



TABLE TENNIS NEWS

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ENGLISH TABLE
TENNIS ASSOCIATION

No. 142

March, 1984

Price 60p



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INNOVATIONS

There can be no denying, despite the cost having yet to be fully assessed, that the Brighton Centre provided the finest facilities ever in respect of the Norwich Union English Open Championships.

Add in the splendour of the Metropole Hotel, just a few yards away, and one has a combination second to none, for where else would one find adjacent complexes.

It is to be hoped that our friends from abroad will spread the word of the amenities to be sampled by others who, had they known, might well have made the journey and swelled the foreign entry.

Another innovation at Brighton was the prior invitation sent out to local leagues and county officials to meet the officers of the ETTA for a cup of coffee and a chat.

Many took up the invitation and nought but good came from it both to the satisfaction of the so-called establishment and to those in less onerous positions - a gap was bridged and rightly so.

Officers they may be, but put there by the membership at large and despite the many slings and arrows that come their way, endeavour, as do we all, to further this game of ours to the best of their various abilities.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

NORWICH UNION ENGLISH OPEN 1984

DES LIFTS THE GLOOM

by George R. Yates

Aher the most depressing of English performances in the team events of the Norwich Union English Open Championships, at the Brighton Centre over the period Jan. 26/28, Desmond Douglas brought the sparkle back for home followers when, for the second time in his illustrious career, he laid his hands on the Oldroyd Cup as winner of the men's singles event.

It was a **brave** fightback by the Birmingham left-hander in the final as he turned a 0-2 deficit into a 3-2 win against the unseeded Vladislav Broda of Czechoslovakia, victor over the Polish No. 1 Andrzej Grubba in another 5-game marathon.

Douglas, in his semi encounter, had no such problems with Federal Germany's Rumanian import Georg Böhm who had twice been taken to a fifth game decider by Milivoj Karakasevic of Yugoslavia and Seiji Ono, Japan's former world champion.

In the wake of Douglas lay the ambitions of Dutchman Henk van Spanje, beaten 14, 13, -15, 18, Illie Lupulescu of Yugoslavia (13, 13 and 18), Ulf Bengtsson of Sweden, in the quarters, then Böhm and finally Broda of the high serve/clout brigade.

But what of the feat by the red-headed Philip Bradbury, a qualifier, in beating no less a personage than French ace Jacques Secretin - 18, 17, 22, 17 in the first round. No matter the Bucks boy went out in the next round to Sweden's Jorgen Persson in straight games, Phil had his hour of glory, and what an hour!

Douglas apart no other English player got beyond the second round with Graham Sandley a first round faller to Jonas Berner of Sweden as was Skylet Andrew to Michael Dugaard of Denmark and John Hilton to Kenny Jackson, the latter 19 in the 5th.

In Rd. 2, apart from the demise of Bradbury, Avon's Andy Creed, aher beating Mark Thomas of Wales, was dismissed by Ralf Wosik of Federal Germany, Colin Wilson was seen off by Grubba, Jackson by Ono, and Alan Cooke by Leszek Kucharski, the Polish No. 2.

One looked in vain for an English quarter-finalist in the women's singles event where players from Russia,



France, Sweden, Holland and Czechoslovakia held the stage. Karen Witt, still plagued with back trouble was forced to scratch leaving matters in the hands of Lisa Bellinger, Joy Grundy, Alison Gordon and Carole Moore.

EASY PASSAGE

Lisa, aher a first round bye and an easy passage against Scotland's Liz Robb, was shown the door by Holland's up-and-coming Mirjam Kloppenburg whilst Joy, a first round victor over Shirley Williams of Wales, fell at 14 in the 5th to Miyuki Uezono of Japan.

Alison was taken out by Menni Weizades of Sweden in Rd. 2 whilst Carole fared no better against Federal Germany's Katja Nolten in Rd. 1. And, of the lower order, Sarah Sandley fell to Muriel Monteux of France and Mandy Reeves to Kloppenburg.

Eventual winner was Anita Zakharian of the Soviet Union, who beat Brigitte Thiriet of France in the final, after higher-rated Valentina Popova had fallen to the French girl in the semis.

It was without prior notice that the Soviets included Miss Popova in their party but the non-arrival of the second seed, Marie Hrachova of Czechoslovakia - not to mention the top **seed** Bettine Veisekoop of Holland - allowed Referee John Wright to include the Russian ace in an otherwise denuded pack.

Better fortune attended English efforts in the men's doubles with Cooke and Sandley reaching the final only to be beaten by the Swedes, Johnny Akesson and Persson. But it was a good run for the English pair taking in such combines as Bohm/Heiko Wirkner (FRG), Bengtsson/Berner (SWE), Broda/Jiri Javurek (TCH) and Juzo Nukazuka/Ono (JPN).

Douglas, paired with Wosik, went **out** to the eventual winners but how about the first round success of the Moore brothers, Adrian and Stephen, of dear old Sussex by the sea in eliminating Bela Mesaros and Karakasevic of Yugoslavia!

Susan Collier and Mandy Sainsbury

reached the quarters of the women's doubles before losing to Kumiko Nohira and Yoshiko Shimauchi of Japan, the more likely pairs, Lisa and Jackie Bellinger and Alison Gordon and Carole Moore going out, respectively, to Patricia Germain and Thiriet and Popova/Zakharian,

FIRST TO APPLAUD

ITTF Treasurer, Jean Mercier, was the first to applaud the final victory of Germain and Thiriet over Nohira/Shimauchi in the final.

Spreading the titles round the Japanese came into their own in the mixed with Ono/Shimauchi just succeeding in the final against Poland's **Kucharski/Szatko**. Both Sandley/Gordon and David Wells/Lisa Bellinger reached the quarters both taking their opponents to three,

Douglas, paired with Chisato Shimokawa of Japan, fell in the third round to Bruno Parietti/Monteux (FRA) whilst Andrew/Moore lost to Ono/Shimauchi and Cooke/Grundy to Kucharski/Jolanta Szatko,

Best, really, to draw a veil over **affairs** in the team events which had the press corps hell bent on other stories not least the plastic ball.

Sandley and Douglas, representing England I, took their leave of the proceedings on their first visit to the tables losing 0-3 to Poland, Grubba beating Sandley and Kucharski besting Douglas with the doubles also going astray, England II, Andrew and Hilton, **fares** no better being beaten 3-0 by Yugoslavia, And, even in the plate competition, England I (Sandley and Cooke) were beaten 3-1 by the **Netherlands** in the semis with Cooke registering our only success against Bob Potton,

England II made a better fight of it before being beaten 3-2 by Sweden, Andrew beating Ulf Bengtsson and Andrew, and Wells winning the doubles,

Both England's women's teams also failed, the first beaten 3-2 by Sweden (Karen Witt beating both Wiktorsson and Weizades) and the second 3-1 by Japan with Gordon/Grundy successful only in the doubles, And, again, no success in the plate with England I being beaten 3-1 by Poland, Lisa beating Ewa Brzezinska. For the record Japan beat Poland 3-1 in the men's team final and the Soviet Union beat Japan 3-0 in the women's.

TIDE TURNED

All-in-all a sad, sad day was Thursday, Jan. 26, but, as reported previously, the tide turned with Demon Des providing the big wave.

Overall success however did come England's way both from a venue aspect and in relation to hospitality. The Brighton Centre is without doubt an admirable venue with a restaurant overlooking the sea, and ancillary facilities par excellence.

Just yards away was the imposing

Metropole Hotel affording luxury accommodation both for players and officials alike... never mind the price of liquid refreshment! **That's** another story as was the disappearance of certain prizes and Clive Oakman's coat containing his car keys,

A splendid after the event dinner followed by a disco was in the best traditions of a major tournament and, who knows, two years hence, we may have an entry comparable with the Federal German Open in Duisburg. The venue and hotel deserve it.

It certainly impressed both our sponsors Norwich Union, and Dunlop Sports Co., who provided the equipment as evidenced by the two letters received by ETTA Chairman, Tom Blunn herewith reproduced.

Dunlop Sports Company Limited
97 Bridge Road, Horbury,
Wakefield, West Yorkshire WF4 5NN.
Tel: (0924) 276321
Telex: 55326

31 st January, 1984

Dear Tom,

I felt that this year's Open at Brighton was the best ever.

The venue and its facilities together with the excellent accommodation at the Metropole made the tournament one of the most prestigious in the European calendar,

Your staff at Hastings are to be congratulated on their hard work.

With best wishes,

Yours sincerely,

ALAN HYDES,
Sales and Marketing Manager,
Table Tennis.

Norwich Union Insurance Group
Publicity and Public Relations Dept.
PO Box No. 48, Norwich NR1 3TA
Tel: (0603) 22200
Telex: 97388 Fax (0603) 693266

30th January, 1984

Dear Tom,

Please thank all involved in what I consider to be one of the most successful events I have seen. I have obviously written separately to Albert, but nevertheless feel that I should, through you, extend my congratulations to an even wider audience.

Many thanks.

Yours sincerely,

KEN HURST
Public Relations Manager

Photographic coverage by Murray Corbin of Wimbledon and Stephen Line of Shoreham-by-Sea.

TEAM EVENTS

MEN

Round 1

Federal Germany 3 Canada 1

Round 2

Federal Germany 3 Sweden 2

Yugoslavia 3 England II 0

Mesáros bt Andrew 22. 16; Iupulescu bt Hilton 19. 16;

Karakasevic/Iupulescu bt Andrew/Hilton 20. 14.

Ireland 3 Denmark 2

Slevin bt Harkamp 16. 11; Robinson lost to Daugaard -14.

-15; Robinson/Slevin bt Harkamp/Hauth 20. -13. 17;

Robinson lost to Harkamp -17. -15; Slevin bt Daugaard -14.

12. 16.

Japan 3 Wal** 0

Ono bt M. Thomas 10. 8; Nukazuka bt Wilkins 8. 6.

Nukazuka/Ono bt Thomas/Wilkins 14. 9.

France 3 Scotland 1

Parietti bt Wright 17. 15; Martin lost to Hannah 19. -15.

-22; Birocheau/Secretin bt Hannah/Wright 11. 17; Parietti bt

Hannah -13. 19. 17.

U.S.S.A. 3 Netherlands 1

Czechoslovakia 3 Norway 0

Poland 3 England I 0

Grubba bt Sandley 15. -19. 16; Kucharski bt Douglas 14. 22;

Grubba/Kucharski bt Cooke/Douglas 15. 18.

Quarter-finals:

Yugoslavia 3 Federal Germany 2

Mesáros bt Böhm -15. 14. 19; Iupulescu lost to Wosik -12. -12;

Karakasevic/Iupulescu bt Böhm/Wosik 19. 15;

Mesáros lost to Wasik -16. -14;

Iupulescu bt Böhm -17. 23. 19.

Japan 3 Ireland 0

Ono bt Slevin 14. 18; Nukazuka bt Robinson 6. 7;

Nukazuka/Ono bt Robinson/Slevin 19. 10.

France 3 U.S.S.R. 2

Birocheau bt Minkevich 14. 17; Parietti lost to Rosenberg -10.

15. -12; Birocheau/Secretin lost to Minkevich/Aosenberg

-13. -18; Birocheau bt Rosenberg 16. 13; Parietti bt Minkevich

20. 17.

Poland 3 Czechoslovakia 1

Kucharski lost to Javurek -15. -18; Grubba bt Broda 10. 14;

Grubba/Kucharski bt Broda/Javurek 19. 15; Grubba bt Javurek

19. 18.

Semi-finals:

Japan 3 Yugoslavia 1

Ono lost to Iupulescu 12. -19. -13; Nukazuka bt Mesáros 21 *15;

Nukazuka/Ono bt Karakasevic/Iupulescu 11. 11; Ono bt

Mesáros 10. 17.

Poland 3 France 0

Grubba bt Birocheau 19. 19; Kucharski bt Secretin -12. 15. 15;

Grubba/Kucharski bt Birocheau/Secretin 18. 11.

Final:

JAPAN 3 Poland 1

Ono bt Kucharski 13. 15; Nukazuka lost to Grubba 17. -19.

-21; NUKAZUKA/Ono bt Grubba/Kucharski 13. 14; Ono bt Grubba

14. 15.

WOMEN

Round 1

England II 3 Denmark 0

Grundy bt Polk 17. 16; Gordon bt Kruse 15. 14;

Gordon/Grundy bt Krusc/Polk -10. 16. 17;

Round 2

Japan 3 England II 1

Uezono bt Gordon -17. 15. 13; Shimauchi bt Grundy 10. 12;

Shimauchi/Yamamoto lost to Gordon/Grundy -15. 16. -20;

Shimauchi bt Gordon -10. 19. 18

Netherlands 3 Federal Germany 0

Norway 3 Ireland 0

Folkesson bt Leonard -16. 14. 18; Hagen bt Reid 17. 11;

Folkesson/Hagen bt Leonard/Reid 20. -16. 17.

Scotland w.o. South Korea

Czechoslovakia 3 Wales 0

Kasalova bt Tyler 9. 13; Masarikova bt Williams 15. 15;

Kasalova/Masarikova bt Tyler/Williams 17. 17.

France 3 Poland 2

Sweden 3 England I 2

Wiktorsson lost to Witt -17. -13; Weizades bt Moore 9. 16;

Weizades/Wiktorsson lost to L. Bellinger/Moore -17. -15.

Weizades bt Witt 13. -21. 21; Wiktorsson bt Moore -20. 14. 14.

U.S.S.A. w.o. Canada

Quarter-finals:

Japan 3 Netherlands 0

Shimauchi bt Jansma 10. 15; Uezono bt Kloppenburg -21. 10.

15; Shimauchi/Yamamoto bt Jansma/Kloppenburg 18. 15.

Norway 3 Scotland 0

Folkesson bt Smith 15. 17; Hage* bt Robb 22. 13;

Folkesson/Hagen bt Robb/Smith 10. 16.

Czechoslovakia 3 France 0

Masarikova bt Thiriet 10. -16. 17; Kasalova bt Germain 21. 15;

Kasalova/Masarikova bt Gennain/Thiriet 12. -21. 18.

U.S.S.A. 3 Sweden 0

Popova bt Weizades 13. -18. 18; Zakharian bt Wiktorsson 17.

18; Khasanova/Popova bt Svensson/Weizades 11. 19.

Semi-finals:

Japan 3 Norway 0

Shimauchi bt Hagen 10. 23; Uezono bt Folkesson 18. 17;

Shimauchi/Yamamoto bt Folkesson/Hagen 16. 12.

U.S.S.R. 3 Czechoslovakia 1

Popova bt Kasalova 17. 14; Zakharian lost to Masarikova -21

-22; Khasanova/Popova bt Kasalova/Masarikova 9. 16;

Zakharian bt Kasalova 14. -25. 19.

Final:

U.S.S.R. 3 Japan 0

Popova bt Shimauchi -16. 11. 20; Zakharian bt Uezono 14. 13;

Khasanova/Popova bt Shimauchi/Yamamoto 15. -16. 11.

TEAM PLATE COMPETITION

MEN

Round 1

Sweden 3 Canada 0

Round 2

Sweden 3 England II 2

U. Bengtsson lost to Andrew -16. -1 7; Persson bt Wells -16. 17.

13; Bengtsson/Berner lost to Andrew/Wells 13. -19. -21;

Persson bt Andrew -1 3. 15. 14; Bengtsson bt Wells -1 9. 15. 11.

Denmark 3 Wal** 0

Hauth bt Wilkins 20. 14; Daugaard bt Thomas 15. 20;

Harkamp/Hauth bt Thomas/Wilkins 10. 8.

Netherlands 3 Scotland 0

H. van Spanje bt Hannah 16. 16; Vlieg bt Wright 9. 15;

Potton/van Spanje bt Hannah/Wright 17. 12.

England I 3 Norway 0

Sandley bt Gistavsen 16. 16; Cooke bt Johansen 12. 12.

Cooke/Sandley bt Gustavsen/Johansen 17. 13.

Semi-final:

Sweden 3 Denmark 1

Akesson lost to Hauth -19. -14; Berner bt Daugaard 19. 21;

Akesson/ Berner bt Harkamp/ Hauth 19. 13;
 Akesson bt Daugaard 19. 21.
 Netherlands 3 **England** 1
 Potton lost to Cooke -21. -18; van Spanje bt Sandley 9. 13;
 van Spanje/Nlieg bt Cooke/Sandley 18. -16. 9;
 Potton bt Sandley 18. 18.
 Final:
 SWEDEN 3 Netherlands 0
 Persson bt Potton 18. -13. 19; Akesson bt van Spanje 7. 18;
 Akesson/ Persson bt van Spanje/Vlieg 16. 17.

WOMEN
 Round 1
 Federal Germany 3 Denmark 1
 Scotland w.o. Ireland
 Poland 3 **Wal** 0
 Brzdzinska bt Tyler 20. 12; Szatko bt Williams -16. 18. 10;
 Brzezinska/Szatko bt Tyler/Williams 20. 12.
England 1 w.o. Canada
 Semi-finals:
 Federal Germany 3 Scotland 0
 Nolten bt Robb 9. 15; Bohning bt Smith 13. 8;
 Nolten/Spengler bt Robb/Smith 8. 15.
 Poland 3 **England** 1
 Brzezinska lost to Bellinger -21. -19; Szatko bt Moore -17.
 14. 18; Brzezinska/Szatko bt Bellinger/Moore 11. 17;
 Szatko bt Bellinger 12. 19.
 Final:
 POLAND 3 **Federal Germany** 1
 Brzezinska lost to Nolten 16. -20, -13; Szatko bt Bohning -24,
 15. 13; Brzezinska/Szatko bt Nolten/Spengler 11. 9; Szatko bt
 Nolten 15. 13.

Men's Singles: Round 3:
 B. Mesaros (YUG) bt B. Parietti (FRA) 17. 12. -19. 9;
 V. Broda (TCH) bt B. Rosenberg (URS) -19. 7. 17. 12;
 J. Berner (SWE) bt P. Brocheau (FRA) 12. 19. -15. 12;
 A. Grubb. (POL) bt R. Wosik (FRG) -17. 18. 13. 12;
 G. Böhm (FRG) bt S. Ono IJPN 16. -20. -16. 16. 17;
 J. Persson (SWE) bt L. Kucharski (POL) -8. -19. -9. 20. 15;
 U. Bengtsson (SWE) bt C. Martin (FRA) 19. -20. 12. 12;
 D. Douglas (ENG) bt I. Lupulescu (YUG) 13. 13. 18.

Quarter-finals:
 Broda bt Mesaros 18. 27. -14. -19. 18;
 Grubba bt Berner 14. 11. -19. 9;
 Böhm bt Persson 16. 19. -16. 11;
 Douglas bt Bengtsson 15. 15. -16. 13.
 Semi-final:
 Broda bt Grubba -18. 7. 14. -15. 17;
 Douglas bt Böhm 17. 18. 11.

Final: DOUGLAS bt Broda -17. -16. 12. 7. 14.
Women's Single: Round 3:
 F. Khasanova (URS) bt J. Jansma (HOL) 13. -18. 18. 21;
 P. Germain (FRA) bt R. Kasalova (TCH) 18. -19. 18. 8;
 A. Zakharian (URS) bt M. Monteux IFRA 14. 14. 10;
 M. Weizades (SWE) bt Y. Shimauchi (JPN) -16. 18. 16. 16;
 M. Kloppenburg (HOL) bt L. Bellinger (ENG) 14. 8. 19;
 B. Thiriet (FRA) bt B. Wiktorsson (SWE) -20. 16. -21. 11. 19;
 8. Abgrall (FRA) bt M. Svensson (SWE) 17. 20. 16;
 V. Popov, IUASJ bt J. Grundy (ENG) 20. 11. 12.

Quarter-final:
 Khasanova bt Germain 16. -11. 18. 15;
 Zakharian bt Weizades 13. 16. 18;
 Thinet bt Kloppenburg 18. 19. 19;
 Popova bt Abgrall -19. 16. 19. 18.
Semi-finals:
 Zakharian bt Khasanova -11. 22. 17. -14. 14;
 Thinet bt Popova -14. 16. 18. -16. 8.

Final:
 ZAKHARIAN bt Thiriet -16. 22. 18. 16.
Men's Doubl. Quarter-finals:
 J. Akesson (SWE)/Persson bt Douglas/Wosik -8. 19. 18;
 Parietti/ Secretin (FRA) bt Grubba/Kucharski 16. -19. 14;
 J. Nukazuka (JPN)/Ono bt Brocheau/Martin -18. 14. 16;
 A. Cooke/G. Sandley (ENG) bt Brod/J. J. vurek ITCH) 20. 19.

Semi-finals:
 Akesson/Persson bt Parietti/ Secretin 9. -21. 19;
 Cooke/Sandley bt Nukazuka/Ono 12. 17.
 Final: AKESSON/PERSSON bt Cooke/Sandley 20. 15.
Women's Doubl. Quarter-finals:
 K. Nohira (JPN)/Shimauchi bt S. Collier/M. Sainsbury 18k) 19,
 22;
 E. Brzezinska/J. Szatko (POL) bt Grundy/C. Shimokawa (JPN) 17,
 -22. 10;
 Germain/Thiriet bt Jansma/Kloppenburg 22. -20. 17;
 Kasalova/I. Masarikova ITCH) bt Popova/Zakharian 21. -18. 15.

Semi-finals:
 Nohira/Shimauchi bt Brzezinska/Szatko -11. 17. 17;
 Germain/Thiriet bt Kasalova/Masarikova 17. 13.
 Final: GERMAIN/THIRIET bt Nohira/Shimauchi 18. 18.

Mixed Doubles: Quarter-finals:
 Rosenberg/Zakharian bt Sandley/A. Gordon (ENG) 11, -18. 19;
 Ono/Shimauchi bt D. Wells (ENG)/L. Bellinger -17. 14. 20;
 Parietti/Monteux bt Persson/Svensson 19. 15;
 Kucharski/Szatko bt Nukazuka/Nohira 13. 17.
Semi-finals:
 Ono/Shimauchi bt Rosenberg/Zakharian 14. 16;
 Kucharski/Szatko bt Parietti/Monteux 20. 13.
 Final: ONO/SHIMAUCHI bt Kucharski/Szatko -13. 20. 19,
 M. S. q-F.

P. Aspinall (Sheff) bt D. Lee (Glas) 16. 9;
 M. Illingsworth (Lough) bt I. Fullerton (London) -17. 17. 17;
 P. Rainford (York) bt I. Okosieme (Soton) 13. 12;
 B. Wright (Strath) bt S. Richards (Exeter) -20. 13. 17.
q-fs:
 Illingsworth bt Aspinall 16. -14. 10;
 Wright bt Rainford -19. 16. 19.
 Final: ILLINGSWORTH bt Wright 18. 12.

W.S. q-fs:
 S. Sandley (B'gham) bt G. Sharpe (London) 16. 8;
 C. Buttery (Nott) bt J. Deakin (Sheff) 11. 19;
 C. Rowe (Keele) bt H. Beckett (Swan) 9. 10;
 L. Tyler (Swan) bt D. Brown (London) 16. 16.

s-fs:
 Sandley bt Buttery 17. 13; Tyler bt Rowe 19. 12.
 Final: SANDLEY bt Tyler 13. 16.
M.D. s-fs:
 S. Mercer (York)/Rainford bt T. Glennon/A. Russell (Bris) -13. 14,
 19;
 Aspinall/N. Bailey (Sheff) bt A. Crook/J. Hobbs (Swan) 20. 20.
 Final: ASPINALL/BAILEY bt Mercer/Rainford -13. 14. 19.

W.D. s-fs:
 L. Broomhead (Sheff)/Deakin bt S. Head/J. Woodcock (Leics) 18,
 10;
 Brown/Sharpe (London) bt S. Brown (Keele) Rowe 12. 12.
 Final: BROOMHEAD/DEAKIN bt Brown/Sharpe 16. 15.
X.D. s-fs:
 Fullerton/Sharpe bt Bailey/Deakin -13. 12. 18;
 S. Barby (B'gham)/Sandley bt Hobbs/Tyler 19. 13.
 Final: BARBY/SANDLEY bt Fullerton/Sharpe 20. -19. 15.



Two pairs in the Men's Doubles, Left to Right, JONNY AKESSON/JORGEN PERSSON of Sweden, commiserate with GRAHAM SANDLEY/ALAN COOKE of England for nearly going all the way in the finals.



Mixed-Doubles Winners SEIJI ONO/YOSHIKO SHIMAUCHI of Japan, struggles to keep a straight face while losing finalists JOLANTA SZATKO, far right, laughs as her partner, funny-man LESZEK KUCHARSKI, tries to shoot me down.



A smiling youthful looking TOM BLUNN, Chairman of The ETTA, gets down to the height of NOHIRA & SHIMAUCHI, losing Finalists in the Women's Doubles (CORONATION CUP) while the victorious PATRICIA GERMAIN and BRIGITTE THIRIET of France puts on a show for the camera. NANCY ROY-EVANS, Hon. Secretary of the European TT Union, on the left in the picture, shares the moment of excitement and hilarity.



Desmond Douglas en route to recapturing the men's singles title he last won in 1980.



Seiji Ono and Yoshiko Shimauchi, Japan's winners of the mixed doubles title.



Johnny Akesson and Jorgen Persson, Sweden's winners of the men's doubles.



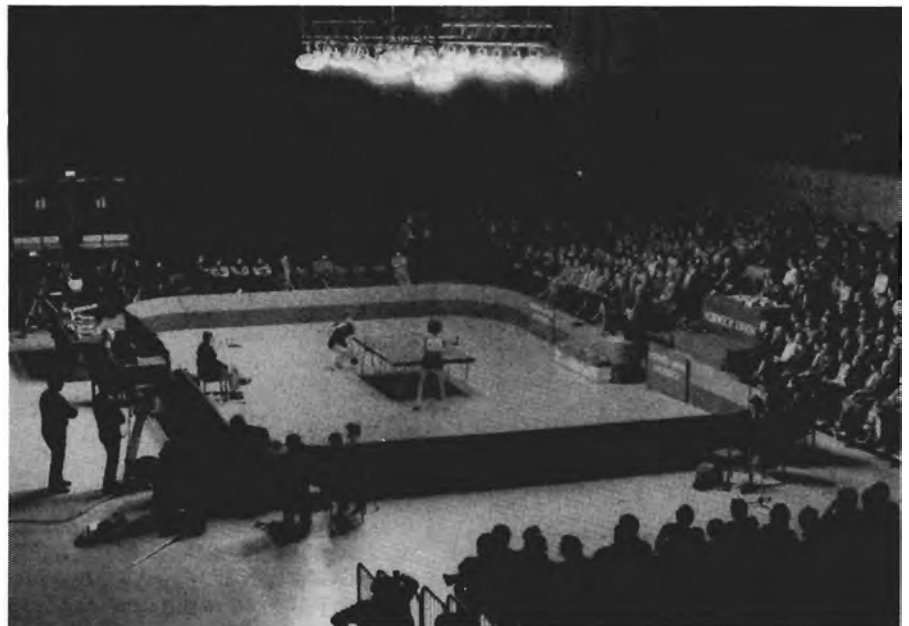
Vladislav Broda the beaten men's singles finalist.



Brigitte Thiriet of France, the beaten finalist in the women's singles showing her frustration.



Anita Zakharian, winner of the women's singles.



A general shot of the finals centre in the Brighton Centre.



Alan Cooke and Graham Sandley who carried England's flag into the final of the men's doubles.



ETTA President Maurice Goldstein O.B.E., presents the men's team event cup to Japan's Shojiro Ogata with Juzo Nukazuka and Seiji Ong awaiting a handshake.

The BBC's Tony Gubba interviews England's Desmond Douglas after his men's singles victory over Vladislav Broda of Czechoslovakia at the Brighton Centre in the Norwich Union English Open.

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

EUROPEAN LEAGUE DEFEAT AVENGED

It was at Eastleigh on March 9 last year that England suffered a humiliating 6-1 defeat at the hands of Federal Germany in the Super Division of the European League when only Desmond Douglas was successful with a 17, 18 win over Peter Stellweg in the penultimate set.

Still smarting from that reverse a like score was registered by England in Berlin on Feb. 15 of this year when only Graham Sandley suffered defeat when beaten 7 and 18 by Ralf Wasik to level the scores at 1-1 after Douglas had beaten Georg Böhm in the curtain raiser.

But thereafter, in front of a 2,000 audience, it was England in the driving seat with only one set, the men's doubles, going to a deciding game. Douglas was not only successful in his two singles but also partnered Sandley and Alison Gordon to success in both doubles. Joy Grundy found little difficulty in beating the young Annette Greisinger whilst Sandley came good against Böhm. Scores:-

G. Böhm lost to D. Douglas -15 -16;
R. Wasik bt G. Sandley 7, 18;
A. Greisinger lost to J. Grundy -19, -8;
Böhm/P. Stellweg lost to Douglas/Sandley -14, 13, -20;
Wasik/Greisinger lost to Douglas/A. Gordon -14, -11;
86hm lost to Sandley -10, -18;
Wasik lost to Douglas -17, *, 5.

Yugoslavia, the defending champions, despite Dragutin Surbek losing both his singles ran out 4-3 victors over Sweden in Nova Gorica where Zoran Kalinic accounted for both Erik Lindh and Top 12 champion Jan-Ove Waldner. The win maintained the Yugoslavs' advantage over Czechoslovakia at the top with one match remaining. Scores:-

Z. Kalinic bt E. Lindh 9, -13, -22;
O. Surbek lost to J.-O. Waldner -22, -17;
B. Satinic bt M. Lindblad 17, 10;
Kalinic/Surbek lost to Waldner/Lindh -24, -7;
Surbek/Batinic bt Lindh/Lindblad 15, 17;
Kalinic bt Waldner -10, 18, 15;
Surbek lost to Lindh 16, -22, -24.

Czechoslovakia, still in with a shout of the title, were surprisingly held to a 4-3 home win against France in Nachod. The French held leads of 2-1 and 3-2 but in the final two sets Jindrich Pansky beat Patrick Birocheau and Josef Dvoracek beat Patrick Reverse, both in straight games to burst the French bubble. Scores:-

J. Pansky bt P. Reverse 17, 18;

J. Dvoracek lost to P. Birocheau 21, -17, -21;
M. Hrachova lost to N. Daviaud -19, -19;
Pansky/J. Javurek bt Reverse/F. Farout 16, 16;
Pansky/Hrachova lost to Reverse/Daviaud -16, 20, -19;
Pansky bt Birocheau 10, 10;
Dvoracek bt Reverse 10, 19.

Poland, against Hungary in Budapest, continued their winning ways with a 4-3 success the match being decided in the final set when Leszek Kucharski beat Zsolt Kriston 16 in the 3rd. Andrzej Grubba, winner of the men's singles title in the Federal German Open in Duisburg, again made his presence felt with victories over Kriston and Istvan Jonyer and, in the doubles, with Kucharski. Scores:-

I. Jonyer bt L. Kucharski -13, 19, 15;
Z. Kriston lost to A. Grubba 17, -21, -17;
Z. Dlah bt J. Szatko 19, 22;
Jonyer/Kriston lost to Grubba/Kucharski -18, 18, -7;
J. Molnar/Dlah bt S. Orzyse/Szatko 18, 12;
Jonyer lost to Grubba -17, -13;
Kriston lost to Kucharski 17, -8, -16.

SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Yugoslavia	6	5	1	27	15	5
Czechoslovakia	6	5	1	24	18	5
Poland	6	4	2	25	17	4
Sweden	6	3	3	25	17	3
England	6	3	3	21	21	3
Hungary	6	3	3	20	22	3
Federal Germany	6	1	5	10	32	1
France	6	0	6	16	26	0

March Fixtures

6th	England	v	France (Guildford)
7th	Hungary	v	Yugoslavia
	Sweden	v	Federal Germany
	Poland	v	Czechoslovakia (Poznan)

NARROW VICTORY

Following the narrow 4-3 victory by Italy over Austria in Carrara (no scores to hand) on Feb. 15 all will depend on the outcome of Italy's final fixture at home to the Netherlands in Agriento on March 7 as to which of the two countries will be promoted. Undoubtedly this match will provide the grand finale to the season both teams going into the fray unbeaten in Division 1.

Meanwhile at the other end of the table Belgium suffered their fifth successive defeat when, at home to Finland on Feb. 14, they were beaten 6-1 Thierry Cabrera saved the 'white-wash' in beating Jukka Ikonen. Scores:-

T. Cabrera lost to J. Jokinen -14, -13;
D. Leroy lost to J. Ikonen 15, -18, -15;
B. Lippens lost to S. Greberg -17, -16;
Cabrera/J. M. Saive lost to Ikonen/Jokinen -19, -20;
Saive/K. Bogaerts lost to Jokinen/Greberg -14, -14;
Cabrera bt Ikonen -19, 19, 15;
Leroy lost to Jokinen -13, -23.

Denmark, demoted last season from the Super Division, chalked up their first win in Division 1 by beating Spain 4-3 in Granada where the scores were:-

J. M. Pales bt L. Hauth 17, 18;
R. Casares lost to J. Harkamp -17, -14;

M. Sanahuja lost to O. Hauth 18, -15, -14;
I. Caymel/Pales bt Harkamp/Hauth 13, -19, 20;
Pales/A. Godes bt Harkamp/Hauth 18, 17;
Pales lost to Harkamp -21, -20;
Casares lost to Hauth -9, -15.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands	5	5	0	26	9	5
Italy	5	5	0	22	13	5
Finland	6	4	2	28	14	4
Austria	5	2	3	18	17	2
Denmark	5	1	4	14	21	1
Spain	5	1	4	11	24	1
Belgium	5	0	5	7	28	0

Merch Fixtures

7th	Italy	v	Netherlands (Agrigento)
	Denmark	v	Belgium (Holstebo)
	Austria	v	Spain (Judenburg)

CHAMPIONS

Luxembourg, as a result of beating Switzerland 4-3 in Strassen on Feb. 15, after their 6-1 win over Ireland in Belfast in a brought forward March fixture to Jan. 30, have championed Division 2. Norway, with one match to play at home to Guernsey are the runners-up.

In Strassen, Luxembourg were much indebted to Andre Hartmann who, in the final set with the match score tied at 3-3, beat Thierry Miller 11 in the 3rd to seal the home victory and promotion. Scores:-

Y. Maas bt T. Miller 18, 18;
A. Hartmann lost to T. Busin 18, -21, -12;
C. Risch lost to B. Hirzel -17, -20;
Hartmann/Maas bt Busin/Miller 11, 20;
Mus/Risch bt Busin/Hirzel 11, 20;
MilS lost to Busin -17, 19, -12;
Hartmann bt Miller -18, 17, 11.

And in Belfast:-

C. Slevin lost to Hartmann -19, 15, -19;
T. Heasley lost to Maas -19, -17;
J. Reid lost to Risch -9, 22, -12;
Slevin/Heasley bt Hartmann/Maas 22, 13;
Slevin/Reid lost to Hartmann/Risch -13, -11;
Slevin lost to Maas -11, -16;
Heasley lost to Hartmann -13, -10.

Guernsey, at La Mare de Carteret Secondary School, Castel, went down to their fifth successive defeat when beaten 6-1 by Ireland, whose only loss was suffered by Tom Heasley who lost to Ian Powell. Scores:-

I. Powell lost to Slevin -19, -10;
M. Pipet lost to Heasley -14, -19;
O. Powell lost to Reid 26, -14, -17;
Powell/Pipet lost to Slevin/Heasley -15, -17;
Powell/Powell lost to Slevin/Reid -18, -10;
Powell bt Heasley 17, -19, 6;
Pipet lost to Slevin -12, -8.

Scotland chalked up their second win of the season at home to Norway as reported by Denis George in his Scottish notes.

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Luxembourg	6	5	1	32	10	5
Norway	5	4	1	24	11	4
Switzerland	6	4	2	24	18	4
Scotland	5	2	3	17	18	2
Ireland	6	2	4	19	23	2
Wales	5	2	3	12	23	2
Guernsey	5	0	5	5	30	0

Merch Fixtures

Wales	v	Scotland
Norway	v	Guernsey (Mar. 3rd)

EUROPEAN TOP 12

LATE CALL FOR CARL

England's Carl Prean was an eleventh hour invitee to Bratislava when Desmond Douglas and Hungary's Tibor Klampar withdrew and Zsolt Kriston, also of Hungary, was another not to respond, being the first reserve.

A third Hungarian, Istvan Jonyer, ranked No. 14, took over from Douglas and Prean replaced Klampar and the twelve good men and true duly assembled, young Prean via Vienna.

A full line-up of the twelve invited women, as per the rankings 1 to 12, meant that England's Lisa Bellinger, the first reserve, had to content herself with a watching brief. Karen Witt contested only five sets, beating Gabriella Szabo of Hungary, but losing to Edit Urban, Maria Hrachova, Marie Lindblad and Zsuzsa Olah before pulling out with a recurring back problem.

Miss Hrachova confirmed her No.1 ranking by winning the women's section losing only to Urban and Bettine Vriesekoop of the Netherlands, the Dutch girl finishing second.

Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden was the winner of the men's event losing two, to his compatriot Mikael Appelgren and the 'war horse' Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia. Surprise runner-up was Czechoslovakia's Jindrich Pansky with Appelgren third.

Prean, despite victories over Jonyer and Milan Orlowski, finished last but, to his credit, he went the distance of five games with Erik Lindh, Andrzej Grubba, Jacques Secretin and Zoran Kalinic. Scores:-

MEN

Rd. 1:
M. Appelgren bt U. Carlsson -16. 8. 22. 19;
J-O. Waldner bt E. Lindh 8. 20. -14. 16;
J. Pansky bt M. Orlowski 16.15. -10.17;
Z. Kalinic bt D. Surbek -21. 13. 18. 19;
A. Grubba bt J. Secretin 14. 14. -13. -16. 12;
C. Prean bt I. Jonyer 24. 12. 13;
Rd. 2:
Lindh bt Carlsson -18.21. -18. 16. 19;
Orlowski bt Kalinic 14. 19. 18;
Appelgren bt Jonyer 10. 21. 17;
Waldner bt Prean 18. 18. 16;
Pansky bt Secretin 14. 10. -14. 15;
Surbek bt Grubba 6. -19. 16. 10.

Rd. 3:
Lindh bt Jonyer 19. -19. 17. -12. 19;
Pansky bt Grubba 15. 14. 14;
Appelgren bt Prean -18. 18. 14. 12;
Waldner bt Carlsson 18. 14. 16;
Orlowski bt Surbek 20. 5. 13;
Secretin bt Kalinic -15. 14. 18. -13. 12.
Rd. 4:
Grubba bt Kalinic -15. 18. -19. 18. 17;
Pansky bt Surbek 13. -19. -10. 7. 24;
Appelgren bt Lindh -16. 17. 13. 6;
Waldner bt Jonyer 15. -19. 20. -18. 11;
Orlowski bt Secretin 15. 8. 12;
Carlsson bt Prean -17. 16. 18. 10.
Rd. 5:
Carlsson bt Jonyer 15. 15. -12. -14. 14;
Kalinic bt Pansky 17. -17. 19. 15;
Appelgren bt Waldner -12. 16. 23. -12. 18;
Lindh bt Prean -12. 15. 19. -9. 7;
Surbek bt Secretin 19. 17. -21. -11. 14;
Grubba bt Orlowski 13. 14. -14. -9.16.
Rd. 6:
Prean bt Orlowski 17. 16. 11;
Appelgren bt Secretin 13. 17. -22. 16;
Grubba bt Carlsson 12. 18. 16;
Lindh bt Surbek -13. 18. -8. 16. 14;
Pansky bt Jonyer 14. 13. 11;
Waldner bt Kalinic 21. -17. 17. 11.
Rd. 7:
Pansky bt Prean 14. 15. 18;
Appelgren bt Surbek 13. -13. -19. 16. 20;
Jonyer bt Grubba -14. 12.21. 17;
Waldner bt Secretin 20. 14. 19;
Carlsson bt Orlowski 14. 11. 25;
Lindh bt Kalinic 14. 16. 12.
Rd. 8:
Appelgren bt Kalinic 16. 16. 13;
Pansky bt Carlsson 10. -21. -18. 20. 16;
Grubba bt Prean -19. 17. -12. 12. 13;
Secretin bt Lindh 18. -18. 21. 15;
Surbek bt Waldner 18. -16. -16. 15. 13;
Jonyer bt Orlowski -18. -12. 14. 16. 18.
Rd. 9:
Secretin bt Prean -15. -14. 12. 20. 17;
Waldner bt Orlowski 20. 19. 19;
Kalinic bt Jonyer 9. 17. -13. 15;
Surbek bt Carlsson 13. 17. 11;
Grubba bt Appelgren -15. 11. 16. 5;
Lindh bt Pansky 11. 11. -17. -4. 18.
Rd. 10:
Jonyer bt Surbek 12. -15. 18. 16;
Waldner bt Pansky 19. 18. 18;
Kalinic bt Prean 14. -19. 16. -17. 12;
Grubba bt Lindh -19.13. -14.17.13;
Orlowski bt Appelgren 17. -19. 18. -11. 19;
Secretin bt Carlsson -19. -18. 13. 16. 18.
Rd. 11:
Surbek bt Prean 14. 19. 16;
Pansky bt Appelgren 12. 21. -16. 18;
Secretin bt Jonyer 12. 22. -12. 19;
Kalinic bt Carlsson -19. 19. 17. 15. 12;
Waldner bt Grubba -16. 13. 23. -19. 13;
Orlowski bt Lindh 12. 14. -14. -14. 17.

FINISHING POSITIONS (European ranking in brackets)

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
1 J-O. Waldner (SWE) (2)	11	9	2	31	12	9
2 J. Pansky (TCH) (11)	11	8	3	27	16	8
3 M. Appelgren (SWE) (1)	11	8	3	28	17	8
4 A. Grubba (POL) (7)	11	7	4	25	23	7
5 E. Lindh (SWE) (3)	11	6	5	25	25	6
6 M. Orlowski (TCH)	11	5	6	20	22	5
7 Z. Kalinic (YUG) (5)	11	5	6	20	25	5
8 J. Secretin (FRA) (4)	11	5	6	21	26	5
9 D. Surbek (YUG) (8)	11	5	6	23	3	5
10 U. Carlsson (SWE) (12)	11	3	8	18	27	3
11 I. Jonyer (HUN) (14)	11	3	8	17	28	3
12 C. Prean (ENG) (15)	11	2	9	16	27	2

WOMEN

Rd. 1:
K. Kruger bt B. Vriesekoop 20. 9. 19;
M. Hrachova bt M. Lindblad -18. 16. 12;
F. Bulatova bt I. Kovalenko 15. 12;-

E. Urban bt K. Witt 19. 19;
V. Popova bt B. Batinic 11. 16;
Z. Olah bt G. Szabo 8. 19.
Rd. 2:
Popova bt Kovalenko 11. 12;
Vriesekoop bt Bulatova -13. 21. 11;
Lindblad bt Szabo 20. 12;
Urban bt Olah 23. -21. 17;
Hrachova bt Witt 18. 16;
Batinic bt Kruger 15. 19.
Rd. 3:
Lindblad bt Witt 17. 15;
Kruger bt Kovalenko 4. 10;
Batinic bt Vriesekoop -18. 17. 17;
Szabo bt Urban -18. 20. 15;
Hrachova bt Olah 20. 16;
Popova bt Bulatova 9. 10.
Rd. 4:
Kruger bt Popova 18. -10. 10;
Urban bt Hrachova 21. -11. 15;
Bulatova bt Batinic 10. 19;
Witt bt Szabo 21. -18. 21;
Vriesekoop bt Kovalenko 15.19;
Olah bt Lindblad -20. 16. 19.
Rd. 5:
Lindblad bt Urban 20. 15;
Hrachova bt Szabo 16. 14;
Batinic bt Kovalenko 15. 13;
Olah bt Witt 15. 13;
Vriesekoop bt Popova 14. 11;
Bulatova bt Kruger 7. 17.
Rd. 6:
Vriesekoop w.o. Witt
Popova bt Szabo 8. 14;
Urban bt Bulatova 15. -11. 18;
Olah bt Kruger -16. 16. 18;
Hrachova bt Kovalenko 5. 23;
Batinic bt Lindblad 12. -18. 24.
Rd. 7:
Bulatova bt Szabo 11. 19;
Hrachova bt Kruger 13. 3;
Popova w.o. Witt;
Olah bt Batinic 22. 18;
Vriesekoop bt Urban 18. -19. 20;
Lindblad bt Kovalenko 21. 11.
Rd. 8:
Lindblad bt Kruger 17. 15;
Hrachova bt Batinic 17. 12;
Vriesekoop bt Szabo -22. 14. 16;
Bulatova w.o. Witt;
Popova bt Urban -13. 12. 12;
Olah bt Kovalenko -15. 17. 19.
Rd. 9:
Batinic w.o. Witt;
Vriesekoop bt Hrachova 19. 23;
Popova bt Lindblad 10. 12;
Olah bt Bulatova 18. -13. 16;
Szabo bt Kruger -6. 14. 16;
Urban bt Kovalenko 10. 7.
Rd. 10:
Szabo bt Batinic -21. 14. 15;
Hrachova bt Bulatova -20. 18. 7;
Popova bt Olah 19. 19;
Urban bt Kruger 9. -17. 14;
Vriesekoop bt Lindblad 9. -15. 19;
Kovalenko w.o. Witt.
Rd. 11:
Szabo bt Kovalenko 18. 18;
Hrachova bt Popova 16. -21. 18;
Bulatova bt Lindblad 13. 18;
Olah bt Vriesekoop 16. -17. 19;
Batinic bt Urban -20. 11. 15;
Kruger w.o. Witt.

FINISHING POSITIONS (European Ranking in brackets)

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
1 M. Hrachova (TCH) (1)	11	9	2	19	7	9
2 B. Vriesekoop (HOI) (4)	11	8	3	19	10	8
3 V. Popova (URS) (2)	11	8	3	18	7	8
4 Z. Olah (HUN) (6)	11	8	3	17	11	8
5 F. Bulatova (URS) (3)	11	6	5	16	10	6
6 E. Urban (HUN) (11)	11	6	5	16	14	6
7 B. Batinic (YUG) (7)	11	6	5	13	13	6
8 M. Lindblad (SWE) (10)	11	5	6	14	12	5
9 G. Szabo (HUN) (5)	11	4	7	10	17	4
10 K. Kruger (FRG)	11	4	7	11	16	4
11 I. Kovalenko (URS) (9)	11	1	10	3	20	1
12 K. Witt (ENG) (12)	11	1	10	2	21	1

E.T.T.A. 100 CLUB

By Doreen Stannard

A very pleasant evening was had by all members present at the Finals night party after the Norwich Union English Open Championships at Brighton on Saturday, 28th January, 1984.

John McDonnell, our Chairman, hosted a sherry reception prior to the Dinner, to which we had invited members of the Swaythling Club to join us.

Two draws were made, plus the fact that Ernie had been kind enough to enable us to give a further six prizes of 8

£25. The lucky members were:
£100 P. Norman and G. Collins
£50 Mrs. E. Prean and K. Stanley
£10 H. Stevens and L. Thompson
£25 R. Roffe, A. Ross, Mrs. M. Kennedy, K. Panting, G. Cole, G. Campbell.

Linda McDonnell, the wife of, our Chairman, had kindly provided some gifts which were drawn for amongst those ladies present.

Our next function will be after the A.G.M. on Saturday, 7th July, 1984 so please make a note in your diary.

We do now have a couple of membership vacancies in the Club so I should be pleased to hear from any

interested party. My address is:
11 Brougham Road, Acton, London W36JD.

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E.T.T.A. Chairman TOM BLUNN discourses on LIMITED LIABILITY

Every now and then we have to get down to practicalities and put aside for a while, the progressive schemes that occupy most of our time. I am at the present time engaged, along with others, planning the changeover of the E.T.T.A. from an unincorporated body to a limited liability company. This is in accordance with a decision of the AGM in 1981; it has already taken over two years to establish the foundations.

An unincorporated body has no legal standing and as such cannot sue or be sued. That sounds to be a very comfortable position for half the time but it does have obvious drawbacks.

All contracts for such items as rent, hire of facilities, telephones, construction and repairs to property, television, hospitality, sponsorship etc. have to be drawn up in the names of the principal officers and it is their responsibility to see that the contracts are fulfilled. If not, then the officers can be sued in their own names and this has been a cause for great concern in recent years.

The problem was highlighted during the World Championships in 1977, when contracts had to be signed by the officers for over half a million pounds! Even with guaranteed income from many sources the risk was still very great. The possibility of a strike by the local work force or transport workers, caterers or television crews was always a fear to be lived with. In

fact there was a walk out of the construction workers four days prior to the event starting, and there was no option but to submit.

The final result is well known and at one time there was a potential loss of about £1 00.000 with creditors pressing on all sides. Writs were threatened but none were actually served on the officers and very good arrangements were made which reduced the final loss to £75.000. Fortunately, there was a guarantee fund of £50.000 available which had been provided by the leagues and this was used to pay off the last creditor over a period of six years during which time the guarantee fund had grown to £75.000 due to favourable interest rates.

DILEMMA

But the personal dilemma of the officers was highlighted and the decision taken to relieve them of the intolerable burden. In the first instance a rule change gave the officers the right to call upon the financial resources of the ETTA, and follow on with a caution the counties and if these two sources proved insufficient then the officers and the members of the National Council would have to pay the balance between them. This is just about as far as an unincorporated body could go without meeting the practical difficulties of trying to recover money from every member when there is not even a register of individual membership.

As a limited company the position is quite different. The financial liability is limited to whatever the members decide to risk. Membership can be restricted to the 325 leagues and they can agree to risk as little as £1 for each league. On this basis, any liability for

breaks of contract, failure to pay a creditor or legal damages and costs would first be paid out of the resources of the ETTA including all assets, and any balance would come out of the capital fund provided by the leagues. Any shortfall thereafter would be lost by the creditors and not from any table tennis funds or personal possessions of the officers.

This arrangement, of course, has its drawbacks. Some commercial concerns might want to limit the credit which they allow the ETTA, or even require to charge on our assets for any loans. Whilst such conditions are restrictive, they are not prohibitive and the ETTA has a very good reputation for paying its debts so this particular matter is not regarded as a great problem.

Whilst it seems to be an easy matter to change the status of the ETTA, it is not as simple as it seems. The whole constitution has to be re-written in terms required by the various Companies Acts without changing the principles agreed to by successive AGM-s. The conduct of the many meetings held by the ETTA in one form or another will have to comply with the law. Many legal documents and official forms will have to be completed each year. Our financial position will come under annual scrutiny but we have nothing to fear in that direction.

The foundations have been laid and the detailed work commenced with the assistance of professional legal advisers. It will take time and will cost money but the result will be worth all the trouble. Our voluntary helpers should not have to value their personal possessions before giving their services to the benefit of the members.

13th INTERNATIONAL CLUB HARD BAT TOURNAMENT

GIBBS AGAIN!

Despite a smaller than usual entry, entirely because of re-arranged Halex National League matches, there were some really excellent matches at the Barnet TT Centre on Sunday, Jan 29.

With three former champions in the draw namely Henry Buist, Laurie Landry and Stuart Gibbs, other contenders seemed hard to find. However both Derek Somers and Dave Jones nearly proved the critics wrong.

Derek, a Middlesex veteran player, proved a little awkward for sharp shooting twice-winner Buist from Kent. Derek's close over-the-table game and tight defence got him through in the third game. The quarter-

final between Jones, a junior international in the early fifties and now a Berkshire veteran, and Landry, a previous winner, proved to be a real classic with Dave retrieving from both sides and coming in with his own hits from time to time but running out of steam in the third.

The final was a real beauty with Gibbs showing masterly control in defence and sheer brilliance in attack, eventually outwitting the tiring Laurie in the third game.

Mary Symes showed her superiority among the women by winning all three events and showing that steadiness pays off. A really excellent day of table tennis, with rallies, was enjoyed by all and it was good to see former

internationals, Phyllis Lauder and Len Adams, still putting up a good show. With five former internationals taking part and Barbara Andrews, another, helping with presentations, there was still the flavour apparent. The Club was again most grateful to the Barnet Centre for their continued support and help.

Results:-

M.S.: Q-F:-

S. Somers (Mil) bt H. Buist (K) -16, 18, 16;

L. Landry (Mil) bt D. Jones (8k) -19, 17, 15;

S. Battrick (E) bt D. Finlayson (E) 8, 7;

S. Gibbs (E) bt J. Payne (MillO) -19, 13.

S-F's:

Landry bt Somers 15, 15; Gibbs bt Bannick 17, 6.

Final: GIBBS bt Landry -15, 8, 16.

W.S.: S-F:-

Mt. Symes (Mil) bt P. Rogers (E) 11, 10;

S. Kilford (8k) bt S. Hickman (E) 19, 20.

Final: SYMES bt Kilford 11, 7.

M.O.: S-F's:

Battrick/Buist bt Gibbs/S. Willis (E) 14, 17;

L. Adams (Mi)/Landry bt R. Davis (Bk)/Jones 15, -18, 19.

Final: BATTRICK/BUIST bt Adams/Landry 18, 15.

W.O.: S-F's:

L. Moscrop (Mi)/Symes bt Hickman/P. Lauder (E) 20, 13;

Kilford/G. Squier (E) bt Rogers/A. Willis (E) 17, 20.

Final: MOSCROP/SYMES bt Kilford/Squier 15, 17.

X.D.: S-F's:

Landry/Symes bt Oavis/Kilford 16, 12;

Gibbs/Squier bt Battrick/Rogers 10, 11.

Final: LANDRY/SYMES bt Gibbs/Squier 11, 21.

CMS: Final: Willis bt Adams -19, 17, 16.

CWS: Final: lauder bt Squier -12, 14, 14.



ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

by David Lomas

The wintry weather conditions in January abated sufficiently to enable all twelve Area* Finals of the Dunlop National School Team Championships to go ahead as scheduled on the weekend of Jan. 28/29.

It was disappointing to discover, however, that in several areas some teams failed to appear without prior notice. This has been a growing problem in recent years: such absences obviously disrupt the anticipated playing schedules and cause unnecessary journeys for some schools.

The following teams were expected to take part in the three Regional Finals at Leeds, Stroud and Orpington on Feb. 26 with the winners going forward to the Grand Finals on Saturday, March 24 at Lea Green, Matlock, Derbyshire:

NORTH REGION

Area 1 (Thornaby)

B19 Newcastle Royal Grammar (Tyne & Wear)
G19 Prior Pursglove College, Guisborough (Cleveland)
B16 Riley High, Hull (Humberside)
G16 Bishop Barrington, Bishop Auckland (Durham)
B13 Wold Junior High, Hull (Humberside)
G13 Wold Junior High, Hull (Humberside)
B11 Neasden Junior High, Hull (Humberside)

A good day for Humberside teams. Good win for Newcastle RGS led by Martin Schapira. Clash of the giants in B19 with David Blackburne (Durham) and Anthony Wattis (Cleveland) up against Schapira.

Area 2 (Leeds)

B19 Hanson Upper, Bradford
G19 Buttershaw Upper, Bradford
B16 Kettlethorpe High, Wakefield
G16 Castleford High, Wakefield
B13 Battyeford Middle, Mirfield
G13 Archbishop Cranmer Middle, Leeds
B11 Archbishop Cranmer Middle, Leeds

A "clean sweep" for West Yorkshire teams against opposition from Greater Manchester and South Yorkshire. Kettlethorpe's 5-3 win over Bury Garrlmar avenges last year's defeat.

Area 3 (Fleetwood)

B19 Barrow Sixth Form College (Cumbria)
G19 Fleetwood Hesketh High (Lanes)
B16 Millom (Cumbria)
G16 Lancaster Girls' Grammar (Lanes)
B13 Parkview, Barrow (Cumbria)
G13 Parkview, Barrow (Cumbria)
B11 Yarlside Primary, Barrow (Cumbria)

A blank day for Cheshire's teams.

Area 4 (Grantham)

B19 Robert Pattinson, Lincoln (Lines.)
G19 Boston High (Lines.)
B16 Peele, Spalding (Lines.)
G16 Caistor Grammar (Lines.)
B13 Nertherthorpe, Staveley (Derbyshire)
G13 Gosforth, Dronfield Woodhouse (Derbyshire)
B11 Dronfield Junior (Derbyshire)

Lincolnshire dominated the four more senior events with Derbyshire taking the junior honours.

MIDLANDS & WEST REGION

Area 5 (Market Drayton)
B19 King Edward VI, Stafford (Staffs)
G19 Codshall High (Staffs)
B16 King Charles I, Kidderminster (Hereford & Worcester)

G16 Hanley High, Stoke-on-Trent (Staffs)
B13 Mary Webb, Pontesbury (Shropshire)
G13 Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire)
B11 Market Drayton Junior (Shropshire)

What's this? Six Market Drayton teams involved (five from The Grove) but only two through! Codshall (G19), led by Jill Powis, won on deciding doubles. Murray Jukes at No. 1 for Kidderminster. Mary Webb through to defend national title. (B13).

Area 6 (Northampton)

B19 Lawrence Sheriff, Rugby (Warwickshire)
G19 Weston Favell Upper, Northampton (Northants)
B16 Woodlands, Coventry (West Midlands)
G16 Highfields, Wolverhampton (West Midlands)
B13 Joseph Leckie, Walsall (West Midlands)
G13 Yardley, Birmingham (West Midlands)
B11 Merridale Primary, Wolverhampton (West Midlands)

It's quite some time since we saw a Warwickshire national title. Could they mount a strong challenge in the form of Lawrence Sheriff this year? At least they inflicted the only defeat on the powerful West Midlands line-up. Merridale (B11) look to be strong contenders.

Area 7 (Plymouth)

B19 Redruth (Cornwall)
G19 Hayesfield, Bath (Avon)
B16 Launceston College (Cornwall)
G16 Chilton Trinity, Bridgwater (Somerset)
B13 Launceston College' (Cornwall)
G13 Haygrove, Bridgwater (Somerset)
B11 Bude Junior (Cornwall)

No Devon qualifiers. Cornwall dominate boys' events.

Area 8 (Southampton)

B19 Bournemouth Boys' (Dorset)
G19 Talbot Heath, Bournemouth (Dorset)
B16 Hreod Burna, Swindon (Wiltshire)
G16 Churchfields, Swindon (Wiltshire)
B13 Walhampton, Lymington (Hampshire)
G13 Walhampton, Lymington (Hampshire)
B11 Walhampton, Lymington (Hampshire)

Hreod Burna (B16) look strong. Three-pronged attack from Hampshire in the shape of Walhampton.

SOUTH & EAST REGION

Area 9 (St. Neots)

B19 Bedford Modern (Beds.)
G19 Ipswich (Suffolk)
B16 Bedford Modern (Beds.)
G16 Putteridge High, Luton (Beds.)
B13 Orwell Park, Nacton (Suffolk)
G13 Stopsley High (Beds.)
B11 Old Buckenham Hall, Ipswich (Suffolk)

Four former national finalists in this Area are through. B13 and B11 Suffolk winners could do well at Orpington.

Area 10 (Maidenhead)

B19 North Oxfordshire Technical College (Oxon)
G19 Goff's, Cheshunt (Herts)
B16 Maiden Erlegh (Berks)
G16 Furze Platt, Maidenhead (Berks)
B13 Maiden Erlegh (Berks)

G13 Maiden Erlegh (Berks)
B11 Emmer Green, Reading (Berks)

Several unexpected non-arrivals in this Area. Current holders return with Goff's (G19) and Maiden Erlegh (B16) (Syed brothers and company) seeking further glory.

Area 11 (Barnet)

B19 Stepney Green (Inner London)
G19 Brampton Manor, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
B16 Stepney Green (Inner London)
G16 St. Martin's, Brentwood (Essex County)
B13 Mayflower, Billericay (Essex County)
G13 Brampton Manor, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
B11 Lyndhurst House, Hampstead (Inner London)

Lisa Hayden heads a rare challenge from Essex County in G16 (St. Martin's). Neighbours, Billericay, through on a very close doubles. Brampton Manor is a familiar name but how good are they compared to previous campaigns?

Area 12 (Croydon)

B19 St. Joseph's College, Croydon (Surrey Metropolitan)
G19 Willows High, Merton (Surrey Metropolitan)
B16 Skinners', Tunbridge Wells (Kent County)
G16 Tamworth Manor, Mitcham (Surrey Metropolitan)
B13 Wallop, Weybridge (Surrey County)
G13 Hillcross Middle, Merton (Surrey Metropolitan)
B11 Downside, Purley (Surrey Metropolitan)

A good day for the twin Surrey "counties". Best hopes lie at the younger age of the events. 'Hillcross switch to Girls after national honours at B13 in 1979.

Thanks to all involved in the organisation of the Area Finals.

Separate arrangements were made for the Girls' U11 event but the three Regional winners will compete with the other national finalists at Lea Green.

For the first time an ESTTA Executive Council meeting was disrupted because of bad weather and road conditions in the Lea Green area on Jan. 15. It was possible, however, to hold a meeting of most of the Officers - who had travelled on the Saturday - but other Council members were advised not to travel and the Sunday morning meeting was concluded by lunch-time on Sunday.

County Schools' Association Secretaries are reminded that firm entries for the Dunlop English Schools' Individual Championships at Mansfield on Sunday, May 5th, must be in the hands of Eddie Mitchell (ESTTA Competitions Secretary) by no later than March 23rd.

The ESTTA AGM is due to be held at Curdworth Community Centre, Curdworth, Sutton Coldfield on Sunday, May 13th, 1984.

CLEVELAND COUNTY THREE-STAR OPEN

NO JAPANESE!

By Alan Ransome

Cleveland County Chairman, Colin Davison, travelled to London's Heathrow Airport on the morning of Friday, Jan. 20 to meet the Japanese team, only to find no trace of the 12-strong party. It was later confirmed that the flight from Tokyo had not taken off due to snow and that the Japanese team were still grounded at Tokyo Airport. So Colin returned home to Cleveland. Later in the day it was learned via the E.T.T.A.'s telephone answering service in Hastings that the Japanese were hoping to make it to Cleveland via Amsterdam and would arrive at 9 a.m. on Saturday morning into Heathrow, just a few minutes before they were due on court at Thornaby Pavilion!

Colin made a second trip to Heathrow from Cleveland, Tournament Referee, Bob Edon, re-scheduled the team event so that the Japanese could play their matches in the afternoon, and British Midland Airways managed to catch up one and a half hours on the late Heathrow to Teesside flight so that the Japanese could arrive in time to play.

After more than twenty-four hours actually travelling in addition to the time spent waiting at Tokyo Airport, to the relief of the Organisers and appreciation of the tournament at large, the Japanese came straight onto the tables, won the Women's team event, reached the final of the Men's and a day later dominated the individual events in the seven-nation tournament.

BUTTERFLY INTERNATIONAL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS MEN'S TEAM

After a couple of close calls, the England team of Carl Prean and Graham Sandley excelled to win the Men's section of the Butterfly International team event. In their first match against Jaques Generation, Alan Cooke repeated his Humberside win over Prean, 15 in the 3rd. However, Sandley was on form throughout this match, beating Ian Kenyon and to clinch the win, Cooke at 17 in the 3rd.

After beating Grove 3-0, England were stretched by the brilliant play of Henk van Spanje playing for the Netherlands/Canada combined team. Van Spanje beat both Prean and Sandley, but the greater consistency of the England pair were too much for Joe Ng of Canada, and England went through to the final to meet Japan.

In the final it was Prean's turn to shine. Sandley opened well by beating

Seiji Ono 13 in the 3rd. Then Prean came into his own winning two straight against Juzo Nakazuka and two 19's against Ono. The only England loss was the double where the Japanese clearly had the edge.

To reach the final, Japan were never extended: They beat Byker-Newcastle, Ormesby and Ellenborough all 3-0.

The Women's team event was won by Japan where Yoshiko Shimauchi proved to be the player of the tournament. Shimauchi beat both Carole Moore and Joy Grundy comfortably, and then combined with Tomoko Yamamoto to win the doubles. The best set of the final was the opener where Carole Moore defeated Miyuki Ufzono after losing the first game -1 6. Neither Japan nor England were really stretched before the final, each winning by the maximum score of 3-0, except for Alison Gordon's victory over Ufzono in the match between Japan and Gillette Reading which concluded at 3-1.

Individual events:

JAPAN SWEEP THE BOARD

With twenty-four hours to recover from their long journey, the Japanese were in better form for the individual events, winning all four titles. The 1979 World Champion, Ono, was a popular winner of the Men's Singles **beating** his team mate Nakazuka in the final. Ono's toughest set was in the quarter-final where he beat Skylet Andrew at 17 in the 3rd. He was also stretched a round earlier by the Canadian, Joe Ng, which set he also won at 17 in the decider. In the semi-final, Ono beat Sandley in straight games. However, had Sandley been able to clinch the first, which he lost 21-23, it could well have been a different story. In Ono's quarter of the draw Crooke made a surprising exit to M. Daugaard of Denmark losing at 19 in the 3rd. Daugaard in turn was beaten by the same score in the next round by Andrew.

Sandley came through his quarter after gaining his revenge in the team event over Henk van Spanje. After losing the first at -14, Sandley regained his composure and won the next two at 1.7. In the two previous rounds van Spanje had lost a game each to John Souter and Kevin Satchell, whilst Sandley had dismissed Max Crimmins and Mark Thomas without the loss of a game.

Finalist, Nakazuka, was given a close quarter-final encounter by John Hilton whom he beat 19 in the decider, in an excellent match. Hilton himself

had been extended by Kenny Jackson and Colin Wilson, whilst Jackson had ousted the Scottish No.1, David Hannah at 17 in the 3rd.

Prean produced one of the best English performances after losing the middle game to Nigel Eckersley in the second round. Prean beat Japan's Fukuda 7, 10 in the quarters, but found Nakazuka just too good in the semis.

After two of the four Karen Witt and Lisa Bellinger, had pulled out of the tournament through injury, Carole Moore produced her best performance of the season to reach the final of the Women's Singles. In the second round Carole had a spectacular victory over the Japanese defender, Ufzono 18 in the 3rd. The winner, Shimauchi had no difficulty in reaching the final and after losing the first game -19, played well to take the 2nd and 3rd against Mrs. Moore to clinch the title.

Both doubles events were won by the Japanese after Nicky Mason and Cooke had pinched the first from Ono and Nakazuka in the Men's final. Jean Parker and Joy Grundy who did well to reach the final, found Japan's Shimauchi and Yamamoto too skilful in the Women's final.

The prizes were presented by Cleveland County Council Chairman, Bill Emerson, with the Japanese party taking the largest-ever haul of prize money from Cleveland back to Tokyo.

MEN'S TEAM

Semi-finals:

England 3 Canada/Netherlands 2

G. Sandley lost to H.v. Spanje -17, 22, -9;

C. Prean bt J. Ng 8, 10;

Prean/Sandley bt Ng/v. Spanje 15, 14;

Prean lost to v. Spanje -18, -19;

Sandley bt Ng 10, 15.

Japan 3

Ellenborough 0

S. Ono bt D. Tan 10, 17; J. Nukazuka bt C. Wilson 20, 17.

Nukazuka/Ono bt Tan/Wilson 13, -19, 16.

Final:

ENGLAND 3

Japan 1

Sandley bt Ono -20, 17, 12;

Prean bt Nukazuka 10, 17; bt Ono 19, 19.

Prean/Sandley lost to Nukazuka/Ono -9, 18, -14.

WOMEN'S TEAM

Semi-finals:

JAPAN 13

Denmark 0

M. Uezono bt C. Polk 19, 7;

Y. Shimauchi bt K. Kruse 14, 8;

Shimauchi/Uezono bt Kruse/Polk 19, 12.

England 3

Tarmac Wolverhampton 0

C. Moore bt F. Elliot 18, 20;

J. Grundy bt J. Harris 12, 14.

Grundy/Moore bt Elliot/Harris 17, -10, 19.

Final:

JAPAN 13

England 1

Uezono lost to Moore 16, -13, -14;

Shimauchi bt Grundy 14, 9;

Shimauchi/T. Yamamoto bt Grundy/Moore 20, 10;

Shimauchi bt Moore 12, 9.

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals

S. Dna (JPN) bt S. Andrew (E) 10, -18, 17;

G. Sandley (ENG) bt H. v. Spanje (HOI) -14, 17, 17;

J. Nakazuka bt J. Hilton (La) -18, 16, 19;

C. Prean (ENG) bt Y. Fukuda (JPN) 7, 10.

Semi-finals:

Ono bt Sandley 21, 14; Nukazuka bt Prean -19, 17, 16.

Final: ONO bt Nukazuka 20, 13.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:

Y. Shimauchi (JPN) bt A. Gordon (Bk) 14, 15;

C. Polk (DEN) bt T. Yamamoto (JPN) -20, 15, 19;

C. Moore (ENG) bt K. Smith (Ie) 15, 19;

K. Kruse (DEN) bt J. Shaw (Y) 18, -15, 15.

Semi-finals:

Shimauchi bt Polk 13, 16;

Moore bt Kruse 14, 15.

Final: SHIMAUCHI bt Moore -19, 16, 17.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

Nakazuka/Ono bt Andrew/P. Bradbury (Bu) 9, 11;

A. Cooke (Dy)/N. Mason (Sy) bt K. Beadley/A. Fletcher (Y) 13,

14.

Final: NUKAZUKA/ONO bt Cooke/Mason -19, 13, 10.

Women's Doubles;Semi-finals:
 Shimauchi/Yamamoto bt C. Buttery (U)/C. Shimokawa (JPN) 16, -15, 14;
 J. Grundy (ENG)/J. Parker(la) bt M. Goto/K. Nohira (JPN)19, 15, 19.
 Final: SHIMAUCHI/YAMAMOTO bt Grundy/Parker 16, 15, 15.
 Cless 2 Singl.s: Quarter-finals:
 M. Laird (Cv) bt T.Washington (St) -17, 15, 13;
 O. Gannon (le) bt P. Huggon (La) 21, 19;
 M. Corking (Ou) bt K. Green (Cv) 14, 19;
 P. Namdjou (K) bt A. Dodd (K) 17, 10.
 Semi-finals:
 laird bt Gannon; Namdjou bt Corking.
 Finel: NAMDJOU bt Laird 17, -15, 17.

CLOSE ENCOUNTER AT GATESHEAD

On one of the worst nights of snow conditions ever known in the North East, England and Japan played out a close international match at Gateshead Leisure Centre in front of 200 or so fans who had braved the Arctic conditions to watch the table tennis.

England built up a 3-2 lead after both the Men's and Women's Doubles had been won and Carole Moore repeated her win over the Japanese defender M. Uezono for the third time in three days. The strength of Japan's two men, Ono and Nukazuka, proved too much against the England trio of Hilton, Sandley and Cooke, Japan won all three Men's Singles and this, together with a singles win by Y. Shimauchi over Alison Gordon proved just enough on the night to give the visitors a 4-3 victory, AER



CLEVELAND County Council's Chairman, Bill Emerson, congratulates Japan's Yoshiko Shimauchi after beating Carol Knight Moore (extreme left) in the women's singles final in the Cleveland **Open table** tennis championships. Also pictured are **men's** singles winner, Sieji Ono (second right) and the runner-up, Juzo Nukazuka. both of Japan.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

LEADING DOUBLES AVERAGES- TO END OF '1983

Compiled by Doug Moss.

Qualification (3 matches). This is a supplement to the singles averages given in previous edition.

SENIOR PREMIER	W	L	%
Andrew/Jackson (E)	3	a	100
Mason/Crimmins (Sy)	3	a	100
Gunn/Munt (Wa)	2	1	67
Fletcher/Hill (Y)	2	1	67
Morgan/Peakman (Wa)	2	1	67
Wilson/Mitchell (Mi)	2	1	67

DIV, 2A	W	L	%
Jukes/Washington (Wol)	4	a	100
Kitchener/ Palmer (Sk)	4	a	100
Dowsetti/Welham (Ski)	3	1	75

DIV, 2B	W	L	%
Lambert/Wilson (Dv)	2	1	67
Moore/Moore (Sx)	2	1	67
Perrott/Cohen (Avi)	3	0	100

DIV, 3A	W	L	%
Worthington/Deaville (Ch II)	3	a	100
Hunt/Radley (U)	3	a	100

DIV, 3B	W	L	%
Pean/Daly (IOWI)	4	0	100
Clark/Green (Ha)	3	a	100
Russe/Craig (So)	4	1	75

DIV, 3C	W	L	%
Wooding/Bushell (Bul)	3	a	100
Owen/Owens (Hrl)	3	1	75
Denbow/Haddrell (Ox)	4	a	100
Bardwell/Hillard (Hu)	3	a	100

DIV, 3D	W	L	%
Hammmond/Sexton (Sy III)	3	a	100
Stevenson/Stevenson (Nk)	3	1	75
Mudge/Brown (E II)	4	a	100
King/Hussein-Ellis (Sy II)	3	1	75

Women's Singles averages - omitted from previous report.

Sheila King (Sx II)	5	a	100
Yvette Brown (E II)	4	a	100
Jane Barella (Sy II)	3	a	100
Michelle Hams (Sy III)	3	1	75
Zarina Hussein/Ellis (Sx II)	3	1	75
K. Hayden (E III)	2	1	67

VETERANS PREMIER	W	L	%
Allanson/Halliday (Bk)	3	75	
Battrick/Lockwood (E)	2	67	
Buist/Etheridge (K)	2	67	
D'Arcy/Schofield (Ch)	2	67	

VETERANS 2A	W	L	%
Norton/Albon (Hu)	3	0	100
Wood/Belcher (Wo)	3	1	75
Dicks/Hunt (Vo)	4	a	100
Jones/Porter (Np)	3	1	75

VETERANS 2B	W	L	%
Batt-Rowden/Watts (Sx)	2	1	67
Lamprell/Somers (He)	2	1	67
Seaholme/Harris (He)	4	a	100
Bush/Coop (Do)	3	1	75
Lush/Clegg (Ha)	2	1	67

VETERANS 3A	W	L	%
Taylor/Tyler (He II)	3	a	100
Morris/Hazell (Wil)	2	1	67
Taylor/Fowler (Ch)	2	1	67

VETERANS 3B
No qualifiers.

JUNIOR PREMIER	W	L	%
Dodd/Cunningham (K)	3	a	100
Rook/Firth (V)	3	a	100
Goldsmith/Knight (Mi)	3	a	100
Houghton/James (Kl)	3	a	100
Shaw/Evans (Y)	3	a	100
Butler/Wright (Dv)	3	1	75

JUNIOR 2A	W	L	%
Henry/Adams (Dy)	3	a	100
Bult/Newton (Y II)	3	1	75
Randle/Thomas (Wa)	3	1	75
Clark/Harrison (Ch)	3	0	100
Forster/Weightman (De)	3	1	75

JUNIOR 2B	W	L	%
Hayden/Holland (El)	3	a	100

JUNIOR 3A	W	L	%
Curry/Blackman (Nd)	4	a	100
Walker/Wilkinson (U)	3	a	100

JUNIOR 3B	W	L	%
Trott/Edmonds (Np)	4	a	100
Kloos/Holder (Wo)	2	1	67

JUNIOR 3C	W	L	%
James/Hunt (Co)	3	a	100
Oxley/Hook (Wi)	3	1	75
Clemens/Stevenson (Co)	4	1	80
Hunter/Neale (Wi)	2	1	67

JUNIOR 3D	W	L	%
Steward/Rayment (Nk)	2	1	67
Patten/Thompson (E III)	5	a	100
Jenkinson/Wilson (Nk)	2	1	67
Wilde/Brooks (Sy II)	2	1	67

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SPOTLIGHT ON ... PHILIP BRADBURY

By John Oakley of the Press Association

Philip Bradbury has no ETIA contract, has not been invited to training camps and has not played for England, except at Under-21 level, this season. Yet he is the only challenger to Alan Cooke as the most improved player in the English game.

Gifted with a golden touch Bradbury, though no blushing violet, has never quite realised just how good he is.

At critical moments in key matches he has become nervous and gone into his shell instead of producing the free-flowing strokes that come so easily to him in practice.

But in recent months this 19-year-old red-head has begun to show far more aggression. He is hitting the ball harder and though still apt to have occasional attacks of nerves his talent is beginning to bloom.

At the English Open in January he showed his class in beating Jacques Secretin in four games and he did it in style, forcing the great Frenchman back from the table and hitting some screaming winners.

Secretin was highly impressed and sportingly said: "Bradbury played really well. This boy could have a great future".

Another landmark was when he won the Bath Two-Star Open, also in January. He beat Kenny Jackson in the final and though it was not a top quality field Bradbury was well pleased.

"It was the first English Open senior tournament I had ever won" he said, "and I was really chuffed".

Perhaps the easiest way to judge Bradbury's advance this season is by his progress on the Lentec computer. He was twelve at the beginning of the season, then moved up to ten and in the latest list reached his highest-ever position of sixth.

Computers can sometimes be false gods but in Bradbury's case he earned his place. He has not played so many Two Star events as some points-chasing players, Bucks, his county, are not in the premier division and, unlike most of his leading rivals, he is not a full time player.

He works at least two days a week for his wealthy builder father, Peter, and sometimes four. "The amount I work depends on whether there are big tournaments coming up" he says, "I always do a couple of days but if there is an important event at the weekend dad lets me off for practice, But at other times I do a fair whack".

In the National League Bradbury plays number one for Gillette Reading and is inclined to scoff at his own record with a throw-away line: "I've

only got about 50 per cent, That's not too hot".

Yet his victims in League games this season have included Paul Day, Kenny Jackson, Alan Cooke, Alan Fletcher, Colin Wilson, Don Parker, Steve Turner, Nigel Eckersley and Max Crimmins, hardly a bunch of incompetent performers.

His big ambition is to gain a regular place in the England team. "I'd love to play for England in the big events like the World and European championships or the European League" he says, "Then you would know you had really arrived".

To do that he needs to move up perhaps another two places on the computer and prove that he is undoubtedly one of the top four men in the country.

Des Douglas, Carl Prean and Graham Sandley seem permanent fixtures at the top of the rankings but Bradbury has beaten Alan Cooke, the number four, on the last two occasions they have met though he admits that he finds the fast top spin of number five Skylet Andrew "pretty difficult".

His biggest weakness in the past has been his temperament. He has been apt to get annoyed with himself when things have gone wrong and his confidence has sometimes dropped like a plunging thermometer.

Now there are signs that he is beginning to mature, His confidence is on a higher level and his concentration is beginning to improve.

Yet it is his new-found aggression that in the long run could prove his greatest asset. "In the past I used to be quite happy to just block because I've always preferred to play people who come at me,

"Now I'm getting my forehand in more for points and it has been paying off,

"I'm playing a lot better and I've also been practising much harder, I used to mess about a lot when practising or not think about what I was doing. Now I practise with a definite purpose in mind".

Only time will tell whether Bradbury can go right to the top but he has certainly come a long way in the past four years.

Though he began on his tenth birthday - "My father dug out some old bats from the garage and bought me a small table" - he was never among the top cadets though he did make it to number nine in his final Under-14 year.

Progress was still slow for a while but then in his Under-16 year he shot up the junior rankings from 25 to four and was selected for the European



Youth championships in Poland,

He went again to the European Youth in Czechoslovakia the following year where he and John Souter were the key players in the junior team and then made the transition to the senior game without problems.

He played for England in the Commonwealth Games in Bombay in his first senior season and then, representing England, won a major event in Portugal.

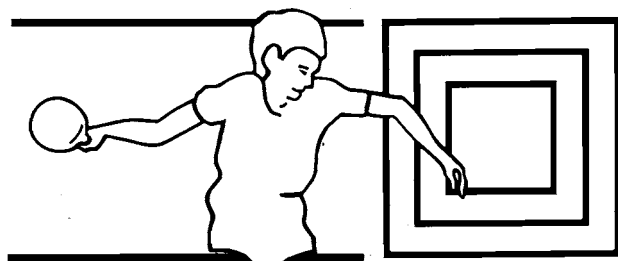
Since then there have been ups and downs but there is no doubt about his enthusiasm for the game.

For example, at the beginning of February he had to go into hospital for an operation on two wisdom teeth. After three days in hospital and another three without practice he insisted on playing in the Essex Three Star Open at Harlow.

It was a wise move for he reached the semi-final before losing 21-17 in the third to Dave Hannah, the Scottish number one.

This was his best Three Star performance of the season and if he can continue in the same vein he could soon be taking over that number four spot.

Alan Cooke and Skylet Andrew will both have something to say about that but it could be a very open three-cornered race for this prestigious position.



Beneficial Trust Junior Grand Prix

SVED WINS AGAIN

Andrew Syed, the 15-year-old Reading player, made it a hat-trick of wins in the Beneficial Trust Grand Prix series when he won the Cleveland "Select" tournament at Eston on Feb. 19. Syed now looks certain to top the Grand Prix points table with two more domestic tournaments to play plus the Beneficial Trust English Junior Open in May. His final opponent was Andrew Cunningham from Beckenham, the final score being 21-15, 21-17.

Lisa Bellinger, the England No. 1 Junior and No. 2 Senior from Dunstable, was the winner of the Girls' singles. Joanne Shaw (Wakefield) was her final opponent, the scores being 21-10, 21-8. This win puts Lisa level at the top of the Beneficial Trust Grand Prix points table with Susan Collier (Maidenhead) who was surprisingly beaten in the quarter-final.

The Boys' doubles was won by Darren McVitie and David Blackburne with a final win, albeit very close, over promising cadets Bradley Billington and Lee Brown 18, -15, 17.

Lisa captured a second title when in partnership with Teresa Moore they defeated Joanne Shaw and Laura Goldsmith -14, 17, 17.

Mr Geoff Geary Financial Director of Beneficial Trust presented the main prizes.

Beneficial Trust are a company with a national network of branches offering a range of banking services who chose table tennis for their sponsorship because their company sees the youth of today as being their best involvement for the future.

COTSWOLD SELECT

Prior to, in the Cotswold 'Select' at Gloucester Leisure Centre over the weekend of Feb 4/5 Andrew Syed had a final victory over Chris Bartram of Kent - just as he did at Hinckley - winning 12, -16, 9 (writes Alf Pepperd).

In the semi-finals Andrew beat Murray Jukes whilst Bartram disposed of David Goode. And again, as at Hinckley, the boys' doubles title went to Jukes and Adrian Dixon, the defeated finalists on this occasion being Andrew Dodd and Steve Dorking beaten 10 and 18.

Berkshire's Susan Collier was the winner of the girls' singles with a final 21, -18, 16 win over Yorkshire's Joanne Shaw. Miss Shaw and Laura Goldsmith repeated their Hinckley success by again winning the girls' doubles, their victims on this more recent occasion being Debbie Soothill and Cheryl Clarke, beaten 14 and 19.

In the cadet category the boys' singles was won by Matthew Syed who, as at Hinckley, beat Derbyshire's Bradley Billington this time more tightly at 24 and 19. Andrea Holt the beaten girls' singles finalist at Hinckley, was the title winner at Gloucester beating Lisa Robins of Beds 15 and 16 after Andrea had beaten Kerry Hall (Dy) and Lisa had got past Amanda Shufflebotham of Oxon in the semis. In the boys' semis Syed accounted for Sean Gibson (La) and Billington disposed of John Ellis of Wales.

In an all-Yorkshire U-12 boys' singles final Michael O'Driscoll beat Chris Oldfield 13 and 19 whilst the two Derbyshire players, Kerry Hall and Julie Billington fought out the U-12 girls' singles with Kerry the winner 16 and 20.

O'Driscoll and Nicholas Ryder won the cadet boys' doubles beating Billington and Gibson -17, 17 and 18 whilst the counterpart girls' event was won by Claire Potts and Andrea Holt with a final 15, 16 win over Melonie Carey and Lisa Robins.

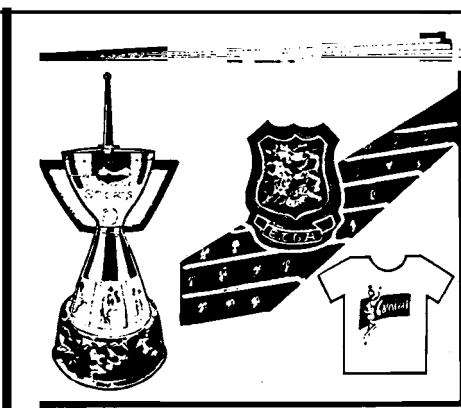
There were 15 tables in play throughout the weekend but out of 15 local entries only David Smith of Gloucester got as far as the semi-finals of the boys' doubles. David and his partner, Rodney Thomas of Bourne-mouth, then crashed out to the eventual winners Jukes and Dixon.

Current leaders in the Beneficial Trust Grand Prix:

Boys	
1. Andrew Syed (Berks)	40
2. Chris Bartram (Kent)	28
3. David Goode (Middx)	18
4. Andrew Dodd (Kent)	16
5. Philip Huggon (Lanes)	14
6. Jimmy Stokes (Berks)	14

Girls	
1. Lisa Bellinger (Beds)	30
2. Susan Collier (Berks)	30
3. Joanne Shaw (Yorks)	28
4. Teresa Moore (Sussex)	22
5. Jill Powis (Staffs)	20
6. Debbie Soothill (Cumbria)	18

The top five boys and girls will share a pool of £2,300 prize money at the end of the season.



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JILL HAMMERSLEY-PARKER TABLE TENNIS FOUNDATION

It is very encouraging to see the list of members increasing steadily each month and, in fact, we now have over 100 members and Patrons. Apart from individual members we would like to thank the following Clubs, Leagues and Associations and their respective committees for joining the foundation:-

Aldershot & Dist. TTL
 Ashford TT Centre
 Carlisle & Dist. TTL
 Darlington & Dist. TTL
 East Kent Youth League
 Edison Youth TT Centre
 E.S.T.T.A. (Patrons)
 Gloucester TTA
 Kent County TTA
 London Civil Service TTL
 Littlehampton TT Camps
 Luton Vauxhall TT Club
 March & Dist. TTL
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 Oldham & Dist. TTL

Preston TTL
 Penwortham/GRYF TTC
 St. Neots & Dist. TTL
 Tarmac Wolverhampton TTC
 Waltham Forest TTL
 Warrington & Dist. TTL
 Williams Stones TTC

Obviously we are equally indebted to the individual members and we would also like to thank the people who are selling the raffle tickets for the Cornilleau table to be drawn at the English Junior Open. John Jaques have also very kindly donated a table which we will use to raise money after the Open.

As we have now raised over £1,000 it is possible to start planning a provisional programme. We have written to the English Championships Committee for permission to enter players (possibly 2 teams) in the English Junior Open. And, following the Open,

we have invited the Swedish Academy, who will be playing in the Championships, to stay over for a 5-day training camp.

During the Camp it is intended to play a match in the Portsmouth area thereby creating the international match atmosphere. Next year, if we can raise sufficient money, it is intended to enter the Scandinavian Junior Open and then stay on in Sweden for a reciprocal arrangement with the Academy.

If any members have any suggestions or nominations of players they feel would benefit from the foregoing arrangements, please send them to the Foundation at The Barn, Common Bank, Dolphinholme, Nr. Lancaster, LA2 5AN. Likewise, if any individual would like to join the foundation, and thereby help English Junior table tennis please send £12 (payable to Jill Hammersley-Parker Table Tennis Foundation) to the same address.

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LEICESTERSHIRE 'CLOSED

By Phil Reid

The Leicestershire Closed, staged at the Granby Halls, were remarkable for the number of seeds who got through, being almost invariably successful. Chris Rogers was a triple winner, taking the men's singles, men's doubles and mixed but he had by no means an easy path. In the singles he dropped the first game against David Gannon, No. 2 seed and had to fight hard to win the second although having done so he won the third easily. Rogers, partnered by Martin Pickles was even more extended against Gannon and Phil Smith in the men's doubles, winning a nail-biting -18, 18, 21. With his sister, Karen Smith, also a triple winner, Chris comfortably took the mixed, ultimately beating Grahame Hall and Julie Revill in the final 9, 10 but such was the mastery of the winners, this was the

highest number of points registered against them.

Karen easily beat Yvonne Hall in the final but the latter had distinguished herself by beating Julie Revill in the semis. Karen took her third title when, with Julie, she took the doubles with ease. Richard Grimley, the promising Loughborough boy, beat Andrew Clark in an interesting cadets' final whilst there was a minor shock in the intermediate singles which left-hander Simon Griew took from No. 1 seed Pickles. The holder of the popular hard bat singles, Chris Rogers met his match in the final where hard-working Maurice Newman proved triumphant. In the veterans' singles John Iliffe proved a convincing winner, hitting through Colin Truman, much to the displeasure of Mike Jackson, who had travelled all the way from Cambridge in search of expedites. The junior events were a triumph for Enderby's David Grundy who beat David Aldwinckle in a thrilling final. Earlier the peroxidised head of Kevin Woodhead was prominent, tak-

ing Aldwinckle to 19 in the third and partnering Grundy to win the doubles. All-in-all an excellently-organised tournament, thanks to Pat Pickles, Sheila Aldwinckle and organiser Ian McKelvey who worked hard all day. Sponsored by Exclusive Kitchens, the T-shirts, donated by sponsor Ernie McLeish were a prominent feature of a happy tournament.

Results:

M.S: S-F's: C. Rogers bt M. Pickles 15, 9; D. Gannon bt G. Hall 20,13.
Final: ROGERS bt Gannon -21, 19, 11.
W.S: S-F's: K. Smith bt J. Heath 16, 11; Miss Y. Hall bt J. Revill 22,11.
Final: SMITH bt Hall 9, 14.
V.S: S-F's: J. Iliffe bt R. Pickering 8, 14; C. Truman bt G. Aldwinckle -15, 12, 12.
Final: ILIFFE bt Truman 11, 9.
C.S: S-F's: R. Grimley bt G. Imlay 19,14; A. Clark bt C. Watt 11, 15.
Final: GRIMLEY bt Clark 18, 13.
G.S: S-F's: J. Murray bt L. Grundy 14, 15; T. Clark bt G. Chapman 13, -10, 15.
Final: MURRAY bt Clark 12, 18.
I.S: S-F's: Pickles bt M. Bellot 9,16; S. Griew bt D. Aldwinckle 9, 12.
Final: GRIEW bt Pickles 17, -14, 11.
B.S: S-F's: Aldwinckle bt K. Woodhead -11. 18. 19; D. Grundy bt Bellot 15. 12.
Final: GRUNDY bt Aldwinckle 16, -19, 18.
Hard Bat Singles. Final: M. NEWMAN bt Rogers 9. 17.
M.D. Final: ROGERS/PICKLES bt Gannon/Smith -18. 18,21.
W.O. Final: SMITH/REVILL bt J. & J. Heath 8. 10.
X.D. Final: ROGERS/SMITH bt Hall/Revill 9. 10.
J.D. Final: GRUNDY/WOODHEAD bt Aldwinckle/Clark 15. 11.

NATIONAL INTER-LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS 4TH ROUND AND QUARTER-FINAL DRAWS

Wilmott Cup

Zone 1: Bolton	v	Preston
Zone 2: Stockton	v	Harrrogate
Zone 3: Leicester	v	Hull
Zone 4: Birmingham	v	Norwich
Zone 5: Southend	v	Central London
Zone 6: Willesden or Milton Keynes	v	Reading
Zone 7: Hastings	v	Medway
Zone 8: Poole	v	Salisbury

Quarter-finals

Zone 2	v	Zone 1
Zone 4	v	Zone 3
Zone 6	v	Zone 5
Zone 8	v	Zone 7

J. M. Rose Bowl

Zone 1: Northumberland	v	Sunderland
Zone 2: Sheffield	v	Bradford
Zone 3: Derby	v	Leicester
Zone 4: Luton	v	Wolverhampton
Zone 5: Ilford or Brentwood	v	Harlow
Zone 6: North Middlesex	v	Newbury
Zone 7: Hastings	v	Crawley
Zone 8: Swindon	v	Plymouth

Quarter-finals

Zone 2	v	Zone 1
Zone 4	v	Zone 3
Zone 6	v	Zone 5
Zone 8	v	Zone 7

Carter Cup

Zone 1: Hartlepool or Ormesby	v	Northumberland
Zone 2: Bradford	v	Preston
Zone 3: Hinckley	v	Chesterfield
Zone 4: Wolverhampton	v	Bedford
Zone 5: Ipswich	v	Brentwood
Zone 6: Dagenham	v	North Middlesex
Zone 7: Crawley/Horsham	v	Reading
Zone 8: Bournemouth	v	Plymouth

Quarter-finals

Zone 2	v	Zone 1
Zone 4	v	Zone 3
Zone 5	v	Zone 6
Zone 7	v	Zone 8

Bromfield Trophy

Zone 1: Northumberland	v	Ormesby
Zone 2: Sheffield - BYE		
Zone 3: Chesterfield	v	Derby
Zone 4: Dunstable	v	Wolverhampton

Zone 5: Willesden or North Middlesex	v	Brentwood
Zone 6: Oxford	v	Newbury
Zone 7: Brighton	v	Crawley
Zone 8: Bristol	v	Bridgwater

Quarter-finals

Zone 1	v	Zone 2
Zone 3	v	Zone 4
Zone 5	v	Zone 6
Zone 7	v	Zone 8

COMPLETION DATES

Round 4 - March 11/84
Quarter-finals - April 15/84

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

It was Willesden who ousted the defending Wilmott Cup holders, North Middlesex, in Round 2, and not Wimbledon who, inadvertently, wobbled their name into the February issue. Ed.

YORKSHIRE CADET CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Moor Grange High School, Leeds - Sunday, Feb. 12th, 1984.

By Rea Balmford

O'DRISCOLL DOMINATES

The Yorkshire Cadet Closed Championships, held at the Moor Grange School in Leeds, was dominated on the boys' side by nationally ranked cadet Micky O'Driscoll, who made a clean sweep, collecting both singles titles and sharing the doubles with Dewsbury colleague Nicky Ryder.

The left handed O'Driscoll, ranked at No.4, was top seeded, but his final opponent in the Cadet Boys' Singles came from outside the national list, shock newcomer from Wakefield, Andy Ball, taking out Ryder (16) and Chris Oldfield (8), while Mark Ward (18) also fell by the wayside to the up-

and-coming Neil Simms, who was O'Driscoll's victim in a tight semi-final.

On the girls' side it was No.2 seed Hazel Kavanagh (15) who held the aces at Cadet level, sharing the doubles with top rated Caroline Dada (10) and then proving just too steady for her doubles partner in a straight games singles final.

The remaining title- Under-12 GS-went, as expected, to top seed Debbie Toole, whose ability to close her opponent down is likely to prove a big asset as her career develops.

Simms, who plays in Doncaster, faced O'Driscoll for a second time in the Under-12 Boys' final, having put

paid to the hopes of Oldfield (15, 23), but, once again, the Dewsbury boy proved just too strong.

Results:

Under-14 Events:
Boys Singles:
Micky O'Driscoll (Dewsbury) bt Neil Simms (Doncaster) 22, 18;
Andy Ball (Wakefield) bt Chris Oldfield (Sheffield) 15, 20.
Final: O'DRISCOLL bt Ball 16, 19.
Girls Singles:
Hazel Kavanagh (Hull) bt Debbie Toole (Pontefract) -12, 17, 16;
Caroline Dada (Bradford) bt Janine Harrison (Leeds) 12, 15.
Final: KAVANAGH bt Dada 18, 19.
Boys Doubles:
O'Driscoll/Nicky Ryder (Dewsbury) bt Andrew Jenkins/lee Rogerson (Doncaster) 20, 16;
C. Oldfield/Simms bt Mark Ward/Mark Oldfield (Sheffield) 13, 16.
Final: O'DRISCOLL/RYDER bt Oldfield/Simms 23, 14.
Girls Doubles:
Dada/Kavanagh bt Debbie leyland/Kerry Jackson (Hull) 16, 12;
Harrison/Toole bt Samantha Marling/Sally Marling (Hull) 9, 10;
Final: DADA/KAVANAGH bt Harrison/Toole 12, 7.
UNDER-12 EVENTS:
Boys Singles:
O'Driscoll bt Ryder 18, -18, 17;
Simms bt C. Oldfield 15, 23.
Final: O'DRISCOLL bt Simms 18, 21.
Girls Singles:
Toole bt Helen Caddis (Hull) 10, 12;
Ellen Meddings (Harrrogate) bt Jackson -15, 11, 7.
Final: TOOLE bt Meddings 6, 12.

ESSEX 3-STAR OPEN

TWICE DENUDED

by Ron Fosker

The Martin Essex 3-Star was denuded of all its top players by the clash with the Federal German Open. Then it was denuded of its second best by their own failings.

Of the eight players or pairs seeded to reach the finals in the four main events, only two did so, the No. 2 seeds in the two doubles events.

The men's final was between the No. 4 and 7 seeds, and the women's between the No.5 and 8.

Men's No. 1 seed John Hilton was the first casualty, losing in the first round to Richard Jermyn. No.2 seed Skylet Andrew, on whom local hopes were pinned, lasted to Round 3 before succumbing to an on-form Stuart Palmer.

Neither victor lasted. Jermyn went out to Stephen Moore in the next round and Palmerto Nigel Eckersley in his next round, the quarter-final.

Eckersley was back almost to his bubbling best after a lean spell which has seen him drop from No. 6 to 24 in the rankings in 18 months. He was looking very sharp- and so was his wit - as he came within an ace of reaching the final.

It was Kenny Jackson who denied him that honour, at 22 in the third, and it was Dave Hannah who ended the crowd's hopes of a local victory with a **two-straight** win in the final.

It seems to have taken me a long time to reach the winner, but it was that sort of tournament where no one did quite what was expected of them.

Hannah and Jackson did more than was expected as, by rights, they should have gone out in the semi and quarter-finals respectively. So did Eckersley, who was not even seeded out of 16, and Phil Bradbury, the other semi-finalist, who was seeded six.

Others, of course, did rather less. Apart from Hilton and Andrew, Dave Wells, seeded third, was ousted by Nicky Mason at "deuce" in the third, the No. 5 Don Parker encountered Eckersley in irrepressible form.

The final between Hannah and Jackson was fast and skilful but peppered with mistakes as two players who know each other's styles inside out probed for an opening. Hannah came from behind in both games, including a 3-11 deficit in the second, to win 19, 17.

Fiona Elliot's march up the ranking list will continue after taking away a healthy number of computer points from Harlow. She looked like finding Suzanne Hunt too much of a handful in the final as she trailed all through the first game. But at 16-19 she reeled off five winners and quickly established her authority in the second to win comfortably at 14.

Fiona's hardest work had been called for in the semi-final where she ousted Jackie Bellinger, effectively the No.1 seed after the late withdrawal of sister Lisa, 12, -20, 20. Suzanne came past Mandy Sainsbury in three.

The Nos. 3 and 4 seeds made first round exits. Jill Harris, the No. 3, lost to Jill Powis, and Helen Williams had a good win over Sue Collier.

The men's doubles had a semblance of order about it in that the final was between the Nos. 2 and 4 seeds - except that the No. 4's won.

They were Wells and Ian Kenyon who beat John Souter and Colin Wilson (the whole of the Middlesex men's team on the table at once) 16, -13, 15.

Wells and Kenyon ousted the No.1 seeds Andrew and Mason while the No.3 pairing of Hilton and Phil Bowen went the way of Andy Bellingham and Carl Morgan.

With Alison Gordon and Joy Grundy both in Germany, their normal doubles partners Mandy Sainsbury and Jean Parker got together for the first time and found that their styles knitted so well that they raced to the title without dropping a **game**.

Suzanne Hunt picked up a second losers' medal, with Karen Rogers, and will be kicking herself for some loose backhands in vital stages of both games of the final.

The Class 2 singles attracted its usual big entry and gave the also-rans a chance to shine. Keith Richardson shone more than the rest and secured a final victory 13, 18 over Dave Gannon. It was the last chance for both of them to enter a Class 2 event as they have now moved into the top 50.

A passing thought: Why do so few females enter this event now? When it was first launched the sport received enormous publicity when Jill Hammersley (as she was then) beat all the men. We could do with a bit more publicity, even if it is sexist.

Top veterans Derek Schofield and Pete D'Arcy did not have things their own way for a change. Ralph Gunnion turned the clock back a few years and dug out some form of old to dump them both, D'Arcy in the first round 19, 17 and Schofield in the final 14 in the third.

Results:-

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
P. Bradbury (Bu) bt C. Morgan (Wa) 15. 10;
D. Hannah (Sco) bt J. Souter (Mf) 11. 9;
K. Jackson (IE) bt N. Mason (Sv) 14. -19. 11;
N. Eckersley (Chl) bt S. Parmer (5k) 14. 11.
Semi-finals:
Hannah bt Bradbury 15. -7. 17;
Jackson bt Eckersley 12. -16. 22.
Final:
HANNAH bt Jackson 19, 17.
Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
S. Hunt (UI) bt J. Shaw (V) 18. -16. 21;
M. Sainsbury (18k) bt H. Williams (Mil) 14. -8. 19;
F. Elliot (Stl) bt J. Powi. (Stl) 14. 16;
J. Bellinger (Bd) bt J. Parker (Stl) 9. 19.
Semi-finals:
Hunt bt Sainsbury 14. -16. 11;
Elliot bt Bellinger 12. -20. 20.
Final:
ELLIOT bt Hunt 19. 14.
Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Souter/C. Wilson (Mil) bt A. Bellingham (Stl)/Morgan -16. 12. 14;
I. Kenyon (Kil) O. Wells (Mil) bt S. Andrew (Ei)/Mason -11. 17. 18.
Final:
KENYON/WELLS bt Souter/Wilson 16. -13. 15.
Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Hunt/K. Smith (Le) bt H. Finch/J. Palmer (ea) 13. 11;
Parker/Sainsbury bt M. Reeves (Mi)/Williams 19. 13.
Final:
PARKER/SAINSBURY bt Hunt/Smith 19. 17.
Veteran **Singl**:- **Semi-finals**:
D. Schofield (Chi) bt 8. Adedayo (Mil) 16. 14;
R. Gunnion (Wa) bt S. Banrick (IE) 11. 16.
Final:
GUNNION bt Schofield 15. -19. 14.
Cla** 2 **Singl** .: Semi-tiMls:
K. Richardson (Cal) bt S. Moore (Sx) -14. 17. 19;
D. Gannon (Le) bt P. Namdjou (K) -21. 13. 16.
Final:
RICHARDSON bt Gannon 13. 18.



Mr. Stuart Russell, Director, Martin the Newsagent Pic. presenting David Hannah (Scotland) with his cheque for £300 following his victory in the Mens' Singles.

Photo by Michael Johnson.



Mr. Stuart Russell, Martin the Newsagent Pic. presenting Fiona Elliot (Staffs) with her cheque for £150 as winner of the Women's Singles.

Photo by Michael Johnson.
Ingatestone



COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND-UP

by Murray Corbin

GOOD INDIVIDUAL WINS...

LESTER BERTIE over David Rook ... ADRIAN & STEPHEN MOORE, both thumping David Barr ... Followed by TERESA MOORE beating SUE COLLIER ... PHIL SMITH two-straight against Andy Wellman ... GARY LAMBERT whipping John Payne 8,7 ... ELAIN SHORT punishing Mandy Reeves 10 and 18 ... JULIET HOUGHTON'S -14, 13, 18 victory over Claire Maisey. MARTYN LIVERMORE snatching the third against Richard Beckham RICHARD STEVENSON'S fantastic display of skills in mastering John Taylor in the 'Match Of The Day' when they met in Senior 3D Norfolk/Herts clash, says Referee RAY HOGG ... RICHARD VENNER smashing Terry Haley 5 and 19 ... DAVID HARDING'S over Trevor Bunn ... ALLAN STALLARD creeping home in the third against Henry Buist ... GEOFF ALDWINCKLE also in the third against Wally Allanson ... VALERIE GILLAM defeating Mary 'The Bat' Clegg, 15 and 14 ... COLIN ALLSOPP two-straight against John Garland ... MIKE PEARSON'S over Ernie Brown ... DAVID GRUNDY against Sean Gibson ... JOHN BULT fantastic against Mark Randle ... MARTIN PACKHAM'S victories over Jason Hegarty and Matthew Poulson ... RODNEY THOMAS'S in the third when up against the 'Offensive' Paul Elphick ... ADRIAN BOLTON and TIM SHEPPARD, both in form against Ian Sharp ... SARAH WEBB and KAREN TESTA over Julie Mills ... JANE SUTTON, fantastic in beating Helen Mawbey ... Nice one! DAVID HODSON landing the third against Tony West, but then losing also in the third to DAVID COLE. I like the **look and aggression** of young David... PAUL GOODING - excellent in the third against Karl Ball ... Of course, One could call these 'Near Wins'.

SENIORS

Division 2A:

Cambridgeshire 7 Lancashire 2nd 3: Worcestershire 3 Derbyshire 7: Yorkshire 2nd 3 Warwickshire 2nd 7: Suffolk 8 Staffordshire 2nd 2.

Yorkshire suffered a 3-7 defeat by the visiting WARWICKS Team of KAREN GROVES, JOAN HARDEN, BARRY JOHNSON, LESTER BERTIE and RICHARD TANNER. on Jan. 14 at Bradford. Referee ALEC HEAD wit-

nessed a concentrated effort from his Team of Melanie Seaton, Julie McLean, David Rook, David Indricks and Richard Whiteley, but Warwicks had a little in reserve, in case it was needed.

Top 4: Suffolk: Cambridgeshire: Warwickshire 2nd: Yorkshire 2nd.

Division 2B:

Sussex 6 Berkshire 4: Devonshire 7 Middlesex 2nd 3: Kent 6 Wiltshire 4: Dorset 6 Avon 4.

Leaders KENT, with the combined skills of JULIET HOUGHTON, CAROL SPAIN, JOHN BURLETON, GARETH SPENCER and DAVID 'Diddy' DODD, took on bottom of the table WILTSHIRE - a good composition of Claire Maisey, Janet Parker, Kevin Satchell, Kevin Edwards and Steve McBean, at KINGS PARK YOUTH CENTRE, Eltham, and just managed to beat them 6-4 in a classical exhibition of skills. DOREEN LEVEY, Press Officer of Kent TTA, reports that due to advertising the match on Radio Kent and in the local papers and shops, over 120 spectators were attracted to this spectacle, which was played in a most sporting manner.

The eighth set featuring Dodd and Satchell brought excellent rallies with plenty of long attacking strokes from both players, finishing with the still improving Dodd winning at 20 and 10. JULIET HOUGHTON'S confrontation with Claire Maisey also brought lots of excitement with both ladies giving very impressive performances. Juliet got her spectacles in front in the third to win at 18. The Master of Ceremonies was the popular STAN BASDEN and special thanks must go to him, along with MIKE HANRAHAN and GLYN OWENS, for their hard work leading to the staging of the match. I thank you Doreen, but must point out that I am only writing this report as a compliment to you for the very good work you are doing, because when I received the score-sheet, I noticed that neither the Referee Alan Openshaw nor the Team Captains had met my request for 'christian names' Your detailed report therefore saved the day.

Top 4: Kent: Berkshire: Dorset: Devonshire.

Division 3A:

Leicestershire 2nd 6 Clwyd 4:

Durham 2 Cheshire 8: Cheshire 2nd 3 Nottinghamshire 7. Top 4: Lincolnshire: Northumberland: Cheshire: Clwyd.

Division 3B:

Wiltshire 2nd 6 Dorset 2nd 4: Somerset 2nd 1 Hampshire 9: Berkshire 2nd 8 Isle of Wight 2.

In the Wiltshire/Dorset match, with the score even after the eight, Wiltshire then pulled away to come out 6-4 winners. It was their HELEN WILSON and STEVE DAVIES, who, in the last two sets, defeated Pat Baldwin and the other Steve Davies, respectively. ALAN DUKE was the Referee at Swindon.

Top 4: Hampshire: Berkshire 2nd: Wiltshire 2nd: Somerset.

Division 3C:

Northants 2nd 3 Northants 1st 7: Herefords 4 Beds 6: Glamorgan 7 Oxon 3: Bucks 7 Worcs 2nd 3: Gloucs 9 Hunts 1.

NOT ONE OF THESE SCORE-SHEETS HAD A CHRISTIAN NAME ON IT. DISAPPOINTING!

Division 3D:

Kent 2nd 7 Cambridgeshire 2nd 3: Essex 2nd 8 Suffolk 2nd 2: Norfolk 7 Hertfordshire 3: Sussex 2nd 5 Essex 3rd 5: Surrey 2nd 7 Norfolk 2nd 3:

At FELLOWS CRANLEIGH, Upton Park, ESSEX 2nd entertained Suffolk 2nd by giving them a good whipping. Essex, with LISA HAYDEN, KIM MUDGE, STEVEN WHITE, STEVE DETTMAR AND STEVE DORKING, proved much too strong in skill for the promising SUFFOLK TEAM of Susan Butcher, Kathy Brierley, Julian Hall, Terry Dowsett and Chris Shelter. The Referee was BARRY GRAINGER, again.

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

VETERANS

Premier:

Cheshire 9 Middlesex 0: Kent 4 Essex 5: Nottirhamshire 3 Lincolnshire 6: Leicestershire 5 Berkshire 4.

CHESHIRE were at it again. This time, they nullified and "white washed" a pretty good Middlesex

Team, composing of Mary Symes, Babs Adedayo, Don Smith and Bill Brookham, for whom it must have been a miserable journey back home. Cheshire's DOREEN & DEREK SCHOFIELD, PETER D'ARCY and EDDY GRIFFITHS, go marching on. The Referee was the illustrious ROGER VARDON.

At Gravesend, KENT experienced their first defeat, at the hands of neighbours ESSEX. Five sets finished in the third, and from this, one can assume that Essex had to battle all the way. At 4-4, ALLAN STALLARD pulled out the stops for Essex on Ron Etheridge, and even then, he just beat him 21 and 24. The Referee was N.F. LAVIS.

Another nail-biting finish happened in the Leicestershire/Berkshire struggle for survival and again it was not until the ninth and last set when COLIN TRUMAN stepped out to face and defeat Dave Jones of Berkshire, before LEICESTERSHIRE could be hailed triumphantly. The Referee was MIKE JACKSON.

Top 4: Cheshire: Essex: Kent: Lincolnshire.

PLAYER PARTICIPATION			
Researched by DOUG MOSS			
Details are given below of (1) the number of players who have taken part in the 3 sections of the Championships this season and (2) the number of those who are top ranked players (January 1984 list).			
Section	Total No.	WOMEN In Top 20	In Top 50
Senior	177	12	36
Junior	154	16	31 (top 40)
Veterans	58		
Section	Total No.	MEN In Top 10	In Top 50
Senior	282	14	32
Junior	226	17	45
Veterans	154		
Total No. of Females - 389			
Total No. of Males - 662			
Grand Total of Players - 1,051			

Division 2A:

Bedfordshire 1 Avon 8:
Clwyd 3 Huntingdonshire 6:
Northamptonshire 1 Cheshire 2nd 8:
Oxfordshire 2 Worcestershire 7:

BEDFORDSHIRE, with Audrey Robinson, Peter Cutting, Doug Folds and Colin Gill, just managed to stop full demoralisation by AVON, when in the seventh set, Doug beat Roy Smith 19 and 14. Roy's Teammates were MURIEL HOOKER, MIKE BAKER and TONY BROWN. The Referee was D. AYRES.

Top 4: Cheshire 2nd: Worcestershire: Huntingdonshire: Bedfordshire.
(AVON spells trouble in 5th, especially with 2 matches in hand).

Division 28:

Hampshire 2 Sussex 7:
Berkshire 2nd 3 Dorset 2:
Essex 2nd 4 Hertfordshire 5:
Middlesex 2nd 7 Kent 2nd 2.

BERKSHIRE, still without a win even after playing midtable DORSET, did really put up a good show here but are still destined for the 'drop', it would appear. However, their Margaret Loe, Colin Dyke, Bob Holliday and Bert 20

Foster, I understand, are in good spirits and enjoying themselves. DORSET was made up of JOYCE COOP, CYRIL BUSH, DENNIS JOYCE, and BUNNY ELLIS. Referee ROBIN LOCKWOOD was ably assisted by Umpire DEREK CROMBIE.
Top 4: Sussex: Essex 2nd: Hertfordshire: Middlesex 2nd.

Division 3A:

Cheshire 3rd 5 Buckinghamshire 4:
Clwyd 2nd 2 Wiltshire 7:
Huntingdonshire 2nd 2 Hertfordshire 2nd 7:
Cumbria 5 Wiltshire 4:

In a low scoring match, HUNTINGDONSHIRE'S Shelly Holland, Brian Spittlehouse, Ken Green and Roy Fisher could not compete equally with SYLVIA TYLER, GEOFF BAXTER and TERRY WILSON of HERTFORDSHIRE, and were only able to record two victories in the Men's Doubles and a Singles, when KEN GREEN stopped Terry Wilson by 15 and 11. The match was played at St Neots under the supervision of Referee W. WALKER.

PETER BUXTON of CUMBRIA went to the table to face John Cleveland of Wiltshire and with the score levelled at 4-4, he set about John's downfall to bring in a 5-4 verdict and full points for Cumbria, after, on the whole, a very nearly, evenly contested match, with five sets going to three. For Cumbria there were also CLARICE ROSE, RAY CARR and EDDIE BUXTON, while Gwen Hazell, John Ford and Don Morris, made up a very unfortunate WILTSHIRE side. The match was played at Natland, Kendal, and the Referee was J. TAYLOR.

Top 4: Cheshire 3rd: Buckinghamshire: Hertfordshire 2nd: Clwyd 2nd:

Division 3B:

Hertfordshire 3rd 4 Wiltshire 2nd 5:
Somerset 4 Surrey 5:
Dorset 2nd 4 Hampshire 2nd 5:

Second placed SURREY travelled out to Yeovil to play SOMERSET and had to wait for eight games before winning, because in the sixth, their Vera Beesley played well but could not contain BETTY BONNER, especially in the third. With the resultant 3-3 score, BRIAN SIIVIMONDS and JOHN GARLAND then dispatched Colin Allsopp and Ray Thornton, respectively, to make it 5-3 in favour of Surrey. ERNIE BROWN then polished of Mike Pearson, to claim Somerset's fourth rubber. Surrey No 1 Veteran and Captain FRANK HAMS, who played only in the Mixed, may feel himself lucky to have got away with this 6-4 result. His Team is now worried over the unfortunate turn of fate which awarded Leaders HAMPSHIRE with 2 points and 10 games, because in November, Somerset could not put out a Team against them. That is the way the cookie crumbles sometimes.

This is also a very competitive division, and another 5-4 result, this time in favour of the 'said Leaders HAMPSHIRE against Dorset, confirms this point. RAY YATES informs that Hampshire needed to win this one if they were going to retain leadership of the division. After the seventh set of the match, Dorset at home in Bournemouth, had a 4-3 lead. MAURICE SHAVE then levelled and with points and victory left in the hands of JOHN HARVEY who was about to face Brian Bickell, after two very tension filled games, Brian fell to a pair of 18's. Well done Hants, who, also on this occasion, were represented by the courteous, well spoken, lovely and amiable DIANE WINMILL, and KEN JILES. For DORSET, there were also Mrs. D. Robins and Dave Woodcock. The Referee was HAROLD FELTHAM.

Top 4: Hampshire 2nd: Surrey: Sussex 2nd: Dorset 2nd.

JUNIORS

Division 2A:

Leicestershire 5 Lancashire 5:
Warwickshire 2 Yorkshire 2nd 8:
Cambridgeshire 5 Bedfordshire 5:
Derbyshire/Cheshire - no result?
Top 4: Derbyshire: Warwickshire:
Yorkshire 2nd: Lancashire.

Division 2B:

Middlesex 2nd 7 Gloucestershire 3:
Glamorgan 4 Hertfordshire 6: Sussex 6 Dorset 4.

Bottom Team GLAMORGAN - Jane Sully, Joanne Lee, Kelvin Roberts, Anthony Jones and Brian Fernandez, suffered another defeat, this time by ANITA JERMYN, TRACEY BAINES, JIMMY WALSH, MIKE LAVENE and PETER HARRIS of HERTFORDSHIRE. Glamorgan seemed to have played much more successfully after they were 1-5 down, because they did not lose their sixth game until the very end of the match, which was contested at Abercynon Social Club where the Referee was E. J. THOMAS.

DORSET travelled to Goring TTC, Worthing, and took on a very promising SUSSEX Team of SALLY WESTON, LYNNE TRUSSELL, PAUL 'Hitman' ELPHICK, SIMON KEMPTON and the fast up and coming MARTIN PACKHAM, who has had much help from the one and only MALCOLM FRANCIS. Dorset, with Samantha Scott-Pawson, Suzanne Hegarty, Rodney Thomas, Jason Hegarty and Mathew Poulson, were struggling early and as a result, were 2-4 down after the sixth. However, they added another two sets to their tally, when RODNEY THOMAS and SAMANTHA SCOTT-PAWSON defeated Paul Elphick and Sally Weston, respectively. Sussex's successes came from PACKHAM'S victories over Poulson and Hegarty: ELPHICK'S against Hegarty; KEMPTON over Poulson;

LYNNE TRUSSELL'S defeat of Suzanne Hegarty, and also in the Boys Doubles, The Referee was the conscientious H. J. WEBB.

Top 4: Essex: Hertfordshire: Dorset: Sussex.

Division 3A:

Nottinghamshire 8 Cumbria 2:
Cheshire 2nd 8 Cleveland 2nd 2:

Lincolnshire 2nd/Northumberland ???

Two struggling Teams - Notts and Cumbria met at the SYCAMORE SOCIAL CLUB, Notts, and the home Team of KAY MAYALL, BEVERLEY AMATT, TIM SHEPPARD, ADRIAN BOLTON and ROBERT FEARN, convincingly thwarted most of the advances of the visitors with the exception of two sets. CUMBRIA'S Karen Backhouse, Jane Usher, Ian Sharp, John Backhouse and Chris Brockbank, I am sure, will have better days in the future. Their two successes, in this instance, came in the Girls' Doubles and in a Singles, when JUNE USHER outplayed Beverley Amatt 11 and 17. The Referee was R. GREEN.

Top 4: Northumberland: Lincolnshire: Cheshire 2nd: Cleveland 2nd:

Division 3B:

Berkshire 2nd 7 Oxfordshire 3:
Herefordshire 1 Cambridgeshire 2nd 9:

Worcestershire 3 Northamptonshire 7:

Staffordshire 2nd 7 Warwickshire 2nd 3.

BERKSHIRE'S JULIE BRION, YVONNE UNDERWOOD, CLAIRE PLUMRIDGE, STUART CHAMPION, DARREN JONES and ROGER MARTIN, playing at home in WOODLAND TTC, READING, faced third from bottom OXFORDSHIRE, who lost this one 3-7. They recorded victories in the Girls' Doubles and in two singles when NELL BRETT and GILLIAN ASTON beat Yvonne Underwood and Julie Brion, respectively. Congratulations to the Oxon Girls for doing their bit so well. The boys - Andrew Packford, Tommy Filmer and Dominic O'Flynn found the going too rough. The Referee was the illustrious BRIAN LATHAM.

In the local Staffs/Warwicks clash., Referee DEREK SHERRATT reports that at 3-3 and with four of those six sets finishing in the third, WARWICKSHIRE were giving Championship contenders STAFFORDSHIRE quite a fright. However, in the last four sets, HELEN LOWER, KEVIN LAWRENCE, ANGELA SANDERS and NEIL HARRIS did not drop a game and romped home against Lisa Spilsbury, Nick Felton, Tracey Green and Dave. Thomas, respectively, of Staffs, while the other two participants VERANDRA CHAUHAN (Warwick), who won one of his singles, and Matthew Harvey (Staffs), looked on in amazement. Derek Sherratt gives full marks to all of the players for their fierce but always sporting contribution to this local Derby. Thank You! Derek!
Top 4: Northants: Staffordshire 2nd: Cambridgeshire 2nd: Worcestershire.

Division 3C

Avon 7 Hampshire 3:

Cornwall 2nd 10 Avon 2nd 0 (W/O):

Avon 7 Wiltshire 2nd 3:

Somerset 6 Wiltshire 2nd 4:

Leaders AVON, whose First Team of KAREN TESTA, JAYNE KIMBER. PAUL LEWIS, JAMES FLETCHER and ROBERT CHANDLER. remain unbeaten after spanking third from bottom HAMPSHIRE, at Frome, under the supervision of Referee PAT ARCHDALE, a very well-admired and elegant lady. Hampshire, with Sarah Hammond, Caroline Jenvey, Andrew Davies, Christos Hannides and Alan Charles, after their victory in the Girls' Doubles, had to wait until the last two sets for the other two wins when SARAH HAMMOND overcame Karen Testa 18, 21 and CHRISTOS HANNIDES came through against Robert Chandler 18 and 19.

WILTSHIRE 2nd, just above bottom of the table Avon 2nd, fell to fourth placed SOMERSET, but this did not happen through the lack of effort on the part of either Julie Mills, Karen Richards, Howard Phillips, Martin Edwards or Richard Morgan. Somerset, on the day, were forced to struggle all the way and it was not until the ninth game was finished and SARAH WEBB had defeated Julie Mills, that victory



Young and promising MARTIN PACKHAM of SUSSEX.

for the cider-landers was assured. There was no **feed-back** from Referee WENDY PRYCE, but this seemed to have been a nice little match between two promising Teams. The match was fought at Taunton.

Top 4: Avon 1st: Wiltshire 1st: Cornwall: Somerset.

Division 3D

Essex 2nd 7 Surrey 2nd 3:

Suffolk 5 Kent 2nd 5:

Norfolk 2nd 1 Norfolk 1st 9:

Leaders ESSEX 2nd crushed the-untill-then contenders SURREY 2nd 7-3 and could therefore be hailed as winners of this division, unless madness reign in the next couple of matches. Unfortunately for Surrey, Captain PETER CORNER could not field his strongest side, due to the illness of Neil Davis and the unavailability of Nicola Taylor. On the other hand, with his Julian Dudman losing his two sets, replacements RICHARD 'The Loop' JONES and JANE 'The Face' SUTTON played well and drew much praise from Peter.

The Referee was the industrious BARRY GRAINGER. yet again. O.K. Barry? For Essex there were GILLIAN PATTEN, HELEN MAWBEY, TONY 'Temper Temper' WEST, BERNIE LAZARUS and DAVID COLE, while Karen Wilde and David Hodson made up the Surrey contingent.

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

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COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

Mary Williams reports from.....

BEDFORDSHIRE JUNIOR CLOSED

Lee Holmes, playing to his potential, beat No. 1 seed Neil Stanley in the semi-finals of the Bedfordshire County Junior Tournament held at Bedford Trucks on Jan. 22, but lost to David Murgatroyd in the final.

Results:-

C.B.S: G. Black bt M. Sharpe 10, 18.
B.S: D. Murgatroyd bt L. Holmes -15, 17, 18.
C.G.S: L. Robins bt C. Buckley, 9, 7.
G.S: Robins bt J. Mitchell 14, 15.
C.B.D: Black/N. Ali bt K. Mitchell/S. West 7, 14.
B.D: Holmes/N. Stanley bt P. Edwards/Murgatroyd -13,18,21.
C.G.D: J. Strode/So Dawson bt A. Clarke/M. Harmer 8,6.
G.D: Robins/N. Stimpson bt R. Forrester/Mitchell -16, 15, 16.
X.D: Edwards/Robins bt Murgatroyd/Stimpson 15, 16.

Away to Cams at Wisbech, Lisa Robins and Joyce Mitchell ably assisted Peter Edwards, David Murgatroyd and Chris Wright to a 5-5 draw in the Junior County match. The girls won both their doubles and singles. Edwards won the only singles for the boys and partnered by Murgatroyd won the doubles.

The seniors visited Herefordshire and although playing one short won the match 6-4. David Sharpe, Andy Conquest, Julie Dimmock and Dawn Campbell comprised the Beds team competing against M. Owen, M. Owens, A. Castle, Mrs. L. Morse and Mrs. S. Segust. Sharpe won both his singles whilst Conquest lost his. The boys took the doubles 11 and 19 against M. Owen and M. Owens. The Beds girls came up trumps, each winning their singles and beating Mrs. L. Morse and Mrs. S. Segust 12 and 9 in the doubles.

The two conceded sets made the final score 6-4 for Bedfordshire.

Gerald Hammond, Bedfordshire's Secretary and International Umpire was invited to attend the Norwich Union English Open at Brighton and had the honour of umpiring the mixed doubles final.

Dunstable & AHW entertained Jaques Generation (Fareham) in a National League match on Jan. 8.

The Dunstable team were David Sharpe, Ian Doughty, Les Wooding and David Cartwright. Jaques Generation playing without their No.1 had Graham Toole, Ramish Bhalla, Chris Shetler and Martin Gilbert.

Dunstable & AHW started well with Sharpe beating Bhalla -15, 15 and 16, and Doughty winning against Toole 20, -15 and 15. However the next two sets were won by Gilbert and Shetler bringing the teams level. Sharpe, playing No. 1 for Dunstable & AHW, took the next set against Toole 15, 10. But the last three sets went to Jaques with Doughty, Wooding and Cartwright losing respectively to Shetler, Bhalla and Gilbert. The final result a win for Jaques Generation 5-3. This was the same result as when 22

Jaques entertained Dunstable & AHW at home, Dunstable then losing out after leading 3-1.

Cippenham (Slough) were the next visitors to Dunstable on Jan. 29. Ray Tilling, Phil Bevan, Frank Earis and Alec Watson played the home team of Sharpe, Lisa Bellinger, Doughty and Jackie Bellinger.

Sharpe was unlucky to lose his first set which had the audience on the edge of their seats. Bevan took a thrilling third game to win 11, -19 and 20.

Doughty 15-5 up in the first against Watson finally took it 23-21, but lost the next two -7, -18.

The Bellinger sisters had the men on their toes as I'm sure they would agree, Lisa winning both her singles the first against Tilling 18, -17, 18 and, in a cracking set against Earis -19, 18, 14. Jackie also in a good game against Earis winning -15, 18, 14. The score 2-2 at the break.

It was left to Jackie to decide the match in the last set against Watson but although she fought bravely and had poor Alec on the run throughout she lost -20, -17. The final score Dunstable & AHW 4 Cippenham 4.

The next match was away to Tulse Hill Rams on Feb. 5. Sharpe, Wooding, Jackie Bellinger and Stuart Lines (playing in his first National league match) started off well winning the first two sets. Jackie dropped a set and newcomer Lines lost both his. Sharpe and Wooding won both theirs making the score for Dunstable & AHW 5-3.

Jackie and Lisa Bellinger have both been to Norway as guests of the Norwegian ITA together with Pia Elliason (Sweden) to participate in a women's tournament.

Luton women beat Cambridge 5-4 in a home Rose Bowl match at Old Boys club.

Scores (Luton names first) were:

J. Dimmock lost to J. Palmer 15, -21, -19.
D. Campbell bt H. Gipp 20, 16.
A. Robinson bt H. Finch 16, 14.
Campbell lost to Palmer -8, -9.
Dimmock bt Finch 11, -22, 20.
Robinson bt Gipp 21, 11.
Campbell lost to Finch -9, -14.
Robinson lost to Palmer -12, -12.
Dimmock bt Gipp 10, 5.

Luton now meet either Wolverhampton or Birmingham in the Zone final.

In the Carter Cup Bedford beat Milton Keynes 5-1. This now puts them in the Zone final.

The Luton League Senior and Divs. 2, 3 and 4 tournaments were held at Bedford Trucks on Feb. 5 with the following results:-

Div. 2, 3, 4 Final:
M. Jarrett bt J. Seckerson.
Div. 2, 3, 4 Doubles:
G. Shaw/Mary Jarrett bt T. Harris/Seckerson.
W.D: J. Dimmock/D. Campbell bt L. Robins/Jarrett.
M.D: D. Cartwright/K. Thompson bt D. Foster/M. Lyons.
X.D: Thompson/Robins bt B. Bowron/Dimmock.

Played up to the final were the Men's singles, Women's singles and Veterans' singles. These finals will be played on 'Finals Night' (date to be decided) -

M.S: D. Cartwright v K. Thompson
W.S: Julie Dimmock v Lisa Robins
V.S: J. Wooliscroft v B. Bowron

Brian Halliday reports from.....

BERKSHIRE

VOTE OF CONFIDENCE

Reading is to have its own Centre. The league sub-committee responsible for the whole project received an overwhelming vote of confidence to go ahead and rent premises for a 13 month period. There are many details to be finalised before the Centre is operational but the decision to proceed has been made.

The premises are a Gymnasium on the Kennylands School site at Sonning Common just 4 miles north of Reading. It is understood that the Centre will be open to all, whether beginners or advanced players, and full details together with the opening day will be announced soon.

The Ibis Club announce the opening of their new Sports Hall. Although predominantly a venue for Badminton, Table Tennis will have use of the hall twice a week. The grand opening is on Thursday, April 5 when Dave Barr and Jimmy Stokes are scheduled to play an exhibition match.

The positive news from Reading of the game's expansion has been dampened by reports coming in that the Bracknell scheme has folded. The League had purchased a hut but storage problems have forced the league to abandon its initiative.

Local news again centres round the Omega Club and their star players. Andy and Matt Syed won their respective Junior and Cadet Select titles at the Cotswold. Sue Collier took the Girls' title to complete another Berkshire-dominated event. Alison Gordon has gained more international honours and with Dave Barr on the crest of a wave at present the club have much to be proud of. The England No.1 Karen Witt has been having back problems recently and the County wish her well for a speedy recovery and return to the international scene.

There was a shock for the Berkshire 1st team when a full-strength squad had their promotion hopes dented by Sussex. The match against Kent now assumes major significance and the title itself could rest on the result.

The 2nd team scored a useful win over the Isle of Wight. The presence of Carl Prean seemed to inspire the Berkshire team and although Carl outclassed the opposition in his sets he seemed to enjoy the experience. Carl was also in Reading in the preceding week when he played in a National League match against Gillette-Reading. Another two wins here but Phil Bradbury gave him a splendid match which was thoroughly enjoyed by a large and appreciative crowd.

The county juniors have had some mixed results due mainly to the Selectors trying out new blood. There have been several promising performances, particularly from Darren Jones, Roger Martin and Yvonne Underwood. Several other players

who are making their mark at local league level are Clare Plumridge, Rachel Watts, Tracey Hooker, Lisa Coulson and the talented Mike Adams from Bracknell.

Congratulations to the hard-hitting Keith Hodder on winning the Cadet event at Exeter and also to Graham Kemp who has had many excellent wins over Berkshire senior players this season.

Maidenhead held their closed championships recently. This event is gaining an enviable reputation both for the quality of its entry and its expert presentation which has set the standard for closed tournaments. The organisers did a brilliant job with the scheduling of numerous events and it was obvious that both players and spectators appreciated all the work done on their behalf.

Steve Everard, who is developing into a very good third ball attacker, took his first Maidenhead Men's Singles title at the expense of Steve Brindle. Everard had put paid to favourite Alec Watson's, 'chance in the semi-final, while Dave Jones found the Brindle loop too penetrating in the other semi. Mary Stafford took her score of singles titles to ten and there were excellent performances from Bob Davis and Roger Martin who won five events between them.

The Bracknell championships were held in the Army's palatial sports hall at Arborfield. The men's singles was won by your notewriter for the first time - after many years of honest endeavour. Barry Piercey was the runner-up. Taryn Napier-Vallis won the ladies' singles and Graham Kemp again impressed with two titles, the second gained with Keith Hodder in the men's doubles - the youngest winners ever. The all-action ex-Bracknell Sportsman of the Year Eddie Cripps walked off with the veterans' title for the fifth time. Alan and Sylvia Bruton took the mixed - a popular win for a couple who have done so much to further the sport in Berkshire over many years.

Les Wooding reports

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE EXCITING VICTORY

There can be only one headline for this column this month. That must reflect the exciting victory of our own Philip Bradbury over the European No. 4 Jacques Secretin in France in the English Open. Together with my colleague Sylvia Coombs from Milton Keynes I was privileged to be able to watch this match which must surely rank as the best performance ever a Buckinghamshire man. Never mind Secretin's after match comments about the plastic ball nor the fact that Philip succumbed quietly in the next match; this was the arrival of our best-ever home grown male player. Philip has

always given credence to his own County and there is little doubt that everyone in Buckinghamshire will wish the 19-year-old every good wish in his attempt to make the full England side.

Before the English 'Open' Philip had helped us to yet another victory. This time the defeated team were Worcestershire. Both Karl Bushell and I were also unbeaten but the two ladies Jacquie (note the new sophisticated spelling) Farwell and Linda Phelps struggled against Sandra Roden and Linda Reid before Linda recorded the 'only ladies' victory.

Buckinghamshire 7 Worcestershire 3
K. Bushell bt Ken Walter 13. -19. 15;
L. Wooding bt Nick Mytton 12. 8;
P. Bradbury bt Steve Horton 4. 14;
L. Phelps/J. Farwell lost to S. Roden/L. Reid -8. -12;
Bushell/Bradbury lost to Horton/Walton 16. -16. -19;
Bushell bt Mytton 17. 12;
Farwell lost to Roden -13. -12;
Bradbury bt Walton 12. 18;
Phelps bt Reid 11. 19;
Wooding bt Horton 18. 7.

Cheshire Veterans 5 Buckinghamshire Veterans 4
The first defeat of the season for Buckinghamshire. Len Pratt's performance was disappointing and may lead to Brian Savage making his debut.

Alec Watson bt Terry Taylor 17. 7;
L. Pratt lost to Derek Hendry -17. 15. -12;
Frank Earis lost to Terry Donlon 13. 17;
Pratt/Sylvia Coombs lost to Taylor/Eileen Edwards -16. -9;
Watson/Earis bt Hendry/Donlon 13. 15;
Coombs bt Edwards 19. 14;
Pratt lost to Taylor 9. 8;
Watson lost to Donlon -18. -19;
Earis bt Hendry 19. -19. 14.

CARTER CUP

The last Buckinghamshire side, Milton Keynes, were kicked unceremoniously out of this year's competition by Bedford, a side they overcame last season. Anthony Gorman recorded the home side's only victory beating Neil Stanley. Andrew Trott and Gavin Black both proved too strong adding the scalps of Richard Lines and Richard Green to that of Anthony to record a record 8-1 victory.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cippenham 4 Tulse Hill Rams 4
Dunstable & AHW 4 Cippenham 4
Tulse Hill Rams 3 Dunstable & AHW 5

Excellent performances from both Cippenham and Dunstable & AHW saw the Buckinghamshire Club sides improve their bottom half positions, in the division.

The South Bucks side started the ball rolling with a tremendous draw at home to title favourites Tulse Hill Rams. Ray Tilling 'sheared' the opposition with excellent victories over Des Charlery and John Dennison. Those redoubtable defenders Alec Watson and Frank Earis forced the draw at the expense of Junior Facey.

The next episode staged the local derby between the Buckinghamshire sides. As on their previous encounter the match resulted in all honours even. Lisa Bellinger stopped Ray Tilling's excellent run, recording her first maximum of the season with the win over Phil Bevan. Watson "the old fox" was again too experienced for youngsters Ian Doughty and Jackie Bellinger outplaying and out-thinking both of them. David Sharpe was the only home side player to fail to record a victory, a feat unhappily copied by Earis for Cippenham.

In true story book fashion the best result was yet to come. With a team devoid of Lisa Bellinger (on European Top 12 duty) and Doughty (taking a race horse to Newmarket) it was Sharpe, Wooding, Jackie Bellinger and Stuart Lines who galloped to the season's major upset at the expense of the Rams. After easily winning the 'first game against me, Charlery lost all his confidence and was only a shade of his former self. After this unexpected first match result the usually exuberant Tulse Hill side adopted a melancholic attitude, a situation fully exploited by the visitors. Sharpe was never in serious trouble against Charlery nor Dennison and Facey was well beaten by both Jackie Bellinger and myself. Making his debut Lines suffered from the usual first match nerves and never really did himself credit.

NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

With the AHW TTC conceding their match against March, Cippenham became the last surviving Buckinghamshire side in this season's competition.

A brilliant maximum three wins from earned them a well-deserved and most unexpected victory over R.C.T. 'A', the Aldershot League champions. With their National League players Tilling and Bevan ineligible for this competition Cippenham suffered a further blow when Dave Poutney became unavailable and had to be replaced at a few hours' notice by Peter Swinn, who added further to the 'South Buckinghamshire side's discomfort when it was discovered that his bat did not conform to the new regulations.

Cippenham got off to a great start when Watson defeated David Phelps but the Aldershot side soon moved in front with wins for Ramish Bhalla over Peter and Andy Thomas over Earis.

If the match had a turning point it came in the fourth set when Watson recorded a superb two straight win over Ramish, one of the stars of Jaques Generation's success this year in the Halex National League. Frank followed up with a comfortable win over David but two more wins for R.C.T. by Thomas over Peter and Bhalla over Frank left the home side 4-3 up.

Most of the excitement was still to come as Watson lost the first game 16-21 to Thomas and then won the second 21-12 only to face a deficit of 14-20 in the decider. The 'old fox' somehow reeled off six points in a row and then took the game 23-21 amid great jubilation from the home bench.

Left with the responsibility of playing the last set Swinn changed an 8-10 deficit in the final game to record a 21-17 victory to give Cippenham a 5-4 well deserved victory.

Watson bt Phelps 7. 12;
Swinn lost to Bhalla -15. -18;
Earis lost to Thomas -18. -15;
Watson bt Bhalla 13. 18;
Earis bt Phelps 19. 8;
Swinn lost to Thomas -14. -14;
Earis lost to Bhalla -18. -14;
Watson bt Thomas -16. 12. 21;
Swinn bt Phelps -19. 11. 17.

COUNTY TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS PREMIER DIVISION CHALLENGE CUP

Calor (Slough) 4 AHW Comets
(Milton Keynes) 5.

This match had to be replayed due to the early closure of the home side's premises. On the previous occasion the Milton Keynes side were leading 4-2 a match which included a victory by Bob Harman over Calor's Ian Kenyon. On the second occasion he lost easily to Ian but reversed the first match result against Mandy Reeves. I beat both Ian and Mandy as well as narrowly overcoming Steve Brindle to steal the match.

Cippenham 1 (Slough) 5 AHW
Comets (Milton Keynes) 3

Frank Earis was the match winner on this day beating Colin Luscombe and taking away my 1 game and 20-17 lead against him. Alec Watson proved too good for both Colin and Bob Harman and Dave Poutney, despite certain health problems throughout the match, recovered sufficiently to beat Colin.

KNOCK-OUT CUP

Cippenham Rogues (Slough) 9 County
Arms Choppers (Milton Keynes) 0

The Rogues staked their claim as favourites for the competition with this convincing win over the Choppers. Clive Hawley gave notice of his potential losing narrowly to Ken Phillips and taking Rodney Potts to three games but he, Paul Sargent and Sylvia Coombs were outclassed by Malcolm Hicks.

Geoff Waters reports from.....

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

FIFTH SUCCESS FOR KEITH

Keith Richardson won the men's singles title for the fifth time at the John Jaques Cambridgeshire Closed played at the new Soham Sports Hall.

He ended a run of three consecutive wins by MBS St. Neots clubmate Mick Harper, whom he beat in the final. In the semi-finals, Richardson had beaten Geoff Davies and Harper beat Andy Withers, so all four top seeds came through unscathed. The final, however, was a very disappointing affair with Keith winning easily 11, 8.

Joanne Palmer retained her women's singles, which she won for the first time last season by defeating Mandy Judd. Unfortunately, Mandy was unable to compete this year because of a mystery virus disease, which has kept her out of the game for about two months.

She did however turn up at the championships and along with her sister Cathy Richardson did sterling work as stewards.

Mandy's usual place in the final was occupied by March's Alison Edge, who took full advantage of Mandy's absence to reach the final for the first time. She had earlier beaten the No. 2 seed Hilary Finch in the semis.

24

Peter Holliday, from March, won the boys' singles for the first time in his last season as a junior. He beat Wesley's Neil Burgess, who had beaten Tim Ashman, last season's winner in the semi-final.

Helen Gipp, from Aldreth, in only her second championship, won the Girls' singles, beating Wisbech's Helen Smith, the top seed.

The Cadet events were dominated by Wisbech, who boasted all four finalists. Twelve-year-old Johnny Collins won the boys' against Chris Dexter, who won the Pye Telecomm Merit Award as the most promising newcomer.

louise Ward, who won the Girls' last season, missed out this time, losing in the final to Ruth Hutchinson.

John Ashman completed a hat-trick of wins in the veterans' with a straight games win over Pye's Mervyn Grant.

Brian Richardson, who has competed in the championships for about 12 years without being a winner, at last received some reward for his enthusiasm and endeavour by winning in two doubles events.

In the men's partnering Julian Wheel, they knocked out Harper and Keith Richardson, winners of this event for the last seven seasons, in the semi-final, and then disposed of Davies and Withers in the final.

His other win came in the mixed when with Joanne Palmer, they beat Martyn Livermore, in his first final, and Hilary Finch.

In the women's doubles, Hilary and Alison Edge had a narrow victory over Joanne Palmer and Yvonne Driver.

The Restricted singles was a win for Cambridge University's Paul Dilger, who beat March junior Paul Oldroyd in the final.

The fact that two committee men reached the final of the Handicap Singles should have aroused some sarcastic comments, but surprisingly it didn't!

Chairman Brian Judd was a popular winner beating County Coach Geoff Ward 41-38, 41-39. Brian started on 25, while Geoff was on 18. It looked like good handicapping to me in view of the closeness of the result.

Apart from early problems with the lights which delayed the start for about 20 minutes, the tournament went well at the new venue and a repeat next season looks likely.

Results:-

M.S: Semi-finals:
K. Richardson bt G. Davies 15. 16.
M. Harper bt A. Withers 14. 21.
Final: Richardson bt Harper 11. 8.
W.S: J. Palmer bt A. Edge 14. 15.
B.S: P. Holliday bt N. Burgess 18. 11.
C.B.S: J. Collins bt C. Dexter 13. -17. 16.
G.S: H. Gipp bt H. Smith 13. 15.
Pye Telecomm C.G.S:
R. Hutchinson bt L. Ward 17. 15.
V.S: J. Ashman bt M. Grant 17. 10.
Pye Telecomm M.D:
B. Richardson/J. Wheel bt Davies/Withers 17. 15.
Pye Telecomm W.D:
H. Finch/Edge bt Palmer/Y. Driver 16. -11. 21.
X.D: B. Richardson/Palmer bt M. Livermore/Finch -11. 19. 11.
Restricted Singles:
P. Dilger bt P. Oldroyd 16. 13.
Handicap Singles:
B. Judd (25) bt G. Ward (18) 41-38. 41-39.

Hassy Soham are now in the happy position of being able to lose a match

and still retain the Halex National league Championship.

Two 7-1 wins over Unity Bradford sets them up for the title in view of Ellenborough and Ormesby dropping a point to Gillette Reading and Jaques Fareham respectively.

In the away match against Unity Nick Mason lost to Steve Sharpe, while in the home match Dave Hannah went down to Skylet Andrew.

A surprise win for Haverhill over Cambridge in the Newmarket Construction league, gives Ely a chance of retaining the title they won last season. Cambridge travelled to Haverhill without their captain Livermore and were beaten 6-3. Withers (3), Kevin Kent (2) and Dave Hinks (1) were Haverhill's winners.

The top positions now are Cambridge 21 points, Haverhill 17, Ely 16, with Ely having a match in hand of both teams above them.

Jeremy Williams reports from.....

CORNWALL SCHOOLS ACTIVITY

Much of the activity in Cornwall this month focuses on schools table tennis, in particular the Cornish Schools Individual Championships held at launceston on Sunday, Feb. 12.

Possibly a record entry, probably the highest ever standard and certainly the best-ever tournament all contributed to the fine atmosphere. High-lights of the day- the Boys' U-16 final where Mark James came from 5-17 down in the third to defeat Graham Reed, that being the County NO.1's first win over Reed in four outings and he then capped a good day by winning the U-19 event in convincing style over a then demoralised Reed. Equally nailbiting was the Girls' U-19 final with Alison Clemens coming from the brink of defeat to beat Esme Stevenson in another "deuce" in the third. Also very encouraging was the refreshing fluency of the U-11 -year-aids which promises much for the future of Cornish table tennis.

Cornwall Schools Champion- ships finals.

Boys U-19: Mark James bt Graham Reed 6. 14;
Boys U-16: James bt Reed -14. 11. 22;
Boys U-13: Du Ly bt Mark Bawden 14. 7;
Boys U-11: Neil Bevan bt Mark Bawden 15, 8;
Girls U-19: Alison Clemens bt Esme Stevenson -17. 17. 21;
Girls U-16: Stevenson bt Karen Broczek 14. -19. 21;
Girls U-13: Maria Broczek bt Tracy Logg 19. 8;
Girls U-11: Rachael Plummer bt Lisa Harvey 14. -16. 13.

NATIONAL TEAM KNOCK-OUT

St. Ives A 4, BCI Bridgwater A 5

St. Ives faced a tough task at home to Bridgwater in the first round of the National K.O. and the 1980 quarter-finalists went down 4-5. John Bassett's victories over Somerset players Crabtree, Iee and Wilson gave the Cornishmen hope especially when Nigel Cock defeated Wilson but it was not to be and the West Cornwall Champions are out at the first hurdle.

CORNWALL SENIOR KNOCK-OUT

Dereham (Truro), Falmouth Docks A, St. Austell A and Redruth A are all through to the County Senior K.O. semi-final, but there is no place for St. Ives A; controversially eliminated by Redruth whose team of Robert Prendergast, Steve Lobb and Melvin Starkie produced an excellent performance to spoil St. Ives' five year unbeaten record in this competition.

CORNISH INTER-TOWN LEAGUE

The unfortunate accident sustained by St. Austell No. 1 Barry Cornelius means that he will be out of action for the time being, and his team were certainly affected by his absence when they were held 4-4 at home to Camborne in the Cornish Inter-Town League. St. Ives made amends for recent disappointments and by virtue of a hard fought 5-3 win at Launceston now move into second place. Redruth kept up the pressure with a superb 8-0 win over Truro and leaders Falmouth now look certain finalists after beating Helston by the same margin.

Results:-

Launceston 3 St. Ives 5;
St. Austell 4 Camborne 4;
Redruth 8 Truro 0;
Helston 0 Falmouth 8;

LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Falmouth	5	4	1	0	31	9	9
St. Ives	5	4	0	1	27	13	8
St. Austell	5	3	2	0	24	16	8
Redruth	5	3	0	2	25	15	6
Camborne	4	1	1	2	11	21	3
Launceston	5	1	0	4	18	22	2
Truro	4	1	0	3	13	19	2
Helston	5	0	0	5	3	37	0

Much rests on the big crunch match on Wednesday, March 7 when St. Austell entertain St. Ives, where victory for St. Austell is essential if they are to reach April's final.

John Taylor reports from.....

CUMBRIA

The county side's results have improved lately in that the Veterans' team recorded the first win of the season beating Wiltshire 5-4. Ray Carr (W) was the hero for Cumbria, winning both his singles two-straight and also taking the men's doubles with Peter Buxton (B). Buxton could only win one of his singles but this was in the final set and he clinched victory for Cumbria with a comfortable win over the visitors' No.2. Eddie O'Hara (B) lost both his singles, but extended his opponents to three games. He did however score a good mixed doubles win with Clarice Rose (W).

The Junior side could only manage two sets at Nottingham. The girls once again proved the best half of the side, with Jane Usher (W) winning her singles and also taking the doubles with Karen Backhouse (B). The inclusion of Ian Sharp (M) back at No.1 was to no avail for the boys. Sharp and Chris Brockbank (B) came close in

their doubles but couldn't win a game. John Backhouse (B) on his county debut did however manage to take a game off his opposite No.3. Key - (B) Barrow, (M) Millom, (W) Westmorland.

Results:

I. Sharp lost to A. Bolton -12. -19;
J. Backhouse lost to R. Fearn -10.19. -15;
C. Brockbank lost to T. Sheppard -8. -9;
K. Backhouse/J. Usher bt K. Mayall/B. Arnatt 13. -10. 13.
Sharp/Brockbank lost to Sheppard/Bolton -23. -19;
J. Backhouse lost to Bolton -5. -14;
Usher bt Arnatt 11. 17;
Sharp lost to Sheppard -19. -18;
K. Backhouse lost to Mayall -1.2. -9;
Brockbank lost to Fearn -17. -16.

Sad news from the Westmorland League is that with the start of the new year upon us they are still looking for a Secretary and Treasurer. At present the Chairman Bob Gale is doing all three jobs. I am sure Bob is well capable of carrying on, but the situation does not augur well for the future of the league. Indeed in their January newsletter the League are appealing for more clubs, teams and players for next season. To quote match secretary Charles Usher..... "a big effort is needed by all of us to enlarge the league again in order to survive."

On the playing side Queen Katherine 'A' head Div. 1 with 14 pts. from 4 matches. Nearest challengers appear to be Melling with 10 pts from 3 matches. Queen Katherine 'C' lead Div. 2 with 18 pts from 5 matches. Ambleside 'A' are the only other unbeaten side with 11 pts from 3 matches. Dave Milbeck (Q.K.'A) heads the Div. 1 averages with 100% from 12 sets, Geoff Baines lies second with 75%. In Div. 2 Mark Tadross (Q.K. 'C') and Dave Phillips (Ambleside 'A') both have 100% records.

The County tournament is to be held at Kendal's South Lakeland Leisure Centre on Sunday, 1st April and the new bat regulations will be in force.

Latest news from the Carlisle and District League is that last season's champions and runners-up have changed places, Scotby 'C' consisting of Brian Bell, Alec Craib and Paul Watson are unbeaten and look a strong bet to win the title, having taken maximum points from 15 matches. Second placed Sportstyle have 23 pts from 13 matches. Current averages leader is once again Roger Stewart who has dropped only two sets so far. In Div. 2 Dumfries have maximum points from 13 matches with Chapel-cross 'B' second having gained 21 pts from 13 matches. Div. 3 leaders are Aglionby 14 with 26 pts out of a possible 28. Salvation lie second with 21 pts from 12 matches.

Carlisle Scotby are also playing in the North Regional League along with seven teams from the north east. They have started extremely well, having beaten Hartlepool Wanderers 6-2, Washington 6-2 and drawing with Ormesby 'A' 4-4. Players who have taken part so far are Roger Stewart, Alec Craib, Paul Watson, Brian Bell, Keith Dymond and Tony Gilsean.

Millom C.C. have taken a slight lead at the two-thirds stage of the Millom

and District League with 11 2 pts from 14 matches, having won 12 and drawn one. Youth House are in second place with 106 pts and Millom R.U. close behind with 103 pts, both teams having lost two matches. With ten points at stake in every match no team can afford to relax. Millom C.C.'s Ian Sharp is out on his own in the averages, still unbeaten after 13 sets.

The Barrow and District League first division race is now a two-horse race once again following the recent 6-4 win by Millom F.P. over leaders Vickers. Millom F.P. are still four pts behind but have a game in hand. Star of the match was Tim Pachul who won all his singles. Tim was backed up by a win each from brother Andrew and Sharp plus the doubles. For Vickers Alan Fay and Andrew Murphy both won two singles each. On this occasion Neil Yardley couldn't help his team mates with a win. Things are hotting up also in Div. 2. Leaders Vickers 'D' have a four point lead over Washington who have a game in hand. Washington, namely Billy Thompson, Alan Fullard and Johnny Lowes have had some good results lately, including 8-2 wins over leaders Vickers 'D' and Roose Cons who were lying second but have now slipped to fourth. Young John Backhouse and veteran Ken Gilmour are both having a great season for Vickers 'D', and are well backed up by Jimmy White and Karen Backhouse.

Malcolm Allsop reports from.....

DERBYSHIRE

INCREASING COSTS

The DerbyTwo-Star Junior Open takes place at Moor Lane Sports Centre on Sunday, March 25. The Tournament is sponsored by the Derby City Lottery with total prize money of £330.

I feel that the increasing cost of facilities is to blame for the recent drop in membership, not the ETTA, County or Local League membership fees. Fewer facilities are available for a free back room in which to put up a table, the competition for space means that landlords have realised they can charge, and efforts have to be made to provide suitable accommodation at a cost players are prepared to pay, persuade players to pay more or budget for a lower membership.

The Spondon Leisure Centre in Derby, until last year a company-sponsored facility, asked their teams to match the fee of £1,200 a year offered by a Band for the facilities- a two room building capable of housing two tables. Not unnaturally the T.T. players could not match the asking price and had to find alternative premises half-way through the season. It says much for their enthusiasm that they found facilities but how many players are lost, or never come into table tennis because of the lack or cost of facilities?

A new Leisure and Community

Centre opens in Hands Road, Hearnor this month and this will provide welcome extra facilities in the Eastwood League area. A room for table tennis is provided capable of being used by three teams for matches each evening. The cost will be £15 per night, Le. £5 per team per night. Anyone interested should contact the Eastwood Secretary, Les Allwood.

Plans are still going ahead for the new building in Derby, near the Moor Lane Sports Centre and adjacent to the new athletics track; being organised by the Derby Table Tennis League and the Derby Athletics Club. A hall 120 x 40 feet, changing rooms, showers, toilets and stores on the ground floor. On the first floor, overlooking the main hall, will be a lounge, bar, kitchen, committee room, children's room and gymnasium.

The Council have granted a 30-year lease and building will commence later this year.

"What we envisage is a multi-purpose Sports Hall" says Malcolm Hearn (Derby T.T.L. Chairman). "Primarily it will be for the table tennis and athletic club members. But there will be times when we will be looking to let the facilities to other sporting organisations."

Personally, I hope that table tennis has such a boom that it will be fully utilised for table tennis.

DERBYSHIRE INTER-TOWNS LEAGUE

In the fourth-stage matches, Derby Veterans made certain of being the Champions of the Veterans' Division being held for the first time this season. Charlie Horn won a maximum in an 8-2 win over Buxton with B. Ashfield obtaining the Buxton successes. Dave Inkley won a maximum for Eastwood who gained their first win by 6-4 at the expense of Chesterfield.

In Division One, Terry Bult won a maximum for Eastwood 1st in a 7-3 victory over Matlock 1st; whilst in Div. 2 Barry Taylor, David Geaves and Geoff Buxton continued Eastwood's fine s-eason with a 10-0 win over Alfretton 2nd.

Derby 1st gained their first win for three years when they beat Burton 1st 8-2. Peter Brookes won a maximum for Derby, whilst Nigel Adams' sole victory was -10, 11, 24 over veteran Dave Stills.

Derby 2nd continue to do well with an 8-2 win over Burton 2nd spear-headed by Neil Russell.

Rose Haggard won a maximum for Burton Ladies in a 7-3 win over Chesterfield with straight-game victories over Jane Lander, Andrea Wood and Sarah Padley.

In the Juniors, Matlock and Eastwood fought out a 5-5 draw with G. Farnsworth winning a maximum for Eastwood, only for R. Blackburn and M. Clarke to reply with two each for Matlock.

In the fifth stage of matches, East-

wood clinched the Div. One Title for the first time, with an 8-2 victory over Burton. Billy Fowkes won a maximum for Eastwood with good support from Ernie Lough and Tony Holland; Paul Harvey winning 2 for Burton.

Burton completed their Veterans' fixtures with a 6-4 win over Chesterfield, with 3 wins from Pete Bentley and 2 Terry Gadsby.

FINAL TABLE: VETERANS:

Derby 4-3-1 -0:28-12: 7
Burton 4-3-0-1 :28-12: 6
Eastwood 4-2-0-2: 14-26: 4
Buxton 4-1 -0-3: 15-25: 2
Chesterfield 4-0-1-3: 15-25: 1

BURTON LEAGUE:

Quite an interest in Burton regarding all-family teams, and Burton seems to have provided quite a few in recent years! The Smith children representing the Wulfric team this season are the latest in a long line of family teams.

In the 1979 Summer League, two family sides met each other on June 14. Ray, Gary and Pete Carr representing Marston's met the Drakelow team of Parris and lost 2-8, daddy of the Marston's team Ray Carr winning his side's 2 sets against Ray and Len.

Speculation now abounds of when the next all-family clash will occur. What about a challenge to Derby?

Derby could provide Shipleys, Hearn, Forsters, Horns, and Weightmans.

Granville Aces lead Div. 1 despite a strong challenge from Bretby A; Central Red lead Div. 2 ahead of Uttoxeter; Bass Specials have a good lead on Hill Street White in 3; Hill Street Red have a precarious lead over Granville Jacks in Div. 4; whilst Granville Diamonds lead Div. 5 above George Street. The position at this stage appears to favour Granville retaining their title as leading Club in the County.

DERBY LEAGUE:

140 players entered the Derby Divisional Championships at the St Ralph Sherwin School, with the ladies having a good day to take three of the eight titles.

Results:

Premier Div: S. Yallop bt B. Fowkes 7. -15. 13;
Div. 1: S. McNeil bt A. Hearn -18. 16. 16;
Div. 2: A. Hearn bt Robert Scott-Birchall 18. 15;
Div. 3: Louise Forster bt Reg Wool 8. 12;
Div. 4: Amanda Dawkins bt David Barrett 13. 21;
Div. 5: Henry Liu bt John McNeil 17. -16.18;
Div. 6: Henry Liu bt Steve Nolan -23. 15. 19;
Div. 7: Cheryl Fisher bt Ian Smith 14. 18.

EASTWOOD LEAGUE:

The Eastwood Championships were held at the Belper Sports Centre. The Taylor family were in evidence with Barry runner-up to Terry Bull in the Men's Singles and winning the Men's Doubles with Clive Spate; whilst wife Alison was runner-up to Joanne Weightman in the Women's Singles, and won the Consolation Singles.

Results:

M.S: Terry Bull bt Barry Taylor 8. 8;
W.S: Joanne Weightman bt Alison Taylor 19. 20;
M.D: Clive Spate/Taylor bt Ernie Lough/J. Weightman 10. 12;
V.S: Dave Inkley bt Lough -20. 10. 20;
C.S: Mrs. A. Taylor bt Jeanet Lough 20. -17. 16.

In Div. One, Rolls Royce 'A' beat

Neville EMV by 7-3, but the surprise was the first defeat of the season for Terry Bull 18, -18, -17 against Ernie Lough, and keeps Rolls Royce in line for a Championship double, with the A team top of Div. One and the B team top of Div. Two.

Harry Black reports from.....

DURHAM

DISAPPOINTING RESULT

Durham, following their creditable draw against Northumberland, disappointed when beaten 8-2 by Cheshire at Shiny Row. Lack of experience told against Darren McVitie and David Blackburne when confronted by the likes of Brian Johns, Mark Hankey and Wayne Percival despite seven of the ten sets going to a decider. Results:-

A. Gelder bt M. Hankey 17. -18. 14; lost to B. Johns -20. -21.
D. McVitie lost to Johns 19. -14. -17; lost to W. -21. -22.
D. Blackburne lost to Percival 20. -21. -11; lost to Hankey -19. 16. -12.
L. Yanell lost to J. Deakin -19. -18;
J. Suddick lost to A. Williamson -12. -17;
Blackburne/McVitie bt Johns/Percival 13. -17. 15;
Suddick/Yarnell lost to Deakin/Williamson 19. -8. -10.

Sunderland 'A' still lead the men's division of the Durham County Senior League but another close run-in is envisaged. With only one match to play, against South Shields, maximum points are essential as their closest rivals, Peterlee, who include both McVitie and Blackburne have to play Sunderland 'B' and Philadelphia 'A'. Sunderland's 'A' match away to Philadelphia 'A' was declared void by the County Management Committee for failure to comply with League rules.

The Ladies' Division title has been retained by Sunderland 'A' despite another round of matches still to be played. This also applies to the Junior Boys' Division and Peterlee who have also kept their title.

In the national Carter Cup competition Sunderland were well beaten 7-2 in their home tie against Hartlepool. Philip Stafford gained Sunderland's two sets beating both Nigel and Neil Rafferty but he lost to Andrew Holland. Sunderland's other youngsters, Steve Dixon and Glen Robinson, showed promise but lacked experience.

Sunderland, in the Wilmott Cup, had a resounding 6-0 win over Tyne-side Summer at Byker but, in the next round, they were beaten 5-0 by Stockton. The scoreline was not really a true reflection as four of the five sets went to three but Stockton had that little bit extra when required. Scores (Sunderland names first):-

Cliff Olsson lost to Ian Plummer -15. -19; lost to Steve Brunskill 13. -10. -18.
David Godbold lost to Malcolm Corking 13. -16. -18; lost to Plummer 15. -20. -16;
Tony Gelder lost to Brunskill -10. 17. -24.

Westmorland conceded their tie to Sunderland in the J.M. Rose Bowl whilst the girls have yet to play their tie against Northumberland.

Washington TIC slipped up in the bid for promotion in Div. 3 North of the

Halex National League when, at home to leaders South Yorkshire II they were beaten 6-2. Home victories were registered by Olsson, who beat Clive Guest, and by Godbold who accounted for Neil Bailey. McVitie really ought to have beaten David Illingsworth and Bailey but Darren suffered from one of his "off" days otherwise it could have been a 4-all draw. Scores:-

McVitie lost to Bailey -13, 13, -19; lost to Illingsworth -12, 14, -10;

Olsson lost to Illingsworth -17, -19; bt Guest 18, 14.

Godbold lost to D. Hinchcliffe -14, -15; bt Bailey 9, 12;

Tom Robson lost to Guest -7, -19; lost to Hinchcliffe -16, -11.

COUNTY LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	O	L	Pts
*Sunderland A	5	4	0	0	15
Peterlee	4	3	0	1	13
*Philadelphia A	5	3	0	1	12
South Shields	5	3	0	2	11
Bishop Auckland	6	2	0	4	9
Sunderland B	4	1	0	3	4
Philadelphia B	5	0	0	5	0
*Void result.					

In addition to the County Closed and the County 2-Star Open, both to be held at Easington District Leisure Centre, Peterlee, on March 31 and April 1, there are a spate of league tournaments coming up in the next two months. Philadelphia hold theirs on March 17, Sunderland on March 18 and South Shields on April 8. Peterlee held theirs on Feb. 25.

John Holland reports from....

ESSEX

CHANCE OF TITLE

Our Vets first team have given themselves a chance of the Premier Division title of pulling off a famous 5-4 win against Kent, at Gravesend. On this occasion it wasn't the deadly duo of 'Stan the Bat' and Maureen Pemberton which pulled us through; the maximum man this time was newcomer Alan Stallard. He won the Men's Doubles with Stan as well as defeating Henry Buist and Ron Etheridge. It was Alan who went to the table at 4-4 to face Ron in the clincher. Yes, this 33-year-old has nerves of steel! Now Alan is assured of a first team place for the crunch match against Cheshire. Kent and Cheshire clash in March. It was good to see Bobby Stevens back in action in the first team, playing as a late substitute for the injured Fred Lockwood.

Meanwhile the Vets 2nd team lost their unbeaten record in losing 4-5 to Herts. 1. A Ray Murray double against Derek Somers and 'Digger' Lamprell helped save our faces in an excellent match.

The new Vets ranking list is as follows:-

1. S. Battrick
2. F. Lockwood
3. A. Stallard
4. J. Holland
5. B. Parrish
6. R. Murray
7. L. Fountain
8. R. Herber
9. G. Booth
10. P. Morris
11. E. Todd

12. M. Cooper

At the other end of the age scale, in Junior 3 (d), our second team defeated Surrey 117-3; the team was Tony West, Bernie Lazarus, David Cole, Gillian Patten and Helen Mawbey. Bernie and David each won two singles and Gill scored a convincing win over Karen Wilde. This win probably assures the team will become divisional champions.

On the tournament front the juniors and cadets have performed solidly without gaining any more trophies. The Trust Cotswold Junior Select brought out the best in the improving Steve Dorking. He progressed to the last eight with a series of fine victories. In the last sixteen he defeated Adrian Dixon (Staffs.), "deuce" in the third, then only fell at 19 in the third to the beaten finalist, and England No. 3 Chris Bartram (Kent). This must have given him the confidence to do even better in the remaining Selects of this season.

Lisa Hayden fell to the Welsh No. 1, defender Evelyn Wright, in the group, but this was no disgrace. Tanya had a group of mixed fortunes in the under-17's, defeating group winner, Helen Perrott 20 in the third, in a cracking set, scoring an easier win over Debbie Simmonds (Surrey); but losing 25-27 in the third to Sarah Webb, the Somerset defender. Helen won the group on points! In the cadet girls singles Tanya reached the last eight with a good win over Caroline Dada, Yorks No. 1 but then succumbed to Adrea Holt (Lancs), the eventual winner. Damian Holland lost in the last sixteen of the under-14 boys' and the semi-final of the under-12 boys' to the same player, the all-action Chris Oldfield (Yorks). I was again mightily impressed by this young man and am inclined to share Les D'Arcy's prediction of 'future superstar'. David Griffiths also showed up very well in the cadets. He won his group and then won well against Nicky Felton (Warwicks).

Ron Fosker reports elsewhere on the Martin Essex 3-Star (brilliantly organised and run, and surely the best yet) but let me mention the exploits of a few Essex faithfuls.

Kenny Jackson's semi-final with Nigel Eckersley was a classic in which he recovered from the brink at 17-20 down in the third by some heroic hitting. It would have been a super final. Stan Battrick scored a notable feat of sorcery in outsmarting the brilliant George Evans (Wales) to reach the semi-final of the There he fell to the howitzers from that less-than-geriatric looping arm of young Ralph Gunnion (Warwicks). Richard Darnell had a good win in the Class II singles over England-ranked Martyn Smith (Avon). Tanya didn't survive her women's group but scored her first ever win over Alison Boxall (Herts). Lisa comprehensively beat Yvonne Hall (Leics.) in her group but became entangled in the defensive spider's

web of the Staffordshire chopper, Jill Powis. Jill won the group despite losing to Yvonne. Still Lisa's win over Yvonne was 'unexpected', in the parlance of the Lentec computer, and trawls in a nice bucketful of computer points for the Essex youngster. Jeannie Smith had an excellent "deuce" in the third win over Teresa Moore (Sussex).

Our senior 2nd team maintained their unbeaten status by defeating Suffolk II 8-2. The team was Steve Dettmar, Steve Dorking, Steve White, Lisa Hayden and Kim Mudge. Also in Division 3(d) the third team travelled to achieve a creditable draw with Sussex II. Richard Darnell scored a maximum, beating Jemmett and Rowden in singles and taking the doubles with Chris Knight. The improving Chris also beat Jemmett. The other Essex team members were Terry Haley, Liz Hammond and Jeanine Smith. The new senior ranking lists have now been issued.

Men

1. S. Andrew
2. K. Jackson
3. D. Newman
4. I. Horsham
5. D. Charlery
6. T. Penny
7. L. Eadie
8. J. Dennison
9. K. Caldon
10. S. Dettmar
11. P. Hayden
12. S. Dorking
13. S. White
14. R. Darnell
15. T. Haley
16. S. Tilson
17. P. Sayer
18. S. Gibbs
19. C. Knight
20. S. Willis
21. J. Sparks
22. D. Window
23. M. Taylor
24. D. Solman

Women

1. E. Sayer
2. L. Hayden
3. K. Mudge
4. Y. Brown
5. K. Hayden
6. S. Aldborough
7. J. Smith
8. L. Hammond
9. C. Eakin
10. A. Barker
11. M. Pavitt
12. A. Sparks

On the National League front, in Div 2(S) Dagenham F.C. have continued their relentless winning streak at Reading (8-0) and Gunnersbury (7-1). Against Reading Daggers fielded their strongest team of Dave Newman, Tony Penny, Kevin Caldon and Steve Dettmar. Stuart Gibbs came in for Dave Newman against Gunnersbury and took a maximum. Witham Town F.C. have sustained two more home defeats, both 2-6 at the hands of Dolphins (Brighton) and Gwent. Against Dolphins both Peter Hayden and Nicky Standen beat Smith. In the Gwent match Peter beat Armstrong and Robin Lang beat Hobbs. For both matches the team was Standen, Hayden, Lang and debutant, 17-year-old Neil Sweeting. So Witham are staying true to their promise of bleeding young players but still have one foot in the abyss.

A very tense championship battle is unfolding in Div 1 of the Braintree League. It is between three teams; Witham Town, Rayne and Colne. Witham have used an astonishingly large squad of fourteen players with Ian Graham the only player to complete more than 50% of fixtures so far. Among others he is supported by Robin Laing, Mark and Neil Sweeting.

Mark has just won the Vets singles in the Chelmsford 'Closed' in his first season as an over-40.

Colne feature Terry Dowsett, Martin Speight (his eighth league?!), Adam Courtney, John Andrews and Steve Kearns. The Rayne squad is Terry Pleasance, John Leigh, Mark Bannister and Michael Shortern. Witham have yet to play both Rayne and Colne so it is a guess whether Witham will hang on to their narrow one point lead.

The men's singles seedings for the Braintree 'Closed' have just been issued. They are 1. Robin Laing (the holder), 2. Terry Dowsett (thrice former champion), 3. Terry Pleasance and 4. Martin Speight. Could it be the turn of in-form Terry Pleasance this year?

Please Essex Leagues don't forget to keep me informed of events in your neck of the woods. Ring Billericay 59634 or write to 41 Foxhunter Walk, B'cay, CM11 1DZ.

Alf Pepperd reports from.....

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

RELENTLESS PURSUIT

I wrote a small article headed, "Parents in table tennis", in December's 1983 issue. I note in the national press first week of February that - Physiotherapist Mike Varney of Tottenham Hotspur fame has put pen to paper and written the following, "School boy soccer prodigies are being burnt out by pushy parents as they play up to seven matches sometimes a week. Mr. Varney goes on to say that over ambitious parents are perhaps the most destructive in the world, many he insists are relentless IN THEIR pursuit of fame through the medium of their own children and that today especially far too many parents make their children into sports victims. They watch them, greedily stuff them with vitamins (junk food I suspect) and along with some coaches drum tactics and strategy into their young heads continuously.

The point I would like to make is that at several Junior tournaments I have attended over a period of four or five years there have been similar occasions when I have personally witnessed the sports victims that Mr. Varney mentioned.

Every youngster and perhaps very senior players DO NEED the services of a good understanding Coach and adviser, but both of the latter should remember at all times that they are handling people with flesh and blood inside of them, Not Silicone Robot Chips.

By the time this appears in print we shall once again be coming to the end of another season of grass roots League play. Frantic efforts to stage Finals Night for some, a short lay-off for others and then all the hassle of frenzied activities for Committee men/women to commence staging plans for next season's activities.

The Provident Capital County Premier League visited Cirencester in early January. It is the intention of the CPL/Committee to move the League around the County as much as is possible, so that these matches can be seen by a wide variety of enthusiasts. The Leisure Centre at Cirencester proved an excellent venue but spectator wise not very encouraging. However in an endeavour to try to get something concrete going in this fair Cotswold town, Peter Cruwys of Cheltenham ran a coaching session for some 14 or 15 Juniors and a small number of Adults. This took place on Sunday Jan. 22 on five tables. Peter wishes me to proffer sincere thanks to Trevor Jones (who just happens to live in Cirencester) for coming along and helping out with the 3½ hour session. It is quite possible Peter may be running another coaching class over there at some future date.

Mike Maxwell our T.T.N. representative is doing a great job in and around Gloucester with his distribution of our National magazine. Talking to our Editor last June, I asked the following question:- About how many copies of T.T.N. are sent out to readers within the County of Glo'shire I think I'm correct when I quote George's answer as being EIGHT, thanks to Mike I am sure there are far more in circulation now.

Talking about spreading the gospel of table tennis news two comparatively new clubs in the Gloucester City League namely:- Larkhay and Cinderford have started their own Club news letters. This outward sign of enthusiasm prompted me to seek out further news of each respective club. Let's take Cinderford for starters, this club has evolved from a small group of local enthusiasts to a thriving club in less than four years.

When the Forest of Dean League wound up through lack of support in April 1979, John Freeman was determined that table-tennis in the forest area would not disappear, and together with stalwarts, Ernie Pemberton, Roy McKernon, Bob Knight and Derek Thompson, formed a team which was elected into Div 6 of the Gloucester League in September 1979.

Their home base at that time was the Victoria Hotel at Newnham-on-Severn. The newly-formed team took the division by storm not losing a match. So convincing was their success, that they were immediately promoted to Div. 3.

The following season, 1980-81, saw the very first signs of expansion with the addition of more players allowing a second team to be formed which was elected into Div. 4, though with somewhat less success than their colleagues who continued their run by gaining promotion to Div. 2.

In the 1981-2 season, the first influx of youngsters brought a new dimension to the teams, and more than compensated for the departure of one or

two senior players. The newly-promoted Div. 2 side consolidated their positions at that level, whilst three new teams, based at Double View Leisure Centre made their mark in Divisions 6 & 7, two teams gaining promotion to Div. 5 and 6 respectively, and the third team just missing out in third place in Div. 7.

In addition to these encouraging performances, there were some notable successes by individuals in the Gloucester Closed. Terry Hulbert won the City 6th Div Championship, Craig Saunders won the 7th Div Singles, Dale Saunders was outright winner of the Under-11 Boys, and that season John Freeman/Ernie Pemberton were runners-up in the Intermediate Doubles.

In mid 1982, it was decided that it was time to introduce a degree of formality to the proceedings by forming the official Cinderford Club affiliated to the Gloucester T.T.A. A Committee was duly elected, with club pioneer John Freeman deservedly taking the Chairman's role.

So let us view Cinderford now in 1984. There can be little doubt that the club's most exciting prospects in terms of youth are the Saunders brothers, Craig and Dale. The former was awarded The Bryan Merrett award in Gloucester as most promising young player of the season and 12-year-old Dale is NO.13 on the Lentec ranking list. That surely can't be bad.

I conclude the Cinderford Club's efforts on a sad note. This past season they took up Headquarters in an out-building at the White Hart Hotel in Cinderford. Things there, as they well know, are far from good, rain enters the building, making playing very dangerous, the building itself is very narrow, complaints have been officially lodged and are noted.

From what I know of the Foresters and their love of table tennis, they will rise to the occasion and put what is wrong right. Just how they will do it, I don't know as yet, BUT THEY WILL.

Another up-and-coming club is Larkhay also in the City League. A very young club indeed not quite yet four years old, formed in the summer of 1980 as a direct result of the enforced closure of the Churchdown Club. The latter was formed at the start of the 1976-77 season with one team in Div. 6 and one team in Div. 8. The club's elected Officers were Alan Perrett (Sec) and Roger Smith (Treasurer). The club played at Churchdown United Services Club for four seasons and finished with teams in Divs. 4 and 6.

Building alterations found the table tennis section having to seek new premises in the summer of 1980, and this duly led to acquiring the church hall in Larkhay Road, Hucclecote. Both teams transferred to the new headquarters with Alan Perrett continuing as secretary, but with a new Treasurer Phil Jones. The teams started the 1980-1 season in Divs. 3 and 5 with a

new player Mike Maxwell who has proved the club's most successful player gaining top averages in Divs. 2 and 3 winning the Div. 3 City singles in 1982 and partnering Alan Perrett in becoming Intermediate doubles champions in the same year.

Meanwhile the clubs' Secretary Alan Perrett was elected on to the Gloucester T.T.A.'s ex-committee in 1982 and has since become the City's Treasurer. Mike Maxwell was also elected to the Association's Committee and is now the official distributor of Table Tennis News for Gloucester.

The Larkhay expanded for the 1983-4 season with three additional teams and now has teams in Divs. 1, 2, 3, 5 and 7. Alan Perrett was elected Chairman, a new post this year, with Phil Jones as Secretary and Mike Maxwell as Treasurer.

The Club is now the home venue for the Gloucester City Team in the Cotswold Ladies League, and is considered amongst one of the best venues in the City League.

The Club has purchased identical shirts to be worn by all players when representing Larkhay and is undergoing a decorating process which has run the club's finances to stretching point.

On the playing side the club has entered all five teams in this season's Handicap K.O. tournament. They have had two teams in the Cheltenham Summer League (Gloucester has not got one). For the future the club realises that they will only continue to flourish if youngsters are readily available, every aspect for youth is there just waiting to be grasped, indeed their best players is a Junior, Arron Beckett 16-years-old, No.1 County Junior and ranked No. 48 on the England computer list.

BENEFICIAL TRUST- COTSWOLD JUNIOR SELECT

In a very well-run tournament, I would like to give a mention to everyone who played a part in its success. Alas lack of space forbids. However grateful thanks to:- Doug Young the Referee, Les Smith the Organiser, and Jack Reeves (Vice-Chairman of the County Association) who perhaps overall did the most BEFORE, DURING and possibly after the tournament to ensure its high standard of efficiency.

It was nice to see the County President and his Wife, Mrs. Davis, at the finals, and to renew old acquaintances with a former Gloucester colleague now doing sterling T.T. work in Staffordshire Mike Leach. Sorry to learn that my opposite number in Worcestershire, Doug Moss, is no longer broadcasting on Radio Wyvern. Nice to see you Doug.

Many thanks to Tom Blunn E.T.T.A. Chairman for granting me a 3½ minute interview for local Independent Radio - Severn - Sound, and likewise the same to Matthew Syed - the latter to whom congrats upon winning the U-14 Singles.

COUNTY REPORTS

First Senior match of the new year, Gloucestershire entertained Hunts at the C.E.G.B. just outside Gloucester. Still maintaining their unbeaten record the home side notched up their highest score of the season beating the visitors 9-1. And now with Worcestershire 2nds, Herefordshire & Northants left to play - providing we maintain the same steady play- perhaps the Championship may come our way.

A special word for Hunts Helen Bardwell she won the visitors' sole set by beating her close friend Tina Tsakarisianos - 19, 19, 13. Considerable sympathy could well be shown to Hunts No.2 Jill Randell as she was called in to play at the 11th tour and was hardly up to this standard. It's interesting to note that this was Nina's first-ever defeat in County play at Senior level.

Gloucestershire Juniors v Sussex played at the Nailsworth Boys Club 28/1/84. In the early stages this was a match which had every indication of going Glo'shires way - David Smith, Craig Saunders and Aarron Beckett each won their respective singles at the very start of the match to give the home side a 3-0 lead, but had other ideas and Glo'shire only won one more set to eventually lost 4-6.

David Smith is to be congratulated upon winning both his singles and especially a fine 21, 7, 14 victory over Paul Elphick who was No. 24 in the Country at the time.

BITS AND PIECES

The following entered The Beneficial Trust Cotswold Junior, ALL local lads:- Aarron Beckett, David Smith, Anthony Wilson, ALL from Gloucester; Craig and Dale Saunders from Lydney, Howard Williams from Stonehouse, Neil Gingell from Stroud and finally Keith Rodway from Nailsworth. There were two local lassies - Jenny Ellery and Clare Symonds from Gloucester. Only one player who was local actually got to the semis of U-17 Doubles that was David Smith partnered by Rodney Thomas of Bournemouth. They were beaten by the eventual champions. One of my Stroud informants (007½) Alan Lardner tells me that in a recent 1st Div Stroud League match well known veteran Alan Giles beat Andrew Golding 16,21 and thus ended Andrew undefeated singles run in the Stroud League since 1977. Andrew is the County's current No.3.

Also from Stroud, Dave Lewis reports record breaking doubles. In the 1st Div Woodchester "B" beat Forest Green 6-4, nothing very great about that. But - the doubles pairing of Alan Giles and Paul Bowcott overcame Peter Harris and Robin Wynn in what must rate the marathon doubles set of the year, 28-26, 32-34, and 41-39 PHEW, - that's surely a game and a game again.

And finally, I read John Prean's (January) report captioned - "The Isle of Wight and Beyond". Now I always

enjoy reading other peoples report, but as far as I could make out only one person from the I.O.W. had any specific mention, emphasis was greatly on the beyond aspect. Could we all have a little bit more news please John of OTHER players and T.T. activities on that lovely little Island home of yours, I'm sure it would be appreciated.

David Cosway reports from.....

HAMPSHIRE

WINNING WAYS

Only one full set of county matches since my previous report. The senior team continue their winning way at the top of their division with a 9-1 defeat of Somerset. Graham Green lost the one when deputising for Derek Holman. If they get past the Isle of Wight later this month, only Berkshire on March 31 stand between them and the championship. The Isle of Wight match is to be played at Hambledon, and I do not think that even the importing Dunlop balls is likely to affect Carl Prean this time. It is the other sets Hampshire must win! The junior team continue to disappoint. I thought they had a good squad this season but they have failed to put their game together at county level. They followed their 3-7 defeat by Wiltshire with a similar loss at Avon. Sarah Hammond won her singles and combined with Caroline Jenvey to win the girls' doubles but the only boys' success was Christos Hannides winning one singles. The Veteran A team followed their 1-8 loss to Hertford by going down 2-7 to Sussex. Ray Lush and Ged Holly win a singles apiece for Hampshire. The Veteran B team put their chances of the Div. 3B championship in jeopardy when they trailed Dorset 2nd 3-4. At this stage Maurie Shave from 15-20 down in the third fought back to win 22-20 against M. Toole and then John Harvey clinched the 5-4 win in his final singles. Ken Giles won both his singles as did Maurie.

Two fine home wins by Jaques Generation since Christmas in the premier division of the National League. A 6-2 win over Tibhar London, with Prean winning 2 but taken to 19 in the third by David Wells. Alan Cooke also won 2 and Mark Oakley and Tony Clayton one each. The 4-4 draw with Ormesby produced all one could expect from a spectator point of view but I would think Generation must be a little disappointed at the crowds they attract. Surely there are more people who could support this go-ahead club. Prean and Cooke again won their two sets but a sadly out-of-touch Ian Kenyon and the improving Oakley failed to score. Mark has come on immensely this season and is now almost a very good player! It only needs a few more points per game to put him well up the rankings. Dutch No.1, Henke van

Spanje, lost his first sets of the season, and his cause was not helped when his serve was called on several occasions.

Speaking to National Umpire Graham Quirk after the game, I understand that van Spanje was in fact called for three different indiscretions on his serve. Some of his serves are below the table, some are served straight off his hand while others are served with the ball behind his body. Yet he says he was not foul served at all at the English Open! I really do think the service situation is getting slightly out of hand. Of course players should be called if they foul service but consistence must be shown by the umpires. I watched the English Open at Brighton and V. Broda was serving similarly right through the competition but was not called until the last game of the final. Quite rightly he could not understand what he had done differently.

Some umpires it would appear are out for a quiet life and do not want to cause controversy. The new laws do, unfortunately, make it very difficult to spot bad services but I wonder whether time has come to make the service less crucial to the winning of the point. Even at local level the service now dominates. But how can it be changed? Therein may lie the answer to one of the many problems that beset our game, but a clamp-down throughout by all umpires may help to change the ways of the errant server!

The Hampshire Junior Closed held at Redbridge Sports Centre, Southampton on Jan. 15 attracted one of the best entries over-and-much-larger than the senior event. The quality, especially in the younger categories, was also encouragingly high. Portsmouth's Mark Wilding retained his boys' title from an entry of 57. In the semi Andrew Davies of Aldershot beat Jason White of Basingstoke 20, 18 while Mark beat Alan Charles of Southampton 13, 15. Mark won the final 17, 15. In the corresponding girls' event Sarah Hammond is really in a class of her own and likewise Caroline Jenvey is way ahead of her other rivals. In the group matches, as there were only 6 entries, Sarah and Caroline won all their sets with only one game extending to double figures. Sarah then beat Caroline 14, 7 in the final. 35 entries in the Cadet boys with Stewart Ottley (Basingstoke) beating Gregg Moore (Southampton) -14, 17, 17 in one semi while Robert Maries (Aldershot) beat Brian Mansell (Southampton) 18, 20 in the other. Robert beat Stewart 8, 15 in the final. Seven entries for the Cadet girls with Dawn Taylor (Basingstoke) and Gillian Melham (Basingstoke) emerging unbeaten from the groups. Gillian beat Dawn 21, 16 in the final. Only four entries in the U-12 girls with Lisa Saint (Southampton) winning each of her group matches including a 17, 19 win over the runner-up Vanessa Williams

of Basingstoke. From 18 entries the U-12 boys produced a final where Edward Westmacott (Walhampton School, Lymington) beat Mark Thorne (Southampton) 17, 19 after trailing 12-1 8 in the second game. Andrew Davies and Christos Hannides (Southampton) trailed Alan Charles and Sarah Hammond 13-19 in the final of the open doubles but ran out 12, -13, 22 winners Peter Alan and Robert Maries (Aldershot) beat Basingstoke's Simon Kiefer, and Stewart Ottley in the final of the Cadet doubles 17, 12.

The Southampton Closed is back to its old format of having a separate finals session. It was not planned that way but just as the finals were about to start with the Assembly Hall all set up at Redbridge the caretaker decided to call a halt. A mix-up over bookings with other events was given as the reason for the confrontation. I will report on the in my next notes but a few results from the earlier rounds. An entry of only 39 in the men's singles did not prevent a few upsets. The No.2 seed Simon Douglas went out in the first round to Charles Prendergast -13, -14 who in turn was beaten by Ken Giles. Joe Okosieme beat No. 3 seed Steve Snow 20, -1 6, 15 and then No.5 seed Andy Ely 16, -21, 15 to reach the semi. Chris Shetler beat Nigel McGuire 18, 9 while Terry Bruce beat No.4 seed Gary Longland 13, 12. In the semi Shetler beat Okosieme 18, 12 while Bruce had an equally convincing 12, 11 win over Giles. Only five entries in the women's singles so it was run a group with the top two seeds Ann Longland and Dina Sandford winning their three to go forward to the final and not playing their group match against each other. Shetler and Steve Snow beat Eddie Milsom and Nigel Ladders in the semi-final of the men's doubles and will play Longland and Douglas who beat the holders in their semis Okosieme and Simon Fletcher.

Four entries only for the mixed with Alan Charles and Dina Sandford beating Douglas and Janet Siddle -18, 12, 25 while Gary and Ann Longland beat Terry and Caroline Jenvey 11, 14. Giles beat Ian Kennedy 14, 18 in the Veterans' semi and will meet Maurie Shave who avenged last year's defeat by Eddie Milsom to go through 17, 12. In the juniors all went according to the seedings with Hannides beating Nick Gordon 13, 18 and Charles beating Richard Mandair, -19, 18, 16. A well supported handicap event saw Longland in to the final with a 20, -10, 19 semi final-win over Prendergast. He will meet Terry Jenvey who beat Richard Mandair 19, 15 in the other semi.

The chaos that obviously resulted from the premature end of the tournament as usual showed off the table-tennis public in their true light. It is at a time like this when all those, who have been notable by their absence earlier, when work had to be done, emerge

with their views on how they would have run the event better. Then quick as a flash they disappear back into the woodwork when the hall has to be cleared of table, screens etc. to keep the caretaker's imposed deadline. Such is

One who does not however shirk on such occasions is the S.T.T.A. Treasurer, Vic Nuttall, while the younger fraternity stand around watching and complaining Vic is first to help with the work in hand. I was very pleased to see this dedication rewarded this season with him being chosen as Southampton Sports Council personality of the year for service to sport. Vic has been on the Southampton Committee for about 30 years and has been secretary, chairman and vice-chairman at various times as well as treasurer for the whole of this period. He retires this year both from work and as the association treasurer. Thank you Vic for all this work - you will be hard to replace! I only wish the sports council trophy was of the quality of your service to the association!

The Hampshire and Isle of Wight youth club individual tournament saw the Brook Club of Portsmouth dominate the events, with all finalists. Paul Smith beat Steve Dymock in the senior boys' event while Peter Chase had a close -17, 19, 21 win over James Mortimer in the juniors. In the girls' event Samantha Lewis beat Laura Savaker 20, 14 and then combined with Paul Smith in the mixed final to beat Mortimer and Laura Sauaker 13, 15.

John Prean reports from

BEYOND THE ISLE OF WIGHT

There is much discussion about this Magazine which has a lower circulation than it deserves. Various suggestions have been made, one being that there were too many county notes which were of limited interest (a view I do not entirely share), another that what was needed was more controversy (a view I do share). My targets need not get hot under the collars. I get far more stick than they do. That is the price one pays for living in a free society. I try to answer some of the criticisms in another letter to' the Editor. Once people stop putting strongly held views on paper, our Sport will be dead. It will mean that nobody cares any more. The toadies and yes-men will have won.

Our County Team travelled to Reading and were beaten 8-2 by Berks II which we thought was too much! We lost both doubles 19 in the third. Jim Daly went close twice. With a few points the other way we could have won. I try to look on the bright side. Out of deference to John Woodford I refuse to mention where our two wins came from. Sue Bruten made an excellent debut for us. If she keeps prac-

tising and maintains her interest, she will win a lot of matches for us.

I do appreciate the kind remarks of Laurie Selby and of course Murray Corbin, particularly at a time when one is under fire elsewhere. I am a supporter of the County Championships and that is why I feel entitled to criticise them at times in the hope of making them better.

Our 1st division is over bar the annual prize giving. Ryde (Jim Daly, Mike Turner and Roger Tolfrey) have quietly established a winning lead. Main interest therefore is around who will be second. Philip Nicholls won our Junior Ranking tournament without losing a game. There was a triple tie for second place between Matthew Kittle, Robert Waterhouse and Julian Urry. 26 took part, better than for some years, if not quite up to the great days when every junior event attracted over 40, a great help to one young player (nameless) who went on to quite a high place on the Lentec Computer Ranking List, who won his first spurs in these immensely competitive battles. Dare one say that it was soon after the Birmingham. World Championships? That is what English Table Tennis needs again. I have little sympathy with the cries of those who do not want this to happen again. Mistakes were made, but the benefits were immense and worth paying for. It was a decision of considerable imagination and vision. It is time we combined again in such an enterprise. It needs a major act of faith to pull English Table Tennis out of its present decline, a time to be brave.

Philip Reid reports from.....

LEICESTERSHIRE

LEAGUE AFFAIRS

With nothing much happening on the County Championships front, I will switch to the leagues in the county, by courtesy of Terry Bown (editor of Leicester's "Top Spin") and John Shade who edits Hinckley's "Loop". The Hinckley League junior side playing in the Carter Cup beat Stafford 5-1 and await the winners of Nottingham and Leicester to see who they tackle next. David Grundy lost the first set against Stafford but some inspired play by Marcus Bellot and Kevin (Peroxide) Woodhead gave Hinckley a well-deserved win.

In the Holt Cup, Kingscroft or EMEB will play Castle Mead in the final. Kingscroft, leading Division 1 with the seemingly ageless John Iliffe still 100% look as though they might perform the double, despite strong challenges in the league from Castle Mead and Brockington. In the second division two Ashby Parva teams are locked together at the top with 77 points each but Malcolm Shield (Croft), with 100% tops the individual averages. In Div. 3 Ferry-Pickering are leading, thanks to S. Carson-Rowland who has lost only

once in 33 outings. Downes Sports top Div. 4 but - oddly - it is a member of Ashby Parva who tops the averages - by the name of Alec Downes!

On the Leicester League front, the veterans lost 9-1 to Nottingham, only a doubles win preventing a "white-wash". In the league Div. 1 is led by holders Knighton Park and they, like Chris Rogers, are 100%. Jones & Shipman, spearheaded by Colin Truman and the enthusiastic Graham Hibberd, are ahead in the second division whilst Div. 4 sees Post Office hanging on to the lead with Alan North (Kingfishers) topping the averages. Dave Roche spearheads Rolls Royce in Div. 5 whilst Braunstone Avenue top Div. 6 with British Shoe's Peter Simpson still 100%. Div. 7 is headed by University, Nigel Burke (LUCA) topping the averages.

Desford Tubes are in top spot in Div. 8 but LBS's Steve Wright tops the averages. Raj Modha is leading Epworth to the top of Div. 9 whilst the young Groby side top Div. 10 with Dave Berry (County Hall) and Mick Box (British Shoe), with 89%, jointly topping the averages. Eric Jackson's 100% means that Magna Travellers top Div. 11 although I have heard that Jonathan Read (Knighton Park) has spoilt Eric's - with an expedite win - unusual so far down the league. Promoted from Div. 18 last season, Newarke have thoroughly justified the committee's huge jump in them to Div. 12 by being 100% at the half way stage with Shrikant Naran heading the individual averages. Wigston Fields head Div. 13 with the experienced Brian Leeson (County Hall) 100%. Div. 14 sees Pollards Social heading the chart, no doubt inspired by Mick Wann's 100%. Similarly Paul Morley's 100% sees National Westminster Bank leading Div. 15 and Michael Welsch's 100% has enabled British Shoe to top Div. 16. Vernon Bardsley (City Council) tops Div. 17 but it is fellow newcomers Wanlip who lead the way.

There are two resignations in the offing in the Leicester League next season. Ian Holdridge, who has done such a magnificent job as press correspondent for the "Leicester Mercury" has decided to call it a day whilst Div. 7 secretary Simon Griew, after only one season of excellent service has graduated to Cambridge and he will be sorely missed both from an administrative and playing point of view. Finally, a couple of mistakes I would like to correct in the January edition of the 'News'. Ian Brown (Leicester) was amongst those who attended the Beneficial Trust English Junior Closed, thus putting up their entry by 50%. The other correction was pointed out by Kevin (Peroxide) Woodhead. I mistakenly called him Kevin WHITEHEAD. It was, as Keith Mitchell said, "descriptive writing"

Iris Moss reports

MIDDLESEX

SLIP-UP

First of all I must apologise for the fact that there were no Middlesex Notes in the February edition. Very stupidly I managed to slip down two steps at my own front door and sprained both my ankles. As I was incapable of looking after myself, I was taken to my sister's and without all the reminders I have around me in my own home, I forgot all about Table Tennis News until it was too late.

With the exception of our Senior and Junior Premier teams, we are not doing too well in the County Championships. Wins are very few and far between and unless their standards improve I can see some of our teams getting relegated to lower Divisions. Still I must not be greedy; I will be quite content if our Premier teams win their Divisions!

Our Ranking Lists were examined in January and the revised lists show remarkably little change. In the top 10 of the Men's list, Mark Mitchell has dropped from No.3 to No.5 and John Souter has been promoted from 5 to 3. Tony Stark has been dropped from the No.9 place (he seems to have dropped out of table tennis) and Percy Collino has been promoted from No. 12 to take the vacancy. On the Ladies' List, Angela Mitchell has been toppled from the No.1 position she has held so long. This in no way reflects on Angela's performance, but just indicates the improved standard of Sarah Sandley who takes her place. Further down the list, Sally Prowen has been dropped with the subsequent promotion of Rachel Knight and Lesley Souter, now 7 and 8, and Jan Svenson and Gilian Blanch have come in at 9 and 10. So far as the Boys' list is concerned, Chris Herbert and Kevin King have changed places (now 4 and 5 respectively) and so have Philip Szekeres and Lee Noakes (currently 6 and 7). The Girls' List has altered even less; the only difference is that So Ching Man has been brought in at No. 9 and the rest have been pushed down one place.

Everything is going ahead for the Middlesex Junior Closed although, as usual, entries are not coming in very fast. Why do players leave posting their entries until the last minute? And then they get upset if the entry is not accepted! The event is being held at Aylestone School on 3rd and 4th March.

Our Inter-League Championships are proceeding well, and at the half-way stage Willesden are unbeaten in the Victor Barna Competition (3 men), North Middlesex are unbeaten in the Norman Pegg Competition (3 women), Wembley 1st are unbeaten in the D.W. Birmingham Competition (Juniors), and South West Middlesex are unbeaten in the Ted Connell Competition (Veterans). Does this mean that our

winners are already decided? Or will there be a come-back from some other Leagues to upset the final outcome?

Finally I have had a letter from Harold Pearce who tells me that Lensbury Table Tennis club, which plays in the Central League, is holding their Golden Jubilee Dinner at the main headquarters at Broom Road, Teddington, Middlesex, on Friday 30th March. The occasion will also mark the 50th year in table tennis of Harold and of Phyllis Lauder, both of whom are founder members of the Club. If anyone is interested in going along, tickets are available, price £10.00 including wine, from George de Villiers, 33 Priory Road, Acton Green, London W4 5JA, telephone 01-995 0071. We hope the occasion will go well and send our best wishes to both Harold and Phyllis, who have both given so much to our sport.

Don Pritchard reports from.....

MIDLAND LEAGUE

Apologies for lack of information so far but we now hope to put this right until the end of the Season.

In Men's Division 1 Gloucester are leading the way so far unbeaten. In recent matches Nottingham "A" lost a close match to Chesterfield "A" 6-4 and Potteries "A" overwhelmed Coventry "A" 9-1. Wolves "B" in Men's 2 have yet to drop a point their two latest victims being Rugby and Stroud both beaten 9-1. Potteries "B" are in second place after losing to Stroud 7-3 and Nottingham "B" had two wins over the two bottom teams Derby 8-2 and Rugby 10-0.

Wolves "A" in Men's Div. 3 are yet unbeaten but they are closely followed by Cheltenham "A" who beat Coventry "B" 8-2 and Market Drayton 6-4. Leamington "A" beat Shrewsbury 7-3 and Market Drayton defeated Coventry "B" by the same score. In Men's Div. 4 no team has yet come near to Nuneaton their latest victims being Loughborough who were beaten 7-3. Telford "A" are lying in second place after wins over Loughborough 7-3 and their "B" team also 7-3. Burton and Cheltenham "B" had a good match ending in a draw; Mark Harvey was unbeaten for Burton.

Bristol lead the way in Women's Div. 2 beating Birmingham "B" 9-1 and second-placed Kidderminster beat Stratford 8-2. In the Veteran's Div. 1 surprise leaders Oxford, deservedly on top, just beat West Bromwich 6-4, challengers Nottingham "A" overwhelmed West Bromwich 9-1 and Gloucester had mixed fortunes beating Walsall in a close match 6-4 but losing to Birmingham "B" 7-3.

In Veteran's Div. 2 Nottingham "B" look all set for promotion so far to drop a point their latest results 8-2 against Coventry "A", Telford should finish second after slamming Stroud 9-1 and Coventry "B" 8-2. Chesterfield "A"

lead Junior Div. 1 beating Wolves "A" 8-2 but losing to their challengers Coventry "A" 6-4, and Coventry "A" have two matches in hand. Leicester had differing results beating Birmingham "A" 6-4 but losing heavily to Nottingham "A" 10-0 whilst Gloucester slammed Market Drayton 9-1 to stay in the hunt. In Junior Div. 2 the leaders Derby slammed Birmingham "B" 10-0 but then dropped a point in their draw with Pontesbury "A", man of the match was Peter Thomas of Pontesbury "A". Loughborough are challenging strongly after trouncing Coventry "B" 10-0 beating Pontesbury 7-3 and drawing with Wolves "B" 5-5. Coventry "B" also drew with Pontesbury "A" and lost to Wolves "B" 9-1.

Walsall "A" still unbeaten in Junior Div. 3, their latest result a win over Pontesbury "B" 7-3 and Burton are now having some good results with wins over Stratford 6-4, Chesterfield "B" 6-4 and Strewbury 9-1 but their recovery too late. In Junior Div. 4 Bromsgrove won yet again this time beating Leamington 6-4 with Tim Holder unbeaten in singles and doubles. Nuneaton moved off the bottom with a 6-4 win over Worcester "B" who they have displaced.

Stafford another team not to drop a point lead Junior Div. 5 trounced Mansfield 9-1, challengers Rugby slammed Bromsgrove "B" 10-0 and Walsall "C" also challenging beat Bromsgrove "B" 8-2.

Leading positions:-

MENS' Division 1	P	W	D	L	F-	A	Pts
Gloucester	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Coventry 'A'	6	3	0	3	28	32	6
Leicester 'A'	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Chesterfield 'A'	5	2	1	2	24	26	5

MENS' Division 2	P	W	D	L	F-	A	Pts
Birmingham 'B'	4	1	0	0	36	14	
Potteries 'B'	3	1	1	0	30	20	
Wolves 'B'	3	0	0	0	28	2	
Stroud	3	0	2	0	29	21	

MENS' Division 3	P	W	D	L	F-	A	Pts
Wolves 'C'	5	4	1	0	32	18	9
Cheltenham 'A'	6	4	0	2	36	24	8
Stafford	4	3	0	1	28	12	6

MENS' Division 4	P	W	D	L	F-	A	Pts
Nuneaton	6	6	0	0	52	8	12
Telford 'A'	5	4	0	1	33	17	8
Loughborough	6	3	1	2	34	26	7
Burton	6	2	2	2	25	35	6

WOMENS' Division 1	P	W	D	L	F-	A	Pts
Birmingham 'A'		0	1	0	24	6	4
Wolves		0	0	0	9	1	2
Derby		0	1	0	10	10	2
Leicester		0	1	0	10	10	2

WOMENS' Division 2	P	W	D	L	F-	A	Pts
Bristol	3	0	0	0	27	3	
Kidderminster	4	0	1	0	27	13	

Veterans' Division 1	P	W	D	L	F-	A	Pts
Oxford	5	1	0	0	37	23	11
Nottingham 'A'	4	1	0	0	38	12	9
Birmingham 'A'	4	0	1	0	35	15	8

Veterans' Division 2	P	W	D	L	F-	A	Pts
Nottingham 'B'	6	0	0	0	49	11	12
Telford	7	0	1	0	46	24	12
Stratford	5	1	2	0	23	27	5
Coventry 'A'	4	0	2	0	20	20	4

Junior Division 1	P	W	D	L	F-	A	Pts
Chesterfield 'A'		1	1	0	30	20	7
Coventry 'A'		0	0	0	22	8	6
Gloucester		0	2	0	30	20	6
Wolves 'A'		0	1	0	17	13	4

Junior Division 2	P	W	D	L	F-	A	Pts
Derby	5	0	0	0	46	14	11
Loughborough	5	1	1	0	51	19	11
Wolves 'B'	4	1	0	0	40	20	9
Pontesbury 'A'	2	1	0	0	26	24	6

Junior Division 3	P	W	D	L	F-	A	Pts
Walsall 'A'	0	0	0	0	35	15	10
Worcester 'A'	1	1	0	0	28	22	7
Burton	1	2	0	0	34	26	7

Junior Division 4	P	W	D	L	F-	A	Pts
Bromsgrove 'A'	5	0	0	0	36	14	10
Leamington	6	1	2	0	38	22	7
Stroud	4	1	1	0	25	15	5
Walsall 'B'	2	0	0	0	16	4	4

Junior Division 5	P	W	D	L	F-	A	Pts
Stafford	4	4	0	0	34	6	
Rugby	5	3	0	2	32	18	
Walsall 'C'	4	3	0	1	24	16	

Ray Hogg reports from ...

NORFOLK

AMBITION ACHIEVED

It must be a record - Norfolk having three men in the rankings as issued by the computer. Richard Stevenson in the Seniors, Philip Logsdon in the Juniors, and Neil Pickard in the cadets. A brief moment of glory for Richard as I see in the current list which has just arrived that he has now disappeared from the top 150. Philip on the other hand is still there, and playing National League, County and competing in some tournaments should remain there in his last season as a junior. He also has achieved an ambition to be both Junior and Senior champion of Norfolk and must be ranked in the County as No.1 player at both levels. It seems strange not to have Doug Bennett at No. 1 after all these years but Doug does not practise so much these days, and certainly does not worry too much about losing in league matches like he used to. Playing in National League fixtures however he gives his all even though he has been demoted to No.2.

Neil seems to improve every time I see him and no player in this County be they senior or junior can presume they have got an easy draw if they come up against this five foot nothing twelve-year-old. Let us hope that he retains his interest in the sport as he grows up and we should have another England-ranked senior player.

In National League Norwich Foxwood have played two more matches, both of which ended as draws - the same result as the first half. This leaves the team still unbeaten but we notice that Nottingham have signed Dennis Neale for the occasional match no doubt to ensure promotion. Foxwood on the other hand has only players who are regulars in the Norwich League, and I personally would not like to see them importing other than from around our County.

We had two incidents during these matches which I would relate in case other teams may have the same thing happen. The first I call 'Audience Participation' this being when a player during a match had occasion to ask a spectator to be quiet and this spectator became abusive and we nearly ended up with a punch up in the hall. Instructions have now gone to all players that should they have any complaint about anything in the hall they must go through the match

official. D.I.Y. may be alright for league matches but not in front of an audience. The other problem we had is a fairly common one in that people nip out for a natural break between sets and then come back and break the concentration of the players usually at a crucial point. We are asking for doors to be blocked whilst play is in progress and anyone who leaves the hall to listen for a game to end before coming in.

In the King's Lynn championships all I have managed to glean is that Peter Halliday beat Roger Swift in the final (both players from Cambs) but in the juniors final Norfolk's Stephen Fox beat Halliday. At Wymondham David Unwin beat Stephen Howlett. Stephen must be getting a bit fed up with these players who suddenly come through to the final as last year Simon Steward beat him. Unwin from Thetford has been away from the action for some time after being a successful junior, but has returned to some effect. Les Rayment reckons he is among the best we have in Norfolk.

Met Geof Keer of the Diss League recently. This league has only recently affiliated to the County and seems to be going from strength to strength. It consists of players mainly from the local area, that is the borders of Norfolk and Suffolk and Geoff says there are none of the big guns from Ipswich coming to medal hunt. It is a truly rural area but not true that some teams have to move the pigs out of the way before a match.

The Personality of the League must be Yvette Brown who now lives and works in the area although still playing for Essex II. A Junior to watch in my humble opinion is Louise Winter. At 14 has the build, temperament and enthusiasm to make her name known. I will watch her progress with interest.

An exhausting 12 hours has just been spent by the organising committee mainly Dennis and Margaret (Calver) at the Norfolk Junior Championships. 91 Juniors of various ages, talents and sizes competed at the Carter Leisure Centre in my home village of Drayton. This venue took the place of Dereham School which became unavailable after many years. It turned out that this new venue was what we have needed for a long time, room for nine tables, warm with plenty of room for spectators - of whom there were many.

Suffice to say dozens of games were played, no tears were apparent, and many youngsters went home tired and happy, and we hope looking forward to next year. The only set I will mention is that which normally ends Junior Championships and quite often fails to live up to its possibilities - the Boys' U.17 final. This year however words cannot describe the interest and tension of this match between Logsdon and Simon Steward. Three hard games with all the shots in the book and a few out of it. Philip

triumphed at 19 in the third eventually but both players were applauded off the court.

Our thanks for the sponsorship from Taverham Garden Centre toward these championships. (an off-the-cuff remark heard after the match was - that match was played between Gordon Logsdon and John Vaughan - though they were not on court).

Our each Anglian League staggers from match to match, the interest seems to have gone from this once prestigious competition. I am sure it could once again become what it used to be. Someone somewhere must have some ideas how to re-vamp it. It is only through Stan Honor that the League exists at all now. Incidentally Stan qualified as a County Umpire in December.

In the Wilmott Cup Norwich have now to travel to Birmingham in the zone final after beating North Hunts. 9-0. Whatever happened to the Norwich Rose Bowl entry?

Dennis Millman reports from.....

NORTHANTS

FIFTH SUCCESSIVE WIN

Yet again it is the County Juniors who get the lion's share of the honours in County Championship matches. Although the confident way they gained a fifth successive win this season when they defeated Worcestershire, makes one wonder, and not for the first time, why such talented players fail to make a greater impact at senior level.

On this occasion the boys Andy Edmonds, Andy Trott and Richard Bashford won the singles, while the girls Maxine Shears and Donna Furniss had to be content with the doubles. Edmonds was particularly impressive with his second straight singles win giving Northants a winning lead, and Trott showed commendable determination in eroding a huge third end deficit to take the final rubber and so give Northants a 7-3 success.

Northants Firsts also ended on the winning side but unfortunately the victims were Northants Seconds who nevertheless put up a resolute battle before going down 3-7. As usual Graeme McKim and Ian Hawes were in fine form taking five sets between them, while Glennis Hooper and Dorothy Marsh won a close doubles. It was nice to see Tim Chamberlain and Phil Snelling return to the county ranks but Chamberlain must have viewed his comeback with mixed feelings as he went down to both Snelling and Steve West. Margaret Maltby still riding high after her deserved but unexpected singles campaign in the Midland Bank County Closed added the additional point.

The Veterans received a heavy defeat at the hands of Cheshire for whom Mike Tew and Myra Lypnyckys impressed. Keith Jones and Joyce

Porter fully extended the opposition but a solitary singles from Jones was the only reward.

Even this was greater reward than either Keith or Joyce received at the recent Northampton League Tournament for when play ended at 11.30 p.m. neither had won a title. However when examined more closely this was almost certainly due to the organisers' decision to play both women's singles and doubles on Friday evening, with an open hard-bat event on the Saturday, a decision not readily acceptable to some of the ladies who normally play a prominent part in the final proceedings.

Keith had a different problem, for when time was called at 11.30 he remained unbeaten in five different events with the impossible prospect of eight further sets to complete. Now having rested on his laurels, he can look forward to a new date when hopefully he can add to his already impressive list of honours.

Results of Completed Events:

8.S: Andy Edmonds bt Raymond Jacobs 19, 14.
J.D: Jacobs/Glen Robertson bt Edmonds/Richard Bashford 18, 16.
W.D: Connie Bone/J. Swaffield bt Stephanie Dunkley/Alison Terry 19, 16.
Divs.1 and 2 Handicap Singles: Gerald Finney bt Andy Lloyd 11, 16.
Divs. 3 and 4 Handicap Singles: Connie Bane bt Alan Huynh 14, -10, 11.
Divs. 5 to 8 Handicap Singles: Mark Aden bt Phil Wagner 19, -15, 13.

The following players will contest the postponed finals.
Open Singles:- Graeme McKim v Keith Jones or Chris Handshaw.
W.S: Connie Bane v Stephanie Dunkley.
X.D: Brian Wooding/Stephanie Dunkley v Keith Jones/Margaret Maltby.
V.S: Keith Jones v Dick Ingle
Hard Bat Singles:- Glen Robertson v Keith Jones or Brian Wooding.
M.D: McKim/Handshaw v Final Qualifiers.

On the league scene, the attempt of McKim, Handshaw and Edmonds to win three league titles seems likely to founder on the lack of supporting players at Northampton, where since the start of the campaign both Ashley Bennett and Nat Richardson appear to have abdicated from the Lings ranks, leaving the side vulnerable to the kind of opposition always provided by Abington Nomads Keith Jones, Brian D'Hooghe and Tim Chamberlain.

At Wellingborough, with Brian Dangerfield and Mark Nannery completing a Chapman's quintet, things seem more promising, with Chapman's holding a substantial lead over Electricity as the following table indicates.

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Chapmans 'A'	11	11	0	0	106
Electricity	10	9	0	1	82
Higham 'A'	11	7	0	4	66

At Kettering the situation is more encouraging although Rothborough 'A', with Keith Nicoll, Ken Nicoll and David Steele in full flow, have produced some splendid results of late but McKim's fleetness of foot is likely to inspire his Kettering Town colleagues to even greater things.

Lates League Table

	P	W	D	L	Pts
K. Town 'A'	14	14	0	0	126
Rothborough 'A'	14	10	2	2	100
Electricity 'A'	14	10	1	3	98
Thrapston 'A'	13	9	0	4	80
Wellingborough Town	11	8	1	2	72

Leading Averages	
1) Graeme McKim	33.33 = 100%
2) Ken Nicoll	35.39 = 89.7%
3) Steve West	37.42 = 88.1%
4) Ian Hawes	29.33 = 87.9%
5) Andy Edmonds	29.33 = 87.9%
6) Keith Nicoll	31.36 = 86.1%
7) Chris Handshaw	32.39 = 82.1%

Pauline Long reports from.....

NORTHUMBERLAND

DOORSTEP PRIVILEGE

On January 23, we were privileged to see top class table tennis on our doorstep when the Japanese team made their first visit to Tyneside to play a friendly match against England at Gateshead Leisure Centre.

They could not have picked a worse night from the point of view of spectators, as the snow and icy road conditions kept the crowd down to about 150. Those who were able to get to the venue were treated to an entertaining match in which Japan just had the edge. Graham Sandley lost the last set of the night to former world champion Seiji Ono, and England, who at the time led 3-2, eventually went down 3-4. Carole Moore produced the home country's best performance by beating Mlyuki Ufzono in her singles encounter and partnering Alison Gordon to victory in the women's doubles. England's other success was in the men's doubles, which was won by Sandley and Alan Cooke.

The Northumberland County junior side, had yet another 10-0 victory, this time away to Lincolnshire Lion Jan 21. Keith Patterson, Thomas Blackman, Peter Curry, Clare Mouzon and Denise Wilkinson were all unbeaten. They now have only one match left to play, against Lincolnshire's first team who are second in the table, and as the latter team have already lost one match, it will require a sensational defeat to stop Northumberland from winning the Div. 3A title. All three boys, in fact, have yet to lose a singles set, and in the first five matches, only four sets in all have been conceded.

The Tyneside Summer League representative sides had mixed fortunes in the National Knock-Out competitions. In the Wilmott Cup, the senior men were represented by Dave McAllister, Malcolm Lusk and Andy Hammett, but they were beaten 0-6 by the Sunderland League. However, the Cater Cup team of David Watson, Darren Shaw and Damien Linskill entertained the Stockton League, and duly won by 5-1, with David and Darren taking two sets each, and Damien one. They will face an uphill task in the next round, however, as they will take on the highly successful Northumberland League side of Keith Patterson, Thomas Blackman and Peter Curry- the full County junior side.

The outlook continues to be bleak for the Byker Newcastle first team in Div. 1 of the Halex National League. They lost 1-7 away to Grove Market Drayton, with Tony Gelder beating Phil

Bowen to take the lone set, but fared even worse at the hands of Tarmac Wolverhampton by failing to take even one set in a 0-8 defeat.

The second team also suffered two heavy defeats, by 1-7 against South Yorkshire II (Peter Curry winning the only set), and by 0-8 to South Yorkshire III. However, they gained a very creditable draw with fourth-placed Ormesby III to salvage another precious point, and results of that match (Byker Newcastle names first) are as follows:

BYKER NEWCASTLE II 4; ORMESBY III 4
Neil McMaster lost to David Blackburne -20. -11; bt Stuart Craggs 19. 14.
Keith Patterson lost to Blackburne -20. -19; lost to Anthony Wattis 15. -11. -16.
Thomas Blackman bt Craggs 10.17; bt Chris Metcalfe -15. 8.18.
Perry Curry lost to Wattis -13. -22; bt Metcalfe 8. -22. 15.

The next important date for the juniors will be the Northumberland Junior Closed Tournament on Feb. 25 at Scotswood Sports Centre. Details will appear in the April edition of "Table Tennis News".

Gerald Green reports from.....

SHROPSHIRE

NATIONAL LEAGUE

In a tense Division I match Grove just managed to force a draw at home against Ormesby. The Drayton side had a bad start with John Hilton losing his first set of the season - to Scottish International John Broe. A tired Hilton arrived from the 'Open' at Brighton only minutes before he was due to play and struggled to find form against the sharp Scot. Matters then deteriorated as Steve Scowcroft struggled in similar fashion and could not cope with the quick attacking style of Lindsay Taylor. Phil Bowen then beat Kevin Green with a splendid all-round display of attack but Malcolm Green was unable to maintain momentum against Steve Brunskill to fall in a close third and leave Grove 1-3 in arrears. Hilton then proved too experienced for Taylor and although Scowcroft really struggled against Brunskill he showed his character to win comfortably in the third. Bowen couldn't match the consistency of a determined Broe, which left Grove 3-4 down. To his credit Malcolm Green gave a fighting performance in the all-important last set to beat his namesake Kevin and save the day for Grove.

Grove 2 suffered another reverse when they found Pengelly Sports too strong for them and lost 0-8. However they did gain a 5-3 victory over Solihull and so completed the double over the Birmingham side. Man of the match was Colin Wilson with two wins, with Keith Sillitoe and brothers Stan and Joe Deakin contributing one each.

MIDLAND LEAGUE

Telford's A and B teams clashed in the final fixture in Division 3, the A team of D. Elkin, M. Langford and G. White beating the B team of D. Russell, G. Clibborn and R. Fettes 7-3. So the A side have suffered only one defeat all season and finished with ten points

from their six games. The B side finished with three points.

Telford Veterans played their last Div. 2 fixture and now have to sit back and wait to see if they get promotion. The team of M. Beaman, N. Maycock and J. Holding travelled to Coventry and came away with an 8-2 win. Averages: Beaman 18/21, Holding 13/21 and Maycock 10/21.

Unbeaten performances by Malcolm Green and Paul Barnett enabled Grove to record an impressive 7-3 win against Coventry. Neither of the players were troubled and Grove's third player young Tim McGill gained valuable experience at Senior level.

TOURNAMENTS

Players from the Grove gave good performances in the Cotswold Junior Open with 10-years-old Claire Marshall taking full advantage of the draw to reach the last 16. Victoria Boyd underlined her recent progress when beating England-ranked Carolyn Bateman. Dawn Wickstead gave another fine performance to reach the last 16 before losing a close set against No.1 seed Claire Potts. McGill was in typical fighting form to reach the closing stages of the Cadet boys' singles before losing by the closest of margins to Justin Goodall of Pontesbury. Goodall had played splendidly to oust England-ranked Nick Ryder and Colin White of Devon before losing a superb set to finalist Bradley Billington of Derbyshire.

COUNTY SCHOOLS

The Shropshire Schools individual championship honours went to an outsider.

The championships attracted a large entry with the eight events being keenly contested and tournament favourites justifying their top seed places.

But a stranger to Shropshire competitions, Louise Davis, the England-ranked junior and Worcestershire county star, proved to be the most successful player on view.

Davis qualified for the competitions as a pupil at Bridgnorth's Oldbury Wells School. In fine style, she captured both the under-19 and under-16 girls' titles.

The under-11 girls' singles was dominated by Market Drayton Junior School pupils with the quartet of Caroline Ashcroft, Tara Hanley, Louise Townsend and Claire Marshall occupying the semi-final places.

Ashcroft, the top seed, emerged victor over Townsend in an excellent final. Both semi-finals proved to be closely contested with T. Hanley losing to Ashcroft and Townsend the narrow victor over Marshall.

Under-11 boys' singles saw the closest of all the finals. Edward Knighton of Market Drayton Junior emerged victor after beating clubmate Paul Ainsworth, of Woore Primary School 23-21, in the deciding game. Both boys displayed a range of shots beyond their years.

In the under-13 girls' singles, there was victory for Victoria Boyd at 19 in the decider over schoolmate Johanna Dyke in the final in which the two Grove School pupils gave an excellent display of attacking play.

The strength of Mary Webb School, Pontesbury, was the dominant factor in the under-13 boys' singles with Simon Cooper a close winner over David Morris in an excellent final.

Cooper had reached the final with a series of hard hitting displays beating Grove's Andrew Boughey and Gregory Lovatt and the Pontesbury duo of Adrian Phillips and Andrew Crowther.

Meanwhile Morris faced a string of schoolmates with Chris Day, Neil Thomas and, in the semi-final Paul Corfield, all victims of the talented Mary Webb player.

In the under-16 girls' singles the England-ranked starlet, Davis, captured the first of her two titles when she beat Grove School's Stephanie Thorneycroft in the final.

It was Thorneycroft who upset the seeding with the defeat of schoolmate Dawn Wickstead in the semi-finals. Julie Bloor fell to Thorneycroft in the quarterfinals. Johanna Dyke displayed excellent form to reach the semis before losing to Davis who, one round earlier, had beaten Grove girl Nicola Thorneycroft.

Telford's Paul Fisher was the winner in the under-16 boys' singles final. He scored a win over Mary Webb's Cooper. The tournament favourite, David Williams (Grove) fell to Fisher in the semi-finals, John Lumley, of Mary Webb was in tremendous form before losing to Cooper in the semi-final. Williams had hard fought wins over Shrewsbury's Gary Thompson and Pontesbury's Darrell Coriield.

In the under-19 girls' singles, Davis had a well deserved final win, but was extended by Grove's Alison Barker. Sisters Nicola and Stephanie Thorneycroft were respective semi-finalists. Nicola reached her semi by ousting Gina Brown and Dawn Wickstead.

Top seed in the under-19 boys' singles Colin Wilson, stamped his authority on the competition beating the in-form Fisher to retain the title he won a year ago.

Tim McGill and John Lumley, both impressed before losing to Wilson and Fisher respectively.

NATIONAL-SCHOOLS

The younger age groups kept Shropshire's flag flying in the area finals of the National Schools team championships. The matches were played at the Grove and resulted in Market Drayton Junior U-11 Boys, Grove U-13 Girls and Mary Webb, Pontesbury U-13 Boys all qualifying for the Regional finals. Already through to this stage are Market Drayton Junior School U-11 Girls. It was a disastrous day for the highly rated Grove U-16 Boys and U-19 Girls. Both potentially strong teams they had to be content with runners-up spots.

GRADED SINGLES

Grove players dominated the January Graded Singles tournament taking all five sections.

Colin Wilson repeated his November success in Grade 'A'. He emerged victorious despite suffering defeat in the Group matches at the hand of Jus)tin Goodall. Wilson turned the tables when the two clashed in the final.

The fine unbeaten display in Grade 'B' gave Grove's improving Karen Rogers a well-deserved success against Matthew Jeffrey in the final. The most deserving victor of the day must have been the reliable Ray Gibson who underlined his recent superb progress by taking the Grade 'C' title.

Grove's Paul Brown also underlined his progress in Grade 'O' by beating clubmate Audrey Barnett in the final.

Claire Marshall took Grade 'E' after a series of hard fought matches, with Jonathan Day of Pontesbury her final victim.

SHROPSHIRE INTER CLUB LEAGUE

The League went ahead despite Oswestry teams being snowbound. Shrewsbury went to the top of 1 and with one series of matches remaining in section two a tight finish is inevitable. The Shrewsbury duo of Ian Baker and Keith Williams were in excellent form to beat the former leaders Stafford 3-1. Baker was unbeaten. The Shrewsbury pair continued in good form to beat Grove Kidsgrove 4-0 and Telford 3-1 with Baker again unbeaten.

Grove Clayton went to the top of 2 following victories by the Barry Turner, Adrian Bloore duo over Pontesbury Lefties 4-0. They also beat Grove Farcroft 4-0. Grove Salisbury proved to be a different proposition and with Tim McGill beating Turner and Brian Eaton beating Bloore the result was a thrilling 2-2 draw.

Grove Alexandra and Grove Buntingsdale remain unbeaten at the top of Div. 3 with the Alexandra duo of Matthew Jeffrey and Steven Eaton unbeaten against Grove Ercall and Jeffrey repeating the dose against Grove Walkmill, where his team registered a 3-1 win. Simon Stones and Simon Edwards of Buntingsdale gave Grove Hinstock a severe 4-0 beating and went on to hammer Grove Norton 4-0 despite a promising performance by Audrey Barnett.

Tony Carey reports from . . .

SOMERSET

EVER ONWARDS TO EXCELLENCE
Since my last report things have started to hot up on the Junior scene, starting with one of the biggest and most looked forward to event of the season. I refer to the Cotswold Junior 'Select' at Gloucester on Feb 4/5, organised once again by that hard-working tournament committee under

the direction of referee Doug Young, aided by Les Smith. Although they had countless interruptions, they still managed to finish each day with a smile and a "Well done, all of you."

I will not dwell on general events, but try and confine things to the Somerset contingent. Once again, we had our successes and disappointments. In the Cadet events for girls some shock results were announced, the first being the defeat of Julie Billington by that tenacious little fighter from Bournemouth, Tracy Scott-Pawson, at "deuce" in the third after being 20-17 down, and another fine win by Lisa Robins over Claire Potts. These results threw the event wide open and naturally we had high hopes of Melonie Carey getting through to the final, but fate decreed otherwise, as we saw her lose to Julie's cousin and doubles partner, Kerry Hall - a disappointment and a shock for Melonie, as you can imagine, this being their first clash. But she soon put this behind her and gave her all in the doubles, with Lisa Robins, reaching the final and in the process defeating their past adversaries in two semi-finals this season, Kerry and Julie, but only receiving the silver medals after being beaten by the No. 1 seeds, Andrea Holt and Claire. Well played, girls! Lisa then met Andrea in the U14 final and collected another silver medal. Well played, Lisa!

The next day proved to be full of mixed fortunes in the Junior groups. Our No.2, Philip Payne, won his group but fell in the next round. Unfortunately, our No.1, Mark Bryant, was unable to take part due to his entry being after the cut-off point.

Melonie had an expected win in her group, but in spite of fighting hard, she lost to Evelyn Wright of Wales and Lisa Hayden of Essex.

Sarah Webb was top seed in her group, but found her opponent willing to concede without a fight, and then in the final analysis it was decided by a split decision between two fine players, Tanya Holland of Essex and Avon's No 1, Helen Perrott, the advantage going to Helen by 2 points on the count back. Helen then had to play Joanne Shaw, which at the time must have seemed an awesome task, but she fought well to take the set to 3 before the greater experience of Joanne shone through. Well played, all of you, for producing some entertaining play, even if I was a little mystified during one set in the qualifying group to hear some mystical words being uttered while the magic wand was being waved. However, when it seemed to have no effect on the opponent's point-winning strokes, I decided that it wasn't a new tactic for coaches to copy but just a bit of local folklore being enacted. Perhaps it was copied from wassailing, which I know the cider folk will understand, and which is practised throughout this county, but far removed from table

tennis, I should think.

EXETER ONE-STAR JUNIOR Feb. 11.

Somerset hordes were once again heading West to seek fulfilment and confidence boosters and to gain experience for the future.

This tournament has suffered some criticism in the past in relation to the late timing of events, but I would say that this one went a long way to dispel this past reputation, with very hard-working Exeter officials hardly having time to partake of sustenance the whole day. They kept matters flowing quite smoothly without too much time-wasting, but as in all tournaments these days the time-table was upset by third game sets. But I saw this as a healthy sign of the pronounced improvement which is being made at all ages and a pointer to its healthy future.

My one and only criticism which I know will be taken in the spirit in which it is meant, is that a larger array of official umpires suitably attired would have given that little extra polish which the occasion demanded. This repeats a statement made in my column last season, that „A defeated player is less likely to concentrate on umpiring a match in an event for which they have no further part to play and could upset the players for whom they are officiating." But I will give credit to the officials for ensuring that all Semis and Finals were given an adult umpire.

Now all that has been said, I will continue with the interesting part, mainly who won what. As in the Gloucester Tournament, there were ups and downs in our fortunes. Some expected a surprise. One of the big shocks for our contingent was the eclipse of Bryant by Payne in the boys'. This came after Philip had struggled through previous sets and Mark was on song. So this time the cat caught the canary, and reached the final to meet a very fine player in Rodney Thomas who survived a tough semi against the Cornwall No 1, Mark James. This seemed to activate Rodney into top gear against our Philip.

But undaunted Somerset fans - we still had some present - and future talented players gave the Somerset flag a concerted push up the flag-pole of the victory rostrum. The major honours went to Melonie, playing to her No.1 seeding, in winning the U14 girls' singles title, beating that fine up-and-coming Devon girl, Jane Wright, in the final, who had previously knocked out the No. 2 seed, Julie Norman of Berkshire in a fine semi. I am sure Adrian will be working very hard with Jane before they meet again to produce a counter to the new serves and topspins which Melonie had developed since they last met. But our success was not only about the win of Melonie but of the general perfor-

mance of our fledglings. You can be sure that they will not be allowed to rest on their laurels but will be encouraged to further heights.

Melonie made it a fine double when she partnered another much-improved player, Avon's No.1 Helen Perrott, to win the U17 girls' doubles heading Wiltshire's Claire Hunter and Jenny Neale, who had put out Sara Webb and Sarah Hammond in the semis, with a good understanding of each other's play.

The U17 girls' final saw Helen and Sarah Hammond in opposition, as in last year's tournament, with the tenacity of Sarah pulling her through in the end. Well played, Sarah and hard luck, Helen - almost another double. Sarah Webb seeded No.1, was beaten by Helen in the semis.

But the weekend was not over yet, as the Bridgwater girls had a vital competition the next day, this being the 3rd round of the Bromfield Trophy, at home on Sunday afternoon to a strong Bournemouth team of Samantha Scott-Pawson, Suzanne Hegarty and Tracy Scott Pawson. Our team was Melonie Carey, Sarah Webb and Kate Lines. We expected a hard battle when we heard they had beaten Swindon in the previous round, but our forecast proved to be right when the first set went to Suzanne two-straight against Sarah. The next was between Melonie and Tracy with the first going our way 21-23. Then Tracy fought back to win the second 14, but in the third Melonie's game started to flow fluently as we have seen so often in the Bridgwater Premier and Bristol 1st Division and she won 21-7. This levelled the score at one-all. The next set went to Samantha against Kate 12 and 8. This put Bournemouth in the driving seat again, but only for a short period as Melonie gave another display of her talents with good spin serves, loops and smashes to beat Suzanne 11 and 17 and put us level-pegging again. The next set brought together two players of similar styles in Sarah and Samantha and a good match looked in prospect but once again we fell behind with the greater experience of Samantha proving decisive and winning 10 and 14. We slipped further behind when Kate lost to Tracy -15 and -17.

The pressure was really on at this stage with Bournemouth leading 4-2, and the big clash between Melonie and Samantha to come. And what a battle this proved to be, with Samantha winning the first 21-13. Then Melonie came storming back in the second to win 21-15 and continued the momentum to clinch the set at 19 in the third - and we were once more in with a chance. The crunch came in the next set between Kate and Suzanne. The first game went to Suzanne 15 and you could sense the air of an imminent victory in the Bournemouth camp. However, our Kate seemed to be fired with renewed

determination to show what a fine player she is, and this she proceeded to do in the next two, gaining confidence as her serves and backhand topspin shots hit their targets, winning her the two games 13 and 10. And the smile of satisfaction on her face lit up the whole room, at the same time easing our tensions like a drowning man clutching a lifeline.

This win put the whole match back on a knife-edge again, the final set being between Sarah and Tracy and with that clash to decide the winners I would have hesitated to bet on the result. What a nerve-racker it proved to be with Sarah winning the first 21-15, then Tracy fought back to win the second 21-17 and the tension showed in the faces of both players. But in the third Sarah produced the more steady and aggressive play to win 21-14. Well played, all you young girls of both teams and for competing with the true spirit of a team effort and true sportsmanship.

Thank you also, Allan, for your sincere congratulations and good luck wishes for the next round. My one regret on that day was the total lack of support from the Bridgwater and District fraternity in a spectator capacity, especially regarding the younger ones who will have to step into the shoes of today's stars as they move up in age groups. More esprit de corps required in the coaching! This gave us the match 5-4, and a ticket to the next round against Bristol away, who also had a hard fight, so I am told, to beat Plymouth 5-4. So I am looking forward to another fine match there, with the added incentive of the winners proving the best in the West at Junior level. And if the match proves as competitive and entertaining as this one, then the image of Table Tennis as a playing and spectator sport will be greatly enhanced.

HOPE SPRINGS ETERNAL

Since my last report a lot of water has passed under the bridge, and I am afraid it has carried with it some of our hopes of a Somerset Senior or Junior team making that great leap forward that I predicted at the start of the season. Various factors have been contributory to the position we are now in, one of them being selection problems in picking our county teams when dates clash with tournaments in which our top Juniors are competing, thus preventing their inclusion in Senior teams, which we hoped to do and for which some are challenging-a healthy sign. Also, some players to whom I was looking to spearhead the way ahead either suffered from illness or sudden loss of form and therefore instead of being able to select from the pinnacle of our pyramid, we have had to call on either older players, who have given good service in the past, or younger players who may by their style of play cause some confusion in the minds of less experienced players whom they meet in their local leagues

and other county teams. We have had some degree of success with this ploy, but some players have had their confidence jolted when they have met good opponents. I suppose philosophically we can look on this season as "swings and roundabouts". This is alright for a brief period of transition, but will not get us on that launching pad and the road to higher things, for which we had high hopes.

But all is not gloom and despondency, as I am happy to report that we still have some very determined Juniors putting up some very encouraging and, in certain cases, excellent performances in their local leagues as Bridgwater, Yeovil and, in some instances, in the Bristol 1st Division, gaining that vital ingredient experience which with hard work leads to excellence and being winners - the most vital factor in the game. I know that I will be challenged on my last statement within my territory, but I also know that others will agree.

I am pleased to report that our current No 1 boy, Mark Bryant, is back in action and showing his best form in the Bridgwater Premier League for ROF 'A' and in Junior county matches again. Our No.2 boy, Philip Payne, is also enjoying a fine run of successes in the same division, and performed very well for our senior 2nd team against Hampshire 1st with a notable set against Chris Shetler which he only lost in the third because of a slight lack of concentration and the greater experience of his opponent. Well played, Philip, but I only wish you would practise as hard as you play matches! Our county trials for U-12 and U-14 boys and girls confirmed that the flow of promising players is still turned on, and some of the results were very encouraging. There were no great upsets but nearly every player by the end of the day had the satisfaction that he or she had been made to fight for every point and if their rate of progression continues unabated then the Somerset Junior hordes will continue to be a force to be reckoned with on the tournament scene for some time yet. I am still looking forward to seeing a large Senior contingent attending tournaments, our only regulars at the present, apart from our top Juniors attending the Senior events, are Lee Sadler and Rebecca Russe. Perhaps my hints in previous reports were missed or they didn't think it worth reading because I always seem to be writing about Juniors, my answer to that being that the Juniors' scene that is more evident and where it is all happening week in and week out."

The Juniors had varying degrees of success at the England Ranking Trials with Melonie creating unforced errors in the second round of the Knockout Competition and losing this after winning her group without dropping a game. Unfortunately she was unable to have a chance to atone for this on the second day in the Junior

event, as all places were filled. But this proved a good day for Sarah, who managed to get through her group.

The following weekend it was 'on the road' again, with high hopes of successes in the English Junior Closed. This again produced mixed fortunes for our two top girls with Melonie working very hard to beat two near rivals in the Cadet Section, and getting to the semi-final before losing to Claire Potts, the eventual winner. Sarah, on the second day, won three sets, some very tight, before losing to Susan Collier. This gave her a considerable boost up the ranking list to 14th place. Well played, Sarah!

The next tournament was the South of England Junior at Woking, in which Melonie reached the Cadet final before she lost to Julie Billington. We were back again for the Junior event on the second day but the competition, as was to be expected, was too strong for our girls, and both only had one opponent in their groups - Melonie lost to Lesley Souter, and after surviving a tight set of 3 games with Amanda Shufflebotham, Sarah lost in the third to Debbie Simmonds.

The following week we were nearer home, attending the Bath Two-Star, which attracted some good players from far and wide, the only mar on the day being that the Juniors had a long wait for their games, due to a two-hour delay in starting because of inclement weather. Melonie had a good set with that fine Devon lady, Elaine Short, in her group and taking her to three, and I am sure at the same time again learning more of what this great game is all about, with pure skill and experience proving the winner, which is a long developing and dedicated process but is well worth it, in the end. But in spite of everything, we had some success with Sarah Webb reaching the final of the Junior girls to meet the No 1 seed, Teresa Moore, who seemed to be in action most of the day in different events. She had a hard fight on her hands in each set but her competitive spirit and experience and class of play helped her triumph each time and this was again evident in the final, when she beat Sarah two-straight, with some very delicate touches and hard hitting.

To finish on another high note, the latest success of our Juniors has been the success of Chilton Trinity School, Bridgwater in winning the South West Region U-16 girls' team event at Plymouth, beating Launceston College 6-2 and booking their place in the area finals at Stroud Leisure Centre on Feb. 26 along with the U-13 girls' team from Haygrove School, Bridgwater. The U-16 result was all the more praiseworthy because of the good performances of two players playing out of their age groups - Mandy Williams and Sharon Fewings - who supported Melonie Carey and Sarah Webb very well, Mandy winning two and Sharon showing good indications

of her potential.

Our very young boys' teams from St George's, Wembdon, Bridgwater and Millfield Juniors, also played well, only going down to more experienced players. Very hearty congratulations and well done to all those who took part and who displayed the Somerset colours prominently.

We all hope that this trend will continue, making us a force to be reckoned with in schools and other competitions in the future from the sound base we have. Our finest hour is yet to come, of that I feel sure, even though there are many trials and tribulations ahead.

Jack Chalkley reports from

STAFFORDSHIRE RECORD MAINTAINED

With both our senior and junior first teams in the Premier Divisions and awaiting the second Premier weekends, there are only two County Championship matches to report on this month. The good news is that our junior seconds are maintaining their unbeaten record, beating Warwickshire II 7-3 in their latest match. An off-form Matthew Harvey missed out on both his singles and with the score at 3-all at one stage it looked as though the young Warwicks side would run us close, but Angela Sanders and Helen Lower proved far too strong for the visiting girls and Neil Harris and Kevin Lawrence both had straight wins to remain unbeaten in their singles. The other unbeaten side in Division 3B is Northants and there is the makings of an exciting climax to the season when the two teams meet at Walsall on March 31. Staffs will need to win this match as Northants have a superior sets average so good support from the County is needed on that day to help our side along.

The senior seconds are finding the pace in Div 2A rather hot. Having won their first two matches, they are now hovering very close to the relegation zone after losing the last three. The last involved a long trip to Suffolk to meet a strong home side led by John Kitchener and Stuart Palmer and the resultant 8-2 defeat was perhaps no surprise. Jill Powis was the only singles winner and with Amanda Hegarty gained a doubles win also. Dave Hanney replaced the unavailable Stan Deakin, but neither he nor Mark Evans or John Hancock were able to register a win.

In the County League, Potteries A have already retained the Div. 1 title with one match to play. Stafford A are the likely runners-up but they could be overtaken in the final round of matches. West Bromwich A head Div. 2 although Leek A have the same number of points. Leek B have a narrow lead in Div. 3, but the closest contest is for the Div. 4 title with Lichfield B, Walsall C and Potteries D neck and neck. Each

play one of the weaker teams in their final matches so sets average is likely to be the deciding factor, and there is only one set between the three of them at the moment. In Div. 5, Potteries E look probable winners.

Diy. 1	P	Pts	Diy. 2	P	Pts
Potteries A	4	8	West Brom A	4	6
Stafford A	3	3	Leek A	4	6
Wolverhampton A	3	2	Wolverhampton A	4	4
Potteries B	3	2	Stafford B	4	3
Walsall A	3	1	Lichfield A	4	3
			Potteries C	4	2

Diy. 3	P	Pts	Diy. 4	P	Pts
Leek B	3	6	Potteries D	4	6
W'hampton C	4	5	Walsall C	4	6
Walsall B	4	5	Lichfield B	4	6
Tamworth A	2	2	Wolverhampton D	4	4
Stafford C	4	2	Stafford D	4	1
Stafford Vets	3	0	Stone B	4	1

Diy. 5	P	Pts
Potteries E	3	5
Lichfield C	3	4
Stafford E	3	3
Tamworth B	4	3
West Brom B	3	1

(sets 25-15)
(25-15)
(24-16)

Quarter finals in the Beattie Trophy, to be played on March 10, are as follows:- W'hampton A v Stafford; Potteries E v Walsall B; Lichfield B v Walsall C; Potteries C v Potteries D.

The finals will be held at the Woodfield Club on March 25.

The two main surprises in the Wolverhampton Closed Tournament were the unseeded Janet Dunning reaching the final of the Women's event, beating both Jill Powis and Fiona Elliot on the way, and the defeat of Jill Powis in all three of the finals that she played. As expected, Andrew Bellingham and Jill Harris retained their singles titles.

M.S.: A. Bellingham bt Andrew Rich 7. 15;
W.S: J. Harris bt J. Dunning 18. 16.
B.S: Adrian Dixon bt Murray Jukes 20. 19.
G.S: Amanda Hegarty bt J. Powis 17. 18.
V.S: Ray Dixon bt Mervyn Wood -17. 16. 21.
Boys' Savoy Singles (Restricted): Peter Toft bt Dayid Russell 19. 11.
M.D: Bellingham/Paul Draisey bt Dixon/Jukes 20. -18. 19.
W.D: Harris/F. Elliot bt Hegarty/Powis 13. 19.
X.D: Bellingham/Elliott bt Rich/Powis 13. 21.

The Dixon/Jukes partnership is obviously one to be reckoned with. Taking the senior pairing of Bellingham and Draisey to a close three follows on from their junior doubles win in the English Closed, and we also have to congratulate them on winning the Cotswold junior doubles more recently. Referring back to the English Closed, Staffs. players - all from Wolverhampton - figured in all three doubles finals. The County mixed champions Adrian Dixon and Amanda Hegarty won the junior mixed and Amanda, partnered by Jill Powis, lost over three in the girls' doubles. Congratulations to all concerned.

Mike Leach, the Wolverhampton secretary, also tells me that Wolverhampton teams are again doing well in the National competitions. The girls beat Ipswich 9-0 in the Bromfield Trophy and their women's team beat local rivals Birmingham 5-3 in the Rose Bowl. I also hear that Jim Hayward, the Wolverhampton coach and long-time County Coach is retiring at the end of this season - at least from

all practical coaching. I haven't had a chance to speak to Jim direct, but more news next month. Jim reached the 3-star coaching level in 1981 and has been closely involved with table tennis for over 45 years.

At schools' level, Staffordshire is restricted to the formal county boundary. Nevertheless, three Staffordshire teams are through to the regional finals - the last 12 nationwide - of the ESTTA team championships. King Edward's School, Stafford, provided the first boys' team from the county to reach this stage, with Michael and Andrew Dilger, David Gamble and Craig Wilson making up the under-19s team. Hanley High were the successful under-16s side, and Codsall High were surprising winners over the strong Market Drayton Grove School at the under-19 girls level.

In the New Year Lentec Computer Ranking lists there are no less than 15 entries from Staffordshire. Whilst I hold a personal view that ranking lists beyond, say, 25 have little meaning and in the case of table tennis prompt players to chase all over the country gathering points to move them up the ladder - without otherwise benefitting themselves or table tennis generally - I must nevertheless congratulate all those concerned for their hardworking efforts and success. Jill Harris is described as the best climber, moving up ten places to No.7, but she is followed by Fiona Elliot (No. 10), Amanda Hegarty (No. 27) and Jill Powis (No. 34) in the women's list. Andrew Bellingham reaches his highest position, No. 23, in the men's list, with Andrew Rich (No. 53), Craig Bakewell (No. 75), and Stan Deakin (No.1 08) also listed. At junior level we have, Adrian Dixon (16), Richard Hayward (22), Steven Meigh (40) and Kevin Cartwright (49) in the Boys and Jill Powis(3), Amanda Hegarty(7), and Angela Sanders (25) in the Girls. Two girls feature at cadet level, Helen Lower at No.9 and Louise Sherratt at No. 19.

Finally, if anyone reading these notes feels they have a story to tell about table tennis in Staffordshire, a news item even if only of local interest but worth recording or a point of view to express of general interest, please ring me on Stafford (0785) 822013. I will do my best to include a mention of it in this column.

Ian Bullock reports from.....

SUFFOLK

Congratulations to Joyce Love on being selected as reserve umpire for the European championships in Moscow in April.

To Sue Welham and Julie Dowsett on entering the Senior Lentec Ranking List at 73 and 75 respectively.

To Andrea Ambrose, Rosemary Bullock, Karen Perkins and Lisa Mayne on being chosen to attend a trial at St.

Neofs Centre of Excellence.

To 14-years-old Richard Hutchinson on having won more games than anyone else - 44 to be exact - in the Premier Division of the Ipswich and District League and finally to the two Senior and two Junior Ipswich teams who are all undefeated in the East Anglian League at the time of writing.

The Junior County Championships were held at the Waveney Sports and Leisure Centre, Lowestoft for the first time and our thanks must be expressed to Ron Clark and Russell King who organised the event so successfully in very pleasant surroundings. Play began at 11.30 a.m. and the presentations were made by the President, Mrs. Doris Fox just after 10 p.m.

Finalists:-

U-13G: Karen Perkins bt Andrea Ambrose 18. -14. 22.
U-13 B: Tim Hall bt Graham Martin 19. 11.
U-15 G: Lisa Mayne bt Sylvia Kenyon 16. 7.
U-15 B: Richard Hutchinson bt Paul Gooding 15. 22.
U-17 G: Kenyon bt Julie Mortimer 17. -19. 17.
U-17 B: Gooding bt Darren Jones 12. 14.
M.D: Hutchinson/Mortimer bt Philip Marshall/Mayne 15. -15. 13.
G.D: Mortimer/Julie Billham bt Kenyon/Claire Nicholls 17. -7. 14.
B.D: Shaun Caraccio/Gooding bt Nigel Howe/Wayne Shaw 26. -15.18.

NATIONAL INTER-LEAGUE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The County had mixed fortunes in this competition with Caraccio, Hutchinson and Jones winning all their sets to put out North Herts in the Carter Cup whilst our girls, Julie Mortimer, Sylvia Kenyon and Claire Nicolls came away from Wolverhampton empty-handed in the Bromfield Trophy. The title holders included Angela Sanders, Jill Powis and Dawn Gardener and the vast experience of these three left our girls with plenty to think about.

IPSWICH & DISTRICT LEAGUE

The Ipswich Closed Championships will take place over the weekend of March 16-18 at the Corn Exchange in Ipswich. Sun Life Assurance have agreed to help with the running costs and have kindly donated £100. There will be cadet events as well as junior ones for both boys and girls on the Friday evening. This innovation comes as a result of the large number of promising youngsters wishing to take part. The Divisional events on the Saturday have been well supported and there are no fewer than 110 entries in the restricted singles event. It is also encouraging to note the increase in entries of the women's events this year. The Corn Exchange is an excellent venue where you can bring the family to watch anyone of 500 or so matches with the Finals being played on the Sunday evening.

The Ipswich League is the sixth largest in the country, running 12 divisions and having upwards of 650 registered players. The Handicap Knock-Out Cup which began in December doesn't reach its climax until April. This has a very complex system of handicapping based on a team's position in the League. 90 teams, the highest ever, are taking part

and it is good to see teams from the lower divisions reaching the quarter-final stage.

UMPIRES

The importance of a good umpire is obvious but there are not enough active umpires about in Suffolk. Joyce Love, Tony Hooper, Ron Clark, Bert Newman and Basil Last from within the County have all made themselves available at regular intervals and we are grateful to the Essex pair of Gordon Smith and Graham Parkes for giving their time freely. In addition, Graham Mortimer is a probationer who is currently being assessed. I thought you twiddled the scorecards superbly on TV at the Yugoslav international, Graham! Seriously though, good luck in your endeavours to become qualified. Incidentally, anyone else who is interested in umpiring should contact Joyce Love on Ipswich 217704 who will be pleased to hear from you.

SCHOOL NEWS

The Dunlop National Team Championships Area Finals were played at St. Neots on Saturday Jan. 28. The following schools progressed to the Regional Finals on Feb. 26 at Orpington.

Girls U-19 Ipswich High School
Boys U-13 Orwell Park School
Boys U-11 Old Buckenham School
Girls U-11 Dale Hall Primary School to Luton on Feb. 18
Dunlop Individual Championships
a) Western Area (W) and Southern Area (S)

: Following a tournament at Stowupland, these pupils will progress to the County Finals on March 4:

Boys U-19 Nigel Howe (S), Matthew Easdown (W)
Girls U-19 Maxine Cobbold (W)
Boys U-16 Paul Gooding (S) Philip Marshall (W)
Girls U-16 Sylvia Kenyon (S), Michelle Crowe (W)
Boys U-13 W. Rowe (S) Roland Fisher (W)
Girls U-13 Rosemary Bullock (S)
Boys U-11 J. Hooper (S) Rupert de Quincy Adams (W)
Girls U-13 S. Smith (S)

The semi-finalists will also be invited together with the competitors from the Northern Area whose names have not been forwarded.

Finally, don't forget to enter the County Senior Championships on Saturday, April 28 at Lowestoft.

Mike Green reports from....

SURREY

GLORIOUS CONFIRMATION

Bubbly Jane Barella, the Surbiton table tennis sensation, gloriously confirmed her high English ranking by taking the women's singles title at The Challenge Trophies Surrey Senior Closed held at Elmbridge Leisure Centre.

Despite the absence of the injured Michele Hams, Jane's win confirmed to all those doubters that she is at last reaching out for that Surrey No. 1 ranking so long held by Lorraine Garbet.

Indeed, Lorraine, who was seeded one, bowed out of the competition in the semi-final to Croydon's Lesley Popkiewicz. Linda Clemett, current holder of the only women's place in the Surrey first team and No. 2 seed, didn't last long succumbing to the talents of the veteran Joan Warren.

And so to the final.... Popkiewicz, looking calm and relaxed, hit out well to take the first game 21-19. Barella, generally a slow starter, got her fore-hand loop going to perfection in the second winning easily. Although Jane looked tense in the third, she had enough determination to see her through 21-16 to become the Challenge Trophies Senior Champion.

In the Women's Doubles, Barella and Garbet joined forces as No. 2 seeds lifting the title by defeating top seeds Warren and Popkiewicz in a superbly entertaining final.

Barella's triple title ambitions looked on the cards as she took the floor again in the last final of the day with partner Glen Baker to contest the Mixed title with Mike Hammond and Lorraine Garbet.

Baker and Barella had already found the going tough most notably in their quarter-final against Joan Warren and Emil Emecz where they scraped home 23-21 in the third.

Mike Hammond was in a mean mood in the final, however, and seemed intent on blasting his opponents into the back wall. With Baker over-hitting badly, Hammond and Garbet were too strong and thus denied Jane her maximum of titles. The Mixed title did give Lorraine her second win however.

Hammond was also involved in the Men's Doubles final. Partnered by Andy Sexton, their opponents were the holders of the title Mark Oakley and Glen Baker.

Sexton and Hammond had already fought hard to justify their No. 2 seeding knocking out the partnerships of Hannah/Garaway and Mason/Bole. Baker/Oakley did not drop a set reaching the final.

The final itself was a really entertaining affair. One game all and the adrenalin flowing, Hammond cruised into a fighting top gear which had everyone on the edge of their seats. At "deuce" in the third, all four of the players appeared to decide that they would not lose a point no matter what and the rallies were absolutely breathtaking. But there has to be a winner, and Baker/Oakley snaffled the extra points to win 24-22. Great stuff....

In the Veterans' Singles, the performance of the tournament came from Ron Wilde when he defeated No. 1 seed Gordon Chapman. Forthis, Ron was awarded The Fred Joyce Memorial Trophy for the most notable achievement of the day. The most distraught competitor of the day must have been



Top: Surrey Senior Closed Ladies Winners LORRAINE CARBET and JANE BARELLA; Sponsor GEORGE SEYMOUR of CHALLENGE TROPHIES LTD; Losing Finalists JOAN 'Playrite' WARREN and LESLEY POPKIEWICZ. Jane is also the New Ladies Singles' Champion, beating Lesley in the Final. Bottom: Also left to right: New Mens' Singles Champion DAVID HANNAH-Scottish No.1 and also the recent Winner of The ESSEX 3 STAR; LIONEL FAURE - Restricted Singles Champion; RON WILDE - recipient of The Fred Joyce Trophy, on account of being adjudged the Best Individual Performer of the Day; FRANK HAMS, Still Top Veteran after defeating JOHN GARLAND in the Final.

Photo by Murray Corbin.

Graham Brown after his first round exit in the veterans' at the hands of Ron Langheim.

The Veterans' Final was contested between two Thames Valley League players Frank Hams and No.2 seed John Garland. At one stage, Frank looked dead and buried but he fought superbly to lift the title and end what had been a keenly contested event.

The Men's Singles saw all the ranked Surrey players enter except Max Crimmins. The top eight seeds all reached their quarter-final placings, Chapman being particularly impressive in thrashing Rupert Bole in round 4.

In the quarters, Sexton, Hammond and Chapman all fell to higher seeded opponents, but Glen Baker disposed of third seed Steve Holloway.

David Hannah, Scottish No. 1 and top seed, had struggled in round four against seed 16 Junior Facey winning only 20, -20, 15. Hannah did not seem in top gear in his semi with Mark Oakley either, but won through to the final fairly comfortably in the end.

In the other semi, second seed Nicky Mason thrashed the hide out Baker. However, Nicky looked in the final as though he thought he couldn't win and Hannah had little trouble confirming his top seeding to become The Challenge Trophies Surrey Champion.

Like all recent newcomers to the Surrey scene, I always thought that the sprightly and slightly eccentric mad-cap photographer who hurtles over barriers to gain exclusive snaps of the successful and famous was a mere youngster. Not so..... For there was Monsieur Corbin battling his way through the Veterans' Competition at Elmbridge..... What next? Walter French entering the Surrey Junior Closed? I thought I may have heard Mike Kercher moaning about Murray's "illegal service". Perhaps I was hearing things..... Ho-hum.....

I thought that the small band of organisers, marshalled by that man of many words, John Hammond, did extremely well before, during and after the tournament. One is always going to have the problem of a few people disappearing when it is their turn to umpire (slightly selfish this....) but other than that I was most impressed. Come on John..... If you don't run this tournament next year then who is?

The Croydon & District League held their Closed Championships at St. Mary's High School Sports Hall, a new and very satisfactory venue. The tournament was sponsored by Rodan UK Ltd.

John Somerville says "A warren is accepted as ground occupied by rabbits, but there is nothing rabbitly about the Purley Warren family." (Brilliant.... You should be writing this column, Johnny) Connie and Joan, the husband and wife team of former internationals, claimed three singles titles between them plus a share in a doubles one. Joan avenged her defeat

in last year's women's final at the hands of Lesley Popkiewicz, and Connie, having squeaked through the match of the Championships in his semi-final vs Phil Smith 26-24 in the third, claimed his crown against Dave Crowley which match also settled the Veterans' title.

Young Martin Lowe of Kenley had a marvellous weekend winning the Junior Singles without dropping a game and also the Divisions 2 and 3 title. In each event he defeated the higher county-ranked David Hodson.

The Stiga equipment prizes, donated by Rodan UK Ltd, were presented by the League's President Mrs. Joan Bourne who, in turn, received a floral tribute from the League Council as did, to the vociferous applause of the spectators, Margaret Jones, who prepared and dispensed the refreshments bar so well.

The Dulwich League are hoping to hold their Presentation Dance on Saturday, May 19th and details of this can be obtained from Janice Brook during the day on 222-8111 (ex.212). Their top 8's tournament will be held at Irving on Monday, 2nd April commencing at 6.30 with the Juniors. In the League table which I have, there is nothing between Irving Sports A & B, Southwark A, and Abeng A in the top division.

Of course I don't like blowing my own club's trumpet (not much....) but Chessington seem set to capture a magnificent double by winning both the Thames Valley League and the Leatherhead, Epsom and District League. If they can hold off the now wilting challenge of Elmbridge and Graham Spicer, Mike Hammond, Peter Matthews and Graham Roberts should lift the Thames Valley title for what I believe would be the fifth year running. Even I'm losing count. In the Leatherhead, Graham is joined by Geoff Green, Bob "Plonker" Minson, and Graham Brown. Their only real danger is now Fetcham A but Messrs. Holder, Pearson and Stracey will make it difficult for the Chessington lads.

I wonder if there is enough interest for Surrey to enter a second County Veteran team in the County Championships.... Mike McGrath, Graham Brown, Ron Wilde, Ron Langheim etc. etc. No doubt we'd have trouble finding another lady player. It might be worth a few phone calls Mike.... (Kercher, that is).

Finally, I would like to thank Tom Blunn, Albert Shipley and George Yates for the opportunity afforded at Brighton for League Reps to chat to them. A good idea.... I hope you found it useful. It's a pity Andy Brown went out in the first round of the Open.... I really think he'd have given a few of our Internationals a run for their money.... Seriously Andy, if you want to enter the Open and tournaments like it then good luck to you.

John Woodford reports from

SUSSEX DIFFICULT DECISIONS

Rising stars like Hosham's Sally Weston and many others have to make some extremely difficult decisions in these days of choked tournament calendars and their choices cause many a heartache for themselves and local officials at both levels, county and local league.

The Horsham girl has elected to go for the tournament circuit almost every weekend, senior and junior events, which means she is not available for many Crawley and Horsham league events including the Crawley championships. In a similar situation, England No. 4 junior Teresa Moore (Bexhill) cannot appear regularly in Sussex events and the Rose Bowl and others.

Miss Weston is now the leading Sussex player at No. 36 on the Lentec rankings, but even she is mystified as to exactly where the points have come from. The regular monthly Lentec lists are extremely valuable from the publicity angle, even allowing for errors and there is no doubt that entries for most tournaments have increased because players way down the lists have something to measure their progress.

Eastbourne juniors are the first team to win a title as the new Division 1 champions of the Sussex junior inter-league championships. Robert Warner, Andy Banks and Simon Hancock are the team members involved. In other Sussex towns there are of course stronger individual players on the national ranking lists but as described above, as individuals they are often too busy at other events to make regular team appearances locally.

Sussex veterans are almost home and dry to win their division and 'win promotion to the vets' premier class next season - Mike Watts, Alan Rowden, Gerry Batt-Rawden and Val Gillam are the successful quartet.

Newspaper sub-editors keep coming up with "Moore's the Merrier" headlines.

At the Norwich Union English Open at Brighton, Stephen and Adrian Moore produced the result of a lifetime, when at breakfast time in the first round of the men's doubles they thumped out the top seeds Mesaros and Karakasevic 18 and 15.

Since then the deadly Bexhill duo have played each other twice. In the National League for Avon, Adrian was the winner in a classic duel but a fortnight later at the Hastings championships, Stephen got his own back and for the first time shot up the national rankings to 46, to lead his brother for the first time.

Talking of Hastings, the Stamco Sussex Open, one of the most popular 2-star early tournaments will be forced

to play this year at the Hastings Sports Centre where the seating is certain to be more Spartan than the White Rock Pavilion. The White Rock complex is being refurbished during the autumn. However, playing conditions will be excellent and there will be more room for the tables, so that is something to look forward to, even if the seafront is a few minutes' walk away. A walk on the pier after a defeat was always a tonic!

ALL STARS IN

By some quirk of the calendar it looks as though all the top Sussex players will be available to play in the all-Sussex championships at Lancing Sports Centre on April 1st, where the Moores will be top-seeded and the reigning champion Graham Gillett will be seeded in the middle of the order. This time last year Gillett was sharp enough to knock-out the brothers but they have moved slightly ahead in 1984, especially after hammering the Yugoslavs at Brighton, so whether Gillett will be able to do a repeat - he is still playing well - remains to be seen.

Exceptional interest will also be generated in the women's singles championship held at the moment by Rachel Mackriell. Three players can stop her - Sheila King, unbeaten in the Rose Bowl against Aldershot, the No. 1 seed Teresa Moore and then the delectable French connection - the 23-year-old French schoolteacher from Le Havre Catherine Coulombe!. She has defeated Sheila King for a third time, adding the Hastings title to her East Sussex championship, so it is a fascinating thought to see who will "lose their bottle" when the chips are down on April Fools Day - the fillies race has four favourites, Moore, Mackriell, King and Weston and then for added spice - an appearance by the former champion from Uckfield, Carole Hewett.

Roy Williams reports from.....

NORTH WALES JUNCTION DEFEAT CUP HOLDERS

Alan Harris of Wrexham, who this season plumped for the post of Competition Secretary, is receiving some exciting results from the two Premier North Wales cup tournaments.

Llandudno Junction "A" at home to Malpas, the Gerald Radcliffe Cup (10 sets) holders, caused a sensation in the quarter-final by winning the tie 6-4. Former junior international Sue Roberts won two sets, as did new signing Ian Ault. Skipper Arthur Roberts won one and, with Sue, the doubles. The powerful Caergwrie with Terry Turner, who was unbeaten, Haydn Young, with two wins and Neil James with a solo defeated Rhyl's Clwyd "A".

For Clwyd former Welsh junior John Hook won two, Gareth Williams one and the doubles with John while

Meirion Williams drew a blank. In the Stan Shone Cup (9 sets) Doatra "A" (Llandudno) did well to beat Millers Cottage of Rhyl. Skipper Les Jones won three with George Mynott and David Evans each clinching one. Mark Kane and Roger Rimmington each won two for Millers.

In another exciting match Llandudno Jctn "B" travelled to Wrexham to play Dunlop. John Johnson had two wins and Bill Curtis one. But it was not enough to take them further in this season's competition. Alan Harris, Noel Ralphs and Brian Bradley just had the edge. Dennis Hunt, Peter Jones and Bill Williams for Colwyn Bay TTC "B" journeyed to meet Benllech (Anglesey) and each recorded two victories. For the Islanders Marcus Brown was unbeaten.

Both Rhyl Youth Club teams played in Anglesey, the "A" team with enthusiastic club leader Les Edwards, Andrew Harrison and Ashley Lee beat Holyhead "C" and their "B" team of Shaun Johnson, Dennis Taylor and Perry Lee defeated Llanfachraeth. Results:-

G.S. Radcliffe Cup
Llandudno Jctn "A" 6 Malpas 4
Prestatyn "A" 10 St Mary's 0
Lansdowne "A" 10 Holyhead 0
Caergwrie 6 Clwyd "A" 4
C.S. Shone Cup
Holyhead "B" 9 Colwyn Bay F.S. 0
Wrexham Victoria 0 United Gravel 9
Rhyddlan YC 0 Gresford 9
Holyhead "C" 1 Rhyl YC "A" 8
Doatra "A" 5 Millers Cottage 4
Dunlop Wrexham 8 Llandudno J "B" 3
Benllech 3 Colwyn Bay "B" 6
Llanfachraeth 2 Rhyl YC "B" 7

NORTH WALES CLOSED

Terry Turner became only the second player to win the A. T. Finney Cup, made in 1897, for the third successive season when taking the North Wales Counties Closed men's singles title. A game down and losing the second to former junior international Paul Griffiths, Terry fought back and just edged home in an exciting decider. In the semis Terry beat last season's runner-up Neil Thomas while Paul defeated John Hook.

Sheila Rogers, our younger veteran, retained the women's singles title with a final victory over Sue Roberts, a former junior cap. In the semis Sheila just got home 22-20 against fellow veteran Barbara Williams whilst new junior cap Karen Buckle was beaten by Sue.

Keith Fitzsimmons won the men's veteran singles from an entry of 23 defeating holder Don Hobbs in the final. Keith beat Peter Williams and Don beat Meirion Williams. Sheila Rogers beat Barbara Williams in the women's veterans with Pru Oakes, making her veteran debut, losing in the semis.

The tournament was well organised by Bill Curtis and his Llandudno committee. The entry, however, was the lowest on record with, for example, only 45 in the men's singles - a far cry from the 129 record entry. The championships were held at Colwyn Bay Leisure Centre, Eirias Park on Feb. 19. Other results:-

BS: Timothy Turner bt James Tapp
GS: Karen Buckle bt Janet Manning
CBS: Craig Thomas bt Keith Mouldesdale
CGS: Sharon Buckle bt Tracy Sambrook
MO: Stuart Conway/Paul Griffiths bt Ray Howland/Roy Williams
WO: K. Buckle/Sheila Rogers bt Pru Oakes/Barbara Williams
XO: John Hook/Oakes bt Neil James/Rogers
JO: Turner/K. Buckle bt Tapp/Lee Thacker
VO: Keith Fitzsimmons/Meirion Williams bt Karl Harrison/Don Hobbs.

Mary Rose reports from .

WARWICKSHIRE

WELL PLAYED DES

Pride of place this month must surely go to Birmingham's Desmond Douglas on regaining the Norwich Union English Open Men's Singles title at the Brighton Centre in February, which he first won in 1979/80. Desmond won an exciting final against Vladislav Broda.

It made a most satisfying end to an enjoyable few days' table tennis for a party of supporters from the Birmingham Area, including myself. It was good to see two of Warwickshire's National Umpires Tim Huc and Geoff Taylor officiating at the Championships, they certainly had a very heavy programme but I'm sure they enjoyed every minute. I was surprised to see only one Warwickshire competitor in the Qualifying Rounds, Lesley Smith from Birmingham who beat Michele Baker in Round 1 but lost to Sarah Sandley in the 2nd.

COUNTY RESULTS

Matches played Jan. 14, 1984.

Senior 2 v Yorkshire 2

The County improved their chances of winning Div 2A by a wine 7-3 win.

Junior 1 v Yorkshire 2

A most disappointing result for our Junior first losing 8-2 which leaves them 2 points down on Derbyshire who have a match in hand. The next fixture on Feb. 25 against Derbyshire will probably decide the Championship.

Junior 2 v Staffs 2

The Junior seconds represented by N. Felton, D. Thomas, V. Chauhan, Tracey Green and Lisa Spielsbury were also on the receiving end, losing 7-3 to Staffs, the boys' sets being close affairs but our girls were a little overwhelmed by their more experienced opponents.

COUNTY JUNIOR RALLY

The first session of a series of Coaching Rallies for Juniors and Cadets - which in the past have been so successful and beneficial to our younger players, was held at Higham Lane School, Nuneaton on Sunday Feb. 12.

Invitations had been extended to selected Juniors, and affiliated leagues were invited to submit further nominations.

Bob Montgomery (Coaching Officer) was very pleased with the response made from the Juniors, 11 boys and 4 girls attending the course. The Juniors had been very responsive and well behaved and later discussions were made as to how future sessions would be conducted.

NATIONAL CUP COMPETITIONS

Birmingham men's team represented by Barry Johnson, Phil Gunn and Carl Morgan moved into the 4th Round of the Wilmott Cup after a 5-2 win against Cambridge. Unfortunately, the women's team of Karen Groves, Sandra Peakman and Di St. Ledger were beaten 5-3 at Wolverhampton, in the Rose Bowl, although Sandra was in fine form winning 2 singles.

MIDLAND LEAGUE

Birmingham look to have lost their chance of winning the 1st Division of the Midland League but the 'B' team's position in Div. 2 looks much brighter, they have dropped just one point from 4 matches.

In Div.1 of the Veterans' League the 'A' Team are well placed. Oxford top the division but Birmingham have a match in hand.

LENTEC COMPUTER RANKINGS

Douglas has retained his No.1 spot in the Lentec Computer Rankings for February. Warwickshire players also included are:-from Birmingham at No. 15. Duggie Johnson, 17. Alan Fletcher, 29. Carl Morgan, 38. Barry Johnson, 52. Phil Gunn, 75. Barry Hayward, 77. Michael Browne, 85. Lester Bertie, 86. Ian Gunn, 91. Derek Munt and 114. Richard Tanner. Warwickshire's ladies also came into the rankings at No. 17 Karen Groves and 25. Sandra Peakman - both from Birmingham.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Dunlop Birmingham are still looking for that elusive first point of the season in the Premier Division of the National League. In the match against Thorn EMI Ellenborough the West Warwickshire Club came to the rescue when it was found that Dunlop's facilities were not available on Feb. 5 and the match was quickly transferred. As expected the Ellenborough squad won in convincing style 8-2. Kevin Beadsley playing his first match for Dunlop won one against Mark Mitchell and looks to be a good signing for the Birmingham side. Dunlop's other win was by Derek Munt, again against Mitchell.

To conclude on a happy note I would like to congratulate Lorraine and Barry Johnson on the birth of their first baby - a girl, Rebecca.

Laurie Selby reports from.....

WILTSHIRE

QUEEN OF SWINDON

Claire Maisey boomeranged back from a six months trip to Down Under to regain her crown as Swindon table tennis queen at the closed tournament.

Sporting a koala bear on her sweater, she swept to the women's singles title and made it a double triumph with another victory in the mixed.

Claire who returned to Swindon at Christmas defeated Janet Parker in an

action replay of last season's final.

There was no doubt about the opening game which Claire won emphatically but she had to come from behind to take the second.

The men's final also had an air of familiarity as top seed Steve McBean stepped up to meet Andrew Metcalfe in another repeat.

McBean had beaten Metcalfe in a league match the previous week, but the stylist Metcalfe showed he was a different proposition in the final of a tournament.

McBean staged a great recovery but still couldn't stop Metcalfe from winning the first game. Then the former Yorkshire county player showed his class as he cruised to victory to regain his title.

McBean gained some consolation by winning the men's doubles with Andrew Oxley. They beat the holders, Metcalfe and Steve Davies, in a see-saw three game battle.

The mixed also produced a real cliffhanger before the new partnership of Miss Maisey and Brian Powell triumphed in a nail-biting third game over holders McBean and Mrs. Parker.

Miss Maisey reached her third final in the women's doubles, playing with Alison Boyce. But after winning the first of a three game thriller, they went down to the holders, Parker and Tracey Watkins.

Basil Thompson became the veterans' champion when he beat Ernie Howell, many times former Swindon champion, in the final.

Longest game in the tournament came in the divisional singles when Martin Edwards beat Helen Wilson 34-32 in the second game.

The tournament was staged at Pinehurst sports hall and the trophies were presented by Mr. Len Smith, chairman of Wiltshire T.T.A.

Results:-

M.S: Semi-final: A. Metcalfe bt S. Davies 19,16; S. McBean bt M. Oxley 13, 13. Final: Metcalfe bt McBean 18, 9.
W.S: Semi-finals: C. Maisey bt B. Lee 14, 12; J. Parker bt C. Hunter 5, 8. Final: Maisey bt Parker 10, 19.
M.D.: Semi-finals: McBean/A. Oxley bt A. Wolff/B. Thompson 17, 13, 17; Davies/Metcalfe bt R. Hughes/L. Morse 11, 20. Final: McBean/Oxley bt Davies/Metcalfe -13, 16, 19.
W.D: Semi-finals: Parker/To Watkins bt Hunter/H. Wilson 15, 17. Final: Maisey/A. Boyce bt J. Neale/Lee 13, 12. Final: Parker/Watkins bt Maisey/Boyce -12, 22, 18.
X.D: Semi-finals: B. Powell/Maisey bt Metcalfe/Watkins -17, 19, 16; McBean/Parker bt A. Oxley/D. Aldridge 13, 15. Final: Powell/Maisey bt McBean/Parker -12,6,21.
V.S: Semi-finals: Thompson bt B. Hey -10, 13,19; Howell bt B. Freeman 12, 18. Final: Thompson bt Howell 10, 17.
Divisional singles: Divs. 1 and 2, semi-finals: D. Nelson bt Miss J. Neale -1, 2, 13,20; M. Edwards bt Miss H. Wilson 14,32. Final: Edwards bt Nelson 14, 14.
Divs. 3 and 4, semi-finals: M. Page bt S. Ely 17, 19; F. Fisher bt S. Robins 18, -18, 20. Final: Page bt Fisher 15, 10.
Divs. 5 and 6, semi-finals: J. Singh bt B. Nicholls 17, 16; P. Eteson bt K. Meader -8, 19, 14. Final: Singh bt Eteson -14, 11, 9.

JUNIOR CLOSED

The big game Hunter of Swindon junior table tennis bagged a hat-trick of titles at the Junior closed tournament.

Claire Hunter ended her junior days by potting all three major trophies.

But she had a tough time before finally carrying off the under-17 prize in a battle with Jenny Neale.

Jenny looked set to cause an upset when she took the opening game against the top seed. But Claire stepped up a gear to win the next two and make

up for her defeat in the final last season.

Claire and Jenny teamed up to win the girls' doubles and Claire partnered Jon Hook to the mixed title.

Hook was also looking to bow out of his junior days with a hat-trick of championships.

And he produced a major upset when he played brilliantly to oust Andrew Oxley, the holder and No. 1 seed, in the semi-final of the boys' singles.

But Andrew's younger brother Michael wasn't going to allow the title to go out of the family and he beat Hook in the final.

It was a tremendous battle with Oxley's solid defence just giving him the edge in the opening game. But Hook took the second and was ahead for most of the decider. Then Oxley caught up and kept his to win. Last season he lost the final to his brother.

The U-15 boys' singles also produced a big shock when a neat piece of work by Ian Neate earned him the championship.

Michael Oxley was the hot favourite - a view underlined when he beat Neate in straight games in the U-17 semi-final.

But Neate learned a lesson from his defeat and played a brilliantly controlled game to reverse the result.

The youngest age group provided a nail-biting final before Paul Timmis clinched it after surviving a couple of match points against Mark Nelson.

There were few surprises in the finals of the other events. Lorraine Cox had a straight win in the U-15 girls' singles against Alison Stevens. But Alison had some consolation in the U-13 singles final when she defeated Rachael Watkins.

The junior divisional singles final was a much more closely contested affair, Jasvinder Singh beating Paul Eteson in the deciding game.

Hook and Andrew Oxley won the boys' doubles but had a real struggle before beating Martin Edwards and Mark Powell who surprised second seeds Michael Oxley and Richard Vowles in the semis.

The tournament was held at Pinehurst and Roy Hazell, president of the Swindon League, presented the trophies.

Results:-

B.S: Semi-finals: M. Oxley bt I. Neate 10, 19; J. Hook bt A. Oxley -18, 18, 19. Final: M. Oxley bt Hook 19, -11, 18.
G.S: Final: C. Hunter bt J. Neale -14, 11, 14.
B.S: U-15: Semi-finals: Neate bt M. Edwards -19, 17, 7; M. Oxley bt R. Powell 13, 18. Final: Neate bt Oxley 17, 19.
G.S: U-15 Final: L. Cox bt A. Stevens 20, 12.
B.S: U-13: Semi-finals: P. Timmis bt M. Willis 14, 20; M. Nelson bt K. Jones 8, 14. Final: Timmis bt Nelson 20, -14, 20.
G.S: U-13: Final: Stevens bt R. Watkins 21-8,21-4.
B.D: Final: Hook/A. Oxley bt Edwards/M. Powell 16, -19, 17.
G.D.: round robin: 1 C. Hunter/J. Neale, 2 L. Cox/So Vowles.
X.D.: Final: Hook/Hunter bt R. Powell/Neale 14, 20.

FAMILY FORTUNES

A Wiltshire family clocked up a hat-trick of titles in the Horological Sports Association's national table tennis championships.

The titles went to the Oxley family of Cherhill, near Caine, who played for

Blick International of Swindon.

Three brothers - Andrew, Michael and Graham - took the team trophy when they defeated the London Clock Company in the final.

Michael Oxley (jun) won the junior championship, beating Andrew in the final.

And dad - Michael Oxley (sen) - got in on the act too. He walked away with the veterans' singles.

Andrew was also runner-up in the men's singles and Julie Mills of Caine, also playing for Blick, lost in the final of the women's singles.

RANKINGS

There's no change at the top of the Wiltshire ranking lists where Kevin Satchell and Claire Maisey are still out in front.

Kevin hasn't lost a match to a Wiltshire player for many seasons and Claire underlined her claim as No. 1 when she won the Swindon closed.

Andrew Oxley hangs on to top spot in the juniors but Howard Phillips jumps two places to become Andrew's nearest challenger.

There are no big changes in the girls' list where Claire Hunter leads the way following her victory in the Swindon junior closed.

Full rankings are:

Men: 1. K. Satchell, 2. K. Edwards, 3. S. McBean, 4. B. Powell, 5. A. Oxley, 6. S. Davies, 7. H. Phillips, 8. K. Harford, 9. R. Smith, 10. J. Hook, 11. D. Richards, 12. R. Hughes, 13. A. Duke, 14. G. Oxley, 15. L. Morse.

Women: 1. C. Maisey, 2. J. Parker, 3. A. Boyce, 4. H. Wilson, 5. B. Lee, 6. C. Hunter, 7. J. Neale, 8. S. Morse, 9. T. Mills, 10. K. Richards.

Boys: 1. A. Oxley, 2. Phillips, 3. Hook, 4. I. Neate, 5. M. Edwards, 6. R. Morgan, 7. R. Powell, 8. M. Holt, 9. P. Tuck, 10. M. Colyer, 11. C. Sims, 12. M. Powell.

Girls: 1. Hunter, 2. Neale, 3. Mills, 4. Richards, 5. L. Cox, 6. S. Vowles, 7. F. Hopkins, 8. S. Phillips.

Cadet Boys: 1. Edwards, 2. M. Powell, 3. S. Ely, 4. Sims, 5. M. Nelson, 6. M. Auchterlonie, 7. K. Meader, 8. N. Everden, 9. D. Brewer, 10. P. Timmis, 11. C. Worgan, 12. J. McCormick, 13. N. Pickett, 14. D. Osman, 15. K. Jones, 16. D. Bellamy.

Cadet Girls: 1. Cox, 2. Alison Stevens, 3. Tina Mills, 4. Mandy Jones.
Boys, U-12: 1. Auchterlonie, 2. Pickett, 3. Jones, 4. Bellamy, 5. P. Fry.
Girls, U-12: 1. Mills, 2. R. Watkins.

COUNTY MATCHES

Wiltshire's No.1 senior team failed to halt their disappointing run in the County Championships when they crashed 6-4 away to Kent.

Their defeat keeps them anchored at the foot of Div. 2B.

Although Kent are undefeated and head the table, they were without England-ranked Ian Kenyon.

Wiltshire also had Claire Maisey back in the team after her stay in Australia.

The visitors got away to a great start when Kevin Satchell (Melksham) overpowered John Burleton 15, 18.

But Swindon's Steve McBean went down after a titanic opening game against Gary Spencer. McBean lost -26, -10.

Kent's top player, David Dodd, outplayed Kevin Edwards (Warminster) 7, 17 but Wiltshire drew level with a fine performance in the women's doubles.

Claire Maisey and Janet Parker (both Swindon) played brilliantly to beat the highly-rated Carol Spain and Juliet Houghton 12, 16.

Another outstanding doubles performance - this time by Satchell and Edwards - put Wiltshire 3-2 in front. They beat Dodd and Burleton 16, -1 8, 16.

Kent came back again with Burleton beating McBean 11, 14. But Wiltshire's hopes rose when Mrs. Parker took the opening game 18 against Carol Spain. But then it all went wrong and she lost the next two -20, -18.

Satchell lost to Dodd -20, -10, leaving Wiltshire needing to win the last two sets to snatch a draw.

They seemed to be in with a chance when Claire Maisey won the opening game against Juliet Houghton, ranked ninth England junior. But the youngster was not put off and went on to win -14, 13, 18.

Edwards beat Spencer 16, -1 3, 19 "in the "dead" rubber.

Now the pressure is on Wiltshire to snatch points from their remaining two matches against Avon and Dorset.

VETERANS

Wiltshire veterans' team battled through a blizzard to complete their January double date with matches against Clwyd and Cumbria.

They were warmed up by a 7-2 win over Clwyd but next day slid to a 5-4 defeat by Cumbria.

Both Don Morris and Gwen Hazell were in top form for Wiltshire and won all their singles.

The Cumbria match was a real nail-biter with the home side winning the final set.

Results:-

v Clwyd Roy Williams lost to John Ford 18, -9, -7; Carl Harrison bt Dennis Waters 17, 18; Ray Howland lost to John Cleveland -17, 19, -14.

Harrison/Barbara Williams lost to Don Morris/Gwen Hazell -16, 19, -14; Williams/Howland lost to Morris/Ford 19, -13, -15.
Mrs. Williams lost to Mrs. Hazell -11, -16; Williams lost to Waters -19, -12; Howland lost to Ford -13, -21; Harrison bt Cleveland 6, 13.
v Cumbria, Eddie O'Hara lost to Ford 16, -17, -15; Peter Buxton lost to Morris 19, -11, -15; Ray Carr bt Cleveland 21, 26.
O'Hara/Claire Rose bt Waters/Hazell 6, 12; Carr/Buxton bt Ford/Waters 17, -16, 14.
Rose lost to Hazell 14, -18, -19; O'Hara lost to Morris 10, 18, -15; Carr bt Ford 16, 20; Cleveland lost to Buxton -13, -16.

Wiltshire veterans' second team scored their second victory of the season when they beat Hertfordshire thirds 5-4.

It was a fighting display by the visitors who battled to victory after being 2-4 down.

Results:-

B. Gale bt M. Oxley 13, -14, 20; D. Tomsett lost to B. Thompson -16, -10; K. Hartridge bt J. Bright 12, -18, 18.
Mrs. G. White/Tomsett bt Mrs. S. Morse/Oxley -21, 16, 17; Gale/K. Hartridge lost to Bright/Thompson -13, -14.
White bt Morse 13, 10; Gale lost to Thompson -16, -15; Hartridge lost to Oxley -19, 14, -14; Tomsett lost to Bright -19, -8.

Wiltshire's junior second team have come off second best in their last two matches.

They went down 4-6 against Somerset and 3-7 against Avon.

Results:-

v Somerset: P. Payne lost to Howard Phillips 16, -18, -19; D. Woodridge lost to R. Morgan -6, 14, -11; M. Bryant bt M. Edwards 16, 17.

Sarah Webb/Melanie Carey bt Julie Mills/Karen Richards 10, 18; Bryant/Payne bt Phillips/Edwards 16, 22.

Payne bt Morgan 18, 17; Miss Carey bt Miss Richards 12, 12; Bryant lost to Phillips -19, -14; Miss Webb bt Miss Mills 19, 8; Woodridge lost to Edwards 19, -14, -16.

v Avon: J. Fletcher lost to Phillips -10, -9; R. Chandler bt Morgan 20, 21; P. Lewis bt Edwards 13, 11.

Miss K. Testa/Miss J. Kimber bt Miss Mills/Miss Richards 11, 16; Lewis/Fletcher lost to Phillips/Morgan -21, -15.

Fletcher bt Morgan -16, 20, 13; Miss Kimber bt Miss Richards 15, 15; Lewis bt Phillips 14, -21, 19; Miss Testa bt Miss Mills 14, 11; Chandler lost to Edwards -21, -16.

J. M. ROSE BOWL

Swindon women's team is on the road to honours again in a national competition.

They won their third round match against Bristol in the Rose Bowl competition.

The Swindon girls, who reached the final last season won 5-1.

Tracey Watkins set Swindon on the winning trail against Bristol when she opened the match with a 16, 15 win over Dawn Whittaker.

Then Janet Parker carried on the good work by beating Tina Shortman 11, 19. Claire Maisey made it 3-0 with a comfortable 15, 16 victory over Helen Perrott.

Tracey's -21, -14 defeat by Tina caused only a brief pause in Swindon's march to victory.

Claire swept past Dawn 11, 4 and Janet sewed it up for Swindon by beating Helen -17, 16, 19.

Swindon now meet Plymouth.

Doug Moss reports from.....

WORCESTERSHIRE

SECOND TITLE FOR MURRAY

Murray Jukes continues to be the highlight of our news. In the second of the Beneficial Trust Grand Prix Junior Tournaments at Gloucester he and Andrew Dixon took their second doubles title to confirm their class - which we hope is recognised! Murray also did very well in the Singles to reach the semi-final. He beat players ranked above him and finally lost to Andrew Syed (England No.2 junior). This should see him rise in the national rankings. We wish him success in the Beneficial Trust Tournaments.

The County I team had a vital match, in the relegation struggle, against Derbyshire. Alan Cooke played and of course made all the difference to Derbyshire who were without any points. Simon Claxton was introduced to the team and he, Jukes and Trevor Washington all played well to win one singles each. The men's doubles was very close with Murray and Trevor losing for the first time this season at 16 in the 3rd game. The women's doubles was even closer with Louise Davis and Alison Westwood losing at 19 in the decider. Unfortunately the ladies have only won 3 events so far

for the 1st team, with Alison and Lynda Reid each having 1 singles win and also combining to win the one doubles.

The County II team visited Bucks, whose team included Phil Bradbury. A 3-7 loss resulted with Sandra Roden winning her singles and combining with Lynda Reid to win the doubles. Ken Walton and Steve Horton did well to beat Bradbury and Bushell in the men's doubles 19 in the third.

The Junior team also lost 3-7 against the strong Northants team. Dean Kloos was again successful in the boys' doubles, on this occasion being partnered by Mark Roden. Lisa Hunt and Helen Jones played very well to win their singles.

The Worcester School of Sport at Christopher Whitehead School, granted by the City and County Councils and the Regional Sports Council, is going very well. Bryan Merrett is normally in attendance and Jim Hayward and Peter Cruwys have also been in charge. Improvement in standard of play is already evident and with an initial 3 year programme, I am sure this is one of the best things to happen in the City of Worcester for some time. It is also good news that the Pensnett Centre, Dudley, which also received grants, is going well. There are 40 players involved, mainly of cadet age. There are sessions on Friday evenings when "beginners" are included and players of better standard take part on Saturday mornings. Peggy and John Mytton also have coaching programmes in Evesham, which can be seen from the performances of their cadet players.

Leagues are now proceeding with their individual championships. The preliminary Rounds of the Dudley championships are on 4 March with Finals at Thorn Community Centre on 1 April. Malvern and Evesham championships are in March - Malvern on 4th and Evesham on 17th. Worcester League have the Junior Championships on 10 March and Seniors the following day - both at Christopher Whitehead School. The championships will be completed over the weekend and there will be a social function later in the season for presentation of trophies.

In the Kidderminster League the Harriers Club dominate the scene. Their A team, including Alec Westwood, Paul Osman and Ken Burton, are unbeaten and head Div. 1. In the 2nd Division it is interesting and pleasing to note that at least 5 ladies of good standard (Alison Westwood, Mandy Westwood, Sandra Roden, Stella Hembury and Wendy Bagott) take part.

Two 12-year-old Worcester girls, Kerry James and Nicola Jones, had their first experience of Open Tournament play when they entered the Cotswold Junior and acquitted themselves well. The girls reached the quarter-final of the Cadet Girls' Doubles before losing to Julie Billington and

Kerry Hall. Nicola reached the quarter-final of the U-12 event when she again met Julie Billington. Kerry, in her Cadet group was 16-19 down in the third against one opponent and won 21-19!

At the time of writing the County Closed Senior championships have just been completed. Claxton was in great form beating the No. 1 and 2 seeds (Jukes and Washington) to take the Men's Singles title again. He and Ken Walton also did very well to win the Men's Doubles title beating Jukes and Washington in the Final.

Results:-
M.S. S/F's: S. Claxton bt M. Jukes 18, 15.
T. Washington bt S. Dunning -15, 13, 10.
Final: Claxton bt Washington 12, 16.
W.S. S/F's: L. Davis bt M. Mytton 18, 15.
S. Roden bt D. Hough 14, 14.
Final: Davis bt Roden 17, 17.
M.D. Claxton/K. Walton bt Jukes/Washington 17, 21.
M.D. Jukes/Davis bt Walton/L. Reid 17, 17.
V.S. (M): M. Wood bt B. Davis 17, 10.
V.S. (W): J. Hunt bt B. Jukes 17, -19, 12.
V.D: Wood/B. Belcher bt T. Round/K. Burton 6, 9.

Les D'Arcy reports from ...

YORKSHIRE

OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTION
Congratulations to Donald Parker, National Coach (North) on his forthcoming appointment as the new England Senior Trainer/Coach to take effect after the European Championships. Don has made an outstanding contribution to coaching and the stimulation of interest in table tennis during his all too short stay as coaching supremo par-excellence in Yorkshire. Your friends in all parts of the County and further afield will join me in wishing you well in mastering your new challenge and will follow your future progress on the international front with great interest. To Peter Simpson, who takes over from Don" the future could be equally challenging. The standard of coaching in many cases is so high and the talent in depth so rich that to maintain the impetus is a giant size task.

Coaches in Yorkshire will certainly look forward to hearing your views and plans for the future. Three coaching courses will take place at Pontefract Kings School from July 28 to Aug 5 for club coaches wishing to become 1 diploma coaches; for school children and another for adults. Specific details later. Will be sending you an invitation, Peter.

YORKSHIRE CADET CLOSED

Called in to Moor Grange School on Feb. 12 to see the wealth of young talent mentioned earlier. Yorkshire Tournament Secretary, Rea Balmford was in charge of an enthusiastic team of officials which included Y.T.T.A. Chairman, Alec Head, Treasurer, Maurice Pennock, Bevan Walker, Keith Shepherd, Mrs. Bob Ryder and help from many parents which all went to make it an excellent event. Was particularly impressed by the youthfulness of some of the competitors. Probably the youngest was 7-year-old

Sally Marling, a keen 'tiny tot' with flowing footwork and, I'm told, very powerful concentration. One of the Hull spectators, from where Sally hails, also informed me that this young lady has not yet learned the significance of winning and losing and plays for no other reason than because she loves to. What a wonderful philosophy. Even if you don't become a champion, Sally, although the indications are that you will, your future looks very bright. Eight-years-old Andrew Nicolls from Selby and caught my eye with an array of strokes which are a credit to one so young and to his mentor, Regional Coach, Mick Wilcockson. Mick informed me that his youngest protege, 5-year-old Richard Clark, is not yet ready for County Championships' How late starters, John Hilton, David Barr and my wife, Joyce who played against David last year at Crystal Palace (friendly) would have welcomed someone like Mick being around in their formative years. However, all three are making up for lost time. Most of you will have read John Oakley's excellent article on David in the February issue of T.T. News; John, the popular Lancastrian, needs no introduction to anyone in or out of table tennis, they must have heard of him. Joyce is in a completely different category. She is a grandma with six children and twelve grand-children and is not known outside the bottom division of the Wakefield League in which she started playing this season with no previous league experience. Joyce went to the World Vets. Championships in Gothenburg as a spectator nearly two years ago and liked it. In June she will be there again at Helsinki, this time as a player. It is rarely too late or too early to start table tennis. Richard Coulson, the Bradford Hermits' Boss, mentioned an experiment one of his colleagues was trying with short-legged tables for the very young. With the present trend it could be well worthwhile.

SPOTLIGHT' ON THE LEAGUES SHEFFIELD

In recent weeks I have had the opportunity of speaking to the Sheffield and District League's Hon. Gen. Sec. and prolific Publicity Officer, John Hatfield. John's professional approach is one of the main foundation stones of success in this largest of all Yorkshire Leagues with 163 teams and near 750 players.

John has the gift of motivating players and officials by taking the trouble to find out interesting facts about them and give credit where it is due.

Congratulations to Mrs. Pat Bray of Hull and Dist. T.T.A. on the production of a very comprehensive Newsletter including a profile of Joe Naser, Yorkshire League results and Rankings; Hulls Schools T.T., Individual

Championships details; Coaching Topics and League Tables for all of Hull's 9 Divisions.

To 16-years-old Joanne Shaw and 18-years-old Steven Sharpe on their selection for the Yorkshire Senior team to play in the County Premier Division Championships Feb. 25/26 in Essex - the first time two Wakefield players have achieved such a joint distinction. We wish them and the other members of the team: Alan Fletcher and Kevin Beadsley a successful weekend.

To Graham Coe, the irrepressible team manager and organiser of the very successful South Yorkshire National League Club who recently survived an horrific road crash after an encounter with black ice on the M1. No one else was involved and Graham is now back in action doing his many tasks for table tennis including work as Match Secretary of The 'Morte for Sport' Yorkshire League. Graham is also at work training his 1st team squad to face National League rivals, Unity of Bradford, in a £150 challenge match to decide the top table tennis team in Yorkshire.

The contest will be run in conjunction with the Sports Festival Table Tennis Spectacular at Leeds University on April 7. Further details from Maurice Pennock Tel: 0423-56404 or from me Tel: 0924-366420.

MEN'S PREMIER						
	P	W	D	L	St	Pt
Harrogate	4	4	0	0	28	8
Sheffield 1	3	2	1	0	18	5
Bradford 1	3	2	0	1	19	4
Wakefield 1	4	2	0	2	18	4
Hull 1	3	1	1	1	17	3

MEN'S DIVISION ONE						
	P	W	D	L	St	Pt
Bradford 3	4	3	0	1	29	6
Sheffield 2	3	2	1	0	18	5
Doncaster 2	4	2	1	1	23	5
Doncaster 1	3	2	0	1	19	4

MEN'S DIVISION TWO						
	P	W	D	L	St	Pt
Huddersfield 2	4	4	0	0	30	
York 2	4	4	0	0	28	
Dewsbury 1	4	3	0	1	24	

MEN'S DIVISION THREE						
	P	W	D	L	St	Pt
Halifax	4	4	0	0	34	
Harrogate 3	4	3	1	0	31	
Leeds 3	4	2	1	1	23	

MEN'S DIVISION FOUR						
	P	W	D	L	St	Pt
Harrogate 4	3	3	0	0	22	
Castleford/Pon	3	2	1	0	21	

WOMEN'S DIVISION						
	P	W	D	L	St	Pt
Bradford	5	5	0	0	41	10
Sheffield	4	4	0	0	38	8
Wakefield	4	4	0	0	36	8
Hull 1	3	2	1	0	22	5

VETS' DIVISION ONE						
	P	W	D	L	St	Pt
Wakefield	4	4	0	0	32	
Huddersfield	4	3	1	0	26	
Bradford 1	4	3	1	0	25	

COACHING COURSE

Enjoyed speaking to student coaches at the Barnsley T.T. Leagues' Club Coaches Award Course directed by National Coach for the North and organised by Barnsley's Coaching Secretary, Geoff. Williams and League Chairman, Jim. Summerscales. The two enthusiastic Barnsley officials are working hard to put their League on

the county coaching map and judging by the general high calibre of the 16 students taking part at the well equipped Doncaster Road Dunlop Centre the dream could soon become reality.

The Wakefield T.T. League have also become recent recipients of the Dunlop Sports Company's sponsorship when the Alan Hydes, Dunlop Centre was opened at Kettlethorpe Community Centre on Feb. 14.

HUMBERSIDE LEAGUE

The third series of matches in the Humberside Leisure Services-sponsored Humberside Table Tennis League saw Scunthorpe M.B. surprisingly comfortable winners over Hull Vikings, and the South Bank side now join the other Hull outfit, Kingston Tigers, in top spot on 19 points.

Dave Skerratt, the only unbeaten man in the League, opened the match with a three game win' over Joe Naser, and he followed up with two more successes which took him four point clear at the top of the rankings Points List.

Naser won his other two, but this was the only time the stranglehold established by the Scunthorpe team was broken.

In the Tigers - Grimsby Mariners clash, Matt Sheader got Mariners off on the right foot with a win over Sean Madden, and thus drew level with the Hull man in second spot in the Ranking Points table but, although the highly-ranked Grimsby veteran went on to complete a fine maximum with wins over Mike Harrison and Nick Farnill, his side finished on the wrong end of a 6-3 result.

Third player to come through without a defeat against his name was Brian Allison, and he led the way in a 7-2 victory by Grimsby Pirates at the expense of struggling Scunthorpe Spinners, as well as gaining a four point boost in the Individual chart.

Humberside T.T. League Match details:
 Scunthorpe M.B. 7 (Skerratt 3, Andy Kelly, Andy Thompson 2 each);
 Hull Vikings 2 (Naser 2);
 Hull Kingston Tigers 6 (Madden, Harrison, Farnill 2 each);
 Grimsby Mariners 3 (Sheader 3);
 Grimsby Pirates 7 (Allison 3, Ian Walker, John Whitfield 2 each);
 Scunthorpe Spinners 2 (Steve Barnes 2).
 League Table: Scunthorpe M.B. 19pts; Hull Kingston Tigers 19;
 Grimsby Pirates 15; Hull Vikings 14; Grimsby Mariners 14;
 Scunthorpe Spinners 2.
 Rankings Points Table (top 12 placings): D. Skerratt 25; S. Madden and M. Sheader 21; J. Naser 20; B. Allison 19; M. Harrison 18; M. Farnill 17; A. Thompson 16; D. Randerson and A. Kelly 13; J. Bult and I. Walker 12.



Welsh Corner

By H. Roy Evans

SNOWBOUND

January's snow and frost caused the

postponement of the Junior Boys and Girls' matches against Scotland up at Wrexham. Although on the actual day of the proposed matches, the weather had improved, all arrangements had to be confirmed or cancelled at the beginning of the week, and at that time the Scots could not have got out of their country.

So the clash is postponed to a date yet to be fixed, as also is a match between the cadets of the two countries.

Although some players in both teams had already played international table tennis, one must feel sorry for those just awarded their "caps" for this particular match. Certainly in the Welsh side, Nigel Tyler and John Ellis have played before, as we have Evelyn Wright, Heidi Cotter and Jayne Sully. But Bridgend's Kelvin Roberts and Wrexham's Karen Buckle, Welsh badges proudly sewn on their shirts, have yet to play for Wales. I am sure that their fulfilment as juniors is only postponed.

Our involvement in the Cleveland Three-Star was both promising and disappointing. We sent Tyler and Ellis as a men's team, and they lost to Tarmac 3-2. Nigel beat Andy Bellingham, and he and John took the doubles against Bellingham and Carl Morgan. John lost to Carl, and Nigel went down to him in the third.

Mark Thomas, Gary Wilkins and Trevor Manning went up as Butterfly Cardiff, but fared poorly, losing three-straight to the Ellenboro team of Colin Wilson and David Tan.

Mark made some amends in the singles, progressing to the third round where he lost to Graham Sandley.

The girls lost to Ellenboro in the team event, and, like so many of the entrants bowed out to the Japanese, in the singles.

THE ENGLISH OPEN

After Cleveland, it was the English Open at Brighton, where vastly improved facilities were available at the Brighton Centre.

Mark and Gary again carried the Welsh colours, but succeeded in getting double figures in only two of the six games played against the Japanese.

Lesley Tyler, brought over from France specially for this event, and Shirley Cain-Williams lost 3-0 to Czechoslovakia, but with reasonably respectable scores.

It was evident that Brighton air did little for Mark Thomas. He lost 3-0 to Avon's Andy Creed, whom Wilkins has beaten twice recently. Gary himself played quite well against England's new "hope" Alan Cooke, going close in the opening game, and actually taking the third before Alan came back decisively to win the fourth.

In the doubles, Mark and Gary lost 19 in the third to Kenyon and Wells.

Lesley Tyler had a very promising game with the Japanese girl Shim-

auchi, getting to 20-all in the third, but Shirley went down badly to Joy Grundy. The girls lost in the doubles to Collier and Sainsbury.

Mark and Lesley bowed out to the French pair Martin and Thiriet in the second round of the Mixed, whilst Gary and Shirley had the distinction of taking the first game from Desmond Douglas and the Japanese Shimokawa before the latter settled down to play as a pair.

THE LANCASHIRE OPEN

It was unfortunate that Mark Thomas, Wilkins and Manning found themselves in the same half in the Lancashire Open. However, Trevor had his own back to some extent by beating No.2 seed Alan Fletcher and then eliminating Gary. Thomas, after some good wins, then beat Trevor, and advanced to the semi-final, where he lost -1 5, -1 5 to Cooke.

FEDERAL GERMAN OPEN

The Lancashire Open and too much training on hard roads took their toll on Mark Thomas, whose knee went again. He had to withdraw from our entry of Alan Griffiths and himself, and it took some frantic telephoning to get Nigel Thomas to deputise at the last moment.

In the event, Nigel showed that his evident improvement in the National

League was being maintained, and he and Alan at last beat Luxembourg, to whom we have lost in too many recent matches. Alan beat Hartmann, Nigel beat Maas, and our pair won the doubles.

In the singles, Alan went to round 2 before going out to No. 1 German Bohm, whilst Nigel lost to the Yugoslav Karakasevic, still one of Europe's only successful pen-holders.

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE

On the way back from the English Butterfly Cardiff went to Reading, Mark and Gary being joined by Tony Healan, and Nigel Thomas, coming back after being rested for some indifferant form.

Butterfly won 6-2, the first set on being a scintillating affair between Nigel Thomas and young Andrew Syed, which the latter just won. Mark Thomas beat Jimmy Stokes, but Gary showed no signs of liking to play against a women, and only just scraped home against Mandy Sainsbury. Tony Healan, too, although he beat Alison Gordon, didn't look very convincing.

Mark slowed Syed down, and beat the English No.1 Junior convincingly, Nigel beat Alison Gordon, but Gary lost poorly to Stokes. Healan, concentrating more; beat Mandy in the last set.

Scores:

N. Thomas lost to A. Syed 21 - 18, -1 7; bt Alison Gordon 14. 15.
M. Thomas bt J. Stokes 14. 15; bt Syed 12. 18.
G. Wilkins bt Mandy Sainsbury -14, 13, 20; lost to Stokes -17-19.
T. Healan bt Gordon 13. -12. 13; bt Sainsbury 18. 17.

Cranfield Colours weakened by the absence of George Evans, who had to have an operation on his playing arm, lost 2-6 to Larkhall. The Gwent side had to call on Paul Williamson to make his debut, and recalled Warwick Armstrong.

Captain Andrew Evans, lost his opening set to Percy Collino, but Brian Jeanes levelled the scores by beating David Harding. Warwick took Derek Holman to three but lost, and Paul found the wily Gordon Chapman too much for him.

Jeanes brought dismay to Cranfield supporters when he lost to Collino, but Armstrong revived their spirits with a fine win over Harding. Still in with a chance, Evans lost rather easily to Chapman, and Williamson went further downhill when he lost the same set to Holman.

Scores:

A. Evans lost to P. Collino -15, -8; lost to G. Chapman -15, -11.
B. Jeanes bt D. Harding 15. -16. 20; bt Harding 18, -22. 16.
B. Jeanes bt D. Harding 15. -16. 20; lost to Collino -28. 15, -17.
W. Armstrong lost to D. Holman; bt Harding 18. -22. 16.
P. Williamson lost to Chapman -13. -7; lost to Holman -14. -19.

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VETERANS' RANKING LIST

by Mike Watts

MANCHESTER CLOSED

VETERANS' RANKING LIST

1. O. Schofield	Cheshire	512	38. M. Broughton	Norfolk	62
2. P. O'Arcy	Cheshire	284	39. A. Iamprell	Herts	62
3. M. Sheader	Lines	265	40. K. Jones	Nthants.	62
4. H. Buist	Kent	199	41. L. Fountain	Essex	61
5. B. Adedayo	Middlesex	193	42. A. Rowden	Sussex	60
6.			43. K. Powell	Cheshire	60
6. S. Battrick	Essex	169	43. K. Powell	Cheshire	60
7. B. Allinson	Lines	169	44. N. Slifkin	Middlesex	59
8. R. Murray	Essex	164	45. A. Lindsay	Middlesex	59
9. W. Allanson	Berks	154	46. A. Timewell	Cheshire	58
10. R. Norton	Hunts	153	47. M. Baker	Avon	54
11. E. Griffiths	Cheshire	134	48. A. Albon	Hunts.	50
12. D. Seaholme	Herts	133	49. C. Jackson	axon	49
13. B. Edlington	Lines	112	50. J. Ellis	leicester	49
14. A. Sanders	Notts.	108	51. P. Cutting	Beds.	49
15. G. Aldwinckle	Icics	108	52. J. Smith	Middlesex	48
16. J. Holland	Essex	105	53. W. Brookman	Middlesex	46
17. T. Adams	Kent	91	54. J. White	Kent	44
18. R. Bolton	Notts.	89	55. R. Ellis	Dorset	43
19. A. Stallard	Essex	88	56. J. Woolisroft	Beds.	43
20. J. Iliffe	Icics	84	57. J. Bromley	Kent	39
21. C. Truman	Icics	81	58. C. Dyke	Berks.	39
22. B. Parish	Essex	81	59. G. Chapman	Surrey	38
23. D. Smith	Middlesex	79	60. D. Folds	Beds.	37
24. G. Batt-Rawden	Sussex	79	61. T. Donlon	Cheshire	36
25. A. Taylor	Middlesex	77	62. F. Hams	Surrey	35
26. B. Belcher	Wores	73	63. B. Simmonds	Surrey	35
27. L. Saywell	Hunts.	71	64. W. Moran	Lines	34
28. F. Lockwood	Essex	69	65. G. Holly	Hams.	31
29. B. Halliday	Berks.	69	66. B. Holiday	Berks.	30
30. M. Wood	Wores.	69	67. M. Dicks	Wores.	30
31. C. Bush	Dorset	69	68. G. Tyler	Herts.	30
32. M. Watts	Sussex	67	69. A. Brown	Avon	30
33. D. Somers	Herts.	65	70. J. Russell	Dorset	29
34. R. Iush	Hants.	65	71. B. Maxted	Kent	28
35. G. Brook	Yorks.	65	72. T. Taylor	Cheshire	27
36. R. Etheridge	Kent	64	73. E. Alleyne	Middlesex	27
37. M. Tew	Cheshire	63	74. A. Watson	Bucks.	27
			75. J. Ford	Wilts.	27

Mark Hankey with a final win over Peter O'Arcy was the winner of the men's singles event in the 1984 Manchester Closed championships, Caroline Hemming being crowned women's champion following her victory over Ooreen Schofield,

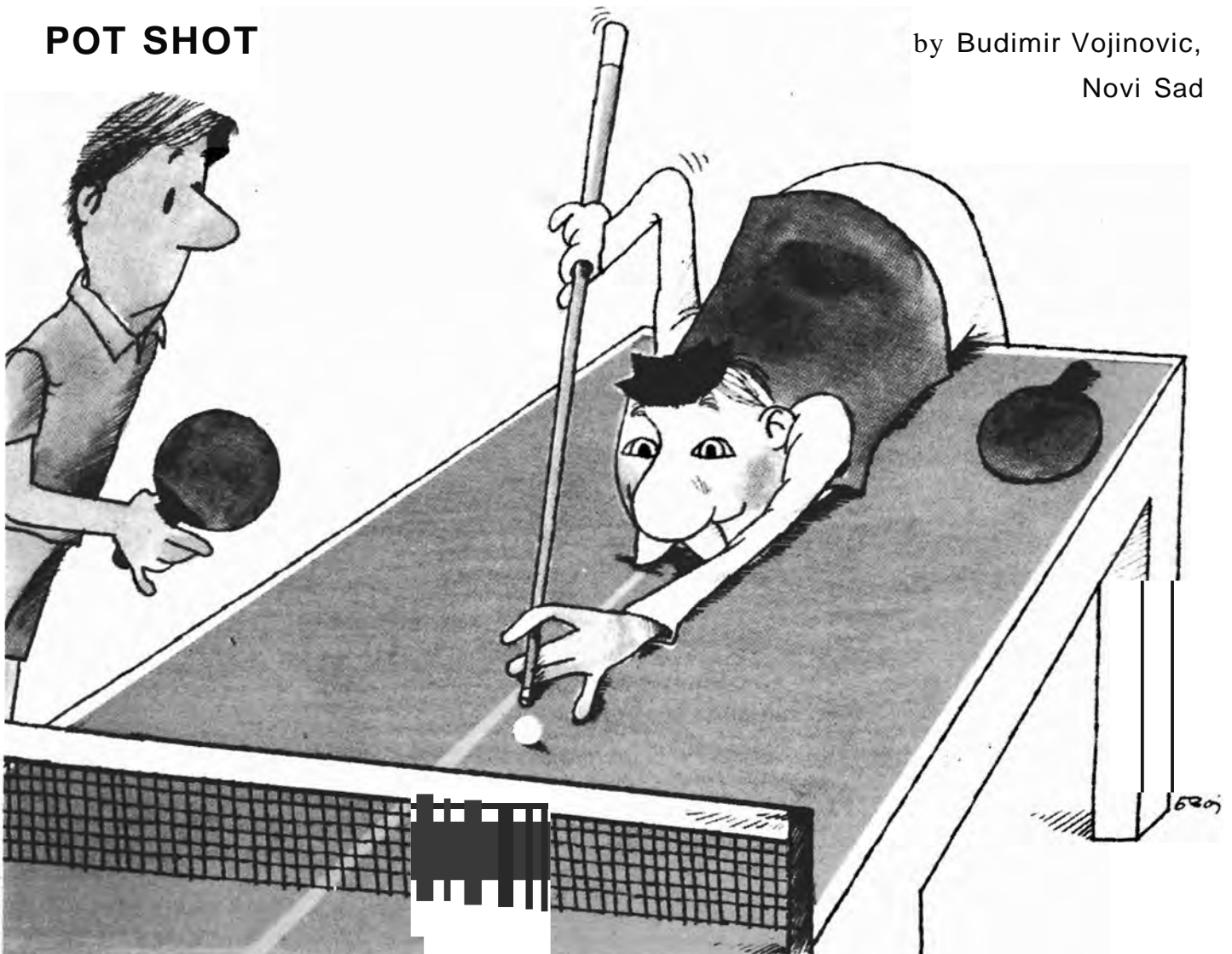
Husband Oerek took the veterans title, beating O'Arcy in the final. whilst winner of the boys' singles was Keith Weatherby who beat Lynne Harrison in the final.

Results:-

MS: s-1's:
M. Hankey bt O. Schofield 16, 14;
P. O'Arcy bt K. Weatherby 14, 17.
Final: HANKEY bt O'Arcy 13, 11.
WS: C. Hemming bt O. Schofield 13, 20.
MO: D'Arcy/Hankey bt J. & R. Weatherby 17, 12.
WO: L. Harrison/Schofield bt A. Kennedy/P. Murphy 4, 17.
XD: J. Weatherby/Hemming bt R. Weatherby/Schofield -14, 18, 12.
J.S.: K. Weatherby bt Miss L. Harrison 19, 17.
V.S: O. Schofield bt O'Arcy 14, 9.
MCS: J. de Pledge bt T. Donlon 23, -20, 18.
WCS: S. Gill bt C. Brown 14, 14.

POT SHOT

by Budimir Vojinovic,
Novi Sad



halex NATIONAL LEAGUE

by Robert Oldfield

SOHAM LOOKING STRONG

The confidence expressed by Hassy Soham's captain, Paul Day, seemed more than justified by the performances of the defending champions on 29 January and 5 February. While the Cambridgeshire club were notching up two 7-1 victories for their matches in hand, nearest challengers, Thorn-EMI Ellenborough and Ormesby both dropped vital points.

Ellenborough, without Graham Sandley, lost four successive sets when they visited Gillette Reading and just scrambled the draw. Ormesby, meanwhile, found Carl Preat and Alan Cooke in irrepressible form at Jaques Fareham - the unbeaten record of their Dutch champion, Henk van Spanje, demolished by the two young England players.

Of the four top sides in the Premier Division, only Jaques Fareham and Hassy Soham have yet to meet; their first scheduled meeting still awaiting rearrangement from last October. "I shall be less than amused if we're forced to play the match with our two Senior internationals away at the European Championships", says Jaques Fareham manager Charlie Childs. "At full strength we could give Soham a close run as all their players are orthodox for us".

Full strength for Fareham includes one of the best orthodox players in the league at No.4, Tony Clayton. "The computer ranking obviously can't take account of styles and **quality**", said Childs defending the former international's playing position. "And if players don't go round the tournaments, or when they play for other countries, these anomalies in club rankings are bound to occur."

"It's not even unusual", he claimed and reeled off half a dozen players in as many seconds. "Just look at our old player Simon Heaps, who now plays for Holts Carpets Salisbury, there's no way he would be as low as No. III in the country on a 'merit list'".

Rankings, Soham, and Fareham apart the league boils to a climax in March with the forthcoming fixtures to decide the Championship: Ormesby at Soham on Sunday 11, 1982 v 1983 champions at Enfield on Sunday 25. £2,850 in prize money at stake.

PREMIER DIVISION

	F	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Haasy Soham	9	8	1	0	56	16	17
Thorn EMI Ellenborough	10	7	2	1	51	29	16
Orm.sby	9	5	3	1	46	26	13
Jaques Fa'eham	9	5	1	3	42	30	11
Tibha' London	10	4	0	6	42	38	8
Gillette Reading	10	3	2	5	36	44	8
Unity B'adfo'd	9	1	1	7	20	52	3
Dunlop Birmingham	10	0	0	10	11	69	0

GROVE SCOTCHED

In the First Division, Scotland's John Broe was Ormesby's hero as the leaders, Grove, were held to a surprising draw. A late night for John Hilton at the Norwich Union English Open the previous day seemed to affect the eyelids of the Grove No. 1 as Broe powered through 21-16, 25-23 in the first set of the match.

Lindsay Taylor and Steven Brunskill took the score to 1-3 in Ormesby's favour and Broe's second win secured the point while Tarmac Wolverhampton reduced Grove's sets advantage at home to Byker Newcastle.

"We've had the tougher fixtures first", said Tarmac dynamo Paul Chester, "while Grove have got the top teams to come. I think SIB Bath on 4 March will be difficult for them, even though they won 7-1 in the first half. Bath are still in with a chance of the prize money and will be competing hard", he warned.

Of their own chances on 11 March Chester remained optimistic. "Duggie (Johnson) has only lost two so far and, to be honest, we haven't noticed that the 'two-colour' bat rule has made any difference to his standard. And Carl Morgan is a very reliable No. 3 even against Grove. Only one set going the wrong way cost us a point in the first half."

FIRST DIVISION

	F	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grove Mk D,ayton	10	8	2	0	60	20	18
Tarmac Wolve,hampton	10	9	0	1	58	22	18
SIB Bath	10	6	0	4	48	32	12
Butterfly Ca,diff	10	6	0	4	41	39	12
MBS St. Neots	10	4	2	4	41	39	10
Gillette Reading II	10	1	3	6	28	52	5
Ormesby II	10	1	2	7	32	48	4
Byke, Newcastle	10	0	1	9	12	68	1

LUCKLESS STOCKTON

Beleagued Stockton, sponsored by Riversley Insurance Services, needed an injury to No. 4, Phil Crawford, like Desmond Douglas needs a sheet of antiloop. Already in desperate relegation straits in Second Division North, Stockton's Malcolm Corking and Trevor Murphy put up a spirited resistance at March Halex but went back up the A1 smarting from another 6-2 defeat.

Almost inevitably, the season draws to the South Yorkshire v Chan Construction showdown on 25 March at Rotherham's Brian O'Malley library. The big two merely flexed their muscles against Tarmac Wolves and Sincil Lincoln at the end of January.

Ironically, Chan, with an 8-0 win, had a harder match than South Yorkshire did in recording 7-1. Lincoln's

David Gannon was unlucky to lose both sets narrowly in the third and both Phillip Smith and Stuart Warrill were determined not to give Chan an easy victory.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

South Yorkshire	10	9	1	0	60	20	19
Chan Construction	10	9	0	1	56	24	18
Selford Target Gold	9	7	0	2	49	23	14
March Halex	10	6	0	4	40	40	12
Bradford Hermits	9	2	1	6	31	41	5
Tarmac Wolve'ampton II	9	2	1	6	27	45	5
Sincil Lincoln	9	1	1	7	25	47	3
RIS Stockton	10	0	0	10	16	64	0

DAGGERS' HIGH PERFORMANCE

Dagenham FC, sponsored by their local motor retail company, have accelerated away from any possible **challenge** by Larkhall Clapham in Second Division South. Just a single set defeat, by Tony Penny to combination bat player Babs Adedayo, has been inflicted on the successful Essex club in the last two matches.

The previous week Adedayo had lead his club, GunnersburyTriangle, as they slumped to a 3-0 deficit against the visiting Spicer New Malden. Gunnersbury's David Goode lead the brief revival before Spicer's Andy Sexton dismissed the younger of the Proffitt brothers, Simon, for both points.

However, the improved scoreline provided a glimmer of hope for the relegation-threatened Gunnersbury, and matches in the nearfuture against Witham FC and Gillette Reading could prove a lifeline for their survival. England commitments for Alison Gordon and reported German measles for Mandy Sainsbury might weaken the Reading third team.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Dagenham FC	11	11	0	0	78	12	22
Larkhall Clapham	10	8	1	1	50	30	17
TCB Dolphins	10	6	2	2	48	32	14
Spicer New Malden	10	2	4	4	37	43	8
Cranfield Colours	10	2	4	4	35	45	8
Gillette Reading III	10	2	2	6	27	53	8
WithamFC	9	0	3	8	20	52	3
Gunnersbury Triangle	10	0	2	8	27	53	2

STAN IN FORM

Stan Haleswoth, the Vickers No.4, gave the Barrow-in-Furness club a rare point when he won both sets against the higher placed Unity Bradford II in Third Division North. On the same day, Thomas Blackburn did the same for Byker Newcastle in the local derby against Ormesby III; the two draws virtually ensuring the demise of Unity III. South Yorkshire, however, continue relentlessly.

THIRD DIVISION NORTH

South Yorkshire II	9	9	0	0	82	10	18
Washington	10	7	0	3	54	26	14
South Yorkshire III	10	6	2	2	52	28	14
Ormesby III	9	4	2	3	39	33	10
Unity Bradford II	9	3	2	4	38	38	8
Byker NawcStle II	10	2	2	6	32	48	8
Vickers Barrow	9	2	2	5	24	48	6
Unity Bradford III	10	0	0	10	5	75	0

TULSE HILL SLIDE

Cippenham, lying sixth, seemingly had little hope when promotion chasers

Tulse Hill visited the Centre in Slough. Yet Chairman, Frank Earis, said afterwards, "Before the match I would have been delighted with one point, now I'm disappointed we didn't get two"

"Both Tilling and Earis were in magnificent form", reports Graham Trimming. "Ray Tilling in particular against the England-ranked Andrew Cunningham. Penetrating attack, superb touch play and disguised defence under pressure belied the ranking list as he dispatched the junior international."

THIRD DIVISION SOUTH	
Bouma Ruislip	11 7 1 3 82 26 16
Jaques Fareham II	10 8 3 1 49 31 15
Tulse Hill	10 8 2 2 54 28 14
Lansdown Medway	11 4 2 5 38 52 10
Ashford	10 3 3 4 38 42 9
Dunstable	10 2 4 4 34 48 8
Cippenham	10 1 5 4 34 48 7
Jolliffe Poole	10 1 2 7 21 59 4

VAIN STRUGGLE

Two defeats for Coles Waveney's player-manager, Russell King, proved too much as the Lowestoft-based club struggled in vain after a disastrous start at Nottingham Racket Sense. Nottingham had their 3-0 lead cut to 3-2 before Brian Hill and Trevor Kerry sealed the 5-3 victory. Nottingham and Norwich Foxwood are favourites for the promotion place but Playrite Northampton have a chance if the leaders slip.

THIRD DIVISION EAST	
Norwich Foxwood	8 4 4 0 42 22 12
Nonh'm Racket Sense	7 6 0 1 39 17 12
Playrite Northampton	8 5 1 2 42 22 11
M&S St. Naots II	9 4 2 3 39 33 10
Colas Waveney	9 3 3 3 40 32 9
Hassy Soham II	8 1 0 7 17 47 2
Halex Lincoln	7 0 0 7 5 51 0

WILD WEST SHOOTOUT

The Third Division West title hinges on a shootout between the leaders, Holts Carpets Salisbury, and Pengeley Sports Torbay on Sunday 11 March. Both were in commanding form at the end of January as they destroyed Tarmac Ladies and Grove II respectively.

THIRD DIVISION WEST	
Holts Salisbury	10 9 1 0 65 15 19
Pengeley Torbay	9 8 1 0 61 11 17
Hereford Times	10 6 1 3 45 3 13
Launcelton Kernow	10 4 2 4 37 43 10
Tarmac Ladies	9 3 1 5 32 40 7
Grove Mkt Drayton II	10 2 1 7 22 58 5
WW Solihull	10 1 2 7 25 55 4
Global Plymouth	10 1 1 8 25 55 3

FIXTURES

PREMIER DIVISION

Sunday, 11th March
 Tibhar London v Thorn EMI Ellenboro
 Hassy Soham v Ormesby
 Dunlop Birmingham v Jaques Fareham
 Unity Bradford v Gillette Reading
 Sunday, 25th March
 Thorn EMI Ellenboro v Hassy Soham
 Jaques Fareham v Unity Bradford
 Ormesby v Dunlop Birmingham
 Gillette Reading v Tibhar London

FIRST DIVISION

Sunday, 11th March
 Byker Newcastle v Butterfly Cardiff
 SIB Bath v Ormesby II

Tarmac Wolverhampton v Grove Market Drayton
 MBS St. Neots v Gillette Reading II
 Sunday, 25th March
 Butterfly Cardiff v SIB Bath
 Grove Market Drayton v MBS St. Neots
 Ormesby II v Tarmac Wolverhampton
 Gillette Reading II v Byker Newcastle

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Sunday, 11th March
 Salford TG v South Yorkshire
 Chan Construction v March Halex
 Sincil Lincoln v Tarmac W/hampton II
 RIS Stockton v Bradford Hermits
 Sunday, 25th March
 RIS Stockton v Sincil Lincoln
 South Yorkshire v Chan Construction
 Tarmac W/hampton II v Salford TG
 March Halex v Bradford Hermits

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Sunday, 11th March
 Spicer New Malden v Dagenham FC
 TCB Dolphins v Cranfield Halex
 Gunnersbury Triangle v Larkhall Clapham
 Witham FC v Gillette Reading III
 Sunday, 25th March
 TCB Dolphins v Dagenham FC
 Larkhall Clapham v Witham FC
 Cranfield Halex v Gunnersbury Triangle
 Gillette Reading III v Spicer New Malden

THIRD DIVISION NORTH

Sunday, 11th March
 South Yorkshire II v Unity Bradford III
 Vickers Barrow v Ormesby III
 Washington v Byker Newcastle II
 Unity Bradford II v South Yorkshire III
 Sunday, 25th March
 Unity Bradford III v Vickers Barrow
 Byker Newcastle II v Unity Bradford II
 Ormesby III v Washington
 South Yorkshire III v South Yorkshire II

THIRD DIVISION SOUTH

Sunday, 11th March
 Jaques Fareham II v Ashford
 Jolliffe Poole v Cippenham
 Bourne Ruislip v Dunstable
 Lansdown Medway v Tulse Hill
 Sunday, 25th March
 Ashford v Jolliffe Poole
 Cippenham v Bourne Ruislip
 Dunstable v Lansdown Medway
 Tulse Hill v Jaques Fareham II

THIRD DIVISION EAST

Sunday, 11th March
 Halex Lincoln v Coles Waveney
 Playrite Northampton v Nottfham Racket Sense
 Norwich Foxwood v Hassy Soham II
 Sunday, 25th March
 Halex Lincoln v MBS St. Neots II
 Nottfham Racket Sense v Norwich Foxwood
 Coles Waveney v Playrite Northampton

THIRD DIVISION WEST

Sunday, 11th March
 Holts Salisbury v Pengeley Torbay
 Global Plymouth v Grove Mkt Drayton II
 Hereford Times v Launceston Kernow
 Tarmac Ladies v WW Solihull
 Sunday, 25th March
 Grove Mkt Drayton II v Tarmac Ladies
 WW Solihull v Hereford Times
 Sunday, 1st April
 Launceston Kernow v Holts Salisbury
 Pengeley Torbay v Global Plymouth
 Sunday, 8th April
 Tarmac Ladies v Pengeley Torbay

PREMIER DIVISION RESULTS

Sunday, 29th January
 Unity Bradford 1 Hassy Soham 7
 Steven Turner lost to Kenny Jackson 18. -5. -1 7;
 Steven Sharpe lost to Dave Hannah -14, -15;
 David Indriks lost to Paul Day -7. -17;
 Martin Firth lost to Nicky Mason -13, -20;
 Turner lost to Hannah -20. -16;
 Sharpe bt Mason 10. 19;
 Indriks lost to Jackson -16. 19. -4;
 Firth lost to Day -18. -14.

Gillette Reading 4 Thorn-EMI Ellenborough 4
 Philip Bradbury lost to Mark Mitchell -22. -20;
 David Barr lost to Colin Watson -19, -19;
 Andy Wellman bt Nigel Tyler 17. 19;
 David Reeves bt David Tan 20, 15;
 Bradbury bt Wilson 19. 11;
 Barr bt Tan 17. 15;

Wellman lost to Mitchell-13. 17. -13;
 Reeves lost to Tyler -13. -15.

Jaques Fareham 4 Ormesby 4
 Carl Preen bt Donald Parker 12, 18;
 Alan Cooke bt Henk van Spanje 17. 19;
 Ian Kenyon lost to Nigel Eckersley -15. -14;
 Mark Oakley lost to Richard Yule 16. -18. -18;
 Preen bt van Spanje 12. 24;
 Cooke bt Yule " . 10;
 Kenyon lost to Parker -10. -8;
 Oakley lost to Eckersley -19. -21 .

Dunlop Birmingham 0 Tibhar London 8
 Alan Fletcher lost to David Dodd -14. -15;
 Barry Johnson lost to Dave Wells 9. " . -9;
 Derek Munt lost to Paul Namjou -12. -13;
 Ralph Sterling lost to Richard Jermyn -7. -15;
 Fletcher lost to Wells -15. 22. -18;
 Johnson lost to Jermyn -15. -13;
 Munt lost to Dodd -13. -15;
 Sterling lost to Namjou -20. -14.

Sunday, 5th February

Hassy Soham 7 Unity Bradford 1
 Hannah bt Sharpe 13. -20. 17;
 Jackson bt Skylet Andrew 14. 13;
 John Souter bt Ian Duxbury 8, 14;
 Mason bt Indriks 15. 17;
 Hannah lost to Andrew 14. -15. -15;
 Jackson bt Indriks 6. 13;
 Souter bt Sharpe 16. 15;
 Mason bt Duxbury 19, 19.

Dunlop Birmingham 2

Thom-EMI Ellenborough 6
 Fletcher lost to Wilson 14. " . -16;
 Kevin Beadsley lost to Graham Sandley -19. -15;
 Johnson lost to Tyler -18. -20;
 Munt bt Mitchell 19, -15, 17;
 Fletcher lost to Sandley 12. -10. -9;
 Beadsley bt Mitchell 14, 15;
 Johnson lost to Wilson -16, -14;
 Muot lost to Tyler -9. -5.

FIRST DIVISION RESULTS

Sunday, 29th January
 MBS St. Neots 2 SIB Bath 6
 Gillette Reading II 2 Butterfly Cardiff 6
 Grove Market Drayton 4 Ormesby II 4
 Tarmac Wolverhampton 8 Byker Newcastle 0

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Sunday, 29th January
 Chan Construction 8 Sincil Lincoln 0
 March Halex 6 RIS Stockton 2
 South Yorkshire 7 Tarmac W/hampton II 1

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Sunday, 29th January
 Witham FC 2 TCB Dolphins 6
 Larkhall Clapham 6 Cranfield Halex 2
 Gunnersbury Triangle 3 Spicer New Malden 5
 Gillette Reading 110 Dagenham FC 8

Sunday, 5th February
 Gunnersbury Triangle 1 Dagenham FC 7

THIRD DIVISION NORTH

Sunday, 29th January
 Unity Bradford II 4 Vickere Barrow 4
 Byker Newcastle II 4 Ormesby III 4
 Washington 2 South Yorkshire II 6
 South Yorkshire III 8 Unity Bradford 1110

THIRD DIVISION SOUTH

Sunday, 22nd January
 Cippenham 4 Tulse Hill Rams 4
 Jaques Fareham II 8 Jolliffe Poole 0

Sunday, 29th January
 Lansdown Medway 7 Jolliffe Poole 1
 Tulse Hill Rams 4 Ashford 4
 Dunstable 4 Cippenham 4
 Bourne Ruislip 4 Jaques Fareham II 4
 Sunday, 5th February
 Bourne Ruislip 8 Lansdown Medway 0
 Tulse Hill Rams 3 Dunstable 5

THIRD DIVISION EAST

Sunday, 29th January
 Nottfham Racket Sense 5 Coles Waveney 3
 MBS St. Neots II 6 Hassy Soham II 2

THIRD DIVISION WEST

Sunday, 29th January
 Tarmac Ladies 0 Holts Salisbury 8
 WW Solihull 2 Launceston Kernow 6
 Grove Mkt. Drayton II 0 Pengeley Torbay 8
 Global Plymouth 2 Hereford Times 6

LENTEC COMPUTER RANKINGS

DOUGLAS AND WITT CONSOLIDATE

The first issue of the Lentec Computer ranking lists in 1984 show Desmond Douglas and Karen Witt even more firmly entrenched in the No. 1 positions.

Amongst the top 20 there has been very little movement but Alan Cooke continues his improvement to the No. 4 position.

It is interesting to speculate whether or not the downward movement of players like John Hilton and Duggie Johnson is due to the new two colour racket regulation. Both players previously used a racket with the same colour rubber on each side, each with a vastly different effect. The exception to this theory is Carl Preat who has maintained his No.2 position.

Rankings, points and previous position in brackets are:-

Men	Pt.
1. Desmond Douglas (Wa) (1)	1177
2. Carl Preat (IOW) (2)	826
3. Graham Sandley (Mi) (3)	807
4. Alan Cooke (Dy) (8)	561
5. Skylet Andrew (E) (5)	560
6. Philip Bradbury (Bu) (10)	545
7. John Hilton (La) (4)	525
8. Kenny Jackson (E) (12)	522
9. David Wells (MI) (7)	509.5
10. Max Crimmins (Sy) (16)	487.5
11. Colin Wilson (Mil) (19)	459
12. John Souter (Mil) (13)	446.5
13. Nicky Mason (Sy) (14)	422
14. Donald Parker (La) (11)	413
15. Duggie Johnson (Wa) (19)	412
16. David Barr (Bk) (15)	389.5
17. Alan Fletcher (Y) (118)	384.5
18. Paul Day (Ca) (17)	381
19. David Dodd (K) (21)	378
20. Mark Mitchell (Mi) (20)	363
21. Steven Turner (La) (16)	361.5
22. Chris Rogers (Le) (22)	319.5
23. Andy Bellingham (St) (23)	312
24. Nigel Eckersley (Ch) (24)	301.5
25. Kevin Beadley (V) (26)	283
26. Kevin Satchell (Wi) (37)	282.5
27. Andy Wellman (Bk) (27)	280
28. Richard Jermy (Hel) (32)	277.5
29. Carl Morgan (Wa) (29)	277
30. Ian Kenyon (K) (31)	274
31. Steve Mills (Y) (25)	272.5
32. David Tan (MI) (28)	259.5
33. Stephen Scowcroft (La) (34)	256.5
34. Chu Van Que (Nd) (30)	249.5
35. Andy Creed (Av) (50)	245
36. Dave Constance (Do) (33)	243
37. David Reeves (Bk) (42)	242
38. Barry Johnson (Wa) (36)	224
39. Tony Clayton (Do) (47)	222
40. Keith Richardson (Ca) (51)	221.5
41. Ian Horsham (E) (35)	210
42. Peter Taylor (He) (45)	206.5
43. Mark Oakley (Sy) (143)	204.5
44. Lindsay Taylor (Cv) (139)	204
45. John Kitchener (Sk) (38)	202
46. Steven Moore (Sx) (56)	201
47. Phil Bowen (La) (41)	187.5
48. David Gannon (Le) (54)	183.5
49. Billy Gleave (Ch) (40)	182
50. Stuart Palmer (Sk) (160)	179
51. Adrian Moore (Sx) (148)	177
52. Philip Gunn (Wa) (44)	175
53. Gareth Spencer (K) (79)	170.5
54. Steven Sharpe (Y) (49)	167
55. David Newman (E) (46)	161
56. Steve Holloway (Sy) (63)	160.5
57. Gary Lambert (Dv) (58)	157.5
58. Mick Harper (Ca) (74)	151.5
59. Andy Rich (St) (53)	147.5
60. Glen Baker (Sy) (82)	144
61. Chris Bartram (K) (69)	140.5
62. Tony Sanderson (V) (52)	140
63. Paul Jackson (Av) (83)	133
64. Malcolm Green (Sp) (59)	132.5

65. Brian Johns (Ch) (62)	131
66. Graham Toole (Ha) (-)	129.5
67. Andrew Syed (Bk) (64)	128
68. Des Charley (E) (88)	126
69. Andrew Dodd (K) (110)	125
70. John Payne (Mi) (61)	124.5
71. Shaun Browne (La) (68)	122.5
72. John Burleton (K) (85)	122
73. Peter McQueen (Nd) (55)	121
74. Jimmy Stokes (Bk) (78)	118.5
75. Barry Hayward (Wa) (57)	116
76. Steven Brunskill (Cv) (84)	116
77. Michael Browne (Wa) (96)	115.5
78. Keith Samuels (Hu) (-)	114.5
79. Rupert 80le (Sy) (67)	114
80. Malcolm Francis (Sx) (65)	114
81. Benny Robertson (Nd) (66)	112.5
82. Kevin Edwards (Wi) (181)	109.5
83. Craig Bakewell (St) (75)	108.5
84. Percy Collino (Mi) (72)	106.5
85. Lester Bertie (Wa) (106)	104
86. Ian Gunn (Wa) (-)	103.5
87. Phillip Smith (Sx) (105)	103
88. Joseph Naser (Y) (70)	100.5
89. Keith Paxton (Du) (71)	100
90. Paul Rainford (La) (91)	100
91. Derek Munt (Wa) (73)	97
92. Paul Namdjou (K) (99)	97
93. Mark Ellett (Dv) (77)	96
94. David Rook (V) (76)	95.5
95. Kevin Green (Cv) (104)	91.5
96. Tony Penny (E) (89)	89
97. Michael Hammond (Sy) (87)	88.5
98. Johnathon Proffitt (He) (-)	87
99. Matt Shearer (L) (-)	87
100. Paul Randall (Le) (80)	86
101. Steve Cowley (La) (-)	86
102. Keith Williams (La) (92)	84.5
103. Geoff Davies (Ca) (-)	83
104. Martyn Smith (Av) (95)	83
105. Paul Savins (Bk) (-)	83
106. Gordon Chapman (Sy) (-)	83
107. Iain Fullerton (Bk) (86)	82
108. Babs Adedayo (Mi) (93)	81.5
109. Dave Skerratt (Li) (90)	80
110. Paul Barnett (St) (-)	78.5

Women

Women	Pts.
1. Karen Witt (Bk) (1)	641.5
2. Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (2)	380
3. Joy Grundy (La) (4)	362
4. Alison Gordon (Bk) (3)	357.5
5. Carole Moore (Cv) (5)	344
6. Jackie Bellinger (Bd) (6)	255.5
7. Jill Harris (St) (7)	225
8. Karen Smith (Le) (14)	201
9. Mandy Sainsbury (Bk) (9)	200
10. Susan Collier (Bk) (18)	182.5
11. Fiona Elliot (St) (10)	177
12. Sarah Sandley (Mi) (11)	158
13. Joanne Shaw (Y) (22)	156
14. Suzanne Hunt (Lil) (13)	150.5
15. Jean Parker (La) (12)	149.5
16. Helen Williams (Mi) (17)	141.5
17. Karen Groves (Wa) (16)	130
18. Mandy Reeves (Mi) (20)	124
19. Carol Butler (Dv) (15)	120.5
20. Nina Tsakarisanos (IGs) (18)	117.5
21. Angela Mitchell (Mil) (19)	108
22. Carol Spain (K) (32)	95.5
23. Mary Denbow (Ox) (21)	89
24. Rebecca Russe (Av) (38)	82
25. Sandra Peakman (Wa) (37)	78.5
26. Helen Bardwell (He) (24)	75.5
27. Elaine Sayer (E) (123)	71.5
28. Jenny Collins (Bk) (125)	67
29. Melody Hill (Y) (126)	64
30. Amanda Hegarty (St) (27)	64
31. Melanie Seaton (Y) (29)	62
32. Jane Barella (SY) (128)	61.5
33. Debbie Soothill (Cu) (48)	60.5
34. Yvonne Hall (Le) (42)	59.5
35. Julie Revill (Le) (33)	56
36. Sally Weston (Sx) (31)	53.5
37. Christine Peacock (La) (30)	53.5
38. Helen Shields (Y) (35)	51
39. Jill Powis (St) (34)	50
40. Teresa Moore (Sx) (46)	49
41. Michelle Hams (Sy) (36)	47
42. Cheryl Buttery (Li) (41)	44.5
43. Julie Dimmock (Bd) (39)	40
44. Deborah Simmonds (Sy) (50)	38.5
45. Taryn Napier-Vallis (Bk) (40)	36
46. Laura Goldsmith (Mi) (43)	35
47. Julie McLean (Y) (44)	34
48. Elaine Hammond (E) (-)	32.5
49. Claire Maisey (Wi) (49)	29.5
50. Lisa Hayden (E) (45)	29



Mandy Reeves of Middlesex who moves up two places from No. 20 to No. 18.

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec, London.



Nigel Eckersley of Cheshire and Cleveland's Carole Moore remaining at Nos. 24 and 5 respectively.



BRITISH UNIVERSITIES CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Mark Horsfall

The annual British Universities Championships were this year played at Swansea University over the weekend of Feb. 4/5, the five events attracting over 150 entries yet again. Despite a number of non-arrivals the tournament continued from this season's U.A.U. Championships in the quality in depth of the players involved, giving hope of success to more individuals than ever before. Indicative of the strength of the entry was the seeding of the reigning singles champions at Nos. 6 and 7 respectively.

Unfortunately the sea air could not entice No. 1 men's seed Dave Gannon of Aston to appear, but the organisers were to suffer no other major absentees. In the bottom quarter of the draw Strathclyde's dynamic Brian Wright, last year's runner-up, looked determined to go one better, powering his way through the tricky Brian Bennett and the big-looping Stuart Richards of Exeter for a place in the last four.

In the top quarter the famed retrieving of Bristol's Richard Russell, the No. 7 seed, was found wanting against the patient approach of Sheffield's Phil Aspinall who then rode out the challenge of Glasgow's David Lee for a semi-final place. In the second quarter 3rd seeded Iain Fullerton of London coasted through the early stages before Loughborough's Mark Illingsworth upset the formbook with an ominously assured display of hitting. Elsewhere the demise of defending champion Neil Bailey of Sheffield was seen when the Southampton whirlwind Joe Okosieme found his big-hitting best.

U.A.U. champion Paul Rainford of York was in no mood for Okosieme's tricks and despatched the South coast giant 2-straight to complete the semi-final line-up. Here Aspinall seemed intent on adding to the upsets but eventually Illingsworth's weight of shot wore his opponent down. In the other semi Wright and Rainford fought out a marathon struggle, the Scot eventually forcing victory. By comparison with the semis the final was a scrappy affair with Wright seemingly overeager, and after a tight first game Illingsworth ran away with the set to leave the Scot wondering what had gone wrong. Much the calmer man the Loughborough No. 1 took every chance to attack with power and accuracy and looked a very worthy champion in the end.

The women's singles was unevenly affected by withdrawals but the top 5 seeds were present and the number of players of county standard or better was greater than anyone could remember. Making her first attempt, Birmingham's Sarah Sandley was

seeded No. 1, with local heroine Lesley Tyler 2nd seed, and these two duly reached the semis untroubled. Former champion Cheryl Buttery of Nottingham, and Sheffield's reigning champion Janet Deakin, seeded 3 and 7 respectively came through to a last eight meeting, where, despite a recurrence of back trouble, Cheryl hit ferociously to settle an old score against a strangely subdued Miss Deakin. The other quarter featured the season's biggest upset, the vastly underrated Cara Rowe of Keele putting out Sheffield's Lesley Broomhead at "deuce" in the third after Lesley had a match winning point called let.

At the penultimate stage the steady compact game of Sandley tempered Buttery's steel and Rowe's dash was abruptly halted by the lovely Miss Tyler. In the final the crowd was treated to a classic contest of counter-hitting and looping, Lesley's nervous start being the only difference between the two in the first game. In the second Lesley made a supreme effort, taking the fight to Sarah with flowing

drives on both wings. However, lady luck seemed stacked on Sarah's side and a storming last 10 points saw the English international come out on top to take the women's title.

In the men's double, the No. 2 seeds, Bailey and Aspinall of Sheffield took two very well-earned golds, being fully extended in every set and finally triumphing over Rainford and Mercer of York. In the women's doubles Sheffield's strength was evident again with Broomhead and Deakin following their male comrades in adding the British title to their U.A.U. success with a final victory over London's Gillian Sharpe and Debbie Brown. In the mixed Sandley gained her second title partnered by Steve Barby who played a fine lead once the big loops began to land, eventually trimming out the lively 'funny bat' combo from London, Fullerton and Sharpe.

With the chances of a British team going to the World Student Champs. looking good, several claims were staked over the weekend in a fine tournament, and the annual match between the universities and polys in March will have even greater significance this year as players press for inclusion.



Mr. Addicott presents Birmingham's Sarah Sandley with the Women's **gold** medal watched by beaten finalist Lesley Tyler of Swansea.

Photo by Paul Pritchard of Sheffield University.



Mr. S. Addicott, Director of Physical Recreation at Swansea University, flanked by Men's Singles champion Mark Illingsworth of Loughborough (left) and Strathclyde's Brian Wright, runner-up.

Photo by Paul Pritchard of Sheffield University.

POSTBAG

RIGHT TO REPLY

There are so many untruths in the January Isle of Wight Report, that I felt I must exercise my right to reply.

I am glad that John Prean feels that the Charles Church International at Wembley was fun, I can assure him that it was anything but, especially for Carl.

Granted, Carl did have an excellent Worlds and Commonwealth, and nobody can ever take that away from him but he was not the only one. England actually sent a TEAM, not only Carl Prean and he cannot live on these results for ever. To the Press one is only as good as one's last result, they need something sensational to write about, and people judge on what they are seeing when they are seeing it, not something that they have read about in a newspaper or magazine.

Regarding Carl's European League debut. The account given by John Prean is totally incorrect. Carl's instructions were to be at the Airport to meet me and the rest of the team at 9.45 a.m. on Tuesday morning. Rooms were booked at the Bonnington Hotel for Des, Carl and myself for the previous evening, the decision whether to use these rooms was entirely that of each individual. Carl chose to stay, Des did not, he made his own way to the Airport on the Tuesday morning, I was just have likely to have done. Had Carl, or any other member of the team wished to alter the meeting arrangements, a telephone call was all that was needed, either to myself or to the E.T.T.A. Despite this, I did enquire on my arrival on the Monday evening who, if anybody had booked in. I was told that Carl had and that he was in bed. The following morning I went down to breakfast at 8.15 and looked for Carl, after breakfast I looked for him again, rang his room, but there was no reply. I looked once more in the dining room and in the lounge, but there was no Carl, so I left for the Airport at 9.05 a.m.

Later Carl explained that he had made no provision for a call and had slept until the hotel cleaner woke him. Then, instead of doing what he should have done and getting himself to the Airport for 9.45 a.m. he decided to cause havoc by ringing all and sundry, wasting yet more time and he finally arrived at the Airport at 10.25. I understand that during one of the telephone conversation the ludicrous suggestion was made that Carl had been left behind on purpose!! I can assure you that I have made hundreds of such trips and have never lost a player yet, and to journey all the way to Poland with a third of the team missing is totally unthinkable.

The journey was a long one, Poland is a long way off, and believe me the Travel Agent does know his job. I can

also assure you that we do not have a policy which dictates that our players arrive as tired as possible. It is all part of a player's conditioning to be ready when asked to play. There is no time for acclimatisation, and this is a fact which is accepted by all teams in the European League. If a player cannot adapt to the type of conditions, whatever they may be, then they should decline the invitation to play. One final point on this trip - it was sheer luxury compared with the one to Kuala Lumpur. Travel is something we have to learn to live with and we are not on our own - on a recent trip the Swedes had a 23 hour train journey immediately prior to playing and still managed to survive.

Carl was not picked for the Swedish Open, and the Selection Committee has no need to explain why a player is not picked for any particular event, but why describe his non-selection for this event as a tragedy? There is no guarantee that he would have had one or two good wins in Sweden, it is a very strong tournament, and anyway he had ample opportunity to gain the required points that he needed for the Top 12 in the E.L. matches and the two foreign tournaments for which he was selected.

Totally untrue also are John Prean's remarks about my apparently being uninterested in Carl's off-form spell. I have spoken to him on three separate occasions, about him regaining his form, and on each occasion he told me that it was a batch of inferior inverted rubber and a batch of inferior pimpled rubber which was causing the problems.

In his column John has blamed - change of rules, rubbers, travel, small rooms, cold water, cash shortages, selectors and myself for the loss of Carl's form. Is there a possibility that he could have got it wrong?

I too, have a very talented son, who at the age of 17 is ranked No.1 in the U.K. for both Long Jump and the 100 metres. When he has had a bad day, I do not go rushing home to put pen to paper, writing to the Athletic's Weekly and blaming everything from his coach to the sand or his spikes or the direction of the wind. I try to help him to make sure that it does not happen again at the next meeting, and am grateful for any help or assistance which he receives.

Carl had a very busy competitive schedule after his very successful and strenuous Commonwealth and Worlds, playing in the English Junior Open, the Norwich Union Grand Prix and the European Youth Championships. He was invited to an England Senior Training Camp at the end of August, but a reply came from John to say that Carl would not be attending as he was resting after a strenuous season. A very sensible decision, which I respected. However, no sooner had he declined the invitation to the Camp

when he was invited to play in the World Cup in Barbados. He accepted this invitation, which I feel was a mistake. Although this was a prestigious event, Carl would have been better resting.

Carl did not attend any senior training camps in the first half of the season, the excuse being that he could not have time off school. A cryptic remark from John on each training camp reply form asked why we did not arrange camps over a weekend so that Carl could attend. With such a congested calendar of 14 weekends taken up by National League matches and the various grades of tournaments, etc., this is impossible. If a player has to turn down an invitation to attend a training camp for academic reasons, I respect this as it is near impossible for players to make a reasonable living playing table tennis. However, Carl did manage to take a week off school when we played Poland in the European League, and another week when we played Sweden in the European League, another week for the Swiss Open and another week for the Hungarian Open and E.L. Match. He could take time off school to compete, but not to train. It is a mistake to train BY competition, one should train FOR competition.

Let us look at some of the problems that Carl has encountered this season. In Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo he was winning at least 3 out of 5 services, but with the new service rule and colour change, he is lucky if he wins three per game now.

Carl's receive of service short to the forehand is extremely poor. The opposition know this and play on it. (I spoke to John about this at the '83 Senior English Closed). It still remains a big problem.

Carl this season has relied too much upon his pimples. He lacks the flair that he had in Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo.

Most of all, this season Carl has lacked the FIGHT that he had in Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo. Could it be his way of rejecting the pressures and expectations that have been placed upon him, has it been too much for him? Many players have been ruined because of too much pressure too soon. A player needs to be nurtured. Carl has time on his side.

What about the opposition? They are not a bunch of idiots where material players are concerned. They may lose on the first few encounters, but they do learn how to play against the material. There may be the odd rabbit who finds difficulty playing against it, but in the main it can be overcome. A lesson that was learned with John Hilton was that when a player had learned how to play him we had to be selective in our choice of his opponents, and this has been successful.

Many players have had to adjust to the new rules, but what adjustment has been made by Carl? I have spoken

to him about this but has the advice been accepted? I think not. As a captain I want success for the player and will support the player through thick and thin, but if you are captain, coach, trainer, call it what you will, it is a two-way process, one cannot work without the co-operation of the other. We need to work as a TEAM, a word that seems to be lacking in John Prean's vocabulary.

PETER SIMPSON
ETTA NATIONAL
TRAINER/COACH

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UN'DER-21

A great deal of thought is being given to the far-reaching T.T. development plan. Inevitably, the gestation period is long.

Meantime, we seem to be remarkably successful at encouraging young players to enter tournaments - the passport to serious play. Then, at 17, we encourage all but the best of them to stop.

It's a big jump from the U-17 group to senior events. Why not an U-21 age group? (Perhaps it could replace the Junior boys' doubles - could anyone argue that it would not be more valuable?).

May I suggest an item on the agenda for the next National Council meeting or perhaps the ETIA Management Committee could take a lead with some proposals.

LES BRIDGES

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THE PLASTIC BALL

In your last issue John Woodford writes "..... the next move can only be from the ITIF"; Peter Charters writes "..... the argument is only with the ITIF".

Why?

The ITIF approves balls from a large number of manufacturers. Unlike most national Associations, the ITIF does not see approval as merely a fund-raising operation; we spend over \$5,000 every year on tests.

The Dunlop ball has been around a long time and has been used a great deal in international matches. It seems that some players do not like it; perhaps the ITIF should find out exactly why, and spend a few thousand more dollars to devise some new criteria other than those which all balls, including the Dunlop, have to pass; that is to say our conformity and regularity tests for weight, size, bounce, sphericity and veer.

Perhaps, on the other hand, the ITIF should do nothing of the kind. National Associations have a choice of eighteen balls they can use in international competitions. Any Association which finds that the ball it has selected is not liked by its players is at liberty to

resolve the matter in any way it chooses, without instructions from the ITIF.

TONY BROOKS
Secretary-General
ITTF

OLYMPIC ELIGIBILITY

The concern about Olympic eligibility expressed by E. B. Hall in his letter (your February issue) provides a good opportunity of explaining the new situation to your readers and, I hope, reassuring those who share his misgivings.

There are three important points to be made clear.

First, table tennis remains an "open" sport. None of the steps which had to be taken to obtain Olympic recognition of table tennis - the definition of Olympic eligibility and the laying down of regulations for its application - have any relevance whatsoever to any table tennis event other than Olympic ones. No player need pay the slightest attention to paragraph 2.1 of our rules unless he has an ambition to participate in the 1988 Olympic Games or any Regional Games held under the auspices of the IOC. So our Olympic involvement has not affected the way in which our sport is run; it has merely added the possibility of a glittering honour for a few players (only 144, from the whole world, will compete in 1988). It has added something else as well, which I shall mention later.

Second, those players who do not want to keep open for themselves the option of remaining eligible for the Olympic Games will still be able to derive a considerable income from table tennis. I cannot imagine what young players think they mean when they announce that they are "turning professional"; we have no distinction between amateurs and professionals. What we do now have are some rules which players must observe if they want to remain eligible for Olympic selection. For example, advertising contracts with commercial sponsors can be made, but not direct - only by Associations on players' behalf; prize money can be accepted, but only at tournaments recognised by the ITIF.

The rules are not complicated, and no doubt the ETIA will ensure that all English players are fully aware of them before they come into effect next August; until the 23rd Olympiad, that is to say the four years preceding the 1988 Olympic Games, the rules do not apply. In the meantime, anyone who would like a more detailed explanation of the eligibility code can write to the ITIF Secretariat at 53 London Road, St. Leonards-on-Sea, E. Sussex, TN37 6AV, for a copy of leaflet T1 0 (£1 post free).

It has been possible to introduce uncomplicated rules because of the new climate of thought which has developed in the Olympic movement over the past few years, and because our sport has never had to resort to

hypocrisy or subterfuge to serve some nebulous concept of amateurism. In the ITIF's initial submission to the IOC, we stated quite simply the object of our proposed Olympic eligibility code: "..... to ensure that players in Olympic table tennis competitions are not subject to commercial influences or restraints and that the competitions themselves are, as far as possible, similarly free from concerns other than those of pure sport".

We believe that the code will make some progress towards this end without in any way inhibiting the activities of table tennis players, even the minority who will set their sights on participating in the Olympics.

Finally, for those who are still unconvinced that the entry of table tennis into the Olympic Games will be of nothing but benefit to the sport, there is the matter of the money. The ITIF, even though it has one hundred and eleven people sitting on its Councilor Committees and some 26,000 words of Rules and Regulations to follow, has not been slow to rise to the challenge which faces the international and national governing bodies as a result of the increasing influx of funds from commercial sources into all sports. Five years ago the ITIF took the initiative in inviting the co-operation of the biggest sports promoter in the world to set up the World Cup. Other prize money events are proliferating, and the eligibility code will help to keep control of the sport where it should be - in the hands of the national Associations and their international federation. And soon, in four years' time, table tennis will get its share of the Olympic television fees. How this money will be spent - and it will not amount to less than a million dollars - will be an interesting subject for debate among the 121 Associations which make up the ITIF. Certainly, the benefits from it will ultimately reach not only a few hundred Olympic hopefuls but also a high proportion of the thirty million other players in the table tennis world.

TONY BROOKS
Secretary-General
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BENEFIT FOR ALL

Mr. Prean, what on earth is happening to our game? Do we ever get to a month when there is not something to pull table tennis to pieces over, together with people who spend a lot of time trying to make it run smoothly?

Very few things on this earth would run as we would wish and we sometimes have to compromise instead of sticking knives in people and organisations who are trying to make it work for the benefit of all.

This latest episode of boycotting a ball which has been in recognised use for thirteen years I find strange,

especially as soon after a new rule has come in regarding rubber colours and service rule changes.

John P'rean stated in the last magazine that Carl has lost the enjoyment of the game when having to play with 'Dunlop' balls although he had done so before with success. What about the unknown number of players who have had to try to compete against combination bats over the last few years and when anybody spoke up were told that they should learn to play against them. At least with a ball it is the same for both players and no-one has an advantage which can hardly be said of the rubber differences.

I only hope that after all this fuss about the type of ball that some players think they are above playing with, whether it be genuine or, as I suspect in retaliation for other reasons, that commonsense will prevail and that the finances of the game will not suffer in order to gratify the few, for in the long run, it is a lot easier to lose financial support from sponsors than to gain it.

As a last note on the combination bat, I can only say that over the last three years I have attended most junior events of any importance and have been very disappointed at the number of poor games that have presented themselves, not through the lack of potential skills that most players have but solely through errors being forced upon them by the equipment used against them.

With the introduction of the new rules on colours and service I look forward to an improvement in standards of play for the benefit of both player and spectators alike.

BRIAN BOXALL

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BOYCOTT SUPPORT

My letter concerns two areas of controversy. Firstly, I would like to express my support for Carl P'rean's boycott of the English Open. Clearly the low number of entries and the absence of top players from many counties indicates the widespread dislike of the "Barna" ball. John P'rean's comment that most league and tournament players would choose not to use it is quite correct in my opinion. (TV-AM, 26/1). I hope that Carl's playing career does not suffer because of this protest, as he is acting with great conviction. The EITA will suffer great loss if the English Open cannot attract "the cream of the world's players" (another quote from TV-AM) in future years. May I urge those of you who agree with me to sign the petition being circulated currently.

Secondly, I would like to comment on Stuart Greenberg's letter in the December issue. I am most offended at being referred to as a "trickster" and "con-man". Yes, I use a combination bat, Friendship/Lentec Swing. Before I am accused of plagiarism, I believe I

used this combination **before** Carl P'rean. Perhaps Mr. Greenberg would give consideration to the following points:-

1. The same service action with either side produces different effects. No trick as anyone can try it for themselves. A good argument for combination bats.
2. Combination bats are more difficult to play with than reverse both sides (if you twiddle). Therefore, in practice it is necessary to practice point winning systems, to enable you to decide which side of the racket you use for each stroke. Successful players do this as it is more use to them than a book of spells, and it means that they are more likely to win.
3. Using pimples is no advantage unless the ball is struck firmly, which causes the pimples to bend. I believe that this encourages a more positive attitude, which is often enough to unsettle an opponent.
4. The 2 colour rule has cancelled out any exploitation for the combination bat player. 2 colours does not make the player any easier to play against. Only being aware of the effects of pimples or anti-loop will help here.
5. If combination 'bats are such an unfair means by which to fool an opponent, then surely more players would use them, particularly as so little skill is thought to be needed in the first place.

I suspect that Mr. Greenberg hoped that combination bat players would disappear (as if by magic) after the 2 colour rule came into effect. He is bound to be a little upset if that is true.

Like Carl P'rean (see January issue) I will continue to use my present racket, and I would consider myself to be fully competent with reverse both sides.

In future, I hope that Mr. Greenberg or anyone else will give more thought to their own game, and much more thought to any criticism which they may wish to level at fellow players who choose to use equipment which they cannot handle. I think that this would be better for the game than calling other players con-men.

JERRY DEMPSEY

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THE BALL CONTROVERSY

Perhaps you will allow me to reply to the unjustified slur on the petition against the plastic ball made by Peter Charters in the February edition of Table Tennis News. Charters said "John Holland's petition at Hinckley seems to have been conducted in a manner such as to make his findings questionable". He does not explain that gnomic remark but let a little mud stick....

Before his article appeared I had a conversation with Mr. Charters and Mr. Blunn, at the Cotswold 'Select',

about the plastic ball. Peter claimed that names had been collected at Hinckley from players who had not even read the petition and from those 'who had not known that they were giving an undertaking not to participate in tournaments using the plastic ball as from next season. Of course, that is a load of nonsense as far as I have been able to determine. The signatories are in a position to repudiate their action if they choose to do so but that is another matter.

In my interesting chat with Messrs. Charters and Blunn the latter indicated that he had vetoed the appearance of my letter explaining the petition in Table Tennis News. It is worthwhile to get such occasional glimpses of the inner processes of our democratic Association.

JOHN HOLLAND

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Not so, John, no such veto of your letter to Albert Shipley which reads....

Dear Mr. Shipley,

The enclosed petition against plastic balls was started at the English Junior 'Closed', at Hinckley, on Dec. 3, 1983. Among the signatories so far are many of the leading junior, cadet and senior players in England, coaches and parents. The signatories decline to support tournaments using plastic balls as from next season.

The opposition to plastic balls is almost universal, although there are notable exceptions such as Graham Sandley. It is an opposition based on the fact that these balls have markedly different characteristics in play from approved, quality, celluloid balls. It is unreasonable to expect players to produce their best form, let alone an attractive spectacle, when they are obliged to make adjustments of timing and strokes to accommodate the plastic balls.

Of course, opposition to the plastic ball is not new. At all levels of the game, players have been grumbling about them for years. For most players it has not been too much of an issue since they so seldom have to play with them. Even in the County Championships, sponsored by Dunlop for some years, where they are supposed to be used, teams often come to an understanding before the game to use a different ball, even if it may be enclosed, hypocritically in a Dunlop box. I have played for three seasons in Veterans' divisions of the C.C. without ever once using the plastic ball. And let us not pretend that it's only the old codgers who will go to such length to avoid them.

Now the sponsorship which accompanies the command to use the plastic ball is welcome. Obviously, the ETTA, the English Schools, ITA, and other bodies in the sport receiving Dunlop sponsorship, want to retain it. If the price of continued Dunlop

sponsorship is use of the plastic ball then it is too high. What is needed is that ENA enter into urgent discussions with the Company to seek to persuade them that they should cease to produce the plastic ball and move into celluloid balls. That would be a leap in the direction of standardisation. At the same time, we should urge upon the next biennial meeting of the ITTF that approval should be confined to celluloid balls which meet the specifications.

The full text of the petition is as follows: "The undersigned wish to protest at the use of plastic balls in major English Table Tennis competitions. These balls produce a different bounce from all other approved makes which are manufactured in celluloid. This causes players to make uncharacteristic errors and detracts from the spectator value of the sport.

"We decline to support any more tournaments which use the plastic balls after the 1983-84 season."

Yours sincerely,

JOHN HOLLAND

As does your letter to the Editor.....

Dear George,

I enclose a letter recently sent to Mr. Shipley concerning plastic balls. Please publish it in the letters column of 'Table Tennis News' along with this letter. Although the petition is critical of current policy of the Association its objectives are the constructive ones of minimising unfairness to players and enhancing the spectator appeal, and, hence, the rehabilitation, of table tennis.

Copies of the petition form can be obtained from me at the above address. May I suggest that Table Tennis News readers who sympathise with the petition raise it as a motion at the Management Committees of their local leagues and County Associations. I should be most interested to hear of the reaction gained from such initiatives. If those of us who oppose the plastic ball the courage of our convictions it should not be long before the majority of our National Councillors both share and proclaim our views and instruct the A to take relevant action on behalf of the overwhelming majority of members.

What the papers (and players) say...

By John Prean

"Carl Prean was just about England's most effective force at the N.U. English Open... Yesterday the 16-year-old who boycotted the tournament because he refused to play with plastic balls, will be more than interested to know that the men lost at breakfasttime, and the women by the coffee break: and Desmond Douglas concluded England's most disastrous morning for very many years with a tirade in support of his absent colleague.... The Association did not speak to us about

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the ball - they just think about themselves and getting money from the contract. Your heart's not in it when it's like that.... You are not only playing the opponent. You're fighting the ball as well"- The Guardian.

"After watching all 4 England teams being beaten in the second round Douglas said: 'I don't think anyone is happy with the plastic Dunlop ball. Carl Prean was criticised for boycotting the championship because of the ball - but it could be he is better off not playing.... the Association should not have signed the contract. They should have examined the interests of the players.'" - Daily Express.

"Disaster day for England..... players blaming the plastic ball... threatening to boycott the English Closed at Bletchley in March..... players say it produces an uneven bounce....." - Daily Mail.

"Widespread criticism by players of the Dunlop plastic ball is rapidly increasing.... it is possible that in addition to Carl Prean Douglas may boycott the English Championships in Bletchley...." Daily Telegraph.

"There was more trouble at the N. U. English Open Table Tennis Championships yesterday..... over the choice of non-celluloid balls..... Swedish Team Coach Glen Osth revealed that top three Swedes had stayed away because of the ball (Top 3 in Europe as well - ed)" - Daily Express.

"Plastic Ball out of Favour at Brighton" (headline) - Daily Telegraph.

"Several leading overseas players indicated they would not return to this country's leading event if a plastic ball and not a celluloid one were used again.... Jacques Secretin, the former European Champion.... stalked off complaining about the ball.... the late withdrawal of the two top seeds looks meaningful against such a background of discontent...." The Guardian.

"The plastic ball came in for more criticism.... precise complaints... are that it feels hard and heavy, that it has a more rapidly-falling trajectory, the bounce is unpredictable.... The Swedish Coach commented: 'One of the reasons that the top 3 Swedish players are absent is because of the plastic ball. This tournament will not attract the top European players in future unless there is a change to celluloid balls'" Daily Telegraph.

"Plastic ball stays - table tennis chief" (headline - Daily Mail).

"I might have won with it- but they should still burn it" Desmond Douglas quoted in The Guardian.

"Prean.... but it was a decision that might have cost him his future England place despite widespread support among players.... and Desmond Douglas ('Carl Prean should be cheered for what he has done' said Douglas after his.. victory)" "The selectors should have picked him on ability and not hold a grudge" - Express.

"The decision has nothing to do with Carl's boycotting the ball - his

results have not been all that good recently", Chairman of Selectors Peter Charters quoted by The Guardian (Richard Eaton) describing Prean, victor over 1979 world champion Seiji Ono a week earlier and still unbeaten in England's National League.

Plastic Balls for All?

Deeply moved by the handful of readers who have told us, often at great length, that there is too much Prean in IT News I propose to give the floor to others and act only as a linkman. There were, incidentally, 63 columns of County News in the Feb. issue of which I occupied less than two.

Mr. Woodford tells us that 'the whole world has rejected the plastic ball!'. Then why are we getting so much stick? Mr. Oesth, the Swedish Coach, tells us that his leading players (currently No.1, 2 and 3 in Europe) will not play in the English Open if we continue to use that ball. Desmond Douglas and another English player (whom I dare not mention) tell us that they will play in no further plastic ball events after the Bletchley Closed.

Mr. Charters, Chairman of Selectors, tells us that "there could be a case for standardisation around the use of plastic," which I take to mean that everybody should play with Dunlop Barna Super Balls, since that is the only one made of plastic, all others being celluloid. I have travelled far and wide and have never found a local league match that was played with such balls. Please, tell us what you mean by your "standardisation around plastic" proposals, Mr. Charters: Do you really want everybody to play with Barna balls?

Further interesting revelations follow into the workings of our Selection Committee, or at any rate a majority of this. Parochial junior events take precedence over Foreign Opens, because, it seems, of the Sponsors, just as the Sponsor appears supreme in the choice of balls. It seems to matter little, if at all, that the majority of players do not like the ball.

I am sure Mr. Woodford's advice was well meant and I take his point that the player who made the stand against the ball may not be picked for the European Championships. If so, one asks modestly what they have been feeding into that famous computer all these years, because in that the player emerges obstinately in list after list at No.1 or No.2. If that means that he is really not in the best 5, then one can only marvel at the selection thought processes until one remembers that we are in the year of 1984. As Desmond Douglas said: "The selectors should have picked him on ability and not hold a grudge".

Mr. Charters accuses Mr. Snoxell (whom I have never met) and me of making 'personal and offensive comments' and then says that our well thought out letters are 'silly'. WE at any rate did not suggest that everybody should play with Barna balls.

Yes, we do think it is tragic that our favourite sport has sunk to such depths, that we see hours of darts and bowls on the box, even Bridge and Chess, whilst we get next to nothing. That shows how low we have fallen in the esteem of our fellowmen and Mr. Charters who is high in the ETTA should address himself to that problem. He is in national office. We are not. My offer, as a serious and successful businessman, to look at EITA books was not taken up. I do not accept the point that voluntary officers have to be inefficient. Sport has to be run like a business. Otherwise it fails, just as badly run businesses fail.

If you offer yourself for election, you run the risk that some people do not like what you do and that they will say so. That is democracy. Under Fascism there is of course no criticism. The last war was fought because of this. I left my native land for this reason. I am entitled to say what I think.

I say to Mr. Charters, in the nicest possible way, that I do not think we are making the most of the talent of our players, that we treat them badly and that our international performances leave much to be desired. The membership may one day require more of him than his warm advocacy of the Barna ball.

His job is to produce winning England Teams. By that he will be judged, not the unearthing of imaginary slights from those whose devotion to the Game may be just as great as his. He, not just the players, are on trial. I say this to him because I like him and because I want him to devote all his considerable energies to the task he has been given.

JOHN PREAN

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MYTHS DISPELLED

I think that it is about time that the small army of funny bat club players rallied to the support of the Prean's defence of funny rubber. There are two myths which seem to have become ITTF/ETTA lore both of which need to be dispelled.

Firstly, there is the assumption that pimples/anti-loop allow poor players to cope with any level of skill by guaranteeing the ball is returned in an unplayable state to the luckless and "cheated" opponent. If anyone thinks that, instead of storming off in a huff after losing to a combination bat player they should ask him to let them try out the bat. I've lent mine to a number of people who find it almost impossible

to control - never mind predict the return.

The point which I've never seen made in print is that while long pimples may be difficult to play against they are even more difficult to play with. Not only do they require maximum concentration but also a great improvement in footwork. The limp block at full stretch which goes back with fast reverse rubber either never reaches the net or dollies-up off any funny rubber.

You have to get behind the ball and play a stroke, and for a reactive blocking attacker, like I was, this can come as something of a shock - both mentally and physically. The second myth relates to the "boring" games which always seem to be the fault of funny bat players. That was patently disproved in this year's English Open. The high serve and bash tactics of Broda in the final against Douglas provided little entertainment for the most keen-eyed and what TV punters must have thought of it as an all infrequent advertisement for the game I shudder to think. In total contrast Broda's quarter-final the day before against an anti-looper was a great match.

Unlike the knockers of funny bat players I'm not belittling or underestimating the skill of Broda and Douglas. I'm just pointing out that their confrontation had about as much to do with table tennis as a western gunfight and as entertaining to spectators as small bore rifle shooting. Certainly not a spectacle likely to get us even a weekly spot on Channel 4 behind boys' boxing and basketball.

But perhaps we should examine the "boring" statement a little more closely. I don't find matches with funny bat players boring, because I know what they are doing. While, by their nature, these surfaces produce some mysterious shots the majority of returns are predictable and consistent. Rather than boring I find them enthralling and instructive. If some spectators are bored it's presumably because they do not understand (Le. haven't bothered to find out) just what's going on. Like it or not anti-loop and long pimped rubbers are part of the game and it's about time players, officials and coaches accepted the situation.

While on the subject of coaching, again, this is an area where the funny rubber player is shunned. No one would expect that anyone should learn the fundamentals of the game with anything but "standard" rubber on a sensible blade and while a coach would be giving good advice to any improving player not to use 2.5m Mark V on a carbon fibre blade what right has he to ignore the player with funny rubber?

There is no doubt that some rubbers suit some players better than others but many players whose game is naturally suited to funny rubbers in the sport's mindless pursuit of churning out armies of little rollers. Young and

old alike who make the decision to play with anti-establishment rubber are left to experiment and compound errors without the benefit of any advice while the little and not so little rollers and pushers are left in the dark when it comes to playing the "cheats".

Let us suppose that 25 years ago long pimples and not reverse sponge had replaced hard bats. Imagine the furore reverse sponge would now be creating. "Cheats" would develop heavy back spin from the topspin stroke (which would have been a push or what is now a conventional chop shot) etc. But (ha, ha their heavy topspin, vicious side spin and deadly smash would be contained by the conventional (long-pimpled) surface. Funny isn't it? But it may have something to do with the prevailing "get in first" attitude.

So how about it "cheats"? Why not get into print and try to achieve respectability for what is a legitimate variation to the sport. And also how about it ETTA and freelance coaches? Why not set up some performance improvement courses specifically angled towards play with and against funny rubber. If you can't beat us....

N.A. KENDRICK

31 Glebelands,
Claygate, Surrey.
KT100IF.

MUCH FAVOURED

I refer to the article by Murray Corbin in the No. 139 December issue. In his last paragraph he refers to John Taylor, Sec. Herts veterans' team, and his suggestion to improve play by injecting more competition with the number of points awarded for each score. Le. total of 4.

This is a system we have used in the Matlock, Derbyshire League for some years now, and we can verify that the competition is much favoured.

Every set is played for - no taking two players to 'win' a match and the unlucky team who lose a few at 6-4 still pick up a considerable number of points. Le. two as against nil.

I have also suggested this same system for the Chesterfield League but without success at their AGM. I would ask any league to consider this system for furthering interest with 4 points being won for 10-0 or 9-1, 3 pts for 8-2 or 7-3, 2pts for 6-4 and 1 pt for a 5-all draw. You will notice the reduction in points for a draw.

LES HEWITT

Diploma Coach/Player
39 Highland Avenue,
Newbold, Chesterfield,
Derbys. S41 7AU

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Near the back of the programme for the recently held NORWICH UNION ENGLISH OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS, an article by JOHN WOODFORD states, "Now that

national table tennis magazines are at their lowest ebb - one dead and the other stricken with the greivous malaise of amateurism - Fleet Street table tennis writers seldom have the opportunity to project opinions rather than facts. My colleague from The Times, Richard Eaton, took advantage of a rare feature-length opportunity last month when he expounded at length on the shortcomings of the ETTA as seen through the eyes of DESMOND DOUGLAS and the fact that our new No. 1 might just be thinking of shedding his commuting commitments to Dusseldorf after his one-year contract expires at the end of this campaign."

Many of us were led to believe that our magazine, although it may not at this moment be as successful in terms of distribution and sales as it has been previously to the last ten years, is now picking up extremely well, and if not paying its way, is nearly doing so. I remember you showing much satisfaction and pleasure at the way in which the sales have progressed during the last two years. Well, didn't you? In view of Mr. Woodford's remarks, is he in possession of facts that you do not know about?

I hasten to add that I do not know Mr. Woodford at all. I therefore enquired about his status and creditability, and found that he is an up-and-coming Journalist with the DAILY TELEGRAPH and is also a Member of our ETTA

PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE. It would therefore be reasonable for me to assume that he can be trusted to tell the truth, as in this case, rather than grind a personal axe and make it look like the truth.

I am surprised to learn that he and other Fleet Street writers seldom have the opportunity to project opinions rather than facts. Could the reason for this be that their Editors want facts only? I am not sure whether he is trying to say that space is not given to them in their working environment, which is where they should be concentrating, or if it is you are not publishing their thoughts in our magazine. I see too little Table-Tennis coverage in the National Papers. When I do, it is often written unemotionally, uninterestingly and unexcitingly. Perhaps the Editors feel this way too, from what is put in front of them.

Could you, please, clear-up any points or confusion I may have raised above. By the way, I am a fan of RICHARD EATON. Rock Richard!
Thank You!

MURRAY CORBIN

Up-And-Coming TT Impresario
304, B, Haydons Road,
Wimbledon,
London SW19 8JZ.

IF

If your greatest claim to fame in the table tennis world was that you were once in the team that finished runners-

up in Division 50 of the London Civil Service League one would not expect to read a great deal about the player in Table Tennis News.

If you were told the following season that you had to remain in the same division and not get your expected promotion because a better player had joined the club, one would not expect the same journal to be swamped with letters or complaint.

If as a person of 6' 7" you had to play in the basement of a Government building only 6' high against a man with only one leg, get beaten game 5, then drive that player 35 miles home, who else but the six people playing would know if it?

If this player spent a lot of his own time teaching underprivileged kids of all colours and background to play a good forehand smash because that was the only shot he knew he would not be mentioned in any coaching manual.

If the man I am writing about was still alive to read this letter he would say there are thousands of people who play our **game** and do the same (as there is).

But I feel that Police Inspector Steve Dodds who died as the result of the Harrods bombing was a person who makes our game the great one that it is and not only does it produce champions but gentlemen and heroes.

New Scotland Yard
Name and address supplied.

PONTEFRACT 1-STAR OPEN FIRST SUCCESS FOR SCOWCROFT

By R. B. Govan

This season's Pontefract 1-Star Open was again held at Featherstone Sports Centre, on Jan. 7, when 150 entries were accepted for the eight events including 123 for the men's singles won by Bolton's Stephen Scowcroft whose first open success this was.,

Top seed Steve Mills was eliminated in the semis by fellow Tyke, Michael Stead, whilst Scowcroft despatched Steve Sharpe. Lancashire also provided the winner of the women's singles in the person of Christine Peacock who had a final win over Joanne Shaw.

Scowcroft took a second title, with Sharpe in the men's doubles, but failed to make it a hatrick in the mixed when, with Charyl Clarke of Warrington, the Lancs./Ches. duo lost to Kevin Beadsley and Miss Shaw. Results:-

M.S: Q-F's:
S. Mills (V) bt S. Brunskill (Cv) 19, 10;
M. Stead (V) bt J. Naser (V) -14, 17, 17;
S. Scowcroft (La) bt N. Oavis (V) 14, 10;
S. Sharpe (V) bt K. Beadsley (V) 18, 20.
S-F's:
Stead bt Mills 15, -18,18; Scowcroft bt Sharpe 17, -17, 9.
Final: SCOWCROFT bt Stead 14, 17.
W.S: S-F's:
J. Shaw (V) bt J. Ryalls (V) 17, 12;
C. Peacock (La) bt H. Shields (V) 10, 14.
Final: PEACOCK bt Shaw -13, 18,12.
M.O: Final:
SCOWCROFT/SHARPE bt Beadsley/Stead 16, 20.
W.O: Final:
K. BURROWS (Y)/SHAW bt Ryalls/M. Seaton (V) 15, -14 18.
X.O: Final:

58

BEAOSLEY/SHAW bt Scowcroft/C. Clarke (Ch) 10, 14.
B.S: S-F's:
P. Logsdon (Nk) bt N. Newton (V) -19, 18, 19;
P. Curry (Nd) bt A. Bassano (V) 11, 19.
Final: LOGSDON bt Curry 8,8.
G.S: S-F's:
Shaw bt H. Broomhead (V) 11, 11;
Clarke bt J. Ward (V) 10, 9.
Final: SHAW bt Clarke 14, 11.
V.S: S-F's:
P. O'Arcy (Ch) bt M. Broughton (Nk);
B. Allison (U) bt R. Norton (Ca).
Final: O'ARCY bt Allison 9, -14,18.

E.T.T.U. B.G.M.

NANCY TO RETIRE

The Biennial General Meeting of the E,T,T,U. will take place at the Hotel Sport, Moscow on April 19, 1984 commencing at 9.30 a.m.

In conveying notice to member countries Mrs. Nancy Evans, the Hon. General Secretary, writes - "I am writing this as the last report I shall make as Honorary General Secretary of the European Table Tennis Union."

Mrs. Evans has been associated with the Union since it was first thought of in 1957, and became its first Hon. Sec/Treasurer in Zagreb in April, 1960. She remained in that dual office until 1972 when Mr. Henk'van Dilst of Holland took over the Treasurership.

Her period of office, therefore, had been over a period of 24 years during which time the Union has set up European Championships, European League, Europe Club Cup of Cham-

pions, Europe Top 12, European Youth Championships, Coaching Schemes for Trainers and Young Players, and exercised control over the Fairs Cities Cup and International Open Championships.

Mrs. Evans concludes her report - "However, let me hasten to say that I, have enjoyed to the full my involvement with European table tennis. It has taken me to very many places; it has brought me an ever widening circle of friends, not only work friends, but many others with similar dedication to our game.

"I am profoundly grateful to all the Associations and their officials at all levels who have helped me in my task, and whose ready support has been of so much support to me. To our Executive and Management committee members I say a sincere Thank you for all your help. I hope that I may retain the friendship of all for always.

"I am standing down now because I believe a younger person should shoulder the tasks of what has become a very demanding job. To whoever succeeds me I wish every success, and the hope that they will get as much happiness and satisfaction as I have done over these 24 years. What is certain is that I shall continue to have the prestige and prosperity of the E.T.T.U. very much at heart."

SCOTTISH NEWS

SENIOR CLASSIFICATION TOURNAMENT

by Denis George

Despite the arctic weather prevailing across the central belt in mid-January very few entrants failed to reach the Jack Kane Centre in Edinburgh for the second classification tournament of the season.

David Hannah and Richard Yule both reached their last round confrontation with 6 wins apiece and no losses. David won the first at 20, then Richard hit top form to win the second at 16 and go on to turn 10-7 in the third. Then David staged a comeback and won 21-14 - much to Richard's chagrin at losing a seemingly winning lead.

Young Brian Wright (Glasgow) did well to finish 3rd, whilst David McIlroy and John Broe slumped to 6th and 7th respectively.

Carole Dalrymple won the women's top group with Lynn Johnston in 2nd place. Janet Smith was unfit and did not play.

CLOBER SPORTS NATIONAL LEAGUE

After four matches Greaves Sports have established a lead and look likely to retain their title at the top of Div. 1 - they have only dropped two sets so far. Coatbridge Williamsons and Springburn Lions are in second place with one loss each. Beatties YM Paisley and Fifesport head Divs. 2 and 3 respectively.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE-DIVISION 2

Played at Alexandria Community Centre on Feb. 11 with their top players competing in the Federal Germany Open, the Norwegians sent what amounted to a second team and paid the penalty - losing a tight match 3-4 in the 3rd end of the 7th set.

Hannah won his two and Carole Dalrymple, returning to the side for the first time since breaking her collarbone last September, struggled at first but soon found her form, won her singles and then combined with Hannah to win the mixed: Scores:-

D. McIlroy lost to M. Gustavsen -13, -13;
O. Hannah bt G. Gustavsen -10, 22, 18;
C. Dalrymple bt A. H. Skulle-17, 1', 17;
Hannah/B. Wright lost to G. and M. Gustavsen ., 9, 15**, 1;
Hannah/Dalrymple bt G. Gustavsen/Skulle 16, -19, 14;
McIlroy lost to G. Gustavsen -16, -11;
Hannah bt M. Gustavsen 14, -15, 15.

STTA Ranking Usts - January 1984
(Previous rankings in brackets)

Men:

1. (1) David Hannah (Sy)
2. (2) Richard Yule (Ab)
3. (4) David McIlroy (W of S)
4. (6) Brian Wright (W of S)
5. (5) David Campbell (Ed)
6. (3) John Broe (W of S)
7. (7) Calum Gerrard (W of S)
8. (8) Jim Graham (Mo)
9. (11) Gr.eme Docherty (W of S)
10. (9) Alan Colliar (Ed)
11. (11A) Bert Kerr (Ed)
12. (10) Ian Mclean (W of S)
13. (12) Gordon Clancey (W of S)
14. (17) Peter Shaw (11.10)
15. (15) Tom Reid (W of S)
16. (12) Ian Stokes (W of S)
17. (16) Ale. Struthers (1.10)
18. (19) Martin Crawford (St)
19. (-) Willie Mabon (Ed)
20. (-) Graeme Iundie (1.10)

Women:

1. (1) Carole Dalrymple (5)
2. (12) Janet Smith (K)
3. (7) Lynn Johnston (St)
4. (3) Diane Greig (Waf 5)
5. (5) Elizabeth Robb (Fi)
6. (8) Eleanor Meenan (W of S)
7. (10) Lynn Davren (W of S)
8. (-) Susan Tomkins (Ed)

Key:

Ab = Aberdeen
Ed = Edinburgh
Fi = Fife
Mo = Monklands
St = Stirlingshire
WO = West Dunbarton
W of S = West of Scotland



GREAVES SPORTS. l-r: David McIlroy, John Broe, Richard Yule and Ian McLean.
(Photo: B. D. George)



SCOTLAND European League Squad. l-r: John Broe, Janet Smith, Brian Wright, David McIlroy, David Hannah, Diane Greig and Eric Sutherland (NPC).
(Photo: B. D. George)

THE PONTINS GRAND EASTER TABLE TENNIS FESTIVAL. 1984
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Three Meals a Day and Top Class Cabaret every night. The average fee, including VAT is at an average £55-£60. Children aged 2-14 at half price. All this for 4 days, not forgetting a Prize Fund of £1,000 in money and Holiday Vouchers.

By the way, if you are not or as soon as you are not involved in the Tournament, there is a wide selection of organised activities.

PLEASE C & B THERE! MISS THIS AND BLAME YOURSELF.

Why not contact TREVOR 'Roly Poly' OPENSHAW, immediately?

Murray Corbin.

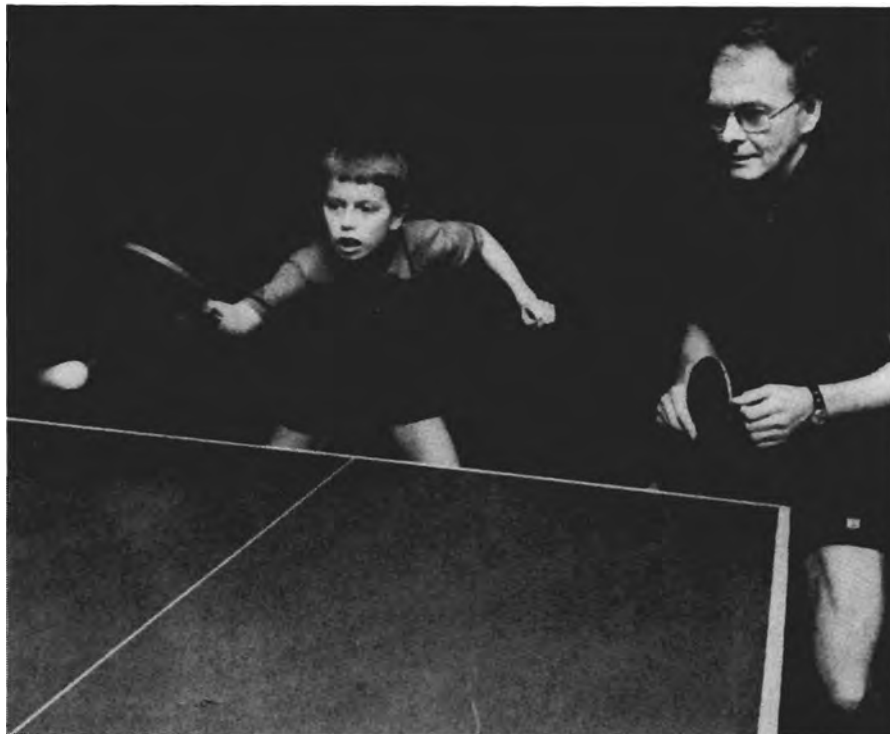
Les bridges the Generation Gap

Since veteran table tennis star Les D'Arcy, aged 62, joined 12-year-old schoolboy champion Chris Oldfield in the Public Works side playing in the Super Division of the Sheffield League, experts have been scratching their heads to decide if the age difference constitutes a record.

Significant age gaps are not unusual in a sport popular among young and old but half a century between two players in the same team at such a high level of play takes some beating.

Retired school teacher D'Arcy from Wakefield is rapidly becoming a phenomenon in the local game. Four appearances for PWD have brought ten wins out of 12 for the county coaching secretary who also plays in the Bradford, Leeds and Wakefield Leagues.

He started playing at Wakefield YMCA in 1934 and represented the town's juniors in the Yorkshire League in 1937. He went on to represent Wakefield seniors on numerous occasions including last season when he also captained the veterans to the county title,



Breaking the age barrier.... 12-year-old Chris Oldfield and Public Works team-mate Les D'Arcy, 62,

Photo by courtesy of Morning Telegraph, Sheffield.

FITNESS

D'Arcy who was born five years before the English Table Tennis Association was founded, won a silver medal in the over-60 World Championships in Gothenberg last year. He keeps abreast of the latest developments in the game by constantly modifying his combination bat.

The former PE and Scierice teacher has six children and 12 grandchildren. One grandchild plays in the Oxford League in the same team as his own father, D'Arcy's eldest son, Michael.

A non-smoker and non-drinker, D'Arcy cites a sensible diet and regular exercise as a secret of his fitness but confesses to keeping late nights because of his work on the Yorkshire Committee.

Just 50 years and four months younger than D'Arcy is team-mate Chris Oldfield, the Sheffield Under-14 champion who is ranked No.8 England cadet,

Last weekend he reached the last eight from a huge entry in the Cotswold

junior select at Gloucester and claimed several notable scalps to improve his national ranking before losing a ding-dong struggle to England No.1 Matthew Syed.

And the statisticians' verdict? They agree that the pair are unique for a team in the Sheffield top division but the all-time league record belongs to Abbeydale's Ray Hibbins and Simon East, who appeared in Division Three in the 1974-75 season at the respective ages of 70 and 17.

NORTH BOURNE.MOUTH CLUB 1-STAR

WELL PLAYED ANDY
by C. B. Cashell

A strong entry and many exciting matches in this 1-Star event on Feb. 5 which Alf Bridle and his helpers did well to finish by 9.30 p.m.

Avon's Andy Creed played exceptionally well to beat Martin Abbott of Dorset in the men's final as did Carol Butler in winning 2-straight against Scottish-ranked Janet Smith.

Results:-

MS: **S-F's:**

M. Abbott (Do) bt R. Bole (Sy) 1B. 15;
A. Creed (Av) bt G. Wilson (DY) 22. 14.

Finol: CREED bt Abbott 22. 14.

W.S: **S-F's:**

J. Smith (Seo) bt B. Clark (Ha) 19. 16;
C. Butler (Dv) bt C. Skevington (Do) 16. 15.

Finol: BUTLER bt Smith 14. 13.

M.D: **Final:**

ABBOTT/M. WERNER 100) bt P. Giles/P. Whiting (DY) 16.
-19. 18.

W.D: **Final:**

CLARK/SKEVINGTON bt L. Trussell/VN. Williams (Sx) 19. 18.

X.D: ABBOTT/SKEVINGTON bt M. Francis (Ss)/Smith 19. 12.

B.S: G. HUGHES (DY) bt O. Woodridge (So) 18. 16.

G.S: WILLIAMS bt S. Hegarty (Do) -17. 17. 13.

NATIONAL TRAINER/COACH

After the European/Championships in Moscow the position of the National Trainer/Coach will be transferred from Peter Simpson to Donald Parker.

Peter will take up the position of Senior National Coach within the E.T.T.A. Coaching Scheme after seven years at National Trainer.

During his time the English team have had notable successes which entitles Peter to be regarded as England's **most** successful Trainer so far.

In the reshuffle Donald, at 25, moves into the Trainer's position having been Junior Captain for the last five years.

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DUNLOP LANCASHIRE 2-STAR OPEN

TRIUMPHANT RETURN

by Geo R. Yates

Derbyshire's Alan Cooke made a triumphant return to British Aerospace Dynamics, Lostock on Feb. 4 - he was unbeaten there in the Quadrangular event earlier in the season - picking up the men's singles title and a cheque for £1 00 which went with it thanks to the generosity of Kirkby Central (Bolton) Ltd., the Vauxhall-Opel car dealers.

Joy Grundy was the winner of the counterpart women's event with a final victory over her Preston teammate Jean Parker victor, in the semis, over the No.2 seed Jill Harris.

Lancashire's Stephen Scowcroft, of Bolton, was the unexpected finalist in the men's singles and, in front of his home crowd, performed quite remarkably against Cooke in the final as he had done in disposing of Andrew Bellingham, in the quarters, and Kevin Beadsley, a former title holder, in the semis.

Shocks there were as the No.1 seed John Hilton, after a tight opening set victory over Andrew Leigh (-20,13 and 19) was dismissed by Stanley Deakin of Staffs (17, -13, 11) whilst Alan Fletcher, the No.3 seed, was ousted on his first visitation to the tables by the coloured Welshman, Trevor Manning from Wrexham.

No better men's doubles final had

been witnessed at Lostock for many a year which on this occasion was fought out by Cooke and Andy Creed against Beadsley and Fletcher. It brought the house down with a 24-22 third game win for the Derbyshire/Avon duo.

For once in a considerable while Derek Schofield was denied a retention of his veterans' Singles title giving second best to Matt Sheader of Grimsby in the final. But what an entry from the veteran fraternity with former internationals Bertie Kerr of Scotland and Cornelius J. of England contained in the pack.

Fiona Elliot and Jill Harris had the compensation of winning the women's doubles title after eliminating the holders, Karen Groves and Sandra Peakman, in beating Joanne Shaw and Debbie Soothill who had their hour of glory in ousting Joy Grundy and Jean Parker in the semis.

The introduction of a Class 2 mixed singles event proved highly successful and filled in the day admirably with continuous play from 9.30 a.m. until close on 10 p.m. Right from the word go the tournament went with a swing, not even a spot of bother and not a single complaint about the ball!

Thanks must go, yet again, to David D. Plowes, the Divisional Executive Director for Personnel and Training of

the now combined Hatfield/Lostock Division in particular and to British Aerospace Dynamics in general for their continued support. And, of course, to John Culshaw, local manager of Gardner Merchants, THE caterers, whose buffets are renowned throughout the land.

Results:-

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
K. Beadsley (V) bt S. Deakin (St) 20. 14;
S. Scowcroft (La) bt A. Bellingham (St) -17, 18. 17;
M. Thomas (Wal) bt T. Manning (Wal) 14. 13;
A. Cooke (Dy) bt N. Eckersley (Ch) -10. 20. 10.
Semi-finals:
Scowcroft bt Beadsley 17. 17;
Cooke bt Thomas 14. 13.
Final: COOKE bt Scowcroft 17. 19.
Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
J. Grundy (La) bt D. Soothill (Cu) 8. 12;
F. Elliot (St) bt J. Shaw (V) 21. 17;
J. Parker (La) bt E. Robb (Sco) 10. 15;
J. Harris (St) bt S. Peakman (Wa) 8. 9.
Semi-finals:
Grundy bt Elliot 13. -17. 12;
Parker bt Harris -12. 9. 20.
Final: GRUNDY bt Parker -20. 12. 9.
Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Cooke/A. Creed (Av) bt P. Bowen/J. Hilton (La) 12. 13;
Beadsley/A. Fletcher (V) bt S. Browne (La)/Eckersley 14. -15. 20.
Final: COOKE/CREED bt Beadsley/Fletcher -12, 20, 22.
Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Shaw/Soothill bt Grundy/Parker 20. 17;
Elliot/Harris bt K. Groves (Wa)/Peakman 22. 12.
Final: ELLIOT/HARRIS bt Shaw/Soothill 16. -19. 25.
Veteran Singles: Quarter-finals:
D. Schofield (Ch) bt G. Brook (V) 14. 16;
R. Kerr (Sco) bt C. Benson (So) 9. 17;
P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt G. Sharples (La) -17, 8. 18;
M. Sheader (Li) bt A. Hartshorn (La) 18. 13.
Semi-finals:
Schofield bt Kerr 12. 17;
Sheader bt D'Arcy 11. 13.
Final: SHEADER bt Schofield 21. 17.
Class 2 Mixed Singles: Quarter-finals:
A. Rich (St) bt S. Bevan (La) 14. 20;
B. Johns (Ch) bt T. Dyson (V) 14. -20. 21;
Sheader bt P. Hooper (Av) 11. 20;
D. Gannon (Le) bt J. Deakin (St) -18. 21. 15.
Semi-finals:
Rich bt Johns 15. 11;
Gannon bt Sheader 17. 4.
Final: RICH bt Gannon 5. -21. 8.

OBITUARY

CYRIL FRITH

The death has occurred of Cyril Frith. Cyril sprang to the forefront immediately before the war and there is little doubt this deprived him of many titles, winning the Leicestershire men's singles the year before the war and two of the three seasons following it. Although he was a stylish player with always plenty of time to play the ball, his abilities were by no means limited to the playing sphere. In thirty years of dedicated service to the Leicester and District League he was general secretary, Midland League secretary, chairman and president. On his retirement he donated a trophy - the "Frith Trophy" - to the league for players in the lower category, for he never lost sight of the fact that table tennis was for everyone, not merely those of the higher strata. Cyril was always ready to give a helping hand with exhibitions and, the like and never did anyone go to him for friendly advice in vain. He leaves a wife, Evelyn, who he met while playing table tennis and was a former County champion herself and five sons, Alan, Colin, David, Ian and Owen.

Philip Reid.

'EVENING CHRONICLE' Northumberland 2-Star Tournament Saturday, May 5th, 1984 At Concordia Leisure Centre, Cramlington

The Northumberland T.T. Association are pleased to announce that this season's 2-Star tournament is once again sponsored by the 'Evening Chronicle' and that the prize fund will total £1,260. £250 top prize is for the winner of the men's singles whilst the winner of the women's singles will receive £100, and the Class 2 singles has £70 awaiting the winner.

Concordia Leisure Centre has proved to be a popular venue with players in the past and the organisers are hoping for a big entry. Players requiring accommodation can be catered for at the Moat House Hotel at an inclusive price of £9 per person for bed and breakfast.

Entry forms are available from:
Aubrey Drapkin, 49 Beach Avenue,
Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear,
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CRYSTAL PALACE,
LONDON S.E.19
15th - 20th JULY, 1984

Led by ETTA National Coach and Excellence Squad players.

FEE: £92.00 (inc. Board-residence and VAT)

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INTERNATIONALE DEUTSCHE MEISTERSCHAFTEN

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

Poland's Andrzej Grubba was the winner of the men's singles event in the Federal German Open played in the Rhein-Ruhr-Halle, Duisburg over the period Feb. 9/12. Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner was the beaten finalist.

In the semis Grubba beat Desmond Douglas' (19, 17, 14) whilst Waldner accounted for Wilfried Lieck the 38-years-old German who, in the second round, eliminated Carl Prean (11, 19, -17, 15). In the same round Graham Sandley was beaten by Patrick Renserve (16, 13, 17) whilst Alan Cooke was a first round faller to Austria's Gottfried Bar who won -18, 12, -17, 22, 17.

Winner of the women's singles was Zsuzsa Olah of Hungary who beat Narine Antonian of the Soviet Union. A full report will be afforded in the next magazine the end results being:-

M.S: s-f's:
A. Grubba (POL) bt D. Douglas (ENG) 19, 17, 14;
J-O. Waldner (SWE) bt W. Lieck (FRG) 17, 13, 13.
Final: GRUBBA bt Waldner 18, -18. -8.19.
WS: Set's:
Z. Olah (HUN) bt F. Bulatova (URS) -15.17.16. -15.18;
N. Antonian (URS) bt M. Kloppenburg (HOI) 11, 8, 18;
Final: OLAH bt Antonian 16, 11, 4.
MD: M. Appelgren/U. Carlsson (SWE) bt U. Bengtsson (SWE)/P. Stellwag (FRG) 12, 19.
WD: Bulatova/A. Zakharian (URS) bt I. Bolvari (HUN)/Olah 14, 17.
XD: J. Molnar (HUN)/Olah bt J. Persson (SWE)/T. Nakajima (JPN) 15.
MT: SWEDEN bt Poland 3-2
Waldner bt Grubba 19, -16, 13;
Appelgren lost to Kucharski 9, -15;
Carlsson/Waldner lost to Kucharski/Dryszel 19, -19, -18;
Waldner bt Kucharski 15, 9; Appelgren bt Grubba 18.20.

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Supporters wishing to visit Austria for the 27th European Youth Championships in Linz (July 18-25), 1984 should contact the Osterreichischer Tischtennis Verband, Prince Eugen Str.12, A-1 040 Wien for accommodation in the Sommerhaus in Linz. Prices are: Double Room with shower/bath inc/. breakfast AS300 per day. Single Room AS380 per day. Double Room with full board AS400 per day and Single Room with full board AS480 per day. The prices are inclusive of a season ticket for the championships. Reservations should be made not later than May 15/84. Phone: (0222) 65 28 05.

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

March 1984

8/10 NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CLOSED Bletchley Leisure Centre, Princes Way, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Bucks. Finals: Saturday, March 10 (10.30 a.m.)
9/11 Polish Open (Poznan) - A Norwich Union Grand Prix Event.
11 Halex National League (13) East of England 2-Star Open (North Hykeham, Lines.)
Lancashire Junior 2-Star Open (The Queen Elizabeth Hall, Oldham Civic Centre). Start 8.45' a.m.
17 Yorkshire Evening Press Selby Junior 1-Star Open, Selby High School Sports Hall, Leeds Rd., Selby, N. Yorks.

17/18 South of England 3-Star Open (Woking Leisure Centre, Woking Park, Kingfield Rd., Woking, Surrey) Start 9.36 a.m. each day. Finals Sunday at 5.30 p.m.
18 Edinburgh Youth and Junior 2-Star Open, Meadowbank SC., Edinburgh
18 Cheshire Junior 1-Star
24 English Schools Team Finals (Lea Green, Matlock)
25 Derby Junior 2-Star Open
31 County Championships (7)
31-Apr 1 Junior Premier County Championships (St. Neots)
April 1 Monklands 2-Star Open (Monklands Leisure Centre, Coatbridge)
Durham 2-Star Open
7/8 Junior Ranking Tournament (Shotley, Nr. Ipswich)
8 Bedford 1-Star Open

14/15 Beneficial Trust Essex Junior 'Select' (Harlow)
14/22 14th EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS (Moscow)
15 Hartlepool 1-Star Open
21 South Yorkshire 2-Star Open, Herringthorpe Leisure Centre, Rotherham. Start 9 a.m. entries close March 31 to:- Stan Wainwright, 129 Mount View Road, Sheffield S8 8PJ.
21/22 Grievson, Grant Tunbridge Wells Junior 2-Star Open. The Angel Leisure Centre, Angel Lane, Tonbridge, Kent. Start 9 a.m. each day. Entries close March 20 to:- Mrs. D. Gibbs, Marigolds, Green Lane, Crowborough, East Sussex. TN6 2DE.

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS

Published each month from October to May. Postal subscriptions £6.00 for eight issues (U.K.) Europe (including Eire) £10.00, Overseas airmail £12.50.

Advertisements: Mrs. Christine Wilkes, English Table Tennis Association, 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex. TN34 1HA. 'Phone: H. Hastings (0424) 433121.

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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. BL16JH. 'Phone: Bolton (0204) 42223.

Editorial: Mr. George R. Yates, 43 Knowsley Road, Smithills, Bolton, Lanes. 'Phone: Bolton (0204) 42223.

Printed by Frank A. Slugg & Co. Ltd., Court Street, Trowbridge, Wilts. Telephone Trowbridge 68331.