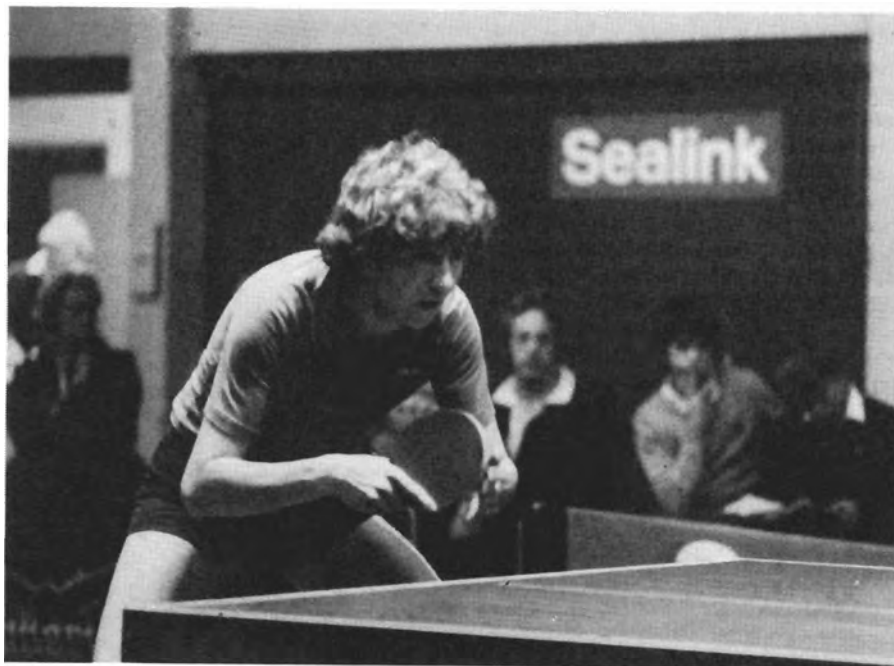
On the way to the title he beat Alan Fletcher, Skylet Andrew, David Hannah and then his close friend, David Wells, in the final.

"I was particularly pleased at beating Sky and Dave Hannah", says Crimmins. "I don't think I had beaten Sky for about four years and Dave I really rate as a player. I think beating Dave was my best win at the tournament.

"But I won the Midlands by fighting 200 per cent, something I hadn't done too often in the past. I tried harder than I've ever tried before and it paid off."

Earlier in the season he had reached the semi-finals of the Humber-side Three Star before losing to Andrew and among his National League victories for Tibhar London was a win over Alan Cooke, who has recently rocketed up the English rankings to number three.

. Despite that Cooke victory Crimmins



does not regard himself as a good team player. "I'm a bit of a slow starter" he says, "I need to feel my way with one or two matches to get warmed up.

"That's why I generally do better in tournaments."

From a career point of view he never came up the orthodox way. During his junior days he had the technique but not the necessary control of his temperament and was never ranked higher than eleven.

But as he moved into the senior ranks Crimmins began to work much harder at his game and in the pre-computer days boomed into the rankings at number nine.

By the time he was 19 he was as high as three and could not be ignored by the England selectors.

Then came his European flop at Duisburg but Crimmins continued to play well in domestic tournaments. "I think for a couple of years around that time I won more Three Stars than anyone" he says, "and I had a really good season for Macleans in the National League.

"So in April, 1980, I left the Financial Times, where I worked in the information library, to go full time. I decided to give table tennis a go for two years to see how well I could do.

"But even though I won the Humber-side Three Star and reached the final of the Middlesex I wasn't making enough money to exist. I became demoralised and fed up."

He began to practice less, his form suffered and so did his fitness. He felt he was getting no encouragement from the E.T.T.A. though he still managed to hang on to a top 10

ranking.

Then he virtually quit the game. "I became disillusioned with table tennis" he admits, "and I could not see any future unless you were Des or Jill.

"The game was getting no publicity and I felt I was being victimised. I don't believe officials know how to handle players with temperament so I jacked it in."

He began to enjoy himself outside the game and had, he says, "a great time" but he gradually drifted back and then in August last year he moved from Wimbledon to Hertford.

It proved his table tennis salvation. Having less to do outside London he began to play seriously again, worked hard and was soon back in outstanding form.

"If I hadn't moved from Wimbledon I would not be in table tennis now" he says, "but I'm pleased I'm back. All my enthusiasm has returned and I now have the necessary will to win. Even my concentration, never my strong point, has improved".

So where does he go from here? Max has no real ambitions apart from wanting to improve his game.

"I want to be happy with my game" he points out. "I don't want to be just an also ran.

"I know I can get better. I can improve my short play and my return of service and I'd love to get back on the England scene but I can't see them picking me."

Max could be wrong about that last point. If he keeps on winning and gets back into contention, can he be ignored because of what happened five years ago? Only time will tell.

NEW YEAR'S RANKING LISTS

DOUGLAS BACK ON TOP

The Lentec Computer Ranking lists for the beginning of 1984 show Desmond Douglas back at No.1. Desmond has continued to gather points from international appearances whereas the form of Carl Prean has slipped from the peak he achieved at the Tokyo World Championships early last year.

Max Crimmins of Surrey continues his steady climb, up two places to No. 6 whilst the improvement of Andy Bellingham of Staffs is emphasised by his climb from 42 to 23.

Karen Witt continues her domination at the top of the women's list whilst Alison Gordon's habit of reaching finals of most tournaments brings her up to No.3. Staffordshire also provide the best climber of the women in the form of Jill Harris from Walsall, up ten places to No.7. The new rankings (previous positions in brackets) are:-

MEN	Pt.
1 Desmond Douglas (Wa) (2)	838
2 Carl Prean (IOW) (1)	761
3 Graham Sandley (Mi) (4)	663.5
4 John Hilton (La) (5)	488.5
5 Skylet Andrew (E) (6)	481.5
6 Max Crimmins (SY) (8)	472
7 David Wells (Mi) (9)	468.5
8 Alan Cooke (Dy) (3)	463
9 Douggle Johnson (Wa) (7)	404.5
10 Philip Bradbury (Bu) (10)	401.5
11 Donald Parker (La) (12)	401.5
12 Kenny Jackson (E) (16)	389
13 John Souter (Mi) (17)	381.5
14 Nicky Mason (Sy) (27)	375.5
15 David Barr (Bk) (13)	356
16 Steven Turner (La) (19)	356
17 Paul Day (Ca) (11)	355
18 Alan Fletcher (V) (14)	353
19 Colin Wilson (Mi) (15)	349
20 Mark Mitchell (Mi) (18)	330
21 David Dodd (K) (23)	324.5
22 Chris Rogers (Le) (20)	313.5
23 Andy Bellingham (St) (42)	301.5
24 Nigel Eckersley (Ch) (21)	291.5
25 Steven Mills (V) (22)	272.5
26 Kevin Beadsley (V) (29)	269.5
27 Andrew Wellman (Bk) (30)	259.5
28 David Tan (Mi) (33)	254
29 Carl Morgan (Wa) (35)	249
30 Chi van Que (Nd) (25)	243.5
31 Ian Kenyon (K) (28)	242.5
32 Ricjard Jermyn (He) (24)	238
33 David Constance (Do) (26)	237
34 Steve Scowcroft (La) (37)	215
35 Ian Horsham (E) (31)	210
36 Barry Johnson (Wa) (38)	201.5
37 Kevin Satchell (Wi) (36)	197.5
38 John Kitchener (Sk) (32)	196
39 Lindsay Taylor (Cv) (34)	185.5
40 Billy Gleave (Ch) (39)	182
41 Phil Bowen (La) (52)	174
42 David Reeves (Bk) (40)	172.5
43 Mark Oakley (Sy) (44)	169.5
44 Phillip Gunn (Wa) (61)	167.5
45 Peter Taylor (He) (41)	165.5
46 David Newman (E) (46)	156
47 Tony Clayton (Do) (43)	153
48 Adrian Moore (Sx) (45)	152.5
49 Steven Sharpe (V) (71)	142
50 Andrew Creed (Av) (49)	140.5
51 Keith Richardson (Ca) (47)	139
52 Tony Sanderson (V) (48)	134
53 Andrew Rich (St) (59)	126
54 David Gannon (Le) (77)	123.5
55 Peter McQueen (Nd) (51)	121
56 Steven Moore (Sx) (53)	117.5
57 Barry Hayward (Wa) (50)	116
58 Gary Lambert (Dv) (66)	115.5
59 Malcolm Green (Spl) (73)	114.5
60 Stuart Palmer (Sk) (B4)	113.5
61 John Payne (Mi) (55)	112
62 Brian Johns (Ch) (63)	112
63 Steven Holloway (Sy) (56)	107.5
64 Andrew Syed (Bk) (60)	107
65 Malcolm Francis (Sx) (54)	105
66 Benny Robertson (Nd) (65)	104
67 Rupert Bole (Sy) H	104
68 Shaun Browne (La) (68)	103.5
69 Chris Bartram (K) (96)	102
70 Joe Naser (V) H	100.5
71 Keith Paxton (Du) (57)	100



Desmond Douglas back at No. 1 in the men's rankings.

72 Percy Collino (Mi) (72)	98
73 Derek Munt (Wa) (58)	97
74 Mick Harper (He) (64)	97
75 Craig Bakewell (St) H	97
76 David Rook (V) (62)	95.5
77 Mark Ellett (Dv) (98)	94
78 Jimmy Stokes (Bk) (89)	93
79 Garth Spencer (K) (67)	89
80 Paul Randall (Le) (69)	86
81 Kevin Edwards (Wi) (76)	85.5
82 Glen Baker (Sy) (B6)	85.5
83 Paul Jackson (Av) (75)	84.5
84 Steve Brunskill (Cv) H	84.5
85 John Burleton (K) (80)	83
86 Ian Fullerton (Bk) (70)	82
87 Michael Hammond (Sy) (87)	81.5
88 Desmond Charley (E) (74)	81
89 Tony Penny (E) (81)	79
90 David Skerratt (Li) (88)	73.5
91 Paul Rainford (La) (78)	73
92 Keith Williams (La) (100)	72.5
93 Babs Adedayo (Mi) (79)	70
94 Robert Watson (Ng) (85)	70
95 Martyn Smith (Av) (82)	69
96 Michael Browne (Wa) (83)	68.5
97 Les Eadie (E) (91)	64
98 Terry Dyson (V) (-)	64
99 Paul Namdjou (K) (90)	63
100 Andy Cunningham (K) (92)	63
101 David Harding (Sy) H	63
102 David Illingsworth (V) H	63
103 David Sharpe (Bd) (-)	62.5
104 Kevin Green (Cv) (95)	61.5
105 Philip Smith (Sx) (94)	61
106 Lester Bertie (Wa) (99)	61
107 Paul Hooper (Av) (93)	60
108 Stanley Deakin (St) H	60
109 Paul Whiting (Dv) (-)	58
110 Andrew Dodd (K) (97)	57

WOMEN

	Pt.
1 Karen Witt (Bk) (1)	637.5
2 Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (2)	372.5
3 Alison Gordon (Bk) (7)	330.5
4 Joy Grundy (La) (3)	311
5 Carole Moore (Cv) (4)	308
6 Jackie Bellinger (Bd) (8)	228
7 Jill Harris (St) (17)	189.5
8 Susan Collier (Bk) (5)	181.5
9 Mandy Sainsbury (Bk) (6)	178.5
10 Fiona Elliot (St) (26)	154
11 Sarah Sandlay (Mi) (9)	152.5
12 Jean Parker (La) (10)	146.5
13 Suzanne Hunt (Li) (15)	144.5
14 Karen Smith (Le) (12)	129.5
15 Carol Butler (Dv) (32)	114.5
16 Karen Groves (Wa) (20)	113
17 Helen Williams (Mi) (16)	112
18 Nina Tsakarianos (Gs) (27)	110
19 Angela Mitchell (Mi) (14)	108
20 Mandy Reeves (Mi) (13)	104.5
21 Mary Denbow (Ox) (24)	85.5
22 Joanne Shaw (V) (18)	77.5
23 Elaine Sayer (E) (30)	71.5
24 Helen Bardwell (He) (19)	67.5
25 Jenny Collins (Bk) (31)	67
26 Melody Hill (V) (21)	64
27 Amanda Hegarty (St) (44)	64
28 Jane Barella (Sy) (50)	61.5
29 Melanie Seaton (V) (45)	59
30 Christine Peacock (La) (23)	53.5
31 Sally Weston (Sx) H	53.5
32 Carol Spain (K) (39)	53.5
33 Julie Revill (Le) (34)	53
34 Jill Powis (St) (22)	49
35 Helen Shields (V) (28)	48
36 Michelle Hams (Sy) (35)	47
37 Sandra Peakman (Wal) (25)	43.5
38 Rebecca Russe (So) H	41

39 Julie Dimmock (8dl) (42)	38
40 Taryn Vallis (Bk) H	36
41 Cheryl Buttery (Li) (29)	35.5
42 Yvonne Hall (Le) H	35
43 Laura Goldsmith (Mi) (41)	35
44 Julie McLean (Y) (43)	32
45 Lisa Hayden (E) (-)	29
46 Teresa Moore (Sx) (33)	29
47 Nicola Cowley (Lal) (37)	28.5
48 Debbie Soothill (Cui) (36)	25.5
49 Claire Maisey (Wi) (38)	25
50 Debbie Simmonds (Bu) (-)	25

BOVS

	Pts.
1 Carl Prean (IOW) (1)	510
2 Andrew Syed (Bk) (2)	303
3 Chris Bartram (K) (10)	259.5
4 Jimmy Stokes (Bk) (20)	252.5
5 Billy Gleave (Ch) (5)	240.5
6 Andrew Dodd (K) (12)	209
7 David Goode (Mi) (28)	204.5
8 David Rook (Y) (7)	197.5
9 Darren McVitie (Du) (8)	190.5
10 Philip Huggon (La) (3)	187
11 Mark Randle (Wa) (6)	177.5
12 Andrew Cunningham (K) (4)	177



Alison Gordon, up from No.7 to No.3 in the women's list.

13 Matthew Syed (Bk) (16)	164
14 David Blackburne (Du) (15)	164
15 Martin Firth (Y) (14)	161
16 Adrian Dixon (St) (19)	155
17 Richard Darnell (E) (26)	153.5
18 Rodney Thomas (Do) (17)	144
19 Murray Jukes (Wo) (18)	140
20 Philip Logsdon (Nk) (13)	138
21 Michael Thomas (Wa) (11)	137
22 Richard Hayward (St) (9)	130.5
23 Paul Amos (K) (24)	124
24 Paul Elphick (Sx) (-)	112



John Hilton, the former European champion, up one position to No.4. Photos by Tony Edenden of Barlestone, Nr. Nuneaton.

25 Richard Tilford (Ng) (21)	111
26 Clive Guest (Y) H	106.5
27 Steven Dorking (E) H	98
28 Nicholas Newton (Y) (-)	94
29 Anthony Wattis (Cv) (22)	93.5
30 Sean Gibson (La) H	93
31 Mark Williams (K) (-)	86.5
32 Andrew Oxley (Wi) H	81

33 Phillip Payne (Sol H)	80
34 Peter Holliday (Cal (23)	78.5
35 Paul Savins (Bk) H	76.5
36 Stuart Craggs (Cv) (25)	71.5
37 Bradley Billington (Dy) H	71.5
38 Edward Smith (Nd) H	67.5
39 Howard Leigh (La) H	64.5
40 Steven Meigh (St) (-)	57
41 Keith Weatherby (Ch) H	56.5
42 Jonathon Bradbury (8u) (27)	51
43 Shaun Caraccio (Ski) H	50
44 Paul Bumpus (Le) H	49.5
45 Jonathon Goode (Mi) (-)	49
46 Colin Hogarth (La) (-)	47.5
47 Peter Curry (Nd) H	44
48 Aaron Beckett (Gs) (-)	41.5
49 Kevin Cartwright (St) (30)	41
50 David Smith (Gs) H	41
GIRLS	Pts.
1 Lisa Bellinger (8d) (1)	472
2 Susan Collier (Bk) (2)	416
3 Jill Powis (St) (3)	246.5
4 Teresa Moore (Sx) (5)	214
5 Joanne Shaw (V) (4)	208.5
6 Laura Goldsmith (Mil) (12)	154
7 Amanda Hegarty (St) (7)	151.5
8 Debbie Sothill (Cui) (6)	149
9 Juliet Houghton (K) (9)	136
10 Claire Mouzon (Nd) (10)	133.5
11 Louise Davis (Wo) (14)	132
12 Alison Boxall (He) (13)	124
13 To Thuy Dung (Dy) (8)	117.5
14 Sarah Webb (So) (-)	116.5
15 Lisa Robins (Bd) (20)	112.5
16 Sarah Hammond (Ha) (11)	101
17 Lisa Hayden (E) (17)	100
18 Claire Potts (Ch) (-)	98.5
19 Lesley Popkiewicz (Sy) (15)	92
20 Sally Weston (Sx) (25)	84
21 Samantha Scott-Pawson (Do) (-)	82
22 Amanda Shufflebotham (Ox) H	72.5
23 Ruth Bray (V) (-)	71
24 Melonie McHayle (Wa) (-)	67.5
25 Angela Sanders (St) (16)	67
26 Susan Butler (Dv) (29)	65.5
27 Louise Forster (Le) H	61.5
28 Andrea Holt (La) H	61
29 Debbie Simmonds (Sy) (19)	55
30 Mandy Holmes (V) (-)	54
31 Helen Perrott (Av) (-)	51
32 Alison Barker (Sp) (22)	47.5



Steve Turner another Lancastrian on the way up - from No. 19 to No. 16. Photo by Brian Ashton, Bletchley.

33 Rachel Knight (Mi) (18)	47
34 Clare Hunter (Wi) (-)	46.5
35 Lynn Trussell (Sx) (-)	43
36 Gillian Patten (E) H	36
37 Alison Evans (V) (26)	36
38 Julie Ballard (Sp) (28)	36
39 Michelle Cohen (Av) H	36
40 Lesley Souter (Mi) (21)	34

CADET BOYS		Pts.
1 Matthew Syed (Bk) (11)		305
2 Bradley Billington (Dy) (12)		195
3 Michael Rutherford (K) (3)		159.5
4 Michael O'Driscoll (V) (5)		157
5 Sean Gibson (La) (4)		142
6 Damian Holland (E) (6)		123.5
7 Neil Pickard (Nk) (12)		114
8 Christopher Oldfield (V) (11)		105
9 Andrew Houghton (K) (9)		92.5
10 Adrian Bolton (Ng) (7)		92.5

11 David Carse (La) (-)	80
12 Michael Harrison (K) H	78.5
13 Dale Saunders (Gs) (-)	76.5
14 Lee Brown (La) (-)	72.5
15 Philip Szekeres (Mi) (14)	69
16 Nicholas Ryder (V) (1-)	67
17 David Griffiths (E) H	65
18 Mark Ward (V) H	63
19 David Morris (Sp) H	61
20 Gavin Black (Bd) H	60.5
21 Matthew Pernet (Sy) H	54.5
22 David Smedley (Dy) (13)	51.5
23 Howard Williams (Gs) (-)	51
24 David Butler (K) H	49
25 Martin Edwards (Wi) H	46.5
26 Simon Cooper (Spl) (-)	45
27 Nicholas Felton (Wa) H	43
28 Darren Shaw (Nd) H	43
29 David Watson (Nd) (8)	42.5
30 Andrew Eden (La) (17)	41.5

CADET GIRLS		Pts.
1 Claire Potts (Ch) (2)		264
2 Andrea Holt (Lal) (1)		195.5
3 Kerry Hall (Dy) (9)		174.5
4 Amanda Shufflebotham (Ox) (5)		173.5
5 Melonie Carey (Sol) (3)		166
6 Julie Billington (Dy) (7)		132.5
7 Lisa Robins (Bd) (4)		131
8 Tanya Holland (E) (10)		120.5
9 Helen Lower (St) (16)		110
10 Caroline Dada (V)		103.5
11 Julie Norman (8k) (-)		83.5
12 Dawn Wickstead (Sp) (8)		69.5
13 Joanne Cook (E) (12)		61.5
14 Jane Wright (Dv) H		61
15 Hazel Kavanagh (V) (11)		57
16 Judith Grant (Du) (-)		57
17 Susan Richmond (V) H		53.5
18 Karen Broczek (Co) H		49.5
19 Louise Sherratt (St) H		46.5
20 Janine Harrison (V) H		44
21 Sarah George (E) (15)		40.5
22 Julie Forster (Le) H		33
23 Andrea Wood (Dy) (14)		32.5
24 Paula Collett (V) (-)		30.5
25 Mary Allen (8k) H		29
26 Anne Pashley (Cv) H		29
27 Kristina Cox (La) H		22
28 Amanda Dawkins (Dy) (-)		21
29 Cheryl Bateman (Sy) (-)		18.5
30 Helen Potts (Ch) H		18.5

THE VETERANS SCENE

Inaugural meeting to constitute the Veterans Association. Meeting will be held on Sunday, 15th January 1984, at the Crest Hotel, Hinckley Road, Walsgrave, Coventry, CV2 2HP (Telephone 0203613261) commencing at 2.30 p.m.

The hotel is adjacent to Junction 2 of the M6 at the M6/M69/A46 interchange and is approximately 400 yards on the left heading towards

Coventry City Centre.

AGENDA

1. Opening/Introduction
2. To appoint a Chairman to control the meeting until Item 5 has been completed
3. To agree the Terms of Reference
4. To consider the Constitution for the club
5. To appoint Officers as agreed in Agenda Item 4
6. To appoint a Committee as agreed in Agenda Item 4

7. To discuss and agree membership fees and method of payment.
8. To discuss and agree on a name for the Club
9. To agree on a date and venue for the first National Championships.
10. To discuss further competitions.
11. Promotional activities (see paper produced by M. D. Watts dated September 1983)
12. Any other business.

M. D. Watts

ERROR RECTIFIED

Some minor changes to the programme were requested by the Ranking Panel during the closed season. Unfortunately, the programmer in making these changes made a mistake which resulted in bonus points being repeated with every win.

When the first Senior ranking list of the season was produced the usual checks were made by the Ranking Panel. The results fed into the computer checked out, unfortunately the programme itself has not been part of this verifying procedure.

When eventually the error was discovered the Ranking Panel decided to rectify matters by starting again and feeding in all the results so far this season with the amended programme.

A number of players had received more points than they should have under the incorrect programme although this may not show because they have since accumulated points during November and early December.

Others will have less points on the December rankings than they had in early November. We feel that it is better to rectify the error although it must be disappointing to the player affected in a negative way.

If any players have a query about their ranking score please write giving details of results to Bryan Merrett at 26 Sapphire Close, Tuffley, Gloucs., who will check the results in conjunction with Peter D'Arcy for Seniors; Mike Kercher for Juniors and Cadets.

DUNLOP/LADBROKE TOURNAMENT WINNER

The 1982 Dunlop/Ladbroke Holidays Tournament has been won by Trevor Kerry from Nottingham. The event runs throughout the holiday season at Ladbroke Holiday Centres with the weekly winners going forward to the National finals the following year,

this year played at Scarborough.

Trevor entered the competition when he holidayed at the Seashore Holiday Centre. He is 23 and is a member of Nottingham Table Tennis Club.

Second prize went to David Sharpe, aged 18, from Luton who is a member of Vauxhall Table Tennis Club and the third prize was awarded to Roger Chandler of Brighton in Sussex.



POSTBAG

THE BALL CONTROVERSY

The decision of last season's junior champion not to defend his title in this year's Junior Closed revives a subject that has caused consternation and controversy for many years.

5 makes of ball are licenced by the ETIA, 4 of which are made of celluloid and one of plastic. I propose to leave it to others to decide which is better. What cannot be in doubt is that balls made of different materials behave differently. I cannot understand how the ETIA can permit this situation as it is pledged to 'secure the adoption of uniform laws'. How much more important then that the are uniform. The game can be played without certain laws, it cannot be played without a ball. To seek uniformity in fine print, but not in play seems to be putting the cart before the horse.

All my experience indicates that the celluloid ball is much preferred. In 20 years of local league, inter-town and county play I cannot recall one set in which a plastic ball was voluntarily chosen. My enthusiasm took me to Portsmouth and Guildford as a 'guest artist'. Nowhere could I find a match played with a plastic ball.

Imagine my astonishment then when I learned- that our ETIA had chosen plastic balls for some of its showpiece events. Last season's Junior Closed was played with such balls. My player said then: "I shall try to win today, but after that, come what may, I shall not play with these balls again. I cannot 'feel' them. They are so hard. I make mistakes I cannot understand. I do not enjoy playing with them." He won every set in straight games and nobody got more than 16, but he did not enjoy playing. Junior Table Tennis is an expensive pleasure. To compete in the Closed sees little change from £150. If the experience is then not enjoyed, there is little point in it.

Our calendar is so full that some tournaments have to be missed. It might as well be those that are played with plastic balis.

For many years players of all standards have complained: Neale, Barnes, Douglas, Prean and many others. In the end nothing ever happened. Most players are social players. Tournaments are a time to meet old friends. The real fun starts when the competition is over. It does not matter too much what they play with because table tennis is secondary. For the minority who have made a commitment to Table Tennis and whose sole professional activity it is the situation is more serious. They must be seen in the best light, not making inexplicable mistakes.

But the real impossibility is to switch from the plastic to the celluloid ball from one tournament to the next

and retain a semblance of touch. In January the Cleveland will be played with celluloid. 4 days later the Open will start with plastic. I cannot see how any player can perform well in both. He might be lucky and find opponents who play even worse, but he cannot do himself justice. Yet that is what our system imposes on the players.

Yes, I know the ETTA is again short of funds and we need income and that is how it all comes about and I will be told quite reasonably that I sit on the Isle of Wight criticising whilst others have the day to day worry of balancing the books. I accept all that, but still point out that our only major asset is the Sport itself and if we devalue that we shall have nothing. Geoff Capes did not shotput with a football and George Best did not play football with a discus. Only table tennis is played with two vastly different balls from one week to the next. Can that make sense? Please, Dunlop, step into line.

JOHN PREAN

12 Marlborough Road,
Ryde, Isle of Wight.
PO331AA

Whether one likes the Dunlop plastic ball or not the fact remains that the ball is I.T.T.F. approved. Ed.

GREENBERG RE-VISITED

T.T. News (Dec.) included a letter from a Mr. Stuart A. Greenberg (whom I do not know) which 'proclaimed that the Sport is or will end up as "a very minority one, played by tricksters and con-men and run by them, for personal gain by virtue of the money input of the rubber manufacturers as well as the glory of beating someone using a combination bat whom you couldn't beat using a normal bat!"

I confirm my membership of the elite trickster and con-men Club which includes Jonyer, Hilton, Takashima, Barr, Johnson, Mrs. Hammersley-Parker and very many Chinese.

Has no one told Mr. Greenberg that from January 1 all blades will be covered by rubbers of different colours? Thus it will be readily apparent which rubber the combination bat player is using for any given stroke. I want to say to Mr. Greenberg that if he still cannot play against, say, anti-loop or long pimples after that, he should take a serious look at this own abilities before he again bursts into print. I can put him in touch with several good table tennis schools which may be able to help him.

That rule will apply at County and higher level. At local league level the ETTA wisely left the decision to the leagues themselves. Very few have adopted it.

The first thing Mr. Greenberg must do therefore is to find a league where the different colour rule has been accepted. If his difficulties continue, then he must start his own league where everybody plays with the same bat.

My own experience is that good players are good players whatever they play with and bad players remain bad players whatever their opponents play with.

I have no intention of changing my bat till I find a better one, but I am prepared to make an exception in Mr. Greenberg's case and play him with what he regards as a 'normal' bat (Srifer or Mark V both sides?). My only condition is that the loser pays the winner's travelling expenses and donates a minimum of £100 to the Hammersley-Parker Foundation.

Apart from that I ask for no conditions except that Mr. Greenberg should study his subject before firing quite so many broadsides at targets of his own imagination and invention.

CARL PREAN

12 Marlborough Road,
Ryde, Isle of Wight.
PO331AA

"TEMPER, TEMPER!"

In your December issue Mr. Allan Fisher writes of the Kent Junior 2-Star Open and in the 2nd column, last paragraph, says "Gilliam Blanch led her by a game and 20-17 before Juliet won it and the third game 21-5! Temper, Temper!"

I have the good fortune not to know Mr. Fisher who apparently writes without watching the game very closely. At no time did Gilliam get in a temper. There must be dozens of officials who will say that they have never seen her in a temper.

Despair? especially when her opponent gets an irretrievable edge to take the advantage on "deuce". Cross with herself for bad shots? don't we all? Dispirited when continually missing by a fraction? Miserable afterwards in the mistaken belief that a friend had rooted for an enemy? Yes. However she remained polite to Juliet and the umpire which is even more than can be said for many winners and even more losers.

I think an apology for Mr. Fisher's insinuation would not be amiss to a young lady who has a reputation among officials for good manners and a pleasant disposition. Don't ask me-ask the officials who have watched her grow up, the officials who have said "It's a pity, it's nice to have the well-behaved youngsters as well as the others", on hearing that Gillian isn't participating in a tournament, or those who have said "She's too nice to go to the top - she hasn't enough killer in her."

I must also point out that Mr. Fisher's inference could be construed to imply that Gillian "threw" the third game. That is an insult to Gillian and gives no credit to Juliet who is a very fine player. As someone said to me at the time "She played out of her skin to win that." I watched every point and it was a fine set.

I'm Gillian's Dad and proud of her and her reputation. Mr. Fisher would

do well to avoid me at future tournaments unless he comes to apologise.

ERIC BLANCH

7 Canada Road,
Acton, London. W30NP

VENUES FOR RANKING TOURNAMENTS

I refer to the minutes of the meeting of the National Council held on Oct. 15 in which a letter from Mr. L. J. Bridges was discussed. He felt that there was a strong case for holding ranking trials in the middle of England presumably to reduce time for travel and expense. This seems to be a perfectly reasonable request but as Peter Charters points out, the policy for selecting venues is fairer now than in the past bearing in mind that the E.T.T.A. has a responsibility for promoting the game in all parts of the country.

Mr. D. M. Parsons supported Mr. Bridges in his request for a Midlands venue but the most disappointing observation came from Mrs. A. P. Archdale who seemed determined to have the Shotley, near Ipswich, venue, scheduled for April 7, changed, as she considered Shotley to be too far east. Is Cleveland too far north? It would appear that Mrs. Archdale speaks for Cornwall which, because of its insularity, makes long distance travel inevitable wherever the Cornish players take part. However, the road links to East Anglia from the West and South West are vastly improved with the M4 and M3 and in the not too distant future the M25 will be completed thus avoiding London completely, to make the journey much quicker. Road communications from the North are good when one considers that it is almost possible to travel from Scotland to Ipswich by dual carriageway! In addition, Ipswich is now bypassed by the Orwell Bridge. Whichever way you look at it, travel is an accepted part of table tennis at the level we are discussing.

However, another powerful argument for returning to Shotley must be on account of the wonderful facilities both on court and off which the Euro-sport Village provides. I understand that Mike Watts, who organised the last ranking tournament at Shotley was suitably impressed.

May I, finally, on behalf of the Suffolk Committee, put in a strong plea that the Management Committee, when reconsidering Ipswich for the 1983/84 Ranking Trials, will stick to their original choice of venue, save money by doing so and not be swayed by others who are lucky enough to be able to stage other tournaments on their own doorsteps.

R. IAN BULLOCK

Suffolk Press Officer.

91 Larchcroft Road,
Ipswich, Suffolk.

OUT OF STEP

In his letter published in the Novem-

ber issue of Table Tennis News, Ken Jukes poses three questions concerning the clash between the Junior Ranking Tournament and the County Championships Weekend of Nov. 26/27.

I suspect that no one is going to be able to give an answer which will totally satisfy Mr. Jukes, but having discussed the matter at the County Championships Committee meeting on Nov. 19 perhaps I can give the views of that Committee.

Like Mr. Jukes, the Committee believed that the weekend of 26/27 November was scheduled for County Championship matches, and that in accordance with undertakings given at the time when counties accepted the principle of playing Senior Premier Division matches on two weekends, no other event would be staged which might compete with the requirements of the counties. Until mid August, nothing had happened to change that view. The first indication of an alteration to dates came in a letter sent to all counties informing them of the revised date for the Junior Ranking Trials; no member of the County Championships Committee had any prior knowledge although it subsequently transpired that the new date was known as long ago as 1 July when it was disclosed to a Selection Committee meeting. (This, I think answers the point made by John Preen in Table Tennis News, December, about the Committee's dancing out of step - the Championships Committee did not even know the music was being played!). Consequently, representations were made on behalf of counties, but the decision stood.

I realise that it is possible for someone reading the previous paragraph to suspect disloyalty by the Committee - this is not so for we recognise that we are part of the corporate body of the Association and as such, must conduct our affairs in accordance with the parent body's direction. What it does highlight is that disagreements exist and I do not believe it is wrong for these conflicts to occasionally surface publicly - provided they do not degenerate into slanging matches.

Fundamentally, in this case, I feel two things should be recognised. Firstly, the Calendar Working Party have an impossible job; there are simply not enough weekends to allow everyone the dates they want, and secondly, the Final calendar should be just that, to allow counties, leagues, and individuals, who after all are the Association, to arrange their domestic events. Only the most remarkable of circumstances should be allowed to change the calendar approved by National Council at their first meeting of the season.

IAN WHITESIDE

Committee Chairman.

40 Elm Walk,
Rayne,
Braintree CM7 5ES

ALL OUR YESTERDAYS

Whilst nobody doubts the sincere efforts of Tom Blunn during the past 25 years, it is sad that his article with its various fallacies where failures are seen as success charts the decline of Table Tennis.

The majority of the 9,000 spectators, including myself, at Wembley in 1957 were ordinary Club players and it proves the attraction of the sport at that time. The administration may have been run by amateurs, but it was no less effective and considerably cheaper than today. In addition, there was a greater unity in the sport at all levels - today, the ETTA often seems as remote from the needs of the ordinary player as the French kings were from the peasants just before the Revolution!

Up to that time, the ETTA had been under the Chairmanship of the highly intelligent and visionary Ivor Montague and it is interesting to speculate whether his departure had an adverse effect on the future course of the game. Certainly with the solid base of support from ordinary rank and file members that existed in 1956, it would have been expected that Table Tennis was in a strong position to adjust successfully to the exacting demands of a more professional age.

However, in the intervening years, the ETTA has failed dismally to market the talents of our leading players and at times the governing body seems more interested in knocking down any who do not adhere to the party line. Any successful sport requires players with strong personalities as well as talent. This is realised in Tennis - the crowds flock to Wembley to see McEnroe in the 80's as they did in the 50's to Gonzales. Both were rebellious characters but the Tennis authorities tolerated their outbursts for the support which they could draw.

Tom Blunn states that lack of money has been a constant factor during the past 25 years but this may be related to the fact that during this period he has been both Treasurer and Chairman. Surely he condemns himself with his own words and confirms the failure of the ETTA's financial and marketing policies. Any Chairman of a Public Company reporting year after year on falling profits and loss of customers would soon receive short shrift from the shareholders.

As previously stated, to 90-95% of the players, the ETTA is an irrelevance and they only relate to the officials of the local League who are seen as the providers of the weekly match. This sorry state of affairs indicates the gulf that now separates the top from the grass roots. The spurious claim for progress through the dubious achievements of new competitions only applies to less than 10% of the more successful players.

Incredibly, Tom Blunn states that his only disappointment is the fall in the number of spectators which

suggests a high degree of self satisfaction based on an indifferent record.

Table Tennis increasingly relies on the silent majority for its financial support and it behoves the ETIA to consider how it can win back their support and interest. If they are successful in tapping this source of ideas and energy, the game will move forward again and who knows, some of those lost spectators may return.

PAT SNOXELL

Hon. Sec. Watford TTL.

19 Gade Avenue,
Watford, Herts.

Acknowledging the content of this letter, read out to him over the 'phone, Tom Blunn would welcome an invitation from the Watford League to address their management committee.

Ed.

KENT RANKINGS

Men	Women
1 D. Dodd (WOO)	1 J. Houghton (TON)
2 I. Kenyon (BRO)	2 C. Spain (BRO)
3 J. Burleton (BECK)	3 J. Smith (BRO)
4 G. Spencer (BECK)	4 T. Stewart (WOO)
5 P. Namdjou (MED)	5 K. May (NWK)
6 A. Cunningham (BRO)	6 R. Bentley (FOLK)
6 R. Beckham (BECK)	7 M. Ball (FOLK)
8 A. Dodd (WOO)	8 J. Farthing (NWK)
9 A. Mitchell (MED)	9 P. Butcher (NWK)
10 R. Namdjou (MED)	10 S. Brame (FOLK)
11 C. Bartram (WOO)	11 E. James (WOO)
12 B. Brown (MED)	12 M. Dudgeon (MAID)
13 R. Tilling (WOO)	13 C. Chivers (TON)
14 M. Romano (TW)	14 M. Dignum (MAID)
15 P. Colvin (BRO)	15 K. Grant (WOO)
16 P. Saxby (FOLK)	16 S. Lang (WOO)
17 M. Brown (TW)	
18 H. Buist (NWK)	
19 T. Spain (MED)	
J. Chapman (BRO)	

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Revised European Rankings

KAREN MAKES TOP TWELVE

England's Karen Witt, in being promoted from No. 23 to No. 12 in the revised classification lists issued by the European Table Tennis Union on Jan 1/84, will now be an invitee to the Top 12 tournament to be staged in Bratislava (Feb 3/5). And in retaining her 13th position Lisa Bellinger will also be invited as reserve prepared to play should there be a vacancy.

Desmond Douglas, although demoted from No.4 to No.6, will also be Czechoslovakia bound but Carl Preat, dropped from No. 12 to No. 15 would appear to stand little chance for it is unlikely that there will be three withdrawals or two which would make him travelling reserve. Revised rankings (previous positions in brackets):-

MEN

- Mikael Appelgren (SWE) (1)
- Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE) (2)
- Erik Lindh (SWE) (6)
- Jacques Secretin (FRA) (9)
- Zoran Kalinic (YUG) (3)
- Desmond Douglas (ENG) (4)
- Andrzej Grubba (POL) (10)
- Dragutin Surbek (YUG) (8)
- Tibor Klampar (HUN) (-)
- Milan Orlovski (TCH) (7)
- Jindrich Pansky (TCH) (15)
- Ulf Carlsson (SWE) (13)
- Zsolt Kriston (HUN) (16)
- Istvan Jonyer (HUN) (5)
- Carl Preat (ENG) (12)
- Ulf Bengtsson (SWE) (11)
- Patrick Birocheau (FRA) (17)
- Georg (FRG) (18)
- Stellan Bengtsson (SWE) (14)
- Janos Molnar (HUN) (19)
- Ieszek Kucharski (POL) (22)
- Bela Meszaros (YUG) (20)
- Patrick Renverse (FRA) (24)
- Gabor Gergely (HUN) (21)
- Miroslav Broda (TCH) (23)

- Peter Stellwag (FRG) (26)
- Stefan Dryszel (POL) (27)
- Ralf Wasik (FRG) (28)
- Christian Martin (FRA) (25)
- Milivoj Karakasevic (YUG) (-)

WOMEN

- Marie Hrachova (TCH) (4)
- Valentina Popova (URS) (3)
- Filura Bulatova (URS) (2)
- Bettine Vriesekoop (HOL) (1)
- Gabriella Szabo (HUN) (6)
- Zsuzsa Olah (HUN) (7)
- Branka Batinic (YUG) (11)
- Kirsten KrUger (FRG) (9)
- Irena Kovalenko (URS) (8)
- Marie Lindblad (SWE) (12)
- Edit Urban (HUN) (14)
- Karen Witt (ENG) (23)
- Lisa Bellinger (ENG) (13)
- Susanne Wenzel (FRG) (15)
- Blanka Silhanova (TCH) (16)
- Gordana Perkucin (YUG) (21)
- Brigitte Thiriet (FRA) (24)
- Jolanta Danilivichute (URS) (25)
- Nadine Daviaud (FRA) (27)
- Barbara Lippens (BEL) (20)
- Sonja Grefberg (FIN) (22)
- Szonja Pircsak (HUN) (-)
- Anita Zacharian (URS) (19)
- Marie Albion (ROM) (26)
- Katalin Bolvari (HUN) (-)
- Alice Pelilanova (TCH) (28)
- Menni Weizades (SWE) (29)
- Eva Malmberg (FIN) (30)
- Iolanta Szatko (POL) (-)
- Barbara Wiltsche (AUT) (-)

Omitted from the previous lists are:-

Men: John Hilton (ENG) (29) and Josef Dvoracek (TCH) (30).
Women: Olga Nemes (ROM) (5), Jill Hammersley-Parker (ENG) (10), Judit Magos (HUN) (17) and Erzebet Palantinus (YUG) (18).

OBITUARY KEN COURSE

The death occurred at his home in Basingstoke on December 27 of Ken Course at the age of 76.

Ken was a founder member of the Basingstoke Table Tennis Association in 1930 and in the next half century held every available office and still found time to play a prominent part in

the affairs of Basingstoke's Queens Club and the formation of the Andover League in the 1940's. Ken was a friend and helpmate to all and during his 14 year presidency of the Hampshire Association his calm authoritative control of the annual general meetings was masterly; he was very much a 'working' president, always available with a helpful word of advice when required.

Surprisingly, as Ken was very much the 'Father-figure' to table tennis, in Basingstoke, he was known as 'Mr. Football', having been treasurer of the North Hampshire Football Association for 26 years and later president. Cricket did not escape his attention either, having been a one-time assistant secretary of the Basingstoke and North Hampshire Cricket Club; his home was opposite the Bounty cricket ground where Hampshire have performed some of their outstanding feats in recent years.

At the funeral service held in Basingstoke St. Michael's church, well attended by representatives of all sports, the vicar spoke fittingly and with personal knowledge of the kind, quiet man who was Ken and to whom many not present that day would owe much for many years to come.

Ken leaves a wife, Dorothy, who supported him in all that he did and to whom we offer our most sincere condolences.

Brian Lamerton

INTERNATIONAL CLUB

The 13th Hard Bat Tournament will be held at the Barnet TT Centre on Sunday, Jan. 29. Entries close on Jan. 18 to Hon. Sec. Laurie Landry, 3 Osney Way, Chalk, Gravesend, Kent DA12 2NB 'Phone: Gravesend 534908.

News is to hand from Australia that Betty Bird picked up two awards for the 1982 Winter Oennant Season in South Australia - they were the Sir Mark L. Mitchell Trophy as South Australia's 'Player of the Year' and the Alan Lyon Trophy for the best and fairest in women's top competition. Additionally Betty was No. 2 on the Sth Australia ranking list.

New addresses to note are those of Majorie Cumberbatch now at Prospect Cottage, Cefn Blodwel, Nantmawr, Nr. Oswestry, Salop. 'Phone: L1ansant-fraid 680; Tony Clayton now at Linden Lea, Deans Drove, Lytchett Matravers, Poole, Dorset. 'Phone 0202-622090 and Paul Judd now at 68/6645, 138th Street, Highland Creek Estate, Surrey, B.C., Canada.

Carl Prean has been awarded the Geoff Harrower Trophy for his performances last season in the Tokyo World Championships.

Quite a number of young players were helped towards their travelling expenses for the Junior Ranking Tournament in Cleveland on Nov. 27

following the announcement in Table Tennis News.

There are still some International Club ties available at £2.25 inclusive of postage from Laurie's address.

NORWICH UNION ENGLISH OPEN

Sixteen countries will be represented in the men's team event at Brighton this month and a like number are due to line up in the counterpart women's event.

Sweden, England I, Japan and France are the seeded men's teams with Japan, U.S.S.R., South Korea and Czechoslovakia occupying like positions on the distaff side.

There are 16 seeds in both the men's and women's singles and, in draw order, they are:-

Men	Women
Zoran Kalinic (YUG)	Bettine Vriesekoop (HOL)
Patrick Renverse (FRA)	Jolanta Slatko (POL)
JUIO Nukuluka (JPN)	Kim Kil Bok (KOR)
Carl Prean (ENG)	Karen Witt (ENG)
Ulf Carlsson (SWE)	Anita Zakharian (URS)
Patrick Birocheau (FRA)	Nadine Daviaud (FRA)
Ralf Wosik (FRG)	Menni Weilades (SWE)
Andrzej Grubba (POL)	Yoshiko Shimaucji (JPN)
Seiji Ong (JPN)	Lisa Bellinger (ENG)
Georg Böhm (FRG)	Kumiko Nohira (JPN)
Leslek Kucharski (POL)	Lee Hyang Soon (KOR)
Jacques Secretin (FRA)	Brigitte Thiriet (FRA)
Ulf Bengtsson (SWE)	Iolanta Danilavichute (URS)
Christian Martin (FRA)	Beatrice Abgrall (FRA)
Jindrich Pansky (TCH)	Miyuki Uelono (JPN)
Desmond Douglas (ENG)	Marie Hrachova (TCH)

Top seeds in the men's doubles are Kalinic and Milivoj Karakasevic of

Yugoslavia and Vladislav Broda and Pansky of Czechoslovakia. The giant Kalinic, it will be recalled, is the holder of the World men's doubles title with his compatriot Dragutin Surbek, the latter a non-entrant at Brighton.

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BACK TO BRIGHTON IN '84

The season's premier table tennis championships, the NORWICH UNION ENGLISH OPEN, is back to its almost traditional setting in 1984 - the lovely Sussex seaside town of Brighton. But the return of this major international tournament brings a change in surroundings - to the magnificent Brighton Centre.

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The English Table Tennis Association want the 1984 NORWICH UNION ENGLISH OPEN to be the best ever. That means you being there to support England in the team championship, and our leading players in the individual events.

As an incentive offer, available only to Table Tennis News readers, the ETIA are giving huge discounts on the price of tickets. Each voucher you save (up to a maximum of 4) entitles you to 12½% off the cost of a ticket, provided you submit your vouchers when you purchase it from the ETTA, 21 Claremont, Hastings TN34 1HF, before Friday 20th January 1984. The first three vouchers appeared in the October, November and December editions. 50% off with all four.

50% Discount with 4 vouchers!

	Normal	Price With 4 Vouchers
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Adult (all day)	£4.00	£2.00
Adult (evening)	£2.00	£1.00
Children/OAPs (all day)	£2.00	£1.00
Children/OAPs (evening)	£1.00	50p
Saturday		
28th January		
All categories (morning only)		50p
All categories (afternoon/evening)		50p
Ground floor	£4.00	£2.00
South Balcony	£3.00	£1.50
West Balcony	£2.00	£1.00

12½% off

CONDITIONS

This offer applies only to tickets for the Norwich Union English Open Table Tennis Championships purchased from the ETTA before Friday, 20th January, 1984.

1. A maximum of four vouchers, taken from separate editions of Table Tennis News, will be allowed against the purchase of a single ticket for the Norwich Union English Open.
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1984



JAN '84

Jill Hammersley-Parker Table Tennis Foundation

by Donald Parker

Although membership is increasing gradually there is still a long way to go before challenging the Swedish Academy which has some 400 members. To repeat what has been written in previous issues we are trying to raise sufficient money to send extra Junior players to international competitions starting from May of this year.

We are much indebted to David Taber and Cornilleau (UK) Ltd., who have donated one of their Secretin Competition Roul'matic tables to be raffled off at the Norwich Union English Open in Brighton this month.

For every donation of £10 made to

the Foundation before the draw, 10 tickets will be put in the draw and, to be fair, all the original - as listed in the December issue - will be included.

Hopefully some clubs will have a whip-round to send a donation as well as individuals and, at the same time, have a chance to win a table. At Brighton the table will be on show with a view to attracting donations of £10 to the Foundation thus qualifying for ten tickets in the draw.

In addition tickets will be on sale at £1 each and French ace Jacques Secretin will make the draw at the end of the Championships. Therefore by

sending a £10 donation you will become a member and will not only be directly helping the development of Juniors in England but giving yourself a chance to win a top class table.

The Foundation cannot thank enough Cornilleau (UK) Ltd., for their incredible support and would like to wish them every success in 1984. A letter has recently been sent out to all the major table tennis companies and retailers soliciting their support. Should any have been missed who would like to support the venture then a donation of £25, instead of the individual £10, would be much appreciated.

To: JILL HAMMERSLEY-PARKER TABLE TENNIS FOUNDATION
The Barn, Common Bank, Dolphinholme, Lancaster. LA2 9AN.

From

Address

I enclose £10/£25 to become a member. Please tick (✓) if you require a receipt. 0 (Cheques to Jill-Hammersley Table Tennis Foundation)

Additional members to those listed in December are:- Aldershot & District TT League; Cornilleau (UK) Ltd., D. Fairholm, Woolhampton; B. Freer, Potters Bar; P. Hirst, Cambridge; D. Hinch, Canterbury; R. Hazell, Aldbourn; R. Hayward, Warwick; K. Park, Leeds; A. Rutherford, Deal; G. Ressel, Preston; J. Sandley, London; C. Tappen, Woolhampton; Waltham Forest TT League and W. Walsh, Preston.

HALTON JUNIOR 1-STAR OPEN

CHRIS STARS AT NORTON

Star of the show at Norton Recreation Centre on Dec. 10 was undoubtedly 12-years-old Chris Oldfield from Sheffield who was runner-up in both the U-17 and U-14 boys' singles as well as winning the U-12 boys' events in singles and doubles.

He found Colin Wilson just too strong in the U-17 event going down -19, -18, and John Ellis had the fitness advantage in the U-14's 'winning 17 and 12.

Wolverhampton's Helen Lower pulled off two shock results on her way to success in the U-17 girls' singles event. Firstly she beat England No. 1 Cadet Claire Potts -17, 17, 18 in the semis and then in a nail-biting final she scraped home -14, 19,24 against England No.2 Andrea Holt.

However, Claire got her revenge by defeating Miss Holt -14, 22, 12 in the final of the U-14's singles after Andrea had knocked out Helen Lower at the semi-final stage and Claire had beaten her younger sister Helen in the other.

Jane Thomas proved just a little too strong for the younger of the Potts sisters in the U-12 girls' singles and they combined to take the doubles event in that age group.

Lee Brown and David Carse were undoubtedly the doubles kings of the day by taking both the U-17 and U-14 boys' events. They were rarely in trouble and won a place in the U-17's final by beating No. 1 seeds Wilson/S. Colclough in the semis. In the final they met Dickson/Thompson who had beaten Saunders/Williams in their semi, but they found the Lancastrians an irresistible form and went down -17, -17.

In the U-14's doubles Brown and Carse disposed of Oldfield/Sims in the semis before beating Eden/Morris 14 and 19 in the final. Just as the boys' doubles was dominated by one pair so too was the girls, with A. Holt and C. Potts also taking the U-17 and U-14 titles. They were hard-pushed in the U-17's to stave off the challenge of Lynne Harrison and Cheryl Clarke but eventually won 22 and 20. But it was a

different story in the U-14's as they centered to success beating Cox/Lower 5 and 16.

The prize money and trophies were presented by Mr. Les Aston, Manager of Norton Recreation Centre, who thanked Mrs. Karen Tonge for her unstinting efforts as tournament referee, and an application to elevate the tournament to 2-Star status is at present being made to the E.T.T.A. Results:-

Event	Winners	Runner(s)-up	Losing semi-finalists
BS:	C. Wilson (Sp)	C. Oldfield (Y)	B. Wentworth, G. Dickson (Ch)
CBS:	J. Ellis (Cw)	Oldfield	J. Goodall (Gs), A. Eden (La)
U-12BS:	Oldfield	Eden	N. Sims (Y), D. Milner (V)
GS:	H. Lower (St)	A. Holt (La)	C. Potts (Ch), C. Clarke (Ch)
CGS:	Potts	Holt	Lower, H. Potts (Ch)
U-12GS:	J. Thomas (Cw)	H. Potts	B. Smallwood (La), A. Ledwiche (Wa)
BD:	L. Brown/ D. Carse (La)	G. Dickson/ M. Thompson (Ch)	
CBD:	Brown/Carse	Eden/Morris (Sp)- Eden/D. Sneyd-	
U-12BD:	Oldfield/Sims	(La)	
GO:	Holt/Potts	Clarke/ L. Harrison (Ch)	
eGO:	Holt/Potts	K. Cox (La)/ Lower	
U-12GD:	H. Potts/ Thomas	J. Draper (Ch)/ - B. Smallwood (Wa)	

The Beneficial Trust Cotswold Junior ISelect Grand Prix

On Feb. 4/5, The Cotswold Junior Select is again being staged at the Gloucester Leisure Centre, and is now one of the six Grand Prix events which qualify for generous prizes awarded by the sponsors - Beneficial Trust Ltd.

The 'Cotswold' originated at Burford

in 1968, and was transferred to Gloucester in 1976, when it came under the aegis of the County Association.

Commencing at 9am each day, play will be on 15 Jaques tables (T.S.P. balls) in ten events, with the staged finals scheduled for 7pm on Saturday and 6.30pm on Sunday.

352 players competed last year, but with the first round winners being decided by a group system eliminator in the Under-14 and -17 Singles

events, the entry will be slightly restricted this year.

In addition to engraved gold, silver or bronze medallions, presented by Beneficial Trust, there will be cash awards for the winners and runners-up in all events.

There is FREE tiered seating in the Sports Hall for spectators throughout the two days' play, thus affording an opportunity to see the most promising Junior players in the Country.

HEART OF ENGLAND CADET LEAGUE

by Brian Aston

After the 2nd round of matches in The Heart of England Cadet League at Leamington Boys' Club, Walsall still remain championship favourites.

Playing with a reserve which weakened their team they still managed to beat Evesham 7-3 and Rugby 6-4.

Stratford had a good day winning their 3 matches, with Neil Betteridge, winning his 9 sets. This performance puts him into 3rd place in the averages. David Thomas maintained his top position winning his 9 sets and 3 of these he took off League

leaders Walsall.

Coventry drew with Worcester and Bromsgrove, with Richard Todd winning his 6 sets for Coventry.

Worcester performed a lot better this session picking up 3 sets off Stratford and a creditable draw with Coventry.

The, final session takes place on Feb. 11, 1984 at Leamington Boys' Club with an individual knock-out competition and the presentation of trophies for the League winners by sponsors, Heart of England Building Society.

TABLE

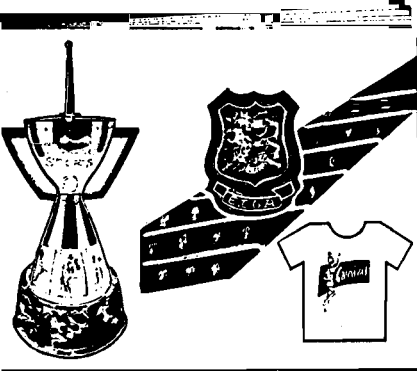
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Walsall	5	5	0	0	39	11	10
Rugby	5	3	1	1	28	22	7
Stratford-upon-Avon	5	3	1	1	27	23	7
Evesham	5	2	0	3	27	23	4
Leamington Spa	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Bromsgrove	5	1	1	3	22	28	3
Coventry	4	0	2	2	16	24	2
Worcester	4	0	1	3	9	31	1

LEADING AVERAGES:

D. Thomas 93% (Rugby)
 R. Brissett 88% (Walsall)
 N. Betteridge 86% (Stratford)
 M. Stretton 86% (Walsall)
 R. Todd 83% (Coventry)
 R. Till 80% (Walsall)
 B. Dalby 66% (Leamington)
 R. Loj 66% (Rugby)
 A. Higgins 66% (Bromsgrove)
 M. Bolton 60% (Evesham)
 I. Roberts 60% (Stratford)
 D. Smith 60% (Evesham)

RESULTS


Coventry 5 Worcester 5
 Coventry 5 Bromsgrove 5
 Stratford 7 Worcester 3
 Stratford 8 Bromsgrove 2
 Stratford 6 Leamington 4
 Rugby 6 Leamington 4
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YORKSHIRE SNIPPETS

'County Matches Round-up' Congratulations to the Yorkshire Junior Premier Team who made considerable progress towards retaining their National title at St. Neots when Martin Firth, Clive Guest, David Rook, Alison Evans and Joanne Shaw defeated Cleveland 9-1, Staffordshire 8-2 and Berkshire 6-4. A personal 'well done' to Joanne on her girls' doubles win partnered by Laura Goldsmith (Middlesex) and her semi final place-both at the England Junior Closed. Also to David Rook on his incredible 115 places climb up the senior ranking list to No. 62.

Junior 2nd Team

Nicky Newton, John Bult, Alaric Bassano, Ruth Baxter and Ruth Bray defeated Lancashire Juniors 9-1, but lost to Derbyshire 8-2, Bult and Newton each winning one in the singles.

Senior 2nd Team

Richard Whiteley spearheaded the 2nd team's attack with two wins in the singles to gain a 6-4 win over Staffordshire. Michael Emmerson, David Indriks and Helen Shields each added one more singles, with Helen and Lesley Broomhead taking the doubles to complete the scoreline.

MIDDLESEX 3-STAR OPEN

TITLE REGAINED

by Ken Muhr

Sponsored by Greater London Council, Levomex Exports and Butterfly Table Tennis U.K. Ltd., there was another large entry for the 27th Middlesex Open held at Picketts Lock Centre on Dec. 10/11 with 274 forms accepted (211 for the men's singles alone) and 54 rejected. Local boy Graham Sandley regained the men's singles title he held in 81/82, while England's No.1 woman, Karen Witt, had few problems in retaining her women's singles trophy.

Sandley, seeded third, was very fortunate to survive a second round tussle with Surrey's Mark Oakley who actually led 13-6 in the third game. Sandley fought back to 13-all and then it was neck and neck to 'deuce' with the Middlesex player courageously saving four match points before clinching the set -18, 16, 25! But it was a great performance from Oakley who never stopped looking for the openings and missed some potential winners by the narrowest of margins.

It was no easy ride for Sandley to the final thereafter, with Nicky Mason (3rd round), Skylet Andrew (quarters) and the second seed Alan Cooke (semis) all taking him to a deciding game.

By contrast last year's surprise champion, Carl Prean, proved that he is no mean player, even without his shielded service and same coloured combination rubbers, by reaching the final without the loss of a game. The defensive David Barr (3rd round) made him work hard, and Philip Bradbury (quarters) almost wrested the first game but to no avail. And the unfortunate David Wells got crushed 7 and 8 in the semis.

But ultimately Prean succumbed to Sandley, who with drilling backhands and powerful forehands cruised to a comfortable 17, 12 victory. Over the last year Prean has had great international success. However, those who now wish to write him off should remember that he is only 16 and merely embarking on his table tennis career. He has much more to learn.

MAIN SHOCKS

Kent's David Dodd was the man to provide the main shocks, beating 13th seed Alan Fletcher in the second round and former European champion, John Hilton, seeded No.4, 2-straight in the following round. But Wells, the left-handed Middlesex player prevented further progress in the quarters.

There were a few other upsets, 9th seed Paul Day, still a great fighter though no longer with quite the bite of old, was narrowly edged out 16, -10, 21 by the speedy Mason in a first round clash. The touch of 14th seed Colin Watson was overcome by the

relentless pressure from Andy Bellingham in the 2nd round, though it took him three games to do it. But Bellingham was then no match for rising star Cooke, winner of the Humberside 3-Star.

Midlands Open champion Max Crimmins, seeded 6th, was ousted in three games by 15th seed Kenny Jackson in the third round but Jackson lost in the quarters, again in three, to Cooke.

Karen Witt once more reigned supreme in the women's singles. She won her every set in straight games, mostly with consummate ease, and always looked capable of going up a gear if necessary. Only 16-years-old Lisa Bellinger, in a repeat of last year's final, was to seriously test her, but despite displaying considerable all-round skills in some excellent rallies, Lisa went the same way as the rest.

If anyone could have mounted an effective challenge to Karen, then it might have been former England champion Carole Moore who, having made a comeback to the game, beat her in the final of the Humberside Open. But Jackie Bellinger, seeded No.8, prevented a meeting of the two by knocking out the 4th seeded Cleveland player 12, -16, 16 in the quarters. Jackie was unable to make any impression on Karen at the semi-final stage.

Lisa had a tough path to the final. She beat Suzanne Hunt in a deciding game in the last 16, Mandy Sainsbury in close fashion in the quarters, and in a hard-fought semi, Alison Gordon 20, 19, 14. Alison, seeded seventh and the winner of the Midlands Open, had defeated third seed Joy Grundy in the previous round.



Graham Sandley who regained the men's singles title at Picketts Lock. Photo by Tony Edenden of Barlestone, Nr. Nuneaton.

SURPRISE

The biggest surprise in the women's

singles was the first round exit of England's No.2 junior Sue Collier, seeded 5, who a year ago played so well at Picketts Lock. She was beaten -19, 19, 17 by Oxon's Mary Denbow who promptly lost -5,-10 to Carol Butler in her next appearance at the table!

Prean did not leave Edmonton empty handed, for partnered by service expert Andrew he took the men's doubles title with a final win over the snappy teenage pairing of Cooke and Mason. Karen Witt teamed up with Carole Moore for her second trophy beating the Bellinger sisters in the final.

The veterans' singles was retained by Cheshire's Derek Schofield who first won the title in 1976, but the losing finalist David Seahoime did well to reach that stage from 8th seeded position.

The championships ran smoothly under the direction of new referee Len Pilditch and his team of organisers and umpires, though thanks should also be reiterated to Geoff James, for all his past efforts in this taxing role. The only possible problem areas were regarding the lighting and the interpretation of the new service rule. The former, of course, will be rectified next time.

The Middlesex committee is again indebted to our sponsors. We are particularly grateful to the Greater London Council who are new backers for the tournament, but equally, thanks are extended to Levomex Exports and Butterfly Table Tennis for their continued support. Finally thanks are due to the management of Picketts Lock Centre for the use of the venue and their willing help and co-operation.

It would seem a pity that Ken Muhr who, in covering this tournament for the magazine, had his mustard-coloured Ford Fiesta (WUW 829S) broken into and his stereo stolen together with his tape recorder and tapes. There is no justice in this world. Ed.

RESULTS

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

C. Prean (IOW) bt P. Bradbury (Bu) 19, 14;
O. Wells (M) bt O. Dodd (K) 25, 13;
G. Sandley (Mil) bt S. Andrew (E) 13, -16, 13;
A. Cooke (Oy) bt K. Jackson (IE) 15, -12, 17.

Semi-finals:

Prean bt Wells 6, 8; Sandley bt Cooke -22, 18, 10.
Final: SANDLEY bt Prean 17, 12.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:

K. Witt (Bk) bt C. Butler (Ov) 11, 16;
J. Bellinger (Sd) bt C. Moore (ev) 12, -16, 16;
A. Gordon (Bk) bt J. Grundy (La) 14, -21, 14;
L. Bellinger (Bd) bt M. Sainsbury (Bk) 17, 22.

Semi-finals:

Witt bt J. Bellinger 6, 12; L. Bellinger bt Gordon 20, -19, 14.
Final: WIT bt L. Bellinger 19, 16.

Men's Doubles: Semifinals:

Andrew/Prean bt M. Mitchell/D. Tan (Mi) -10, 9, 7;
Cooke/No Mason (5y) bt B. Johnson (Wa)/Wells -11, 8, 13.
Final: ANDREW/PREAN bt Cooke/Mason 14, 11.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Moore/Witt bt Grundy/J. Parker (La) 22, 17;
Bellinger/Bellinger bt F. Elliot/J. Harris (5t) 18, 12.
Final: MOORE/WITT bt Bellinger/Bellinger 14, -21, 14.

Veterans' Single: Semi-finals:

O. Schofield (Ch) bt P. O'A. (Ch) 13, 18;
D. Seahoime (He) bt W. Allanson (Ox) 9, -19, 14.
Final: SCHOFIELD bt Seahoime 13, 17.



ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

by David Lomas

At the time of writing there are only a few days to go to the "deadline" for receipt of entries for the Dunlop National School Team Championships.

All members of County Schools' Associations were due to complete their county qualifying matches and notify results to the ESTIA by Dec. 17.

The school teams who have qualified are due to take part in twelve Area Finals on the weekend of Jan. 28/29.

The venues are as follows:

Area	Day	Venue
1	Sat	Middlesbrough (Dene School, Thornaby)
2	Sun	Leeds (Moor Grange High School)
3	Sun	Fleetwood (Hesketh High School)
4	Sun	Grantham (Drill Hall)
5	Sat	Market Drayton (Grove School)
6	Sun	Northampton (Kingsthorpe School)
7	Sun	Plymouth (Egg Buckland School)
8	Sun	Southampton (Redbridge Sports Centre)
9	Sat	St. Neots (TT Centre)
10	Sun	Maidenhead (Altwood School)
11	Sat	Barnet (TT Centre)
12	Sun	Croydon (Monks Hill Sports Centre)

The winners of the Area Finals are invited to compete in the Regional Finals on Sunday, Feb. 26, 1984. Details as follows.

North (Areas 1-4) Leeds (Moor Grange High School)

Midlands & West (Areas 5-8) Stroud (Leisure Centre)

South & East (Areas 9-12) Orpington (Walnuts Sports Centre)

The National Finals take place at Lea Green Sports Centre, Matlock, Derbyshire on Saturday, March 24, 1984.

In most cases play will commence at 9.30 a.m. and continue till 5 p.m. Why not go along to your local Championships and see the players of tomorrow in action?

Further details of the above can be obtained from the ESTIA Competitions Secretary.

E. J. Mitchell, 6 Quinton Close, Matchborough West, Redditch, Worcs. B98 0EL (0527) 500400.

Congratulations to Northamptonshire Schools' Table Tennis Association on the successful inauguration of their ambitious lighting project. Acknowledgement too, of their interesting 18-page Newsletter. I wonder how many table tennis organisations manage to produce their own printed Christmas cards?

Best wishes for 1984 to everybody.

PING TO POP

By Ken Muhr

Geoff Grange, former Hartlepool table tennis player now of Acton's Gunnersbury Triangle Club, in London W3, is hopeful of making the big time on the music scene.

In December, 1982 he joined a new band called Sons of Heroes. Geoff is lead vocalist and plays the harmonica. The other two members of the band are Carmelo Luggeri, who has worked with Argent and Julian Lennon and plays bass, keyboards and guitar, and Terry Taylor who has worked with the Rolling Stones on their records and plays guitar and keyboards.

Sons of Heroes have been signed on by M.C.A. Records and their first single 'Strange Eyes', was released in Britain just before Christmas. It has also been released in the U.S.A. and will be released in Europe and Japan.

They have also recorded an album which has already gone out in the States and will be released in Britain, Europe and Japan, in a few months. They have filmed a video which is being shown on M.T.V. in America.

Sons of Heroes have good cause to be hopeful of success, for they are produced by Rolling Stone Bill Wyman who has a very high opinion of them. He has given the band a highly professional sound. Geoff describes their music as "embracing many different styles, commercial, powerful, melodic."

Table Tennis enthusiasts may be aware that Bill Wyman is a keen player. He warms up playing table tennis before every Stones' concert, and has a table at his mansion in Gedding. Geoff has played him and beaten him there! However, he says that Bill, although not a serious competitive player is very good at his own level. Geoff says that he may bring Bill down to Gunnersbury Triangle for a knock sometime. Geoff, himself, has a uni-

que highly physical playing style, using a hammer grip, balloon defending and possessing a heavy forehand loop.

Geoff Grange has had fair table tennis success himself. Playing for Wanderers he won, he thinks, the third division of the Hartlepool League in 1972. And with Gunnersbury Triangle's fourth team he won the Acton League second division in 1980. Playing with Miran Sarajian he took the Acton League Summer Pairs competition the same year.

He has had a serious interest in music since 1973. He has belonged to bands in Hartlepool and Bristol but his first big break was joining a band in London called R.P.M. in 1979. R.P.M. got a record deal with Ariola and released two singles in 1981. Although neither record were hits, Geoff is confident of greater success this time. He describes his musical influences as being sixties music such as the Beatles and Prince, and Elvis Costello and David Bowie.



Geoff Grange is here pictured third from the left in a line-up otherwise comprising:- Carmelo Luggeri, Terry Taylor and Bill Wyman.

EUROPEAN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR PARAPLEGICS

GOLD FOR THE GIRLS

By Ted Inge, G.B. Team Captain

Three Gold, two Silver and one Bronze was the total tally of medals taken by the Great Britain team of Wheelchair table tennis players at the European Championships held in Ingolstadt, West Germany in October and it was thanks to the ladies that the glint of gold shone in the team upon their return.

Jane Blackburn, our Class 1B from Crawley, successfully defended her title, but not without some anxious moments, losing to Christianne DROUX from Switzerland in the group matches. Fortunately for Jane, Christianne lost to Falmbigl of Austria, whom Jane had beaten comfortably, and in the count-back Jane came out the winner, and went on from there to take the Gold.

In the ladies' class 1C our two ladies, Val BECK from Consett, and Djair NEIL from Brixton took the Gold and Silver respectively - Val beating Djair in the final 2-0. Val went through the entire competition without dropping a game. Val and Djair teamed up to take our third gold medal in the Ladies' Class 1C team event, by beating teams from Germany and France 3-0 in each case.

The ladies also took the other silver medal in the Class 3 team event. Janet Swann from Newcastle, partnered by Jane Blackburn lost to Switzerland in the final match, having beaten a strong French team in the semi-final. This was a particularly good performance as Jane is a class 1B player and more than held her own in the stronger class 3 competition.

Our only success, medal wise, for the men was a team bronze for Arnie Chan and Billy Leake, supported by Phil Evans in the doubles in the class 2 team event. In the final grouping they opposed Austria and Germany, but sadly they lost both to take the Bronze. Austria went on to win the Gold.

Germany topped the medal list by taking no less than 10 gold out of a possible 23 in the team and singles events, a really superb performance. All agreed they were marvellous tournaments and the experience gained at these championships will stand

the team in good stead for the World's next year in Illinois, U.S.A. The whole team, under the guidance of MARK MITCHELL are now busily practising in preparation for these games. Mark, who was making his first trip with the wheelchair team, was, I know, quite impressed by the high standard of play from the wheelchair, and now knows the standard to which the team must aspire. I know the team are responding to him and we all look forward to greater success at the World's next year.



The Great Britain team with Mark Mitchell at the back to the right of the Union Jack.
Photo by Chris Hall, Team Member.

ST. NEOTS WINTER LEAGUE

By Leslie Constable

At this stage of the season Wellingborough head the league with 42 points although they came unstuck when they lost 4-5 to Ely. In this match Peter Holliday won all his singles with Trevor Smith and Tim Ashman getting one each, Ely got home by the odd set in nine. McKim, who is playing well for Wellingborough, won two of his singles but had to succumb to Holliday. Royal Air Force who lie second in the division had victories over North Herts, Peterborough and St. Neots although the latter took them to the odd set in nine with Gus Albon beating the successful Claxton of the R.A.F. Albon, however, lost to Ashe which was a vital set for R.A.F. St. Neots who lie third were beaten by Bedford, who, incidentally, beat R.A.F. by the odd set in nine so that Bedford are a bit of a blight to both

the top teams although they are four points behind St. Neots in fourth position. Peterborough lie at the bottom and were recently trounced by R.A.F. at home. Cambridge too are faring badly and lie in bottom but one. Veteran Len Saywell is playing well for St. Neots and has some good victories to his credit.

SENIOR DIVISION TABLE		
	Played	Points
Wellingborough	6	42
R.A.F.	6	40
St. Neots	6	35
Bedford	6	33
Ely	6	29
Northampton	6	24
Kettering	6	23
North Herts	6	21
Cambridge	6	15
Peterborough	6	B

JUNIOR DIVISION

Northampton head the Junior Section and had good victories over Peterborough and Wellingborough with Jacobs being unbeaten in both matches. Bedford are coming up strongly in second position and had two 9-0 victories over St. Neofs "A"

and Hunts Central so that their team of Trott, Black and Stanley must be pleased with themselves at this stage. North Herts who are in third position accounted for Hunts Central and Wellingborough with something to spare and J. Walsh was unbeaten in both these matches. In a match against St. Neofs "B", R. Draycott of Kettering had a match full of incident when he won all singles sets - two of them went to three with scores of 20, -19 and 21 against I. Chambers and -15, -17 and 24 against N. Collen. His other win against B. Toyne was a mere 13 and 18 - quite an afternoon!

JUNIOR DIVISION TABLE		
	Played	Points
Northampton	4	33
Bedford	4	30
North Herts	4	27
St. Neot's "A"	4	17
St. Neot's "B"	4	17
Wellingborough	4	14
Peterborough	4	13
Kettering	4	13
Dunstable	4	8
Hunts. Central	4	8

HUMBERSIDE SCHOOLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Rea Balmford

A grand total of 122 players, nearly 100 of them under the age of 13, competed in individual and team events in the Humberside Schools' Table Tennis Championships held at Amy Johnson High School.

Both the Under-16 title holders, John Bult (South Hunsley) and Alison Evans (Smith High), retained their crowns, neither dropping a game on their way to the title, while the Wold club retained their supremacy in both U-13 team events and the Girls' U-11, but handed the Boys U-11 honours over to Neasden, whose top boy Gavin Laybourne added the individual title, getting the better of Alex Beech in an all-Neasden final.

Thrills, too, at Girls' U-11 level

where Wold's Samantha Marling, beaten by Helen Caddis (Wheeler) in the team event, which finally went the way of Wold as the result of a deciding doubles game, turned the tables in a nailbiting individual final.

In the U-13 challenger Rachel Metcalf beat holder Paula Hookem in the Girls' final, while there was a tremendous struggle between four Wold boys - Chris Ibson, Jason Marshall, Brian Capon and John Wilson - for the right to meet Ian Parker (Bethune), but it was Parker who came out on top over Ibson in the final.

The small contingent from the South Bank did not return empty handed for Ian Walker (Waltham Toll Bar, Grimsby), No. 1 ranked junior in

Lincolnshire, had the better of a hard-hitting final with David Williams (Hull Grammar) to keep the Boys' U-19 trophy on the far side of the river.

Results:

Under-11:

Boys: Team Event - Neasden bt Wold 8-0. Individual: Gavin Laybourne (Neasden) bt Alex Beech (Neasden) -19. 16. 12.
Girls: Team Event-Wold bt Wheeler 5-4. Individual- Samantha Marling (Wold) bt Helen Caddis (Wheeler) 24. -19. 16.

Under-13:

Boys: Team Event - Wold A bt Wold B 8-0. Individual - Ian Parker (Bethune) bt Chris Ibson (Wold) 9. 15.
Girls: Team Event - Wold bt Neasden 8-0. Individual - Rachel Metcalf (Wold) bt Paula Hookem (Wold) -14. 15. 18.

Under-16:

Boys: Team Event- Riley High bt South Hunsley 8-0. Individual - John Bult (South Hunsley) bt Iain Omand (South Hunsley) 12. 18.
Girls: Individual - 1. Alison Evans (Smith High). 2. Ruth Bray (Amy Johnson High).

Under-19:

Boys: Team Event - South Hunsley bt Waltham Toll Bar (Grimsby) 7-1.
Individual- Ian Walker (Waltham Toll Bar) bt David Williams (Hull Grammar) 15. 9.

PRIDE OF PLACE

Sunday, Oct. 23, 1983 will take pride of place in the achievements of the Northamptonshire Schools' Table Tennis Association. Like most Sports Halls, their Centre at Kingsthorpe Upper School, Northampton, lacked adequate lighting for table tennis. Not to be outdone in their plans to provide Northants with a top class table tennis venue, they embarked upon an ambitious and costly Lighting Project.

Following consultation with a top class Lighting Company they settled for a system comprising 32 Tungsten Halogen lights with 750 watt lamps and giving an illumination level of 650 lux.

Prime movers in the fund raising organisation were General Secretary, Glennis Hooper, and Coaching Officer, David Marsh. Their target was £3,400.

Almost £2,000 was raised by a Grand Raffle and a 24 Hour Sponsored Table Tennis Marathon, the balance coming from the Northants Schools' Sports Federation and the Leisure and Libraries Department plus many generous donations. All this was achieved in a little over 8 months.

And so, on Sunday Oct 23, County Education Officer, Michael Henley, (also the Association's President) performed the official Switching-on ceremony during the Association's Annual Team Tournament.

Among the distinguished guests present were: Mr. Don Hill representing the Association's Sponsors, Levi-Strauss (U.K.) Ltd., and Mr. John Arnold, Chairman of the English Schools' Table Tennis Association, who kindly presented the trophies to the winners and runners-up in the Team Events.

Thirty guests from the Local Education Authorities, the local Table Tennis Leagues and businesses attended a reception following the official ceremony; the Association's way of saying thank you to the many people involved in helping them

achieve their goal.

EXETER JUNIOR 1-STAR OPEN

Keith Ponting writes to say that events in the Exeter Junior 1-Star Open, scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 11, will comprise: BS and GS in the U-11, U-14 and U-17 categories.

YORKSHIRE 2-STAR OPEN

Only two Yorkshire players reached a final in the Yorkshire 2-Star Open played at Batley on Dec. 4. They were Kevin Beadsley and Alan Fletcher who were beaten in the men's doubles final by Scotland's David Hannah and Kenny Jackson of Essex 13, -19, 12. Hannah

also picked up the men's singles title with a final win over John Hilton 14 and 18. Other results:-

WS: J. Harris (St) bt K. Groves (Wa) -14. 19. 18;
VS: D. Schofield (Ch) bt A. Timewell (Ch) 17. 18;
WD: C. Peacock (La)/N. Tsakariassos (Gs) bt F. Elliot (St)/Harris -14. 19. 19;
Class 2 Singles: B. Johns (Ch) bt G. Spencer (K) 28. 15.

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ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

Applications are invited for the post of Development Officer with the English Table Tennis Association based in Hastings. The Development Officer provides press and television liaison for the Association, and the ability to write effective press copy, an understanding of media requirements and skill in the issue of press releases will be important. The work also includes the maintenance of good relations with commercial sponsors and the interesting of potential new sponsors, involving skills in "marketing" the Association.

The English Table Tennis Association is managed by voluntary officials (supported by a small employed staff). The ability to fit into a small central team and to work effectively with committees of unpaid enthusiasts are essential requirements. A good deal of the work is evening and weekend and some home disturbance with press enquiries must be accepted. A candidate who does not already have a knowledge of table tennis activities and organisation will be expected to show the ability to acquire such understanding quickly.

The starting salary will be based on age, qualifications and experience, but will be within the scale £5,786 -£8,078. The preferred age range is 20/30 but older applicants will be considered.

The successful candidate will be required to live in, or close to, Hastings.

Applications, giving full details, to be submitted to the
General Secretary, E.T.T.A., 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex TN341 HF
by 22nd January, 1984.

Envelopes to be marked "DEVELOPMENT OFFICER".

This is a re-advertisement. Previous candidates need not apply.

OBITUARY

WILLIAM FRANK JAMES

Table Tennis in Bedfordshire, (both the Bedford and District League and the County Table Tennis Association), has suffered a great loss, through the recent death of William Frank James.

Frank, (as he was always known), came to Bedford in 1936 and until the 1939 War, played in the Bedford League, for the Phalanx Club.

On returning from War Service in 1946, he helped to start a Table Tennis Club at Cryselco, where he worked and continued to play for the Club until 1982, when it was forced to disband, owing to loss of premises.

He then formed another Club, in the Kempston area and continued to play, until the end of last season, when he was understood to be the oldest player, in the Bedford League.

Frank also played for the Bedford League Veterans' team, in the South-East Midlands League, on many occasions and was awarded his League badge. He also captained the Veterans' Team.

Last Season, there were 3 generations of the James family, playing in

the Bedford League, with Frank being joined by his daughter Anita, (a former Bedford Inter-League and County player and a past holder of the League and County Women's singles), his son-in-law Brian, (also, a Bedford Inter-League player and a past holder of the League Men's Singles) and his grandson, Kevin, (who is showing promise as a Junior).

Unlike so many who take part in sport, Frank was one of those who was always prepared to put something back into Table Tennis, which he enjoyed so much as a player.

He was Secretary of the Cryselco Club for many years and up to 1939, served on the League Committee, as representative of the Phalanx Club.

He was re-elected on to the League Management Committee in 1963 and 2 years later, became Vice-Chairman.

In 1968, Frank was elected Chairman of the League, an Office which he continued to hold until 1974, when he was elected as an Honorary Life Member, for his long and loyal service.

After 4 years' absence from Committee work, on his retirement from Cryselco in 1978, Frank again offered his services to the League and

was elected as Fixture Secretary, an Office which he still held, at the time of his death.

Frank was the ideal man for this particular Office, with the immaculate way in which the records were kept and the quiet and tactful way in which he sorted out disputes between Clubs.

In addition to being Fixture Secretary, Frank also became General Secretary of the League in 1980 and he also served on the Committee of the Bedfordshire Table Tennis Association, as a Bedford League representative, for a number of years.

Frank's interest in sport was not confined to Table Tennis. For many years, he was opening batsman **and** wicket-keeper in the Cryselco Cricket Team and particularly after his retirement from work, was a regular supporter of County Cricket and especially the Northamptonshire County Cricket Club.

Ron Cox

P.S. I write this, not only as an Officer of the Bedford League but also as a very old friend of Frank, who played with him in the Cryselco Table Tennis Club, for over 20 years.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

January 1984

- 11 European League - Super Division - **ENGLAND** v **YUGOSLAVIA** Mansfield Leisure Centre, Chesterfield Road South, Mansfield. Commence 7.15 p.m. Doors Open 6.30 p.m.
- 12 International Match - England v Yugoslavia. Newmarket Sports Centre.
- 14 County Championships (5)
- 15 Bath 2-Star Open.
STTA Senior Classification Tournament, Jack Kane Centre, Craigmillar, Edinburgh.
North West Regional Development Conference, Crest Motel, Beaumont Road, Bolton (9.45 a.m.)
- 21/22 Cleveland 3-Star Open, Thornaby Pavilion.
- 26/28 **NORWICH UNION ENGLISH OPEN** - A Norwich Union Grand Prix Event. Brighton Conference Centre, Kings Road, Brighton. Finals on Saturday commencing at 1.30 p.m.
- 28/29 English Schools Team Area Finals.
- 29 International Club Hard Bat Tournament (Barnet)
Hallex National League (10)

February

- 3/5 **EUROPE TOP 12** (Bratislava, Czechoslovakia)
- 4 Dunlop Lancashire 2-Star Open, British Aerospace Dynamics, Lostock, Bolton
- 4/5 Beneficial Trust Cotswold Junior 'Select' (Gloucester)
- 5 North of Scotland (Aberdeen)
- 9/11 Federal German Open (Duisburg) - A Norwich Union Grand Prix Event.
- 11 Exeter Junior 1-Star Open
- 11/12 Essex 3-Star Open (Harlow)
- 15 European League - Super Division - **FEDERAL GERMANY** v **ENGLAND** (Berlin)
- 18 Glamorgan Open (Cardiff)
- 18/19 Kent 2-Star Open (Folkestone)
Beneficial Trust Cleveland Junior 'Select' (Eston)
- 19 Hallex National League (11)

NATIONAL PILOT SCHEME FOR LEEDS

THE SPORTS COUNCIL

Yorkshire and Humberside

The first of five specialist table tennis centres was recently officially opened at St. Benedict's R.C. Junior & Infants School in Garforth by Alan Hydes, the Dunlop Sports Company Table Tennis Manager.

The Centre, which has been supplied with Dunlop equipment and special lighting, was initiated by The Sports Council, Yorkshire & Humberside region, with the help of the Leeds & District Table Tennis League and the Leeds Education Authority.

Dunlop are putting £3,000 into the five centre scheme which, it is hoped, will introduce many young people into the sport and will open up primary and middle school facilities for community use.

"Establishing these Centres is regarded very much as a pilot scheme", said Cyril Villiers, Regional Director of The Sports Council. "If they prove to be successful, then the aim would be to introduce many more".

In addition to use by the school, the

Centre will be open evenings and weekends for coaching and/or competition.

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Advertisements: Mrs. Christine Wilkes, English Table Tennis Association, 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex. TN34 1HA. 'Phone: Hastings (0424) 433121.

Subscriptions: Miss B. Davies, English Table Tennis Association, 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex. TN34 1HA. 'Phone: Hastings (0424) 433121.

Marketing: Mr. Brian Spicer, English Table Tennis Association, 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HA.

Distribution: Mrs. E. Doreen Yates, 43 Knowsley Road, Smithills, Bolton, Lanes. BL1 6JH. 'Phone: Bolton (0204) 42223.

Editorial: Mr. George R. Yates, 43 Knowsley Road, Smithills, Bolton, Lanes. 'Phone: Bolton (0204) 42223.

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