



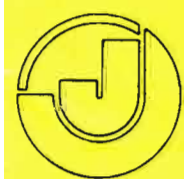
TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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EXAM SUCCESS

Despite the most inclement weather which also had an adverse effect in the chill Palace Lido, Douglas, the Isle of Man Table Tennis Association is to be congratulated on the quite superb organisation of the 8th Commonwealth Championships.

Without having previously staged anything remotely like such a prestigious tournament, Championships Director Gordon Baker, together with his wife, Nola, and fellow officials really make a splendid job of it and the warmth engendered more than compensated for the unfriendly climatic conditions.

Undoubtedly a great deal of homework had been done in the months leading up to the great event and to see it come to successful fruition under examination conditions must have created immense satisfaction to the islanders.

Opening and closing ceremonies, involving the Douglas Town Band, the Rushden Majorettes and a display by Onchan Entertainers Tinies Section went off without a hitch and with English winning five of the seven events - Nigeria and Canada the other two - there can be no complaints from this side of the water.

The Commonwealth family is quite unique and the Championships, on a biennial basis, are often referred to as the 'friendly' championships and in this respect it was very much so in the Isle of Man. We look forward to the same in Hong Kong in 1987.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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ENGLAND RELEGATED

Under the ruling whereby teams finishing equal on points, the result between them counts, the 4-3 win obtained by the Netherlands in 's-Gravendeel, nr Dordrecht, on March 6 against England, was the knock-out blow in the Super Division of the European League.

Undoubtedly the Dutch hero was Henk van Spanje who, it will be remembered, played a season with Ormesby in the Halex National League. Henk became the darling of the 1,000 spectators when, in the second set, after Carl Prean had beaten Anne Vlieg in the first, he accounted for Desmond Douglas to bring the house down.

As was to be expected Bettine Vriesekoop was untroubled by Alison Gordon but in a spectacular doubles encounter Douglas and Prean equated the match score in beating the van Spanje brothers, Henk and Ron.

Henk and Bettine then accounted for Des and Alison only for Douglas to blast Vlieg off the table leaving the stage set for a grandstand finish between Henk and Carl. In the first game Henk established leads of 10-5 and 15-9 only for Carl to claw his way back to lead 18-17, 19-18 and 20-19 only to be pipped on the post at 20. Sadly from England's point of view and from a score of 10-all Henk hustled his way to a second and decisive game win to set the seal on a Dutch victory to match their defeat of Poland earlier in the season. The Referee, Eric Wallin of Sweden, aged 70, I am informed by Bas den Breejen, witnessed a remarkable match in which no set went beyond 2 games. Scores:-

A. Vlieg lost to C. Prean -18, -15;
H. van Spanje bt D. Douglas 19, 12;
B. Vriesekoop bt A. Gordon 9, 9;
H. van Spanje/R. van Spanje lost to Douglas/Prean -17, -17;
H. van Spanje/Vriesekoop bt Douglas/Gordon 14, 17;
Vlieg lost to Douglas -14, -6;
H. van Spanje bt Prean 20, 17.

Sweden, as a result of their 7-0 win over Federal Germany in Lampertheim, but more particularly as a result of beating Czechoslovakia earlier in the season, are the new champions and they did it in style in Lampertheim where Mikael Appelgren, Jan-Ove Waldner and Marie Lindblad with Erik Lindh, in two doubles, carried all before them.

Scores:-

G. Böhm lost to J-O. Waldner -20, -18;
W. Lieck lost to M. Appelgren -12, -10;
A. Olischewski lost to M. Lindblad -18, -11;
J. Rosskopf/Böhm lost to E. Lindh/Waldner -18, 17, -19;
Rosskopf/Olischewski lost to Lindh/Lindblad -12, -18;
Böhm lost to Appelgren -16, -20;
Lieck lost to Waldner 20, -11, -17.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
SWEDEN	7	6	1	35	14	6
Czechoslovakia	7	6	1	32	17	6
Federal Germany	7	3	4	21	28	3
Poland	7	3	4	25	24	3
Yugoslavia	7	3	4	25	24	3
Hungary	7	3	4	22	27	3
Netherlands	7	2	5	13	36	2
England	7	2	5	23	26	2

Czechoslovakia also finished off their programme in style beating Poland 6-1 in Havlickuv Brod but having to content themselves with runners-up spot after losing their champions role.

Andrzej Grubba did not play in this match for Poland whose sole success was accomplished by Stefan Dryszel and Piotr Molenda in the men's doubles against Vladislav Broda and Jindrich Pansky. Scores:-

J. Pansky bt S. Dryszel 7, 13;
M. Grman bt P. Molenda 9, 13;
M. Hrachova bt E. Brzezinska 6, 7;
V. Broda/Pansky lost to Dryszel/Molenda -12, -16;
Pansky/Hrachova bt Dryszel/Brzezinska 16, -19, 23;
Pansky bt Molenda 16, 12;
Grman bt Dryszel 15, 19.

No score sheet yet to hand for the match in which Yugoslavia beat Hungary 6-1 but the final league table reads, with **SWEDEN** the champions and England the demotees:-

DIVISION ONE

France, with an unblemished record, are the promotees from Division 1 following their 6-1 win over Italy in Nimes on March 6. Their one loss in this all-important encounter was suffered by Nadine Daviaud who was beaten by Alessandra Busnardo but four of the seven sets needed a deciding game. Scores:-

P. Brocheau bt L. Nannoni 11, 18;
P. Renverse bt G. Bisi 14, 19;
N. Daviaud lost to A. Busnardo 18, -17, -15;
Brocheau/B. Parietti bt Bisi/M. Costantini 11, -20, 14;
Renverse/Daviaud bt Costantini/M. Cergol -19, 15, 11;
Brocheau bt Bisi 12, 19;
Renverse bt Nannoni 17, -15, 18.

Three days later, in Amstetten, Austria took a weakened Belgian team apart winning 7-0 to well assure their continued membership of the first division. Scores:-

E. Amplatz bt M. Lambot 15, 18;
S. Fraczyk bt D. Leroy 18, 15.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
FRANCE	8	8	0	43	13	8
Italy	8	6	2	35	21	6
Denmark	8	5	3	31	25	5
Finland	8	5	3	37	19	5
Norway	8	4	4	28	28	4
Belgium	8	4	4	23	33	4
Austria	8	3	5	28	28	3
Luxembourg	8	1	7	16	40	1
Spain	8	0	8	11	45	0

E. Maier bt N. Higuett 11, 13;
G. Bär/Fraczyk bt Lambot/Leroy 11, 11;
Fraczyk/Maier bt Lambot/Higuett 7, 15;
Amplatz bt Leroy 6, 18;
Fraczyk bt Lambot 16, 13.

Other results on March 9 were:-

Finland 5 Norway 2
Luxembourg 5 Spain 2

Both Luxembourg and Spain become due for relegation with Bulgaria coming up from Division 2.

Details of the late February matches in this division are:-

Austria 6 Luxembourg 1
D. Palmi bt Y. Maas 8, 15;
S. Fraczyk bt A. Hartmann 14, 10;
E. Maier lost to C. Risch -18, -19;
G. Bär/Fraczyk bt Hartmann/Maas 15, 11;
Fraczyk/Maier bt Maas/Risch 16, 19;
Palmi bt Hartmann 20, 11;
Fraczyk bt Maas -18, 11, 14.

Finland 3 France 4
J. Jokinen bt B. Parietti 20, 11;
J. Ikonen lost to P. Renverse -18, 14, -17;
S. Grefberg bt B. Thiret -15, 21, 11;
Ikonen/Jokinen lost to Parietti/Renverse -20, 16, -19.

International News/Obituary-Henry Baxter

Jokinen/Grefberg bt Parietti/Thiriet 18, 18;
Jokinen lost to Renverse -17, -19;
Ikonen lost to Parietti -9, -14.

Italy 7 Spain 0

G. Bisi bt R. Casares 19, -11, 9;
L. Nannoni bt J. M. Pales 18, 18;
A. Busnardo bt A. Godes 13, 9;
Bisi/S. Pero bt Casares/Pales 21, -18, 19;
Pero/M. Cergol bt Pales/Godes 17, 17;
Bisi bt Pales -14, 9, 10;
Nannoni bt Casares 19, 14.

Norway 2 Denmark 5

T. Johansen bt C. Sandbye 19, 17;
U. Rasmussen lost to J. Harkamp -11, -19;
M. Skarpenes lost to C. Polk -16, -10;
Blikken/Grimi lost to J. Hansen/Harkamp -11,
19, -13;
Johansen/Skarpenes lost to Hansen/Polk 19,
-16, -13;
Johansen bt Harkamp 17, -20, 16;
Rasmussen lost to Sandbye -14, -17.

DIVISION TWO

Bulgaria sealed their promotion to Division 2 with a 7-0 win over Scotland in Sofia on Feb. 24 and followed up by beating Greece 6-1. Scores in the match versus Scotland were:-

M. Lukov bt J. Broe 12, 10;
S. Stefanov bt R. Yule 10, -10, 12;
D. Guerguelcheva bt J. Smith 15, 12;
Lukov/Zvetkov bt Broe/Yule 19, 16;
Lukov/Guerguelcheva bt Broe/Smith 8, 16;
Lukov bt Yule 17, 12;
Stefanov bt Broe 10, 12.

Scotland, however, recovered their composure, at Pollockshaws Sports Centre, Glasgow on March 9 when they inflicted a 6-1 win over Wales whose only winner was Nigel Thomas who distinguished himself by beating David Hannah in the final set. Scores:-

R. Yule bt N. Thomas -16, 14, 15;
D. Hannah bt N. Tyler 17, 12;
J. Smith bt L. Tyler 8, 19;
J. Broe/Hannah bt Thomas/Tyler 19, -12, 14;
Broe/Smith bt Tyler/Tyler 19, 15;
Yule bt Tyler 18, 8;
Hannah lost to Thomas -17, -20.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
BULGARIA	4	4	0	24	4	4
Scotland	4	2	2	13	15	2
Wales	4	2	2	13	15	2
Switzerland	4	1	3	9	19	1
Greece	4	1	3	11	17	1

EUROPE CLUB CUP OF CHAMPIONS

Finals (April 13/85)

Men

Vasutas, Budapest (HUN) v
ASZ Gdansk (POL)

Women

Statistika, Budapest (HUN) v
Tolnai Voros Lobogo (HUN)

NETHERLANDS CHAMPIONSHIPS

MS: s-fs:

Jeap van Spanje bt Anne Vlieg 15, -14, 14,
-17, 13;
Ron van Spanje bt Rene Hijne 19, 16, -19, 22.
Final: R. VAN SPANJE bt J. van Spanje 20,
-18, 14, 19.

WS: s-fs:

Bettine Vnesekoop bt Jantien Jansma 13, 17, 11;
Mirjam Kloppenburg bt Vivian Blanckaert 9, 16,
14.
Final: VRIESEKOOP bt Kloppenburg 16, 17,
-15, 11.

MD: H. v. SPANJE/R. v. SPANJE bt Hijne/N. v.
Slobbe 17, -23, 23.

WD: JANSMA/KLOPPENBURG bt Ellen Bakker/
Vnesekoop 21, 14.

XD: GERARD BAKKER jr/VRIESEKOOP bt Erik
Noor/Emily Noor 17, 14.

LATE SCORES

Yugoslavia's 6-1 win over Hungary was accomplished by three players namely Zoran Kalinic, Dragutin Surbek and Branka Batinic with Surbek losing the second set to Janos Takacs. Scores:-

Z. Kalinic bt Z. Harczy 12, 13;
D. Surbek lost to J. Takacs -17, -12;
B. Batinic bt G. Fazakas -12, 18, 13;
Kalinic/Surbek bt Harczy/Takacs 19, -17, 18;
Surbek/Batinic bt Takacs/Fazakas 18, 16;
Kalinic bt Takacs 20, -13, 15;
Surbek bt Harczy -19, 7, 16.

In Division 1 the Scandinavian encounter between Finland and Norway resulted in a 5-2 win for the host country the scores being:-

J. Jokinen bt H. Hoff -14, 12, 11;
S. Soderberg bt M. Gustavsen 18, -22, 16;
S. Suomalainen lost to K. Hagen 15, -16, -18;
Jokinen/Soderberg bt Gustavsen/J. O. Haugen 8,
16;
Jokinen/M. Portin bt Hagen/Haugen 17, 11;
Jokinen bt Gustavsen 10, -17, 13;
Soderberg lost to Hoff -11, -17.

In the match between the two demotees Luxembourg brought off their first win of the season in beating Spain 5-2 in Echternach.

Scores:-

Y. Maas bt S. Moles -18, 18, 19;
G. Stebens bt R. Casares -12, 18, 15;
C. Risch bt A. M. Godes -15, 13, 15;
A. Hartmann/Maas lost to Casares/Moles, -19,
-23;
Hartmann/Risch bt Moles/Godes 9, 16;
Maas bt Casares 15, 21;
Stebens lost to Moles -19, -22.

And, in Thessaloniki on March 10 Bulgaria assured themselves of promotion from Division 2 beating Greece 6-1. Scores:-

K. Pritts lost to S. Stefanov -16, 19, -19;
D. Zikos lost to M. Loukov -16, -18;
K. Spanou lost to D. Guerguelcheva -15, -15;
Pritts/Zikos bt Loukov/Tsvetkov -20, 19, 17;
Zikos/M. Louka lost to Loukov/Guerguelcheva
-11, -16;
Pritts lost to Loukov -3, -15;
Zikos lost to Stefanov -15, -13.

ENGLISH CLOSED

Desmond Douglas, for the 8th time, and the 7th in succession, was the winner of the men's singles title at Bletchley on Mar. 10 but what a fright the champion was given being a game and 15-20 down to battling Alan Cooke who finally succumbed 16, -21, -13, -19. Lisa Bellinger took over the women's singles crown from Alison Gordon with a final 18, 10, 18 win over her sister Jackie. Other results:-

MD: Douglas/Praan bt Souter/Wilson 9, -18, 13;
WD: Bellinger/Bellinger bt Sandley/Witt -15, 8,
17;
XD: Sandley/Gordon bt Kennedy/Witt -20, 15,
13;
VMS: Gunnion bt Sheeder 17, 8.
VWS: Schofield bt Stafford -15, 15, 16.

OBITUARY HENRY (HARRY) C. BAXTER



Harry Baxter, Chairman of the Scottish Table Tennis Association died on April 8th at the age of 70.

Harry became interested in Table Tennis in 1936 the year the STTA was formed and maintained that interest for almost thirty years.

In 1942 he won the North of Scotland Open the night Aberdeen was blitzed. From 1946/1951 he represented the West of Scotland League and from 1946/1949 he played for Scotland against England, Wales, Ireland, Belgium, Holland, Guernsey, Jersey, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Denmark and Greece.

From 1953/1973 he was Team Captain/Manager for the Scottish Team for about 150 matches and delegate to the I.T.T.F.

As a veteran Harry won the Veteran's Singles in the Scottish Open from 1955 to 1966 mainly against English opposition.

He held important offices in the Association, Treasurer from

1957 to 1972, Vice Chairman 1972 to 1973 then Chairman from 1973 to-date.

In 1979 to 1981 he became Chairman of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships following the successful staging of the 5th Championships in Edinburgh in 1979 of which he was the Director.

In 1981 the Commonwealth Table Tennis Association was formed and Harry was elected first Chairman. In March 1985 he resigned due to ill-health and was made an Honorary Personal Member.

Harry was also a footballer of sufficient skill to represent the Royal Air Force in a match versus the Royal Navy at Hibernian ground in 1943. A dedicated supporter of Hamilton Academicals he assisted with under 18 youth teams in S.A.F.A., from 1960 to 1966 in the Scottish Amateur League.

A long time member of Hamilton Caledonian Bowling Club he was the club singles champion in 1978. Apart from

bowling his other sports were hockey, badminton, tennis and golf.

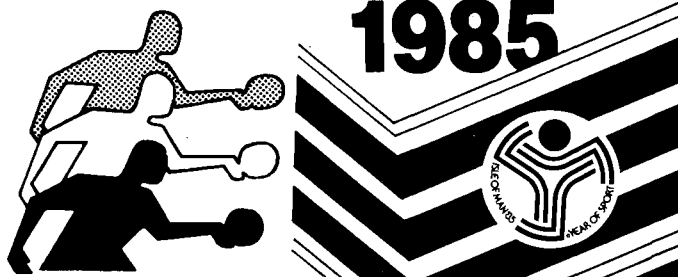
Harry was well liked in all sports and will be sorely missed particularly in Table Tennis where he so expertly managed to control and hold together the Executive Committee.

He leaves a widow Agnes, a most tolerant and loving wife, a daughter Sandra and son Rob.

HANNE SCHLAF

It is with regret we report the death of Hanne Schlaf, (55), the wife of Jupp, the former President of the European Table Tennis Union and General Secretary of the Deutscher Tischtennis-Bund. Hanne, a former player and team captain, died on March 27th and our sympathies go to Jupp at 6000 Frankfurt am Main 70, Souchaystrasse 13, Federal Republic of Germany.

8th COMMONWEALTH TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS



PRESTIGE REGAINED

by George R. Yates

Roll of Honour

Men's Team

ENGLAND

Men's Singles

DESMOND DOUGLAS

(England)

Women's Team

ENGLAND

Women's Singles

KAREN WITT

(England)

Men's Doubles

ATANDA MUSA and FRANCIS SULE

(Nigeria)

Women's Doubles

MARIANN DOMONKOS and GLORIA HSU

(Canada)

Mixed Doubles

DESMOND DOUGLAS AND ALISON GORDON

(England)

England regained not a little of their lost prestige in the Palace Lido, Douglas, Isle of Man where, over the period March 17/23, 1985, five of the seven titles at stake being swept into the English bag.

Of the two remaining Nigeria took the men's doubles and Canada the women's to leave Hong Kong bereft of all seven titles they won so handsomely two years previously in the humid heat of Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

Spearheaded by Desmond Douglas and aided, in the main, by Carl Prean and Alan Cooke, England took the men's team title with 5-0 victories over Australia, Northern Ireland, Guernsey and Papua New Guinea dropping only one set in their initial group when Cooke was beaten by Nigel Tyler of Wales.

Subsequently they disposed of Canada, the Group C winners and finally Hong Kong by the same devastating scoreline after

the defending title holders had beaten Canada 5-2.

By contrast England's women, after initial group conquests of 3-0 wins over New Zealand, Scotland, Wales, Guernsey and Jersey, and a 3-1 win over Canada when Mariann Domonkos beat Lisa Bellinger, were made to fight hard in the cross over encounters.

Firstly it was India who fought back from a 0-2 deficit to level the scores, when Indu Puri and Vyoma Parikh beat Lisa and Alison Gordon, and Indu beat Alison in single combat leaving it to Lisa to save the day with the final disposal of Miss Parikh. And in the final the doubles was again lost, this time by Alison and Karen Witt, who went under in abject fashion to Hui So Hung and Yue Kam Kai of Hong Kong.

Nonetheless it was a 3-1 win that took our girls to the gold medal position to make it a team double that drew appropriate applause from the island spectators.

Exceeding by far the 13 men's and 10 women's teams which competed in Malaysia, a record 18 men's and 15 women's teams paraded in the Palace Lido.

And, England apart, all home countries, including the Isle of Man, participated, the latter's female team succeeding in beating Jamaica and Zimbabwe and finished a creditable twelfth whilst the Island's men although without success in the group matches accounted for Zimbabwe and Papua, New Guinea to finish in 16th place with two cross-over successes.

Wales, who finished 8th in Kuala Lumpur, improved by two positions mainly as a result of a well deserved win over Australia when Alan Griffiths starred in beating Bob Tuckett, Gary Haberl and Glenn Tepper the latter also losing to Nigel Tyler and Nigel Thomas.

But the biggest leap was taken by Canada's men, from 11th previously to 3rd in Douglas where, in Group C, they beat Pakistan, New Zealand, Jersey and the Isle of Man, losing only to Nigeria. Thereafter they went under to the Group A winners, Hong Kong, and to England, the Group B winners.

Desmond Douglas, seeded No. 1 in the men's singles, shed nary a game en route to the gold medal beating Nigeria's Fatai Adeyemo, Canada's Alain Bourbonnais, Philip Bradbury, Kamlesh Mehta of India in the quarters, Lo Chuen Chung of Hong Kong in the semis and, finally, Alan Cooke.

Cooke, in reaching the final, accounted for D. St Louis of Trinidad and Tobago, Gary

Proctor of the Isle of Man, Gideon Joe Ng of Canada, Haberl in the quarters, and, in the semis, David Wells.

Scotland's John Broe walked tall in his defeat of the holder, Hong Kong's Chiu Man Kuen but subsequently the Scot went under to Yomi Bankole of Nigeria in straight games. Graham Sandley displayed better form than of late in beating Stephen Scowcroft, Horatio Pintea of Canada and Atanda Musa of Nigeria before going down with all guns blazing to Lo Chuen Chung.

Prean too was concerned in a desperate struggle being denied a quarter-final place by Francis Sule of Nigeria who triumphed 17 in the 5th only to lose to Wells in another 5 game marathon.

Karen Witt's success in the women's singles was achieved at the expense of Scotland's Janet Smith, Thanh Mach of Canada, Yue Kam Kai of Hong Kong (20 in the 5th) and, in the semis, Lisa Bellinger (19 in the 5th).

Again it was a 5-gamer in the final against Hong Kong's Hui So Hung with Karen coming good in the fifth and deciding game to match Des Douglas on the top step of the podium.

Alison Gordon, England's top seed in this event, was taken out in the quarters by Mandy Sainsbury who subsequently went out in straight games to the defeated finalist.

But what of Fiona Elliot's beating of India's Indu Puri and Joanne Shaw's Victory over the Canadian Mariann Domonkos: Splendid efforts despite subsequent defeats at the hands of Hui So Hung and Mrs. Sainsbury the latter having initially beaten Jan Tepper of Australia.

To watch the antics of Atanda Musa and Francis Sule of Nigeria after their final victory over Douglas and Prean in the men's doubles was a delight to behold and just as well received was the victory of Mariann Domonkos and Gloria Hsu of Canada over Hui So Hung and Yue Kam Kai of Hong Kong in the women's doubles final.

England's fifth title came in the mixed in which Desmond and Alison filled Hong Kong's cup of woe to the brim by beating Lo Chuen Chung and Mok Ka Sha in straight games after the Asian pair had seen off Gideon Joe Ng and Miss Hsu of Canada in the semis.

Winner of the Fair Play Award was Dexter St Louis of Trinidad and Tobago whilst in the consolation events victories were recorded by Nigel Tyler of Wales and Mariann Domonkos of Canada.



England, the men's team winners (from left to right):- Graham Sandley, Skylet Andrew, Carl Prean, Alan Cooke, Desmond Douglas and Donald Parker (n.p.c.) with H. Roy Evans OBE who made the presentations along with Noel Cringle. MHK, Chairman, Year of Sport Executive Committee (centre foreground).



England's girls line up for their team winning awards (l to r) Karen Witt, Fiona Elliot, Lisa Bellinger, Alison Gordon and n.p.c. John Hilton together with Mr. M. C. Chowhan of India who presented the trophy.

8th Commonwealth T.T. Championships

8th Commonwealth Championships

Results:

Men's Singles: Round 4:

D. Douglas (ENG) bt P. Bradbury (ENG) 12,11,16;
 K. Mehta (IND) bt Chan Konh Wah (HKG) 21,-15,-15,15,19;
 Lo Chuen Chung (HKG) bt S. Andrew (ENG) 18,19,-19,14;
 G. Sandley (ENG) bt A. Musa (NGR) -21,-10,12,17,17;
 F. Sule (NGR) bt C. Preen (ENG) 14,-12,-20,18,17;
 D. Wells (ENG) bt B. Abiano (NGR) 13,13,19;
 A. Cooke (ENG) bt G. J. Ng (CAN) -21,10,16,12;
 G. Haberl (AUS) bt Y. Bankole (NGR) -17,-11,15,10,18.

Quarter-finals:

Douglas bt Mehta 18,16,18;
 Lo Chuen Chung bt Sandley 18,13,-18,-17,19;
 Wells bt Sule 11,-14,-18,16,16;
 Cooke bt Haberl 18,13,-12,17.

Semi-finals:

Douglas bt Lo Chuen Chung 17,16,10;
 Cooke bt Wells 19,13,13.

Final:

DOUGLAS bt Cook 14,14,17.

Women's Singles: Round 3:

Hui So Hung (HKG) bt N. Bisiach (AUS) 6,8,19;
 F. Elliot (ENG) bt I. Puri (IND) -18,-10,12,18,19;
 M. Sainsbury (ENG) bt J. Shaw (IND) -16,14,7,9;
 A. Gordon (ENG) bt M. Barua (IND) -19,12,18,-20,13;
 K. Witt (ENG) bt T. Mach (CAN) -14,9,12,-11,8;
 Yue Kam Kai (HKG) bt Myung Hee No (AUS) walk-over;

Quarter-finals:

L. Bellinger (ENG) bt V. Parikh (IND) 11,18,9;
 Mok Ka Sha (HKG) bt G. Hsu (CAN) 4,4,15.

Quarter-finals:

Hui So Hung bt Elliot 13,12,-18,17;
 Sainsbury bt Gordon 18,10,19;
 Witt bt Yue Kam Kai 17,-9,19,-9,20;
 Bellinger bt Mok Ka Sha 10,16,18.

Semi-finals:

Hui So Hung bt Sainsbury 15,16,18;
 Witt bt Bellinger -14,9,17,-16,19.

Final:

WITT bt Hui So Hung 19,-18,17,-19,15.

Men's Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Chan Kong Wah/Chu Man Kuen (HKG) bt A. Khan/F. Saif (PAK) 8,14;
 Douglas/Preen bt Bankole/T. Ogunrinde (NGR) 16,12;
 Musa/Sule (NGR) bt Lo Chuen Chung/Vong Lu Veng (HKG) 18,-18,21;
 B. Griffiths/P. Jackson (NZL) bt Cooke/Sandley 21,-11,11.

Semi-finals:

Douglas/Preen bt Chan Kong Wah/Chu Man Kuen -16,16,12;
 Musa/Sule bt Griffiths/Jackson 19,-19,19.

Final:

MUSA/SULE bt Douglas/Preen -13,13,20.

Women's Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Hui So Hung/Yue Kam Kai bt O. Majekodunmi/K. Owolabi (NGR) 7,18;
 Shaw/Sainsbury bt Mach/B. McKnight (CAN) 12,12;
 M. Domonkos (CAN)/Hsu bt Barua/N. Roy (IND) 11,-18,17;
 Bellinger/Witt bt K. Herquin/A. Rihoy (GUE) 17,13.

Semi-finals:

Hui So Hung/Yue Kam Kai bt Shaw/Sainsbury 14,19;
 Domonkos/Hsu bt Bellinger/Witt 19,19.

Final:

DOMONKOS/HSU bt Hui So Hung/Yue Kam Kai 19,17.

Mixed Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Ng/Hsu bt Chan Kong Wah/Hui So Hung -11,12,14;
 Douglas/Gordon bt S. Ram (IND)/Puri 16,-18,9;
 Lo Chuen Chung/Mok Ka Sha bt B. Nguyen (CAN)/Mach 19,11;
 H. Pintea (CAN)/Domonkos bt Vong Lu Veng/Yue Kam Kai 18,-18,18.

Semi-finals:

Douglas/Gordon bt Ng/Hsu 15,16;
 Lo Chuen Chung/Mok Ka Sha bt Pintea/Domonkos 21,-6,17.

Final:

DOUGLAS/GORDON bt Lo Chuen Chung/Mok Ka Sha 10,8.

Men's Consolation Singles: Quarter-finals:

G. Jones (JAM) bt D. Weir (IRE) -18,20,21;
 D. McIlroy (SCO) bt H. Meneely (IRE) 15,14;
 G. Tepper (AUS) bt J. Dill (IRE) 11,-9,15;
 N. Tyler (WAL) bt I. Powell (GUE) 13,16.

Semi-finals:

Jones bt McIlroy 16,18;
 Tyler bt Tepper 19,-14,15.

Final:

Tyler bt Jones 13,16.

Women's Consolation Singles: Quarter-finals:

J. Tepper (AUS) bt E. Robb (SCO) 15,-14,9;
 Domonkos bt S. Becca (JAM) 7,13;
 A. Holt (ENG) C. Chu (CAN) 19,11;
 E. Cheevers bt K. Owolabi (NGR) w.o.

Semi-finals:

Damonkos bt Tepper 12,-10,11;
 Cheevers bt Holt 9,-20,19.

Final:

Domonkos bt Cheevers 15,18.

TEAM CHAMPIONSHIPS

MEN

Stage One

GROUP A	HKG	IND	SCO	TRI	JAM	ZIM	Pts	Games	Place
Hong Kong	x	5-3	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5	25-03	1
India	3-5	x	5-3	5-0	5-0	5-0	4	23-08	2
Scotland	0-5	3-5	x	5-0	5-0	5-0	3	18-10	3
Trinidad	0-5	0-5	0-5	x	5-4	5-0	2	10-19	4
Jamaica	0-5	0-5	0-5	4-5	x	5-0	1	09-20	5
Zimbabwe	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	x	0	00-25	

GROUP B	ENG	WAL	AUS	IRE	GUE	PNG	Pts	Games	Place
England	x	5-1	5-0	5-0	5-0	5-0	5	25-01	1
Wales	1-5	x	5-3	5-1	5-0	5-0	4	21-08	2
Australia	0-5	3-5	x	5-1	5-0	5-0	3	18-11	3
Nthn Ireland	0-5	0-5	1-5	x	5-1	5-0	2	11-16	4
Guernsey	0-5	0-5	0-5	1-5	x	5-0	1	06-20	5
Papua/N.G.	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	x	0	00-25	6

GROUP C	CAN	NGR	NEZ	PAK	JER	IOM	Pts	Games	Place
Canada	x	2-5	5-0	5-1	5-0	5-0	4	22-06	1
Nigeria	5-2	x	3-5	5-0	5-0	5-0	4	23-07	2
New Zealand	0-5	5-3	x	5-0	5-0	5-0	4	20-08	3
Pakistan	1-5	0-5	0-5	x	5-0	5-0	2	11-15	4
Jersey	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	x	5-3	1	05-23	5
Isle of Man	0-5	0-5	0-5	0-5	3-5	x	0	03-25	6

STAGE 2

A2 v C2	Nigeria	5	India	3
A4 v C4	Trinidad	2	Pakistan	5
A1 v C1	Canada	2	Hong Kong	5
A6 v C6	Isle of Man	5	Zimbabwe	2
A3 v C3	New Zealand	5	Scotland	0
A5 v C5	Jamaica	5	Jersey	0

STAGE 3

England	5	Canada	0
Guernsey	5	Jersey	3
India	5	Wales	0
Australia	5	Scotland	3
Zimbabwe	5	Papua N.G.	2
Trinidad	5	Nthn Ireland	3

STAGE 4

Pakistan	5	Nthn Ireland	0
Isle of Man	5	Papua N.G.	0
Nigeria	5	Wales	1
New Zealand	5	Australia	4
Jamaica	5	Guernsey	0

FINAL

England	5	Hong Kong	0
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D. Douglas bt Lo Chen Chung 19,14; bt Chan Kong Wah -15,15,12.
 C. Preen bt Vong Lu Veng 13,12; bt Lo Chuen Chung 17,19.
 A. Cooke bt Chan Kong Wah 21,-16,17.

WOMEN

STAGE ONE

GROUP A	HKG	IND	NRG	AUS	IRE	JAM	IOM	ZIM	Pts	Games	Place
Hong Kong	x	3-0	3-0	3-1	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	7	21-01	1
India	0-3	x	3-2	3-2	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	6	18-07	2
Australia	1-3	2-3	3-2	x	3-1	3-0	3-0	3-0	5	18-09	3
Nigeria	0-3	2-3	x	2-3	3-1	3-0	3-0	3-0	4	16-10	4
Nthn Ireland	0-3	0-3	1-3	1-3	x	3-1	0-3	3-0	3	11-13	5
Isle of Man	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-30-3	3-2	x	3-0	2	06-17	6	
Jamaica	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	1-3	x	2-3	3-0	1	06-18	7
Zimbabwe	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	x	0	00-21	8	

GROUP B

GROUP B	ENG	CAN	NEZ	SCO	WAL	GUE	JER	Pts	Games	Place
England	x	3-1	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	6	18-01	1
Canada	1-3	x	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	3-0	5	16-03	2
New Zealand	0-3	0-3	x	3-1	3-0	3-0	3-0	4	12-07	3
Scotland	0-3	0-3	1-3	x	3-2	3-0	3-0	3	10-11	4
Wales	0-3	0-3	0-3	2-3	x	3-0	3-1	2	08-13	5
Guernsey	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	x	3-2	1	03-17	6
Jersey	0-3	0-3	0-3	0-3	1-3	2-3	x	0	03-18	7

STAGE 2

Australia	3	Scotland	0
Nigeria	3	New Zealand	1
Nthn Ireland	3	Guernsey	0
Hong Kong	3	Canada	0
England	3	India	2
Wales	3	Isle of Man	0
Jersey	3	Zimbabwe	1

STAGE 3

New Zealand	3	Scotland	0
Guernsey	3	Isle of Man	1
India	3	Canada	2
Nigeria	3	Australia	1
Wales	3	Nthn Ireland	1
Jamaica	3	Jersey	2

FINAL

England	3	Hong Kong	1
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A. Gordon bt Yue Kam Kai 19,19; bt Hui So Hung 14,18;
 K. Witt bt Hui So Hung 20,21.
 Gordon/Witt lost to Hui So Hung/Yue Kam Kai -17,-14.

FINAL PLACINGS

(Previous position in brackets)

MEN
1 ENGLAND (3)
2 Hong Kong (1)
3 Canada (11)
4 Nigeria (2)
5 India (5)
6 WALES (8)
7 New Zealand (10)
8 Australia (7)
9 Scotland (9)
10 Pakistan (4)
11 Trinidad & Tobago (-)
12 Northern Ireland (13)
13 Jamaica (-)
14 Guernsey (-)
15 Jersey (-)
16 Isle of Man (-)
17 Zimbabwe (-)
18 Papua New Guinea (-)

WOMEN
1 ENGLAND (3)
2 Hong Kong (1)
3 India (2)
4 Canada (4)
5 Nigeria (-)
6 Australia (9)
7 New Zealand (6)
8 Scotland (8)
9 Wales (-)
10 Northern Ireland (10)
11 Guernsey (-)
12 Isle of Man (-)
13 Jamaica (-)
14 Jersey (-)
15 Zimbabwe (-)

8th Commonwealth T.T. Championships

CLASSIFICATIONS

MEN

- 1 Desmond Douglas (Eng)
- 2 Alan Cooke (Eng)
- 3 Lo Chuen Chung (HKG)
- 4 Carl Preen (ENG)
- 5 David Wells (ENG)
- 6 Francis Sule (NGR)
- 7 Garry Haberl (AUS)
- 8 Kamlesh Mahta (IND)
- 9 Graham Sandley (ENG)
- 10 Gideon Joe Ng (CAN)
- 11 Atanda Musa (NGR)
- 12 Peter Jackson (NZL)
- 13 Malcolm Temperley (NZL)
- 14 Skylet Andrew (ENG)
- 15 Sri Ram (IND)
- 16 Yomi Bankole (NGR)
- 17 Alan Griffiths (WAL)
- 18 Vong lu Veng (HKG)

WOMEN

- 1 Karen Witt (ENG)
- 2 Lisa Bellinger (ENG)
- 3 Hui So Hung (HKG)
- 4 Alison Gordon (ENG)
- 5 Mandy Sainsbury (ENG)
- 6 Yue Kam Kai (HKG)
- 7 Mok Ka Sha (HKG)
- 8 Fiona Elliot (ENG)
- 9 Olawunmi Mjekodunmi (NGR)
- 10 Indu Puri (IND)
- 11 Myung Hee No (AUS)
- 12 Thanh Mach (CAN)
- 13 Mariann Domonkos (CAN)
- 14 Jan Morris (NZL)

Alan Cooke in action in
the Palace Lido

Photographs by courtesy of
Butterfly Table Tennis (UK) Ltd.

Lisa Bellinger at full stretch.



8th Commonwealth T.T. Championships



Karen Witt, England's winner of the women's singles.



Dexter St Louis of Trinidad and Tobago, winner of Swaythling Club of India Fairplay Trophy, presented by G. R. Yates.



Des Douglas and Alison Gordon the mixed doubles winners.



Nigeria's Francis Sule and Atanda Musa with the men's doubles trophy presented by Mr. Chung Wing Kwong, President of the Hong Kong TTA.

Photos by Denis George of Scotland.

38th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Repeat Performance

For the second successive time the People's Republic of China took six of the seven titles at stake in the 38th World Championships in Gothenburg the one to elude them, as in Tokyo, being the men's doubles won by Mikael Appelgren and Ulf

Carlsson who beat Milan Orlovski and Jindrich Pansky.

Results:-

M.T.: CHINA bt Sweden 5-0.

W.T.: CHINA bt Korea DPR 3-0.

M.S.: Jiang Jialiang (CHN) bt Chen Longcan (CHN) 14.21.18.

W.S.: Cao Yanhua (CHN) bt Geng Lijuan (CHN) 12.16.-10.16.

M.D.: M. Appelgren/U. Carlsson (SWE) bt M. Orlovski/J. Pansky (TCH) 15.20.

W.D.: Dai Lili (CHN)/Geng Lijuan bt Cao Yanhua/Ni Xiaolian (CHN) 8.17.

X.D.: Cai Zhenhua (CHN)/Cao Yanhua bt Pansky/M. Hrachova (TCH) -9.12.8.

Full coverage will appear in the May/June issue. Ed.



WHAT OF THE FUTURE

asks....TOM BLUNN, Chairman, E.T.T.A.

Once Easter has passed, the end of a season approaches very quickly and many members look forward to a change of sport and a change of environment, using the outdoor as distinct from the indoor facilities. For a few there are the summer leagues to look forward to and I cannot help but think this is an area which should be encouraged.

I must confess that in 1956, whilst with the Liverpool League, I spoke out against the formation of a summer league on the grounds that it did not allow the secretary to relax and recharge for the winter. I admit I was wrong. Some officials are prepared to work the whole year round and I think we should consider ourselves lucky that they are prepared to do so. My experience with summer leagues in the north-east satisfies me that there is a place for them.

Our constitution includes a reference to "promoting" the

game and I believe this covers every aspect of competition. We should do our best to 'promote' whenever we can, otherwise we are in danger of 'preventing', and that we must not do. The constitution also refers to 'controlling', and the two together must form the basis for the future.

What about the future? In the short term there will be problems and there is much work to be done. In the long term I am convinced we shall bounce back again and reverse the trend of a decline in membership. I particularly diagnose a decline in membership rather than a decline in popularity which is something completely different. There is ample evidence that the main reason for the loss of members is the loss of playing and club facilities. Too many industrial clubs have disappeared following the demise of the business due to the recession.

The players have been left high and dry with little or no alternative facilities available. Also those who have lost their jobs just cannot afford to join an independent club and pay the appropriate fees.

Another material reason for the loss of members is the lack of officials to organise the club or a

league. In spite of the obvious amount of time available it seems to be a lack of confidence in the ability to organise rather than the lack of recognition of the need to be organised.

Both these areas are being attacked by the ETTA. In the regions efforts are being made to involve the unemployed in day-time competitions and also to employ people through the Manpower Services Commission to recruit and organise the competitions.

There has been remarkable success in the north-east where there are now eleven people being paid by the M.S.C. to organise the game in that region. Whilst the M.S.C. schemes differ in each region the principles are the same and every effort is being made to repeat this undoubted successful scheme in the other eight regions.

The collective use of sports halls, schools and certain business premises is being investigated and this has the backing of the Sports Council who are very much concerned with the lack of what they call "dual use" of facilities, particularly in the schools.

The lack of suitable officials is recognised by the ETTA and a

fund has been set up to encourage members to participate in the organisation of a club or a league and to provide training facilities when these are requested. The fund has been started with a contribution of £2,000 from the ETTA and this sum will be an annual contribution. The first administration seminar was held recently in the north-west region under the auspices of the Oldham League and it was very successful in every respect.

It was a pilot scheme and the experience was very useful. Further seminars will take place very soon and an interest has already been expressed by the south-east region and the south-west region. I cannot think of a better way of getting down to the grass roots and meeting local officials. I was very impressed with the very friendly way the ETTA team was greeted at the first seminar and with the spontaneous reaction to applaud the efforts being made by the ETTA on behalf of the leagues. There is tremendous scope for progress in this particular scheme and I am very pleased to be part of it. By this time next year I hope I shall have met many more local workers than I have ever thought it possible to do.

IRISH AFFAIRS

COUNTY ARMAGH OPEN

by Tony Martin

The Irish ranking committee was given plenty of food for thought as the seeds went tumbling out of the Co. Armagh Open at Craigavon. **Jimmy Robinson** won the men's singles title and **Mary McMullen** the women's.

Shocks in the men's event began in the quarters when Dublin visitor Aiden Walsh knocked out top seed Mervyn Kelly. Then the No. 3 seed, Derek Weir, lost to Robinson who went on to beat Tom Heasley in the final.

Scottish Junior No. 1, Sarah Hurry, beat No. 2 seed Jennifer Reid in the quarters of the women's event and Ellen

McManus had a great tournament beating Nora McEvoy in the quarters. Mary McMullen then accounted for Miss Hurry and, surprisingly, Ireland's No. 2 Liz Cheevers in the final.

Results:-

MS: s-fs:
J. Robinson bt A. Walsh 23, 17;
T. Heasley bt H. Meneally 13, 20.
Final: ROBINSON bt Heasley 18, -16, 19.
WS: s-fs:
M. McMullen bt S. Hurry 18, -16, 20;
L. Cheevers bt E. McManus 16, 17.
Final: McMULLEN bt Cheevers 17, -16, 19.
MD: HEASLEY/D. WEIR bt R. Copes/R. Strong 12, 14.
WD: CHEEVERS/J. REID bt N. McEvoy/McManus 16, 17.
XD: HEASLEY/REID bt M. Kelly/C. Leonard -16, 15, 18.
GS: S. HURRY bt McManus 20, 18.

DRESSWELL ULSTER OPEN

Once again the form book went by the board when **Jimmy Hamill**, ranked No. 6 in Ireland, won the Dresswell Ulster Open at the Valley Leisure Centre, Belfast on Feb. 16. In six major tournaments this season there have been six different winners. The in-form Hamill accounted for Walsh in the quarters and then edged out Hilton Meneally in the semis. Top seed Heasley avenged his Armagh defeat beating Robinson in the other semi.

Hamill played superbly to beat Heasley in the final, the latter serving off at 19-20 in the third game!

Ireland's No. 1 **Anne Leonard** proved to be in a class of her own taking the women's singles title in style beating Scotland's Valerie Thomson in the final. Anne seemed to canter through the whole tournament taking the women's and mixed doubles titles as well. Ulster's No. 1 Liz Cheevers fell in the semis to Thomson and Mary McMullen went out in a shock second round defeat at the hands of Caroline Leonard. Results:-

MS: s-fs:
T. Heasley bt J. Robinson 23, -16, 16;
J. Hamill bt H. Meneally 19, 20.
Final: HAMILL bt Heasley 20, -12, 19.
WS: s-fs:
A. Leonard bt J. Reid 16, 16;
V. Thomson bt L. Cheevers 18, -19, 18.
Final: LEONARD bt Thomson 11, 13.

MD: Final:
HAMILL/ROBINSON bt J. Dill/Meneally 17, 16.
WD: Final:
A. LEONARD/E. McILROY (Sco) bt P. Fleming/V. Thomson (Sco) 11, 18.
XD: Final:
I. McLEAN (Sco)/**A. LEONARD** bt Robinson/N. McEvoy 16, 8.
VS: Final:
R. COPES bt V. Watson 18, -16, 18.
BS: Final:
A. DENNISON bt P. Robinson 21, 15.
GS: Final:
E. McMANUS bt K. Stafford 10, -17, 16.

The Irish team to compete in the 38th World Championships in Gothenburg is:-

Men - Colum Sleiv, Mervyn Kelly and Hilton Meneally.
Women - Anne Leonard and Liz Cheevers.
NPC's - Pat O'Brien and Ken Strong.

Northern Ireland's team to compete in the 8th Commonwealth Championships in Douglas is:

Men - Mervyn Kelly, Hilton Meneally, Jimmy Robinson (captain) and Derek Weir.
Women - Liz Cheevers, Mary McMullen and Nora McEvoy with Mrs. Pat Hunter as n.p.c.

COVER PICTURE

Newly attired in their sponsored Butterfly clothing at the 8th Commonwealth Championships in Douglas, Isle of Man, England's 38th World Championships squad line-up before their run of successes achieved in Douglas. Back row - Alan Cooke, Carl Prean, Skylet Andrew, Desmond Douglas and Graham Sandley. Front row - Donald Parker, Karen Witt, Lisa Bellingier, Alison Gordon, Fiona Elliot and John Hilton.

Photo by courtesy of Butterfly Table Tennis (UK) Ltd.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND-UP

by Murray Corbin

JUNIOR PREMIER DIVISION

KENT, OH LOVELY KENT!

Kent went on to win the **Junior Premier Division** at St Neots recently, in spite of fierce last minute opposition from last year's winners Yorkshire, and an excellent Staffordshire unit.

The new Champions played better as a Team in comparison to last year, when they seemed more like spoilt individuals. This time, whenever there appeared to be a lapse, **incessant lashings from the tongues of Captain Alan Rutherford and Ted Houghton**, soon reminded them, in particular the boys, that it was a long way to be walking home amidst the traffic on the A1. Well done Juliet Houghton, Tracy Ashdown, Andrew Cunningham, Paul Amos & Karl Ball.

Yorkshire, lying third after the first weekend, fought back well to finish second. They are a fine unit and one to watch out for next season. With **Clive Guest** moving into the Seniors, Mike O'Driscoll, Chris Oldfield, Alison Evans and Ruth Bray should keep Yorkshire a tough fighting force. Captain Bevan Walker seems to get the best out of his Teams.

Staffordshire is one of the Teams I watch, if only to observe the skills of **Adrian Dixon** and the antics of **Helen Lower**, who has stopped hitting her leg with her bat, at the frustration of losing a point. She is maturing into a better player and I will continue to monitor her progress. Her topspin needs improving and her bat arm action, while executing this particular skill, could be made to look much more attractive. **Jill Powis** now breaks up her own defensive play with intermittent bouts of sound all-round play. This can only make her a greater force in the future. **Richard Hayward and Kevin Lawrence** also add some 'class' to this Team. Captain Mike Cross does pay a lot of attention to every detail.

Derbyshire, weakened on this occasion by the absence of Bradley Billington, could not muster a victory this second time around, much to the disappointment of the inspirational duo - **Maurice and Jackie Billington**. The well travelled Kerry Hall and Julie Billington, whom Damian Holland of Essex has eyes for, continue to impress me with every sighting. However, as their tally could only be a total of three out of ten sets per match. Derbyshire were always struggling, due to the not-quite-ready talents of **Paul Harvey, Gavin West and Chris Glossop**, who were not out-classed by any means.

Essex, with Lisa Hayden, Gillian Patten, Tanya Holland, James Griffith, Tony West and Damian Holland played reasonably well to maintain fifth place, but I have this notion that Captain **Ray George** would have been a much happier man, had Essex beaten neighbouring Middlesex, rather than drawing with them. That extra point would have put them clear of Derbyshire. By the way, now that Tanya Holland had nearly mastered most of the basic strokes, it may be time for her to practise chasing balls around the court and becoming a lot more mobile.

Middlesex and Captain Mike Close must be relieved at missing relegation but sorry to see how they have fallen in grace since being runners-up last season. The Team has missed David Goode and Nigel Tyler badly, and what Team would not? Young **Jonathan Goode** shouldered the responsibility of number one quite well, and it is a bit unfortunate that Kevin King, at number two, was not more successful. Philip Szekeres, on the other hand, kept plugging away and hanging on in there. The results that escaped him were due mainly to his lack of variation of play and power to penetrate the enemy at vital stages during combat. Rachel Knight and Katrina Baker graced the courts admirably.

Berkshire have been relegated along with Surrey. I overheard someone saying that it was a pity such misfortune should fall on Berkshire, considering that they have The Syeds and Jimmy Stoke. Another bystander quickly retorted that Berkshire has a Team that is anxious to play for Berkshire. In that case, I must agree that Julie Norman, Julie Brion, Paul Savins, Graham Kemp and Keith Hodder have given splendid service to their County, which they seem to give priority. How nice it would be if Paul Savins could develop a 'middle-game' to fit between his big-shot extravagance. On a certain day he is spectacular; on the others, simply ineffective and less successful than he should be.

Surrey were by far the softest Team in the competition having just saved themselves from falling last year. They played much better this second half and even managed a draw with Derbyshire. I can not say much more without appearing to be unkind to them, except that Debbie Simmonds and Claire Brooks were most successful in

the doubles. Good luck to them in the second division, because they will need it. The number three - Richard Jones, has assured Captain Mike Kercher that they will be back in the Premier after next season.

FINAL RESULTS AND PLACINGS

YORKSHIRE 6 Kent 4
Middlesex 5 Essex 5
STAFFORDSHIRE 7 Berkshire 3
Derbyshire 5 Surrey 5
Middlesex 3 STAFFORDSHIRE 7
Essex 1 YORKSHIRE 9
KENT 7 Derbyshire 3
Surrey 4 BERKSHIRE 6
MIDDLESEX 0 YORKSHIRE 10
Berkshire 2 KENT 8
Derbyshire 4 ESSEX 6
STAFFORDSHIRE 8 Surrey 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
KENT	7	6	0	1	47	23	12
YORKSHIRE	7	5	1	1	48	22	11
Staffordshire	7	5	0	2	43	27	10
Derbyshire	7	3	1	3	36	34	7
Essex	7	3	1	3	32	38	7
Middlesex	7	2	1	4	28	42	5
BERKSHIRE	7	1	1	5	25	45	3
SURREY	7	0	1	6	21	49	1

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

An abundance of thanks can be extended to (1) The Officers of St Neots TTC for again allowing us the use of their fantastic facilities and the resultant work they put in to bring the final stage of The Championships to a successful conclusion (2) The Canteen Ladies at St Neots - **Lilly Olver, Alison Saywell and Babs Slater**, for providing a great service with genuine warmth, friendliness and smiles (3) Dunlop Sports Co. Ltd. for providing all of the equipment (4) Referee **Gerald Hammond** and his umpiring Staff of Jack Randall, Chris Clemson, Alan Shepherd, Ray George, Alan Burgess, John Somerville, Roy Lowe, Hugh Murray, Brian Watkin, Ted Houghton, Ken Green, Pat O'Brien and Assistant Referee **Christabel Hammond**, whose help was greatly appreciated by husband Gerald, on the Saturday, the first day of the competition. Christabel - what a lovely name. Also present during the weekend were County Championships stalwarts **Leslie Smith** - Administrator, and **Stanley Parr**, who works extremely hard for the Committee in setting up all arrangements for the Junior and Premier Weekends. I previously reported that Stanley lived in Coventry, rather than Nuneaton. To my horror, I received appreciative letters from Nuneaton thanking me for moving him, while alternatively, the correspondence from Coventry, in particular Geoff Taylor, wondered why I did not resettle Stanley in his native



Lancashire. It is nice to know where one stands.

MATCHES PLAYED IN FEBRUARY

Seniors 2A. Warwickshire 4 LEICESTERSHIRE 6.
STAFFORDSHIRE 2nd 6 Buckinghamshire 4.
YORKSHIRE 2nd 6 Lancashire 2nd 4.
Suffok 4 CHESHIRE 6.

Leicestershire, on beating Warwickshire, go to the top of the table and must be hot favourites to climb back to The Premier Division. The key results here were **Chris Rogers** beating Barry Johnson and Carl Morgan, and **Karen Smith's** whipping of Karen Groves in straight games. **Beryl and Jack Cherrington**, who are ardent followers of Carl Morgan and Warwickshire, informed me that this was an excellent match. The referee at Nuneaton was John Devey, who did not find time to write the christian names of the players on the scoresheet.

SENIORS 2B: SUSSEX 7 Essex 2nd 3.
Gloucestershire 2 WILTSHIRE 8.
KENT 9 Hampshire 1: Dorset 4 DEVON 6.

The local duel between Dorset and Devon ended in a 6-4 result for Devon's Carol Butler, Amanda Hegarty, Gary Lambert, Gary Wilson and Paul Whiting. **Tony Clayton** levelled the score to 4-4 by taking Gary Lambert in the third, but then **Carol Butler and Gary Wilson** won the last two sets for Devon as they disposed of Leanne Harman and Rodney Thomas. The Referee was H. Postlethwaite. I did notice that Gary Lambert and the vivacious **Amanda Hegarty** recorded victories over Samantha Scott-Pawson and Martin Abbott, in the singles. By the way, after seeing **Paul Whiting** play in the South of England 3 Star at Farnborough, I am a fan of his for life.

SENIORS 3A: Durham 3 DERBYSHIRE 7.
NORTHUMBERLAND 9 Cheshire 2nd 1.
Clwyd 3 LINCOLNSHIRE 7.

This result for **Lincolnshire** has moved them into second, in place of Clwyd, but they are still

Counties Round-up

four points adrift of leaders **Derbyshire**. Lincolnshire fielded Sue Radley – whom I have a short chat with, whenever possible, Jane Wingad, David Skerratt, Stuart Worrell and Peter Taylor, David Skerratt brought home the bacon for Lincs, when, in the eighth set, he managed to get the better of Trevor Manning of Clywd. **Sue Radley**, on next, experienced few problems with Sue Roberts, but in the last set, **Justin Evans** pulled off a good one over Stuart Worrell. Clywd's other representatives were Karen Buckle and John Hook. The referee was H. Maddison. What is the 'H' for?

SENIORS 3B: Wiltshire 2nd 1 SOMERSET 1st 9: ISLE-OF-WIGHT 5 AVON 5: SOMERSET 2nd 6 Dorset 2nd 4.

I am still awaiting news of the first win for the **Isle of Wight**. In yet another draw, this time Regina Stevens, Mary Wheeler, Carl Preen – the son of John and Erica, wily Jim Daly and Keith Taylor, shared the points with Helen Perrett, Michele Cohen, Andy Creed, Paul Hooper and Paul Lewis of Avon. The Team from across the waters went into the last set with a 5-4 lead, but alas, as would be reasonable to expect, Keith Taylor, their number three, found the skilful Paul Hooper – Avon's number two, a bit hard to handle; but he must have played well to get 16 and 18. The Referee was the inimitable John Brooks.

SENIOR 3C: Oxfordshire 4 AVON 2nd 6: Bedfordshire 4 HERTFORDSHIRE 6: Northamptonshire 2 HUNTINGDONSHIRE 8: Berkshire 2nd 4 WORCESTERSHIRE 2nd 6.

Northamptonshire suffered badly at the hands of second placed **Huntingdonshire**, when the Teams met at Lings Forum, Northants. The home team of Margaret Maltby, Mandy Brown, Ian Randall, Ian Hawes and Andy Edmonds, found it difficult to contain the visiting Helen 'Straight Back' Bardwell, Alison Hillard, Keith Samuels, Keith Willett and Keith Lakin, who lost the mens' doubles and the last set of the match, when **Andy Edmonds** of Northants stopped Keith Willett with 19 and 15. A. Palmer was the Referee.

SENIORS 3D: MIDDLESEX 2nd 9 Kent 2nd 1: Suffolk 2nd 2 SUSSEX 2nd 8: CAMBRIDGESHIRE 2nd 9 Norfolk 2nd 1: Essex 3rd 2 SURREY 2nd 8.

Cambridgeshire gave Norfolk a pasting at March, Cambridge, under the watchful eyes of Referee **Roy Fox**. The home-steaders took the first seven sets without much of a sweat, but in the eighth, Peter Holliday, their number one, lost to the talented **David Honor** of Norfolk, whose Susan Allen, the leggy Linda Kowalski, David Unwin and my good friend David Pickard, could not measure up to the lovely Hilary Finch, Alison 'Slimline' Edge – who can really belt a ball in her forehand, Julian 'Skilful' Wheel and the ambitious Martyn

Livermore. These two Teams possess very nice players with extremely pleasant personalities. **JUNIORS 2A:** Leicestershire 0 YORKSHIRE 2nd 10: CHESHIRE 5 NORTHUMBERLAND 5: Cleveland 1 LANCASHIRE 9: STAFFORDSHIRE 2nd 7 Warwickshire 3.

In spite of the above score, Cleveland put up a pretty good show against Lynn Harnden, Nicola McGrath, David Carse, Sean Gibson and Lee Brown of Lancashire. Four sets went to three and the other scores were above average. David Carse dropped a set to the Cleveland number one – **David Fewsdale**, whose other team-mates were Anne Pashley, Susan Richmond, Stuart Miller and Jabal Hoque. Geoff Brown – the Lancashire captain, has done well with his team. Since leaders Yorkshire can not be promoted, as they already have a Team in the Junior Premier, Lancashire, if still second, will get the nudge. The Referee for this match was A. Watson. I do not know his christian name.

JUNIORS 2B: NORTHAMPTONSHIRE 5 ESSEX 2nd 5: Dorset 0 HERTFORDSHIRE 10: DEVON 9 Middlesex 2nd 1: Sussex 4 WILTSHIRE 6.

JUNIORS 3A: Derbyshire 2nd 4 CLEVELAND 2nd 6: Huntingdonshire 4 CUMBRIA 6: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 7 Lincolnshire 3.

JUNIORS 3B: Gloucestershire 0 GLAMORGAN 10: Warwickshire 2nd 3 BEDFORDSHIRE 7:

Glamorgan visited the C.E.G.B. at Barnwood, Gloucestershire and took a leather to the home team, in order to remain top of this division. Full marks then to Joanne Lee, Theresa Petty, Kelvin Roberts, Anthony Jones and Richard Harry of Glamorgan and commisserations to Jenny Ellery, Jenny Egan, Lawrence Symonds, Anthony Wilson and Howard Williams. The Referee was **Alan Giles**. Thank you for showing your christian name, Alan.

JUNIORS 3C: Wiltshire 2nd 0 SURREY 2nd 10: Cornwall 2nd 2 HAMPSHIRE 8: SOMERSET 8 Berkshire 2nd 2.

Surrey went out to Gorse Hill School, somewhere in Wiltshire and came back home with the points. I observed that six sets finished in the third, so WILTSHIRE, with Lorraine Cox, Susan Vowles, Mark Colyer, Mark Powell and Clive Sims, could not have been an easy push-over. In fact, with a little luck, they might have had a draw. Much credit then must be given to Peter Corner's Team of Cheryl Bateman – who is showing some sign of improvement, the rising Eloise Kerr, Matthew Pernet and the shy Simon Philips – to whom I owe an apology for mistakenly omitting his name from the Team's, in previous bulletin. I am sorry Simon, no slight was intended. The Referee for this match was Lee W. P. Kelly, who has promised to show the full names of players on the scoresheet, in future. Thank you, Lee! By the way, the tall and promising **Peter**

Burgess-Allen made up the Surrey hit squad.

JUNIORS 3D: Hertfordshire 2nd 2 KENT 2nd 8.

Hertfordshire could only pick up the girls doubles and the main girls singles when **Vicky Margerrison** dished out 19 and 15 to Rachel Paffett of Kent. Emma Hurling, Hiten Rabheru, James Patterson and Mark O'Connor of Hertfordshire, found Sandra Collins, Greg Barden, Andrew Houghton and Michael Harrison of Kent to be too experienced in the singles. Doug Tomsett was the Referee at Barnet TTC.

VETERANS PREMIER

CHESHIRE 7 Essex 2: Huntingdonshire 2 LINCOLNSHIRE 7: NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 5 Middlesex 4: Hertfordshire 2 KENT 7.

VETERANS 2A: Bedfordshire 3 ESSEX 2nd 6: Worcestershire 4 CHESHIRE 2nd 5: LEICESTERSHIRE 7 Hertfordshire 2nd 2: Oxfordshire 4 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 5.

Bedfordshire took another beating, this time by **Essex**, and remain entrenched at the bottom of the table. I am surprised that with a line up of **Audrey Robinson, Doug Folds, Colin Gill and Brian Bowron**, they have not been able to pinch at least a 'draw' from one of these Teams. Worcestershire, when 4-4 with **Cheshire**, had a chance to move up the table, but it turned out to be a daunting task for Tony Butterson, on facing the skilled **Terry Donlon** of Cheshire, in the ninth and last set of the match. Terry beat him 9 and 17. Cheshire hold on to second spot and must wait to see if **Buckinghamshire** will hic-cup, at the top. Third placed **Leicestershire** in the form of Glynis Odams, John Illiffe, Geoff Aldwinckle and Colin Truman, keep Hertfordshire behind them after this 7-2 result. Leicestershire were running away at 5-0, until **Sally Bax** and **Keith Hartridge** of Essex, mopped up Glynis and Geoff, in their respective singles. Unfortunately, neither **Geoff Bax** nor **George Tyler** could contribute for Essex, on this occasion, in spite of spirited attempts. The Referee was K. Bramhall.

VETERANS 2B: Hampshire 6 Dorset 3: SURREY 5 Avon 4: Wiltshire 0 SUSSEX 9: MIDDLESEX 2nd 6 Berkshire 3.

Surrey are just holding their own after promotion last season. Regarding this encounter with Avon at Tweeddale School, Carshalton, County Captain Mike Kercher reports that this was an excellent win for Surrey, featuring a maximum for **Brian Simmonds**, including success in the mixed with **Jenny Vass**, who also had a comprehensive victory over Muriel Hooker, 10 and 11. With the score at 3-3, Captain **Frank Hams**, made up for losing the very first set of the match to the very good Tony Brown, by meticulously dispatching Roy Smith with 16 and 19, for Surrey to take a 4-3 lead.

Tony Brown immediately picked up his second scalp, that of Gordon Chapman, to level the match score 4-4. It was then up to Brian Simmonds (3) or Mike Baker (2) to create the winner for his Team. Brian lost the first at 12, but after pinning his faith on a safe pushing game, interspersed with little loops from his forehand, he took the next two at 6 and 7. This is what I call a real 'heavyweight performance'. Well done, Brian. You must have been magnificent. Brian has a nice family – Vourn his wife; Debbie – the Surrey Junior; sons – Brian Jnr and Peter. Bless Them All! **Umpire Terry Vance** rushed from The South of England Junior 2-Star to officiate at this match. How lucky he was that not one of the nine sets he umpired, went to 'expedite'. Terry is a fine and very busy umpire.

Mary Simes, Tony Taylor, John Smith and Reza Lavasani of **Middlesex** were good 6-3 winners at Ashford over Gill Knightley, Wally Allanson, Colin Dyke and Bert Foster of **Berkshire**. Just look at a few of these results – **Mary Simes** Vs Gill Knightley, 21-15; 16-21; 27-25; **Riza Lavasani** Vs Colin Dyke 21-16; 21-18 and **Tony Taylor's** 21-16; 14-21; 21-16 against the seasoned Wally Allanson. The Referee was David Howes.

VETERANS 3A: Huntingdonshire 2nd 1 YORKSHIRE 8: CHESHIRE 3rd 6 Essex 3rd 3.

Yorkshire had to work very hard for maximum points at St Neots TTC against lowly Huntingdonshire, whose **Sid Burgess** recorded their lone rubber by defeating my good friend Les D'Arcy, in the third. Seven of the nine sets went to three; full credit then to Shelly Holland, Sid Burgess, Ken Green and Jim Sizer. Besides Les D'Arcy for second placed Yorkshire, there were Carral Judson, Geoff Brook and Ron Jackson – a pretty good outfit. The Referee was M. H. Webb. I am so fed up, that I promise not to notice a Referee, in future, without a written christian name.

VETERANS 3B: KENT 2nd 7 Wiltshire 2nd 2: BERKSHIRE 2nd 6 Hampshire 2nd 3: DORSET 2nd 5 Sussex 3rd 4: SUSSEX 2nd 6 Hertfordshire 3rd 3.

Dorset are holding up the other Teams in this division, in spite of this close result over Sussex 3rd. Dorset fought back from 3-4 down to take the match, when **Dennis George** and **Dave Woodcock** beat Trevor Wiramanaden and Alan Hayes of Sussex, in the two last sets of the match. Great stuff! The referee was Harold Feltham. Thank you, Harold. Not forgetting **Pat Baldwin** and **Bunny Ellis** of Dorset, or **Pat Wales** and **Brian Keeley** of Sussex, who had singles/doubles successes over

Pat Baldwin and Dave Woodcock.

In reviewing the Vets 2A match between Essex 2nd and Buckinghamshire, in last month's edition, I credited

Shirley Carroll with a win over Sylvia Coombes of Bucks. Les Wooding pointed out this mistake. I am sorry for this error

and I look forward to receiving a hug from both ladies, as a sound and warm gesture of forgiveness.



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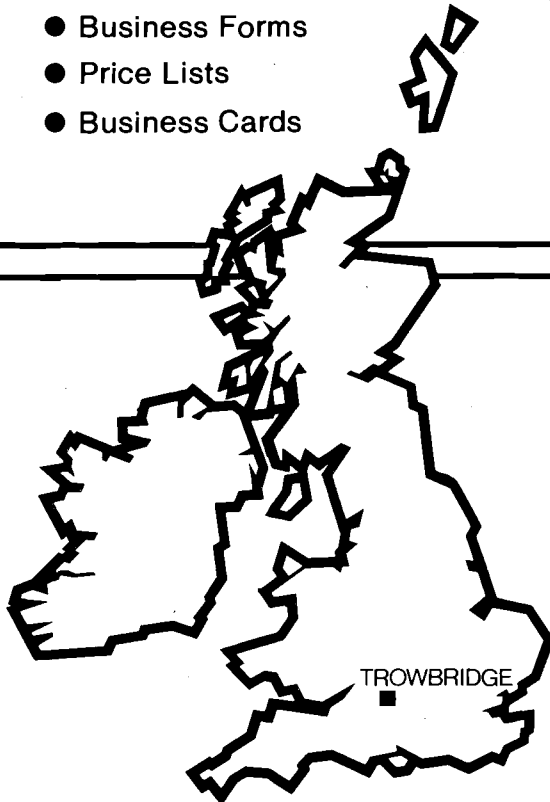
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County Notes



Mary Williams reports from...

BEDFORDSHIRE JUNIORS' SUCCESS

The County teams in action again saw the Veterans at home to Essex 2. Audrey Robinson, B. Bowron and C. Gill each won a set for Bedfordshire in a 3-6 defeat. The fourth player D. Folds was most unfortunate in not gaining a win.

The juniors had a 7-3 win over Warwickshire 2. Lisa Robins beat the No. 1 for Warwickshire, they had actually played each other four times in two weeks. Gavin Black also beat their No. 1 junior having lost to him two weeks prior to this match.

The seniors met strong opposition in their match against Hertfordshire with the following results:-

Andy Conquest lost to John Taylor -9, -13;
David Cartwright lost to John McCance -17, -21;
David Sharpe bt Barry White -16, 17, 14;
Julie Dimmock/Dawn Campbell bt Jeannette Maybanks/Karen Morton 16, -10, 15;
Sharpe/Cartwright lost to John Taylor/White 18, -13, -15;
Conquest lost to McCance -14, 16, -19;
Campbell lost to Maybanks -14, -16;
Sharpe bt Taylor 19, 15;
Dimmock bt Morton 13, 15;
Cartwright lost to White -7, 19, -10.

Beds. 4 Herts. 6.

HERTS. & BEDS. LEAGUE CUP

Bedfordshire teams made a fine start in the first round of this new competition with the following results:-

Delco (Dunstable) 9 Warren Spring T.T.C. 0.

Delco overpowered Stevenage's Warren Spring with only one set going to three. Jackie Bellinger in good form was never troubled. She was ably supported by the ever improving Julie Dimmock and that fine Beds. veteran Jim Wooliscroft.

Lea Manor (Luton) 9 Bedwell 2 0

Bedwell without their leading players were no match for a Lea Manor side headed by National League stars Les Wooding and Colin Luscombe.

Motorola 8 Kier (Bedford) 1

Kier unfortunate to draw one of the favourites in round one. A good win for Kiers Bonnaage over Beds. County ranked David Hyde.

Hertford T.T.C. 0 St. Neots 6

Hertford found National League St. Neots too hot to handle, but

Johnny Williams and Len Flavers put up a fighting performance against Keith Samuels, Keith Willett and Helen Bardwell.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

The match between AHW Pioneers and DSC Rams finished with the following results:-

Les Wooding bt John Dennison 10, 17;
Ian Doughty lost to Desmond Charleray -17, -17;
Colin Luscombe lost to Ayo Ademakinwa 20, -9, -16;
Ken Muhr lost to Alex Facey 19, -12, -17;
Wooding bt Charleray 19, 12;
Doughty lost to Facey -18, 14, -15;
Luscombe lost to Dennison -17, -18;
Muhr bt Ademakinwa -15, 19, 17.

AHW Pioneers 3 D.S.C. Rams 5.

LEIGHTON & LINSLADE LEAGUE

In the first round of the Rose Bowl Leighton played Dunstable. Owing to the lack of available lady players and the strength of the opposition it was decided to give two younger players the opportunity to gain experience.

Opponents Dunstable fielded a very strong side with Julie Dimmock, Dawn Campbell and Jackie Bellinger whilst Leighton were represented by Janet Banks, Joanne Strobe and Susan Evans. Although the final score was 10-0 to Dunstable the evening was enjoyed by all and provided the Leighton girls with a rare opportunity to play against really top class opponents.

Leighton Table-Tennis celebrities Peter and Dolly Harmer and their friend Len McSweeney have enjoyed some success this season in Veterans' tournaments.

In the Midlands tournament held in Coventry, Peter and Len reached the semi-final of the over-60's doubles before being beaten by Munn of Yorkshire and Clare of Sussex.

Dolly also had a good day reaching the final of the over 60's ladies' competition but was beaten by P. Lauder.

Again Dolly was runner-up in the Southern Veterans' tournament.

LUTON LEAGUE

The junior and Divisions 5, 6 and 7 tournaments were held in February at Bedford Trucks, Dunstable with the following results:-

B.S.: P. Bowler bt D. Keane 17, 13;
B.D.: M. Wilkin/M. Beaumont bt Keane/M. Sharpe -12, 16, 10;
G.S.: Lisa Robins bt Joyce Mitchell 15, 13;
G.D.: C. Buckley/L. Dean bt Robins/Mitchell -19, 18, 16;

X.D.: Buckley/Bowler bt Beaumont/Robins 15, 18,
5, 6, 7 singles. L. Dean bt A. Wakefield -15, 16, 14;
5, 6, 7 doubles. N. Wisbey/M. Blackburn bt P. Eames/Dean 8, 16.

In the Bromfield Trophy Luton entertained Birmingham at Bedford Trucks Canteen, Dunstable.

The visitors Lisa Spilsbury, Alison Ledwitch and Dawn Bromley travelled in atrocious weather conditions on a bitterly cold day only to lose 7-2 to Lisa Robins, Joyce Mitchell and Ruth Forrester.

Results:-

Mitchell bt Spilsbury 10, 17;
Robins bt Ledwitch 15, 14;
Forrester lost to Bromley -17, 16, -9;
Robins bt Spilsbury 14, 13;
Mitchell lost to Bromley -18, -18;
Forrester bt Ledwitch 16, -18, 11;
Robins bt Bromley -17, 17, 9;
Forrester bt Spilsbury 19, 18;
Joyce Mitchell bt Ledwitch -18, 14, 18.

Luton 7 Birmingham 2.

Les Wooding reports from...

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE

At the Buckinghamshire Closed held in Hazlemere, Sylvia Coombs of Milton Keynes retained her Women's Singles title after a hard fought expedite match against County No. 3 Jacquie Farwell. The outstanding performance in the Men's event was the progress to the final by Ken Muhr of Milton Keynes efficiently despatching Chiltern Champion Simon Douglas and Karl Bushell of High Wycombe on the way.

The most pleasing result of the day was the victory of Mike Atkinson of Chiltern in the Restricted Singles albeit at the expense of the hard-working Slough Chairman Graham Trimming. This was Mike's first County title and it capped what is probably his most successful season ever. Mike is a P.E. teacher at Chesham High School and over the years has coached many youngsters to County Junior standard. His hard work was evidenced at the Championships with Gary Cline and Gareth Yerby both winning titles. He runs 7 teams in the Chiltern League and 1 team in the Chalfonts League, mainly comprising cadets. Two lunchtimes every week he runs coaching

sessions with an average attendance of 15 at each session. Besides Gary and Gareth; David White, Stephen Whitehead, David Percival, Stephen Gaskell, Andrew Thomas and Graham Poston were praised by Mike. For many years he has been fighting a lonely battle as the Bucks. Schools' TT Sec. so his County title, Chalfonts Men's Singles title and the Veterans' titles of Chalfonts and Chiltern were richly deserved. Well done Mike! Thank you very much indeed for your dedication and all your hard work.

Well done, also, to Aylesbury for producing two fine juniors in Marc Harwood and Michelle Taylor. The tournament was excellently organised and run by Peter Avenell, Brian Webb, Ron Hedley, Jacquie Farwell, Tony Emery, Beth and Tony Wickens. A special thank you to Anne Catchpole and husband Alan for once again making the refreshments such a social and financial success.

Results:-

M.S.: S-Fs: Les Wooding (MK) bt Frank Earis (SlO) 16,19.
Ken Muhr bt Karl Bushell 12,14.
Final. Wooding bt Muhr 12,-11,8.
W.S.: Sylvia Coombs bt Jacquie Farwell (SlO) -11,13,9.
M.D.: Wooding/Robert Harman (MK) bt Bushell/Mark Curtis (HW) 17,13.
W.D.: Linda Phelps (SlO)/Dawn Robbins (HW) bt Coombs/Cathy Hasberry (SlO) 16,14.
X.D.: Bushell/Robbins bt Muhr/Coombs 19,16.
V.S.: Alec Watson (HW) bt Earis 19,15.
R.S.: Mike Atkinson (Chil) bt Graham Trimming (SlO) 16,14.
B.S.: Marc Harwood (Ayl) bt Justin Wraight (HW) 13,18.
G.S.: Michelle Taylor (Ayl) bt Esther Baggaley (MK) 10, 11.
B.D.: Gary Cline/Gareth Yerby (Chil) bt P. Skells/P. Tyler (Chil) 6,8.
JXD: Cline/Baggaley bt Harwood/Taylor -19,14,7.
C.B.S.: Cline bt Tyler 7,6.
C.G.S.: Baggaley bt Natasha Taylor (Ayl) 5,11.

The Veterans' team continued their winning way with another fighting 5-4 victory over neighbours Oxfordshire. Predictably Watson was undefeated but he was well supported by Earis, Len Pratt and Sylvia Coombs. By the way, young Murray Corbin should be careful if he visits Weston Underwood as they probably still use their village stocks. Sylvia Coombs beat Shirley Carroll of Essex in their Veterans' match contrary to Murray's County round-up observation.

The Senior side went down unexpectedly 4-6 to bottom team Staffs II. Wooding contributed two victories, Harman

making a welcome return to the side won one and Jacquie Farwell and Julie Richards produced the best Bucks. ladies' partnership of the season to record the other victory. Bushell, as disclosed in his excellent letter in the March TT News, was below par and finished with an uncharacteristic pair.

The Junior and Cadet teams played their first matches for a long time when the Oxfordshire T.T.A. hosted friendly matches in Banbury. The day proved very exciting for all concerned and resulted in a 5-4 victory for the Cadets but a 3-6 loss for the Juniors. Richard Lines of Milton Keynes was undefeated but captain Richard Slack singled out Cline for a tremendous performance. Our thanks go to Oxfordshire for their hospitality and my thanks go to Richard Slack and Tony Emery for looking after the youngsters so well.

Juniors

Oxfordshire 6 Buckinghamshire 3
(Bucks names first)
Lines bt P. Barlow -19,10,17.
Stephen Baggaley lost to R. Perry -15,-13.
Darren Ward lost to S. Townsend -16,16,-21.
Stephen & Esther Baggaley lost to Barlow/G. Aston -17,-11.
Lines/Ward bt Townsend/Perry 18,11.
S. Baggaley lost to Barlow -14,-15.
E. Baggaley lost to Aston -9,-5.
Lines bt Townsend 13,19.
Ward lost to Perry -15,-19.

Cadets

Oxfordshire 4 Buckinghamshire 5
(Bucks names first)
Cline bt D. Heyer 9,14.
Martin Smith lost to N. Yates -16,-16.
Darren Weekes lost to G. Yates -13,-16.
Cline/E. Baggaley bt D. Heyer/S. Hughes -11,10,9.
Cline/Weekes bt Yates/Yates -19,15,7.
Smith lost to Heyer -4,-11.
Baggaley bt Hughes 17,-14,19.
Cline bt G. Yates 16,16.
Weekes lost to N. Yates -14,19,-10.

CHALFONT CHAMPIONSHIPS

This must go down as Mike Atkinson's tournament as he took 3 titles and his pupil Cline the other.

M.S.: S-Fs: Mike Atkinson bt Dave Martin.
Peter Leckie bt Alan Rance.
Final: Atkinson bt Leckie
M.D.: Final: Atkinson/Martin bt Ivor Gough/Richard Crockett.
V.S.: Final: Atkinson bt Gough.
J.S.: Gary Cline bt Graham Rance.

CHILTERN CHAMPIONSHIPS

M.S.: Simon Douglas bt Mike Atkinson.
M.D.: Douglas/Nick Hansell bt John Davey/Atkinson.
V.S.: Atkinson bt Davey.
J.S.: Cline bt Leo Stamp.

MILTON KEYNES

Congratulations to County Treasurer Bill Clark on being elected as Chairman of Milton Keynes League. I wish him a happy reign.

SLOUGH

I am happy to report that Burnham T.T.C. are also very active with Coaching in the Slough area. Peter Avenell gives personal coaching to all levels of player skills and has room for more students.

Coaching takes place every Tuesday from 5 p.m. to 7.15 p.m. at a charge of 35p per head. Anyone who would like to take advantage of the Club's offer

should contact Peter on Windsor 60829 or go along any Tuesday to the United Reform Church in Stomp Road, Burnham.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Ray Tilling was once again the star of Cippenham in the Slough side's 5-3 victory over the Eastbourne team. He shrugged off the effects of a heavy cold to win both his singles.

Chippenham 5 Errey's Print '84 3
Tilling bt Peter Bartram 21,18.
Richard Beckham lost to John Green -12,21,-15.
Alec Watson bt Andy Walker 11,17.
Clive Young lost to Phil Richardson -20,-19.
Tilling bt Green 14,-16,18.
Beckham bt Richardson 18,17.
Watson lost to Bartram 17,-16,-12.
Young bt Walker 15,14.

No luck for the Pioneers as they again lost matches by the narrowest of margins.

A.H.W. Pioneers 3 Abeng Warriors 5
Les Wooding bt Joseph Quansah 19,15.
Jon Bradbury lost to David Dewsbury -14,-17.
Colin Luscombe lost to Anthony Fitzgerald -20,-15.
Ken Muhr lost to Neville Miller 12,-17,-17.
Wooding bt Dewsbury 11,14.
Bradbury lost to Miller -7,19,-12.
Luscombe lost to Quansah -15,-2.
Muhr bt Fitzgerald 13,18.
A.H.W. Pioneers 3 D.S.C. Rams 5
Wooding bt John Dennison 10,17.
Ian Doughty lost to Desmond Charley -17,-17.
Luscombe lost to Ayo Ademakina 20,-9,-16.
Muhr lost to Alex Facey 19,-12,-17.
Wooding bt Charley 19,12.
Doughty lost to Facey -18,14,-15.
Luscombe lost to Dennison -17,-18.
Muhr bt Ademakina -15,19,17.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE COUNTY CUP COMPETITIONS PREMIER DIVISION CHALLENGE CUP

Preliminary Round

Cippenham I (Slough) 8
Hazlemere 'A' (High Wycombe) 1
A good win for Paddy Maher over Malcolm Hicks but Rodney Potts and Frank Earis proved too strong for Jim Dodds.

A.H.W. Comets (Milton Keynes) 8
D.E.N. Club (High Wycombe) 1
Simon Douglas beat Les Wooding but Nick Hansell lost 20-22 in the 3rd to Colin

Luscombe and Colin Belcher went down by the same margin to Robert Harman to give the Comets an inflated scoreline.

Quarter-Finals

Apollo 'A' (High Wycombe) 5
Cippenham II (Slough) 1

Peter Swinn had a convincing win over County ranked player Mark Curtis but Karl Bushell and Norman Swift proved too strong for Graham Trimming and Martin King.

Crane Packing 'A' (Slough) 3
Barclay Eagles (Milton Keynes) 6

Brian Ingram played well to win all his matches despite stiff opposition from Terry Williams. Roland Clayton proved to be the most successful player for the home side beating both Geoff Kemp and David Allison in a pleasantly contested match. John Hansell found the temperature too hot.

Thame (Aylesbury) 2 A.H.W. Sapphires (Milton Keynes) 6

Len stood firm to win his two games but Dave Wackrill, Julie

Richards and Graham Cook beat Keith Jeffrey and Chris Wheeler to take all Pratt-less sets.

Geoff Waters reports from . . .

CAMBRIDGESHIRE SPOTLIGHT

With the juniors and the senior first team having completed their County Championships fixtures, the spotlight now falls on senior two.

When the County Championships were re-structured in 1981, the second team were placed in Div. 3D along with the second teams of the metropolitan counties. During the first three seasons in this division, they only managed to win two matches and never finished higher than next to bottom.

Not so this season, with four wins and a draw from seven matches, they have reached the dizzy heights of fourth place and not even defeat at the hands of Surrey II in the last match can lose them that place.

Their latest success was in East London where they beat Essex III 8-2. Cambridgeshire wins over Essex, at any level, are about as rare as snow in the Sahara, so this is certainly a result to be savoured.

Peter Holliday, who has had the responsibility of the No. 1 spot in his first senior season, gained his first double at this level to bring his average to 50%.

Martyn Livermore, whose improvement this season has manifested itself in the England rankings where he is now in the top hundred, won a singles and the doubles with Trevor Smith.

Trevor is a tremendously keen player and always pulls his weight, which is not inconsiderable, when called upon to play. He replaced Julian Wheel in this match and chipped in with a singles, as he did in the opening match of the season when he replaced the Woodditton youngster.

Hilary Finch and Alison Edge have performed wonders all season and in the Essex match won all three sets for the fourth time in six matches together. Hilary has yet to be beaten in the singles and Alison has lost only twice in seven appearances.

Brian M. Hudson provides...

CHESHIRE CHAT FAMILIAR NAME

Two leagues recently played their Closed Championships - Mid-Cheshire and Macclesfield. Mid-

Cheshire saw a familiar Cheshire TT name - Johns - taking the Men's Singles title, Ian beating another old faithful - Clive Dewison in the final. B. McGee won the Youths, beating A. Williams: Johns & Dewison won the Men's Doubles against A. Woodward and V. Roberts, and R. Eaton won the Vets. beating J. Ashbrook.

The Macclesfield Closed ended in fine style, with Keith Deauville edging home at 'deuce' in the 3rd against surprise finalist Steve Dobbins in a pulsating and exciting final in front of a pleasantly large crowd. This win brought Keith his hat-trick as he had already won the Premier Division title, beating Ian Mathers, and the XD with Anne Williamson, beating Keith Powell and Alison Hall. The one title to elude him was the MD in which with Simon Mear he lost an absorbing final to Del Stalberg and Paul Magee.

Anne also won three titles, beating Alex Hughes in the Division One final, and then winning a closer-than-expected tussle against Alison Hall in the Ladies' final. Alison did win one final, partnering Chris Powell to win the Junior Doubles against Lance Arrowsmith and Phil Cardwell, and Chris made it a double with a good win against Steve Rushton in the U-18 final. The Arrowsmith family had to endure another final defeat, with Scott losing to Kevin Bailey in the U-16 final. Time is on his side though - only 12, he is a real prospect for the future. At the other end of the age range, Eddie Griffiths beat Derek Abbott, in the Vet's. What, Derek Abbott a Veteran?! Tempus Fugit, doesn't it!?

The biggest cheer of the night however, was for the winner of the "John Worsley Sportsman of the Year" award, which went, in recognition of his 50 years service to the Association, to the ever-youthful Ron Benson - a much deserved award to a very surprised Chairman!

County results have been mixed. Our Seniors went to Suffolk, and came away with a 6-4 win, and everyone contributing. Single wins for Mark Hankey, Brian Johns, Wayne Percival and Janet Deakin, and doubles wins for Brian and Wayne, Janet and Anne Williamson. The 2nds had a long trek to Northumberland, and came home with a single success from Debbie McGuire in a 1-9 defeat.

The Vets 2nd enjoyed a good 5-4 win over Worcs., with 2 wins from Terry Donlon, and 1 each from Alan Timewell and Ron Buckley, who also combined to win the doubles. The early season loss to Bucks seems likely to prove decisive, as Bucks are currently winning their matches by similar scores, and look like

County Notes

winning the Division with a greatly inferior sets aggregate.

The Juniors have consistently improved their results since their opening defeat, but following their 5-5 draw against Northumberland, they travel to Lancs for their last game still seeking their first win. They may also be seeking a new N.P.C., as Mike Freeman now finds his time so stretched that he can no longer continue in this position. If anyone feels able to offer any help, please contact any committee member. Our grateful thanks are extended to Mike for all his help over the years.

Finally, two dates for your diary. May 1st sees England play Holland at Mossley in a friendly (although as England lost their crucial relegation match against Holland, "friendly" it may not be).

Wednesday, May 15th is the A.G.M. of the Cheshire TTA at the Union Club, Alderley Edge. Nominations for all positions on the Committee are invited, and all affiliated members are most welcome. It is your chance to have your say as to where Cheshire should go, and how its Table Tennis should be organised.

Jeremy Williams reports from...

CORNWALL

DOUBLE SUCCESS

Cornwall has always paid particular attention to table tennis at schools level and the county has built up a good reputation in the National Schools Team Championships over the years. This season has been a particularly good one for Cornwall highlighted in the Regional finals at Stroud, Gloucestershire on Feb. 24. Camborne U-19 boys' team of Mark James, Anthony Vingoe, Leon Jose and Sean Coumbe; and Bude haven U-16 boys' team of Kevin Stevenson, Martin Stanley, Neil Bevan and Andrew Bevan have both qualified for the National finals at Matlock. Both teams won two matches each and drew one to qualify - James played a blinder for Camborne losing only one set throughout the competition.

COUNTY MATCHES

Somerset II 4 Cornwall 6.

A much improved performance by Cornwall seniors gave them 2 points and a good win over a strong Somerset team at Yeovil on March 16 thus avenging the 9-1 trouncing inflicted by Somerset I back in January. Cornwall were nearly foiled by Somerset juniors Philip Payne and Melonie Carey but showed good character to record wins from John Bassett (1), Jeremy

Williams (2), Ian James (1), the Men's Doubles, and Gail Davey (1).

HALEX NATIONAL LEAGUE

A sudden turnaround in the fortunes of Launceston Kernow has seen two excellent performances away to Jolliffe Poole and at home to local rivals Global Plymouth in Division 3 West of the Halex National League.

Jolliffe Poole 5 Launceston Kernow 3; Launceston Kernow 5 Global Plymouth 3.

A desperately unlucky result for Launceston at Poole culminating with John Robinson's 20, 24 defeat of Graham Reed to snatch a late win for the Dorset team and depriving Kernow of a valuable point from a sterling performance.

Fortunes changed however at home to Plymouth in a typically tense Cornwall-Devon clash highlighted by the first win of the season for Launceston. Bassett's two excellent wins over Wilson and Short made the difference, while Mark James making a rare appearance strengthened the team considerably. Mike Short grabbed a late win over the Camborne looper but it was too late for Plymouth as Graham Reed clinched the win in the final set over Kevin Buddell.

Match Scores: Launceston Kernow v Global Plymouth

J. Bassett bt M. Short 22, 16, bt G. Wilson 13, 13; J. Williams lost to Wilson -15, -17, bt T. Sweet 17, -15, 17; M. James lost to Short -16, 17, -22, bt K. Buddell 21, -18, 17; G. Reed lost to Sweet -14, -16, bt Buddell 16, 21.

Colin Taylor reports from....

CUMBRIA

HIGH NOTE TO END

The County Junior team in Div. 3A of the County Championships ended their best season for some years with a 6-4 win over Hunts. Stephen Holland and Karen Backhouse were the stars both being unbeaten. Unfortunately, Karen Griffiths lost her unbeaten singles record. Looking back at the individual results it seems obvious that if Cumbria had another player to match Holland and John Backhouse then the division title was there for the taking. The team's results were:-

At home lost to Lincs. 3-7
lost to Ches. II 4-6
drew with Notts 5-5
Away bt Cleveland II 7-3
bt Derbys II 6-4
bt Hunts 6-4

Individual results:-

	W	L
Stephen Holland	6	6
John Backhouse	8	4
David Holmes	0	8
Michael Watt	0	2
Steven Watt	0	2
Karen Backhouse	3	3
Karen Griffiths	5	1
Boys' Doubles	4	2
Girls' Doubles	5	1

In the **Cumbria Closed** held at the South Lakeland Leisure Centre, Kendal, Karen Griffiths played to top form and took home 4 titles. A point to note is that all ten winners and eight of the runners-up were from the Barrow league.

Tim Pachul took the glory in winning the men's singles beating brother Andrew (No. 1 seed) 18, -14, 16. Tim had a close encounter with Neil Honeyman in his semi winning -19, 19, 12. The other semi saw Andrew Pachul beat Dave Hillbeck 17, 17. Tim and Karen Griffiths took the mixed defeating John and Karen Backhouse 15, 17.

Andrew gained some revenge in the men's doubles beating brother Tim and Stan Halesworth, with aid of Ian Sharp, 19, -20, 16. Sharp notched up another title with the junior doubles. He and Karen Griffiths beat David Holmes and Gavin Boyd 17 and 12.

Karen Backhouse took the women's singles title at the final expense of Miss Griffiths 18, 17 and the pair teamed up to beat Kath Willis and V. Heggie 14 and 18 in the women's doubles. However, in a repeat of the women's final, the girls' final gave Miss Griffiths her best win of the tournament when she beat Miss Backhouse 19, 14. Likewise, the boys' singles had the No. 2 seed beating the No. 1, John Backhouse scoring a good win over Ian Sharp 17, -17, 9. Jonathan Lowes impressed to reach the semis, losing to Sharp 20, -7, -15. The cadet title also went to John Backhouse, beating Lowes 18, 9. Lowes gave another impressive display to beat No. 2 seed Steven Watt in the semis 7, -19, 6.

Eddie O'Hara must now be losing count of his title wins after another veterans' singles victory, this time over Carl Stebbing 12 and 12.

In the Cumbria Insurance City Championships at Carlisle, former county player Stewart O'Neill (News) stole the limelight by taking the men's singles title, an event he last won in 1978. Stewart beat his teammate Paul Kirkbride in his semi and then beat newcomer Colin Powell (SC Spartans) in the final. Powell had previously beaten Roger Stewart (SC Spartans) in the quarters, Stewart having won this event for the last three years.

Jenny Gallagher (Infirmary B) took the women's title beating last year's winner Josie Dymond (Chapel Cross B). Stewart Sayer (Chapel Cross A) kept up his dominance of the boys' singles with a win over Ian Brown (SC Stars). Andrew Endredy (Chapel Cross A) emerged the veterans' winner over George Gray (Sportstyle).

Roger Stewart did not go

home empty-handed for with the help of Colin Powell took the men's doubles, beating Keith Dymond and Endredy. In the league Sportstyle are still on course for the Premier division title ably led by Gray. First division leaders News have found no opposition to their promotion charge and Scotby are favourites to join them. Civil Service A also have found no equal in Div. 2 but the runners-up spot could still go to a number of teams - SC Stars and Salvation Army possibly the best of them. Averages leaders are:-

Premier	P	W	%
R. Stewart	42	35	83.3
A. Craib	45	35	77.7
G. Gray	48	35	72.9
P. Watson	45	32	71.1
First			
A. Gilsenan	54	52	96.3
P. Jenkins	54	48	88.9
P. Kirkbride	54	48	88.9
S. O'Neill	54	48	88.9
Second			
S. Percival	54	53	98.1
R. Steel	51	48	94.1
D. Edgar	54	48	88.9
L. Taylor	42	36	85.7

Malcolm Allsop reports from . .

DERBYSHIRE

PRIDE OF PEACE

First mention this month must go to the Pride of Derbyshire, Alan Cooke, upon reaching the final at Bletchley and coming so close to taking the English title off Des Douglas. Alan is still young so will have further chances of making that title his own.

Maurice Billington gained late call-up to the Derbyshire team which travelled to Washington to play Durham. Two doubles wins and a maximum from the girls ensured a 7-3 winning scoreline, after the match score had been tied at 3-3. Unfortunately Maurice did not mark his return with a victory on a fast table.

Martin Kinsella flew out to Hong Kong on March 10 to be table tennis coach on the QE2. Ports of call on a three week cruise will be Bangkok, Singapore, Sri Lanka and Bombay. Last year he went with the QE2 to Los Angeles, Hawaii and Japan. How can I be jealous when I have played at Heanor, Hucknall, Ilkeston and Langley Mill this season?

Martin, who played 16 times for Ireland, will be coaching, taking clinics and playing exhibitions.

INTER-TOWN LEAGUE

Burton 1st moved a step nearer winning Division One with a 9-1 victory over Matlock 1st. Paul Harvey and Stuart Brooks won 3 singles each for Burton. Dave Fearn came close to winning a set in losing -10,

19,-19 to Harvey and 16,-19,-20 to Brooks; but Tony Gregory gained Matlock's only success at the expense of debonair Charlie Kyles.

Chris Francis and Dave Stills won 2 singles each and combined to win the doubles as Derby 1st just got the better of Eastwood 1st by 6-4, with junior Adrian Weightman having wins over Francis and Stuart Horn.

Div. 2 leaders Alfreton 1st were held to a 5-5 draw by Eastwood 2nd with J. Collen winning his 3 for Alfreton. Stephen Taylor and Paul Chambers won 2 singles each and the doubles for Eastwood.

David Hall won a maximum for Buxton 1st in a surprise 8-2 victory over Chesterfield 1st.

In the Junior Division, Chris Glossop and Kurt Hutson won 3 singles each for Chesterfield 1st who inflicted the first defeat for 3 years on Derby by 6-4.

Matlock look potential champions of the Veterans division following a 7-3 win over Burton. Mick Thorley won 3 with Les Hewitt and Harvey Flint taking 2 singles each for Matlock.

R. Rapley won 3 singles for Buxton in forcing a 5-5 draw with Derby for whom Robin Seale and David Smedley won 2 singles each. Derby's captain, fireman Charlie Horn, was called away at short notice and John Morris stepped in for his debut to win 1 singles.

BURTON

The Burton League has obtained the use of Christ Church Junior School as a table tennis Headquarters. The school has a top class matchroom and practice room, and the main hall will accommodate 6 tables. A qualified coach is in attendance every Monday evening and Saturday morning. We wish it every success and it can only assist table tennis to prosper.

Division One is being closely contested by Castle Hotel (Stuart Brooks, Charlie Kyles, Malcolm Close, Andy and Dave Stills) and Granville Aces (Paul Harvey, Robert Scott-Birchell, Ian and Garry Knights); with Ind Coope White (Nigel Adams, Alan Copestake and Chris Martin) the outsiders in the Championship race.

Jane and Philip Vickers have returned to the Bretby 'A' team and have caused some upsets to the leading teams since Christmas.

Central Gold (D. Sutcliffe, Pete and Simon Bentley) are running away in Div. 2 from Robert Morton 'A' (D. Walker, Robert Ridge and Steve Edwards) with Central Claret and Conder Yellow fighting for third place.

In Div. 3, Branston Gate 'A' (Peter Sumpton, Chris Collier and Alan Hodson) lead the table

from Bretby 'C' (Dave Mills, Alan Jones and Brian Judd) who have matches in hand upon the leaders, with Lloyds Bank 'A' tucked closely behind in third position hoping for a slip from the leaders.

Lloyds Bank 'B' (Jim Ward, Simon Sperring and R. Deacon) lead Div. 4 but Conder Black (Terry Booth, Peter Topliss, J. Dent and C. Dolman) could overtake them. George St Club and Uttoxeter 'B' are fighting out third position.

Hillside Youth Club (Neil Tilley, N. Goodhead and P. Elderfield) are running away with Div. 5, leaving Pirelli CC and Branston Gate 'B' fighting over runners-up position.

Congratulations to two pupils from the John Taylor High School, Barton-under-Needwood, 13-year-old Emma Carlton and 11-year-old Garry Knights who completed a double when they won the Staffordshire Schools Under-14 Girls' and Boys' Singles titles. They will be representing Staffordshire in the All-England finals to be held at Mansfield Leisure Centre on May 4.

DERBY

St. Andrews 1st look set to retain the Premier Division Championship after Phil Vickers and Stephen Yallop won their sets in straight games in a convincing 8-2 victory over closest challengers Mechanics 1st.

Philip Vickers won the Men's Singles title at the Derby Championships held at the St. Ralph Sherwin School with victory in the final over St. Andrew's teammate Stephen Yallop. Philip gained his second title in the mixed partnered by his wife, Jane, over Stephen paired with To Thuy Zung.

Stephen gained revenge in the Men's Doubles, when partnered by Martin Simpson, beating Philip partnered by Robert Albutt. Stephen picked up his second title in winning the Handicap Singles with victory in the final over Robert Albutt.

To Thuy Zung retained her Women's Singles title with ease, but Julie Forster caused an upset in the Girls' Singles final by beating her elder sister Louise.

M.S.: S-fs: S. Yallop bt D. Foulds 10,17;
P. Vickers bt R. Albutt 10,9;
Final: Vickers bt Yallop 15,-19,15.
W.S.: To Thuy Zung bt M. O'Sullivan 13,19
M.D.: Yallop/M. Simpson bt Albutt/Vickers -17,21,20.
X.D.: Vickers/J. Vickers bt Yallop/To Thuy Zung 16,14.
H.S.: Yallop bt Albutt (+2) 11,-14,17.
V.S.: Foulds bt C. Horn 9,14.
B.S.: P. Harvey bt G. West 9,15.
G.S.: J. Forster bt L. Forster -11,20,20.
J.D.: G. Knights/R. Scott-Birchall bt W. Hollingworth/West 15,19.
C.B.S.: P. Knowles bt Hollingworth 18,20.
C.G.S.: J. Forster bt P. Corden 13,6.
U-12 B.S.: Knights bt M. Widdall 12,15.
C.S.: N. Russell bt West 10,9.

EASTWOOD

The Eastwood League Championships were held at the

Hearor Community Centre and provided successes for the Pacey and Taylor families.

Barry Taylor reached the semi-finals of the Senior Singles and retained his Senior doubles Title with Clive Spate. Brother Stephen, aged 15, was a quarter-finalist in the Senior Singles; won the U-17 Singles against Adrien Weightman; and combined with Adrien to win the U-17 doubles.

Roy Pacey was runner-up in the Veteran Singles, and son Darren won the U-14 singles against Darren Webster, and combined with Webster to win the U-14 Doubles.

Terry Bull was never seriously extended in retaining his Men's Singles title.

Results:

S.S.: S-fs: T. Bull bt D. Bilton 16,11;
W. Fowkes bt B. Taylor 14,18;
Final: Bull bt Fowkes 14,15;
S.D.: S-fs: Bull/Bilton bt M. Peska/M. Pinegar 6,14;
C. Spate/Taylor bt K. Phillipson/P. Chambers 9,18;
Final: Spate/Taylor bt Bilton/Bull 20,19.
V.S.: D. Inxley bt R. Pacey 18,16.
U-17S: S-fs: S. Taylor bt Miss J. Weightman 11,-14,12;
A. Weightman bt G. Farnsworth -9,17,12;
Final: Taylor bt Weightman 9,-19,14.
U-14S: S-fs: D. Webster bt M. O'Brien 21,-5,17;
D. Pacey bt R. Smith 13,17;
Final: Pacey bt Webster -16,14,17.
U-17D: S. Taylor/Weightman bt Farnsworth/M. Starr 12,17.
U-14D: Pacey/Webster bt M. O'Connor/R. Smith -20,16,9.

Harry Black reports from...

DURHAM

HOME DEFEAT AT SULGRAVE

Durham entertained Derbyshire at Sulgrave C.A. on Feb. 16 but the visitors ran out clear winners 7-3 to consolidate their lead in Div. 3A of the County Championships. In the absence of their No. 1, Alan Cooke, Derbyshire brought in Maurice Billington, at No. 3 and promoted Martin Kinsella to No. 1.

In the first set Kinsella defeated David Blackburne but wins by Stephen George and Tony Gelder over Maurice and Bradley Billington put Durham into an early lead. Derbyshire then took

both doubles to go 3-2 ahead but it was all square with Blackburne beating Billington snr. Sadly the next four sets went to the visitors. Scores:-

A. Gelder bt B. Billington -14, 14, 16; lost to M. Kinsella -11, -13;
D. Blackburne bt M. Billington 13, 21; lost to Kinsella -15, -22;
S. George bt M. Billington 7, -17, 17; lost to B. Billington -14, -19;
S. Geider lost to K. Hall -11, -13;
L. Spensley lost to J. Billington -11, -14;
Blackburne/Gelder lost to B. Billington/Kinsella 19, -12, -16;
Gelder/Spensley lost to Billington/Hall 19, -11, -16.

DURHAM COUNTY LEAGUE

With just a few fixtures remaining Sunderland 'A' have regained the Senior League title following their 6-4 win over Sunderland 'B'. Gelder was unbeaten for the 'A' team with Chris Blake supplying two and Phil Stafford one. But all credit to Neil Herrington, Tom Bainbridge and Barry Cuthbertson who put up stern resistance.

Darlington hammered Sunderland 'C' 9-1 with Tony Langley and David Swane unbeaten and well supported by Mike Brownbridge. In the Boys' Division Peterlee need to gain maximum points from their match against Sunderland to retain their title. Leading positions:-

HALEX NATIONAL LEAGUE

On Feb. 17 Washington entertained South Yorkshire III and won 5-3. Gelder and Stafford won two each with Blake supplying the other. Scores (Washington names first) were:-

Gelder bt Dave Growcock -19, 19, 12; bt Gien Roberts 18, 17;
Stafford bt Roberts 17, 21; bt Nick Carr 19, -17, 16;
Blake bt Growcock 14, 18; lost to Allan Andrews 9, -21, -21;
Doug Lawrence lost to Carr -4, -12; lost to Andrews -12, -15.

The following week Washington travelled to Barrow to engage Vickers Sports but came away with a disappointing 4-4 draw. Stafford (2), Blake (1) and James Cowler, on debut, (1) recorded the visitors' wins. Subsequently, away to Unity Leeds, they were beaten 6-2 with Stafford and Blake (1 each) being Washington's winners.

Senior

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Sunderland 'A'	7	7	0	0	27
Sunderland 'B'	8	5	1	2	24
Peterlee	7	4	2	1	19
Philadelphia 'A'	6	4	0	2	15
Boys					
Philadelphia 'A'	4	3	0	1	13
Peterlee	3	3	0	0	10

Leading averages in the Senior League are:-

	P	W	L	Ave.
A. Gelder (Sund A)	20	19	1	95%
N. Herrington (Sd B)	24	18	6	75%
P. Stafford (Sd A)	20	15	5	75%
D. Lawrence (Ph A)	12	9	3	75%
D. MacIvor (Ph A)	18	13	5	72%
T. Bairbridge (Sd B)	24	17	7	70%
B. Cuthbertson (Sd B)	21	14	7	66%

County Notes

On Feb. 28, the Sunderland League welcomed Peter Simpson, the Northern ETTA coach, who spoke not only to local coaches but to those interested in becoming coaches. About twenty people attended from the Philadelphia, South Shields and Sunderland Leagues and a course for prospective coaches has been arranged to commence on April 21 at Herrington Burn YMCA.

AROUND THE LEAGUES

In the first division of the **Sunderland** League, Northumbria Centre 'A' have clinched the title from West C.A. 'A'. Div. 2 remains a contest between three teams with the current leaders, Dunlop SC 'A', having to play both Belford House 'A' and Seaburn Dene New Church their nearest challengers. General Hospital have won the 3rd Division but suffered their first defeat when beaten 8-4 by Judeans who, only a week before, had drawn 6-6 with bottom-placed Roker Methodists. St Gabriel's CC 'A' seem set to clinch the 4th Division title.

There are four teams still in the race for the Div. 1 title in the **Philadelphia** League namely Great Lumley, Hetton Meths 'A', Washington 'A' and Northumbria 'A'. But it is a two horse race in Div. 2 between Washington 'C' and Shiney Row CA. The 3rd Division has three teams in with a chance, unbeaten Houghton YMCA 'B' along with Park View and Fencehouses 'A'.

On the **Peterlee** League, Peterlee Community Centre have retained their title ahead of Whitbread 'A' and Thornley. The **South Shields** closed was held on March 3 at Brinkburn C.A. Results:-

MS: F. Short bt L. Cartmill
 WS: J. Leslie bt E. Clarke
 JS: M. Karczewski bt P. Barns
 VS: Short bt A. Hunter
 MD: P. Marshall/S. Wyberg bt T. Brabbs/Cartmill
 CS: W. Ellison bt S. Leslie
 HS: F. Todd bt Karczewski

CARTER CUP

Sunderland were knocked out in the Zone final by Northumberland 6-0 and such is the strength of North's team that they could possibly win it. Scores (Sunderland names first):-

Dermot Ledwith lost to Thomas Blackman -4, -9; lost to Keith Patterson -14, -9;
 Ian Dagg lost to Peter Curry -9, -4; lost to Blackman -3, -8;
 Edward Cox lost to Patterson -11, -8; lost to Curry -7, -3.

Alf Pepperd reports from.....

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

EDITOR QUILTS

After two years of editing The Stroud Pointmaker (and may I say doing it admirably), Dave Pobjoy had this to say, I quote - "This is my penultimate issue of Pointmaker as Editor, not because

of apathy, niggles, malice or criticism, but by choice and because I feel that at the end of a two year spell perhaps new ideas and views could well be more appreciated. Above all I would have welcomed niggles, criticism, even malice, or perhaps more constructively news and contributions. Little was forthcoming."

This is but a small part of David's message but may I add a few words - I sympathise 100% with his feelings BUT ANYONE dealing with table tennis journalism today has almost got to wring information out of people. After nearly four years as County Press Officer I feel quite qualified to make this statement. Perhaps it's time that I gave up also so that - new ideas and views by a new Press Officer could be forthcoming, but the only thing that might not change would still be the general apathy that is so persistent.

Cheltenham's forthright and busy Chairman, Andy Seward is a County Selector, Non-Playing Captain of the County Juniors, a well-known cricketer and a new member of Nailsworth "B" in the 1st Div. of the Stroud League. He is a difficult player to beat, and the Stroud lads are finding out what, in Cheltenham, is already known.

Nina Tsakarisianos has been discharged from hospital after major surgery on her back. I understand from her father, Peter, that Nina will be heading out to Greece for a month's stay and convalescence at her Grandfather's home early in April. I'm sure all will wish her well for a speedy and complete recovery.

SEVERN - SOUND INDEPENDENT LOCAL RADIO

In the October edition of T.T.N. I wrote a short article about disabled players. Richard Coates of Minchinhampton - she plays in the 2nd Division of the Stroud League. Richard flew out to New York last summer to participate in the World Olympic Championships for the disabled, and came back with two Golds and one Silver to his credit.

Early in March of this year I decided to interview him for Local Radio. Why so late? Simply because a colleague from the Radio Station had already done this upon his return.

Arming myself with a portable tape recorder from the studio I set off for Minchinhampton one very foggy morning. It was an experience I'll never forget.

Prior to the interview Richard proudly showed me photographs hung upon his living room of himself in company with The Duke & Duchess of Kent, Nick Faldo, Steve Davis, Tessa Sanderson and Dicky Davis of ITN.

There were many other well known celebrities there as well, all had gathered at The Savoy Hotel in London prior to Christmas.

I think that it would perhaps embarrass Richard if I were to ramble on any more, but in conclusion I must admit that in Richard's presence I felt (as a able-bodied person) very humble indeed.

Richard has lost both hands, but what achievements he has attained with his artificial ones, not only in the field of sport, but in many other aspects of life. Simply astounding! He gave me a good interview and Severn-Sound broadcast it later the same day.

CHELTENHAM'S 1985 FINALS NIGHT

For the first time in several years I was not present, but thanks to David Shill of St Marks who sent me the results - I now pass them on.

Graham Slack and Cathy Robb retained their Singles titles, but the most successful competitor was Adrian Vale.

The left-handed Vale confirmed his reputation as an outstanding doubles exponent by winning the Men's event in partnership with Guy Greening and the Mixed with Julia Evans.

The old firm of Vale and Greening overcame the defending champions, Slack and Sylvester Callum, 22, -11, 18, to regain the title they won eight years ago. This match was the highlight of the evening, producing a tense climax. Slack and Callum made a tremendous recovery from 3-12 down to level the scores at 15-15, but their opponents managed to halt the slide and went on to a well deserved victory.

In the Mixed the combination of Vale and Julia Evans proved just too steady for Graham and Carol Slack, the winning margin being 19, 17.

A surprise finalist in the Open Singles was Guy Greening who had been eliminated at the quarter-final stage by Richard Russell. Unfortunately Russell was unable to be present at Finals Night, and Greening took his place against Callum. A very close contest resulted in an -11, 18, 19 victory for Greening.

Slack had to work hard to beat Vale 20, -19, 16 in the other semi before beating Greening 14, 19.

Cathy Robb won the Women's Singles for the fourth successive

year and the seventh time in nine years. The highly promising Jenny Ellery looked like causing an upset when she won the first game 21-11, but the determined Miss Robb hit back to take the next two 19, 14.

Winners and Runners-up in Finals played before Finals Night:

V.S: Mike Fry; Peter Slack.
 I.S: Richard Russell; Martin Stephenson.
 H.B.S: Graham Slack; Russell.
 W.D: June Hall/Julie Bearcroft, Jenny Ellery/Julia Evans.
Minor Doubles: Richard Tarling/John Weatherall, David Dale/Nigel Probert.
Div. 1 Handicap: Chris Ball, Chris Newman.
Div. 2 Handicap: Julia Evans, Godfrey Browning.
Div. 3 Handicap: Philip Harle, Tony Walsh.
Div. 4 Handicap: Martin Ball, Geoff Foster.
Div. 5 Handicap: Jason Emery, Roger Creed.

THE PROVIDENCE CAPITOL COUNTY PREMIER LEAGUE

In the 7th round leaders, Taylor's Pommies, just scraped by with a 5-4 win over bottom team Russell's Razzle Dazzlers. Indeed had Richard Russell been able to play (R.R. has now moved to London and withdrawn from the League) it is very probable that the result would have been a first defeat for the leaders. As it was, Neil Taylor had his expected maximum but his side had to rely on a fine 19, 20 win by Junior team mate Craig Saunders over the very experienced County Veteran Champion Peter Wood to give the Pommies their winning margin.

The team lying 2nd at the start of the evening, Slack's Savages, went down 6-3 to Moreman's Muppets, Steve Moreman was unable to play but his place was taken by Avon's Andy Creed who won his three and inspired Irishman John Fannin to win two.

In the third game of the evening Griffin's Tornado's beat Golding's Goldiggers 6-3. Darren Griffin won his three, though Andrew Golding took him to 16 in the third, and Martyn Lane won two and only went down to Golding-18 in the third.

As a result of these matches - Taylor's Pommies' lead has been cut to four points and Griffin's Tornados have moved into second place.

C.P.L. table to date of writing 10/3/85 stands as follows.

Leading Players Singles scores:-

Taylor won 21 Played 21, Griffin -16-18, Golding and Slack-16-21, No 2's Callum-12-21, Lane -11-21, Wood & Smith-10-21, No 3's Saunders 11-21, Vale 7-21.

With three more rounds remaining there is everything to play for and although Taylor's

	P	W	L	Pts
Taylor's Pommies	7	7	0	38
Griffin's Tornados	7	4	3	34
Slack's Savages	7	4	3	33
Golding's Goldiggers	7	3	4	32
Moreman's Muppets	7	2	5	29
Russell's Razzle-Dazzlers	7	1	6	23

Pommies will be happy with their lead, they still have to play Griffin's Tornados TWICE, – and if Taylor is to lose his unbeaten singles record, Darren Griffin looks the most likely to beat him.

The closeness of the competition is indicated by the fact that, of the 21 matches so far played 10 have ended in a 5-4 scoreline. It is also pleasing to be able to report that the League Sponsors, Providence Capitol, are very pleased both with the success of the Competition and the publicity it has gained in the local press and radio. They have agreed not only to sponsor the competition again next season but are willing to discuss extending their sponsorship to Junior Table Tennis in the County.

My very grateful thanks indeed to John Boyd, Chairman of the C.P.L., for this up to date report of progress.

BITS AND PIECES

To date our County Senior team have one more match to play versus Hants. Can Gloucestershire break their DUCK?

All County matches for our Juniors are over, nice to know they cannot be relegated, perhaps the Junior team under the shrewd leadership of N-P-C Andy Seward next season will take up a new mantle.

I understand that the following Officers of the County Committee will **not** be seeking re-election. Chairman, Coaching Officer, Team Secretary, and Umpires Secretary. My word, that will take a bit of sorting out I expect.

FRAMPTON TABLE TENNIS CLUB

The Stroud League club featured this month is one of those rarities these days, a newly-formed table tennis club in comfortable, spacious premises not previously in full use. Frampton T.T.C.'s home venue is the old village hall (in an area blessed with two!) situated at the end of England's longest village green in the charming village of Frampton-on-Severn, five times winner of the Bledisloe Cup which is awarded annually to Gloucestershire's tidiest village.

Although the heated and curtained main hall is large enough to accommodate the two tables currently in use – a brand new Barna Championship match table being purchased under the E.T.T.A.'s four year purchase scheme and an old secondhand practice table being purchased via the local league – only one table is used for competitive play, resulting in a runback space which brings compliments galore from visiting defensive opponents.

The club may be a new one, but most of its dozen founder members are old hands at the game. Rising like a phoenix from the ashes of the old R.H.P. club at Stonehouse when the factory closed ranks against "outsiders" after 26 years' hospitality, Frampton T.T.C. was formed by a dozen of its former members who were unready for sudden retirement from the game. From this it can be gleaned that the majority of the present members are veterans, which probably explains their willingness to pay the above-average membership fees needed to cover the immediate purchase of tables and equipment in addition to incidental expenses and rental charges.

In this first season the club has three teams playing in the Stroud League, two having been re-admitted to their former slots in the second division and one having been admitted to the fourth division. The 'A' team of Terry Smith, Dave Lewis, Glanville Watkins and Dave Smith has the best record, once again lurking around their familiar third position and just (intentionally?) missing promotion, but Leonard John of the 'B' team is now beginning to thrive on second division competition and – being younger – could lead the way in the future.

Some club members have earned representative honours while with former clubs – Lorna Bell for Philadelphia, Murton, Kidderminster and Birmingham Women's League; Jayne Harmer, the club's Treasurer, for Stroud Ladies, and Dave Lewis for Stroud and Stroud Veterans. The Club Chairman/Secretary is ex-Worcestershire County Seconds player Lorna Bell, twice winner of the Women's League Closed Singles in Birmingham in the heady days when that city was able to field two full divisions in its WOMEN'S League. Lorna, who enjoyed playing trips to Belgium, France and Holland in the early sixties, twice retired from table tennis for periods of many years but is now going strong again as an O.A.P.

After deriving many years' pleasure from table tennis, some members have already given of their time in return, notably Dave Lewis. Dave, a qualified National Umpire, umpired in England v Czechoslovakia and England v Japan matches, and at County level until a few years ago. After first acting as Stroud League Treasurer and then Secretary, Dave has undertaken the onerous duties of Match Secretary for the past twenty years and assists annually with the League Tournament. Lorna Bell formed and organised a large club in County Durham in the 'fifties and

(together with husband John) coached most of the forty eventual League players from scratch. She also acted as League Secretary of the Philadelphia League for a while, coached again later in a Kidderminster youth club, and more recently assisted on occasions with the Stroud League's junior coaching scheme, as did Dave Philip. Terry Smith, when he wasn't being taxi-driver for his son David (ex-County No. 1 junior) found time to umpire in the Cotswold Tournament for the past few years.

Although a few of the players might be considered a little "long in the tooth and short on ambition" (the Chairman's own words) they all still hope to continue enjoying League competition, and in addition the club's future plans include the ubiquitous "ladder", dinners and social occasions, club tournaments, handicaps and friendly matches, and perhaps – nostalgically – some hard bat competition. If you were to visit a Frampton gathering, the friendly atmosphere would probably be one of the first things you would notice, for the social side of the game is important in this club, where whole families and friends of a quarter of a century's standing practise together.

This closeness should not deter newcomers, however, for as the Chairman can vouch from her own personal experience five or six years ago, they will be welcomed. Members intend to add one extra team next season and hope to add others in future years, if and when more regular evening bookings become available. The club is seen, hopefully, as a long-term prospect, and its Constitution has been carefully designed with continuity in mind. The club already has two promising teenage players, Kevin Cooper and Simon Philp, playing with some success in the fourth division, but more young members are being sought and experienced players are willing to coach beginners during the Summer, if any of the local youngsters wish to learn the game.

Harry Stevens reports from

HERTFORDSHIRE

SENIOR CLOSED

The Herts Senior Closed played at Barnet TT Centre over the weekend of Feb. 23/24 attracted an improved entry the winners and runners-up being:-

Winner

MS: S. Seaholme
WS: J. Maybanks
MVS: D. Seaholme
WVS: S. Bax
MD: D. Seaholme/P. Spencer
WD: L. Booth/K. Morton
XD: P. Somers/J. Maybanks

Runner-up

MS: D. Seaholme
WS: S. Felstead
MVS: D. Somers
WVS: S. Felstead
MD: G. Seaholme/S. Seaholme
WD: S. Bax/J. Maybanks
XD: D. Seaholme/J. Rodgers

Future dates at Barnet are:-
April

6 – County Championships
14/20 – Barnet Closed Championships
27 – Junior Training
May
19 – Champion Team Competition
25 – Junior Training.

ST ALBANS LEAGUE

Division 1

1. Napsbury 2. St Albans
Averages – S. Grep (St. Al) 94.4%
2. B. Gale (Naps) 88.9%

Division 2

1. D.H.C. 2. St Mich '8'
Averages – M. Lyons 97%
2. M. Patterson 93%

Division 3

1. Mar Baptist 2. Post Office
Averages – Rose 89% 2. Coleman 83%

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Herts Vets I, at home to Kent, were beaten 7-2 with Alan Lamprell the only singles winner, the other success coming in the mixed by David Seaholme and Sylvia Tyler. A similar scoreline resulted from Vets II away to Leics with Keith Hartridge and Sally Bax, both reserves, taking a singles. A trio of losses was incurred when Vets III, away to Sussex II went down 6-3. David Wilson and Gill White each chalked up a singles win with Wilson and Brian Gale taking the men's doubles.

It was a different tale for the Juniors who travelled to Broadstone to engage Dorset and came away with a 10-0 win to their credit. We were represented by Peter Harris, Leonard Rosso, Derek Rogers, Alison Boxall and Tracy Baines. The Senior team, away to Beds also notched up a victory 6-4. This was an excellent team performance with victory in doubt until the final set. The middle phase of the match proved crucial with a 3-game win by Barry White and John Taylor giving us a 3-2 lead. Wins by John McCance and Jeanette Maybanks took us into a 5-2 lead but Beds took the next two sets to reduce the deficit to 5-4 but White clinched the victory.

HERTS AND BEDS LEAGUE CUP

The first round of the Herts and Beds League Cup has been

County Notes

completed, but no real surprises were forthcoming. The closest match of the round saw Neeld LTC come through to a 5-2 win over Rickmansworth Police with 5 of the 7 sets going to a decider. Hero for Neeld was Neil Stratton who recorded a maximum. Consolation wins for Ricky Police came from Roger Pyle and Ivor Gough.

Bedwell I beat De Havilland (Hatfield) 7-2 with Darko Butina unbeaten for Bedwell. Mike Harber, playing well for De Havilland recorded victories over former county No. 1 junior Jimmy Walsh and Dave Wright. Highly fancied Phoenix had no trouble dealing with Le Roi II (9-0), but Le Roi I evened things up for the club with a 5-1 win over Merck Sharp and Dohme. Maximums for Gary Turner and Neil Hurford in this match with MSD's Barry Phillips getting the better of county veteran Keith Hartridge after a tight struggle.

John Prean looks beyond the

ISLE OF WIGHT THE LAST HURRAH

Our last county match at home, at least for some time, compensated our supporters for the previous disappointment. After a magnificent match we drew 5-5 with Avon. It was less the result, more the manner in which it was achieved that made us feel we had seen a real match. Jim Daly, Regina Stevens, the men's doubles and two from C.P. gave us our five. The set between him and Andy Creed was a real crowd pleaser as the ball stayed on the table for rally after rally. I hope I will not be regarded as 'prejudiced' if I suggest that this is not always the case and see some of the Sport's problems in this. To which I would add that the case against the combination bat did not seem strong in this match. I note Ken Muhr's point that he feels the Game is now easier to sell. My impression is that attendances are down since the rule change and some defensive, but crowd pleasing players rather less effective. The plus 'sales points' may emerge later. I look forward to that happy day.

THE END OF OUR COUNTRY SIDE?

It is unlikely that we shall have a team in the County Championships next season; that we would be less strong because of Regina's return to Germany we could have lived with, but we have no ladies who can play regularly and at this level. Some work Saturday afternoons, which is the busy time in the retail trade. I found this a problem, too,

when I ran Hampshire's junior team some years ago. To expect a boss to give seven busy days off each season is expecting a lot, but that is what the county programme demands. The proportion of 3 men and 2 ladies is impossible and bears no relationship to real table tennis numbers. Though talked about, I have seen no movement in the direction of realism. It is, as is often said, a very fast game, but one with many slow officials.

"WE SHALL RETURN"

Still, we shall probably do battle in the Wilmott Cup and perhaps send players to the better, nearer tournaments. Life will go on, but for me it is a sad moment, as I have a soft spot for the County scene and, having worked so hard to build it up, it is heartbreaking to see it all go, but — like General McArthur — "we shall return".

SUPER-UMPIRE

A particularly heartfelt "Well done" and "Farewell" to Super-Umpire John Brooks. I always felt we were half way to a real occasion whenever I saw him in his chair, faultless and quietly inspiring confidence.

ISLAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Jim Daly dominated the Island Championships with yet another treble which included the Men's Doubles with Mike Turner and the Mixed with Joy Batten. Regina Stevens won the Ladies against Jill Fothergill, not without difficulty. If you are a strong favourite, the crowd will warm to the 'underdog' and Regina was grateful when the second game was over. Joe Daly won the 'Consolation'. What a fluent player he is! I thought this again when I saw him in the final of the Veterans when he was eventually beaten by his brother Jim, but not till the third game of a splendid top spin encounter that made me feel young again for a while. Ian Urry had earlier won the Cadets and Juniors in one day and his sister Sharon also looked good. Let us hope that we shall have something to offer them if and when they outgrow our own 1st division. Rob Warren won the Intermediate (From Div. 2 down). He was what he has been throughout the season — the best player in the section, though Roger Merry nearly won the final.

FORMER JUNIOR CHAMPION

Rob won the Island Junior title three times and took the 1st division by storm in his first season, but then retired from the sport for several seasons. Nice to see him back leading Newport Vics back into the top division.

SOUTH OF ENGLAND 3-STAR

Mike Turner and Roger Hookey travelled to Farnborough and

thoroughly enjoyed the experience without uprooting any trees; missing the boat and waiting 2 hours for the next made it a long day. I know how they felt. I hope they will play in more tournaments next season.

ROGER HOOKEY

Roger leaves us to take up an appointment in Aylesbury and we are very sad to see him go. He is another young player who steadily worked his way through our divisions, to occasional appearances in our county side and the move may offer him much greater possibilities than exist here. His best days are yet to come. An admirable sportsman on the table and secretary of his club, we shall miss him. Good luck, Roger.

INTERNATIONAL AT PORTSMOUTH

Heartening though England's resounding win was in their match against Germany, there were unhappy undertones. "To England victory.... to the Portsmouth Association the bill.... Portsmouth pays the price of glamour occasion" "Crisis as Fans shun Big Match" I read a day earlier in the Portsmouth News. In the end it was not as bad as all that as between 500 and 600 turned up which is all we have been getting for any European League Match this season. It meant a large loss about which the local association has no doubt been talking to the ETTA.

DES COMES HOME

The announcement that our best player had decided to come home after 8 years in the German Bundesliga was made on a loudspeaker that did not work (producing only incoherent sounds) and too late to make the morning papers the next day, typical of the ETTA's "publicity machine".

RELEGATION

Since then our team lost 3-4 to Holland which meant relegation and the financial problems of those who stage European League matches did not improve as a result. On balance, I do not think it was deserved. The new England Manager, Don Parker, had done a good job restoring morale and standards after Moscow when new lows were struck and a rescue mission had to be mounted. Under the circumstances only the vital ingredient 'Luck' was missing as two wins and three 4-3 defeats show, whilst the Dutch, despite a number of 7-0 and 6-1 defeats, thanks to a 'gift' from Poland only had to beat England at home to escape despite an infinitely inferior sets average. Even that was only part of the story. These notes were written before both the Commonwealth and World

Championships where I expect good results. The main action required is OFF the table in increasing the status of the English professional table tennis player.

THE GRUMBLER AS VILLAIN

My articles have brought me a large and regular mail bag from all over the world, the majority favourable. No tournament or international I attend passes without people I have never met before introducing themselves and the conversations that follow are often a real pleasure. At times I am told that I grumble too much which reminds me of a more famous one time resident of the Isle of Wight, the late J. B. Priestley, who said that, if he could not have a good time, he could at least have a good grumble. As a local official, my problems are not dissimilar from those of the ETTA's national officers except that theirs are on a larger scale and sometimes the critics and grumblers ARE unfair, but that is a small price to pay for their interest which shows at least that they CARE and that one is not working in total isolation. The most depressing meetings are those where the rank and file acclaim everything with zombie-like indifference or, worse, accept mediocrity as the norm.

THE GRUMBLER AS HERO

In short, progress often comes, because someone somewhere speaks up when things are wrong. If everything were right in this ETTA of ours, we would NOT be losing so many members. Anyone who cares about a democratic and that even unfair criticism is better than none at all.

The example of countries which have abolished all opposition is not encouraging. Not only are they awful to live in, they are backward and inefficient as well. I ask my opponents in the corridors of power to endure my occasional criticisms in the sure knowledge that it will help improve their own performance and that is a small price to pay for 8 critical contributions each year which leaves them untroubled for the remaining 357 days.

Where leading officials are elected 'unopposed' year after year, criticism becomes a public duty, a necessity. The alternative is a sterile vacuum in which nothing is questioned and in which — eventually — nothing is or gets done.

Terry Bown reports from...

LEICESTERSHIRE MARATHON

A tense four and a half hour marathon saw the Seniors

achieve a tremendous result in Div. 2A with a 6-4 win over nearest rivals, Warwickshire, to take top position in the table with only one match to go. In a see-sawing match, Leicestershire went from 3-1 up to 3-4 down with 3 rubbers to play. Chris Rogers clung on to his maximum with a 25-23, 20-22, 23-21 (134 pts) win over Carl Morgan. Karen Smith never looked in trouble beating K. Groves in two straight and Dave Gannon sealed both points with an exciting performance to beat P. Gunn. The women's doubles and an invaluable win from Graham Hill completed Leicestershire's successful afternoon. So, with only one match against Yorkshire II to go, things look good for a return to the Premier Division next season.

The Veterans got back to their winning ways after the disaster at Cheshire. A 7-2 win in Div. 2A over Hertfordshire II saw maximums from Colin Truman and John Iliffe. A nail-biting Mixed turned out a triumph for the home side when John and Glenys Odams clinched the rubber with a 21-19, 21-23, 21-19 win over Geoff and Sally Bax. The Men's Doubles and one from Geoff Aldwinckle completed the scoring for Leics.

The current dearth of good youngsters coming into the sport is reflected, with respect to those currently playing their hearts out for the County, in that the Juniors have lost all their 6 matches to date. Nevertheless, their 1-9 defeat to Lancashire and 0-10 to Yorkshire II should be judged in the context of two reversals against good opposition.

SENIORS

C. Rogers bt B. Johnson 21 -19, 13; bt C. Morgan 23, -20, 21.
G. Hall bt P. Gunn 16, 14; lost to Johnson -21, 14, -19.
D. Gannon bt Gunn 16, -14, 16; lost to Morgan -19, -19.
K. Smith/J. Revill bt K. Groves/S. Peakman -19, 13, 19.
Rogers/Gannon lost to Morgan/Johnson -17, -19.
Revill lost to Peakman -16, 15, -15.
Smith bt Groves 14, 15.

VETERANS

G. Aldwinckle bt G. Bax 17, 17; lost to K. Hartridge 20, -19, -15.
C. Truman bt Hartridge 12, 14; bt G. Tyler 10, -13, 15.
J. Iliffe bt Tyler 16, 14; bt Bax 11, 13.
Iliffe/G. Odams bt S. & G. Bax 19, -21, 19.
Aldwinckle/Truman bt Tyler/Hartridge -16, 12, 9.
Odams lost to Bax -15, -14.

JUNIORS v LANCASHIRE

P. Bumpus lost to S. Gibson -20, -19; bt A. Eden 15, 16.
M. Gillett lost to L. Brown -10, -9; lost to Gibson -9, -7.
I. Brown lost to Eden 19, -13, -17; lost to Brown -12, -14.
G. Chapman/L. Grundy lost to L. Harnden/N. McGrath -9, -17.
Bumpus/Brown lost to Gibson/Brown -9, -16.
Grundy lost to McGrath -15, -13.
Chapman lost to Harnden -10, -15.

v YORKSHIRE

I. Brown lost to C. Oldfield -8, -18; lost to T. Miller -16, -14.
M. Gillett lost to Miller -17, -16; lost to A. Bassano -13, -6.
P. Bumpus lost to Bassano -10, -14; lost to Oldfield -18, -12.
T. Clark/G. Chapman lost to R. Bray/C. Dada -17, -17.
Bumpus/Brown lost to Oldfield/Bassano -14, -16.
Chapman lost to Dada -14, -17.
Clark lost to Bray -16, -18.

PHILIP REID

It is pleasing to report that the memory of Phil Reid is to be maintained in the shape of a new competition where the splendid 'Philip Reid Memorial Trophy', kindly donated by the Loughborough League, will be played for. Anyone that knew Phil will know that to him, the least talented player in the bottom division was just as important as the most talented in the top. Therefore, with this in mind, it was decided to hold an annual county-wide handicapped competition with the venue alternating between Leicester, Loughborough and Hinckley. We are sure that this would have met with Phil's approval but, when during the calendar do we stage it?

Next month's Leicestershire Notes should include reports of the two competitions that bring this current season to an end. The ninth staging of the Leicester Closed are to be held, for the first time, at the Granby Hall Leisure Centre, scene of the very successful Leicestershire Closed Championships, on Sunday, March 17.

Back in 1961 the 'Rose Johnson Memorial Trophy' was inaugurated. Twenty-four years later, this ladies only handicapped competition is still going strong and is being superbly organised for the 24th time by the ever charming Audrey Watson. This popular event was a particular favourite of Phil Reid and League President, Phil Smith has been known to attend on several occasions, usually just in time for tea!! Nevertheless, I have thought for some time that this competition merits far more participants than the twenty-odd that have entered in the past few years. The early signs are that Audrey is in for a bumper entry. Let us hope so.

Kath Fisher reports from....

LINCOLNSHIRE EXPECTED WIN

The Lincolnshire Closed was held at Gainsborough on Saturday Feb. 23.

The Men's Singles was won as expected by the No. 1 seed Dave Skerrett who was in excellent form disposing of some very experienced players on the way - Pete Taylor, Andy Kelly, Brian Allison, Brian Hill and in the final Matt Sheader.

The Men's Doubles was a good final, Sheader and Allison against Taylor and Chris Bryan, with some very good hitting. Pete and Chris won the first 14, Matt and Brian just sneaked the second 19, the third was very

close up to 18-17 when Matt did some very good serves which enabled him and Brian to win the match 17.

Stuart Worrell and Chris Bryan had a real tough battle in the final of the under-21 before Chris emerged the winner - 11, 13, 18. Wayne Noone won the boys' singles with a good win over Chris May - 15, 16, 13. Incidentally Wayne and his partner Mark Arnold knocked out the No. 1 seeds in the Men's Doubles.

In the Vets' Singles Sheader had a comfortable win 15, 12 against Bill Moran who had just had a very hard game in the semi with Brian Edlington - 19, 15, 14.

Final of the Women's Singles was contested between Linda Thompson who had a good win over Sue Radley the No. 1 seed and Connie Moran who put out Jane Wingad the No. 2. Linda took the first game with some good steady play but in the end Connie's experience and determination gave her a well deserved win - 17, 18, 16.

The Girls' singles went to Sharon Harvey beating Linda Thompson 14, 18, both players have greatly improved this season which is shown in the good results they are now achieving, which included the doubles title - 21, 11, 16 against Julie Shippey and Cathy Bryan.

The big shock was in the mixed when the new pairing of Hon. Chay and Julie Shippey took everyone by surprise, Hon who plays pen grip and hits nearly everything in sight and Julie playing steady throughout thoroughly deserved to win the title, beating the No. 1 seeds Sheader and Connie Moran in a very exciting final 21 in the third.

In the Class II singles the final should have been between Andy Kelly and Jimmy Brewster, but Andy failed to appear when his name was called so Jimmy had a walkover which must have been very disappointing for him having played so well to reach the final. I'm sure he would have rather played to win the title.

In the Inter-town competitions Lincoln have won the Vets Cup, Grimsby the Butlin Cup, by just 1 point over Grantham, and Louth the Haigh Cup. In the Butcher Cup some matches are outstanding but this cannot effect the team at the top who have played up their fixtures and won all, the only team not to drop a point. Well done the youngsters from Lincoln.

Matt Sheader reached the final of the Vets in the English Closed Championships. Well played Matt!

Iris Moss reports from....

MIDDLESEX TITLE HELD

Well done, all the Middlesex teams in the County Championships. Our first team of Graham Sandley, David Wells, John Souter, Colin Wilson and Sarah Sandley, held their title as Champion County despite managing to lose to Lancashire 4-5, because of their better sets average. I also see from the Averages Table for the Senior Premier Division that David heads the list for singles with 93%, with Colin with 86% and John with 79% wins. In addition the partnership of Colin and John gains 71%. Well done, all of you. It was very unfortunate that having decided to bring Sandley in for the second week-end to 'strengthen' the team, the poor lad had a tummy bug and was only able to play in one doubles. Nevertheless we are grateful to Graham for at least attempting to help although judging by Len Pilditch's description of the state he was in, he must have been feeling very grim indeed.

It looks almost definite (I don't believe in 'counting my chickens') that our Second Senior team will gain promotion from Div. 3D although I notice that they do not appear in the Table in the March edition. (Sorry Murray Corbin,

VETERAN CUP

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lincoln	4	3	1	0	30	10	7
Grimsby	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Boston	4	0	0	4	7	33	0

LADIES' BUTLIN CUP

Grimsby	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Grantham	4	1	2	1	19	21	4
Lincoln	4	1	1	2	18	22	3

MENS' HAIGH CUP

Louth	5	4	1	0	32	18	9
Lincoln	5	4	0	1	32	18	8
Gainsborough	5	2	1	2	26	14	5
Grimsby	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Boston	5	0	1	4	20	30	1
Grantham	4	0	1	3	11	29	1

County Notes

I'm not getting at you; I know only too well how easily a slip like this can occur). They are so far unbeaten, and Geoff Woolmore has quite enjoyed looking after them. Geoff has done an extremely good job in persuading some of our better second string players that it is worth while to play for the County. He seems to have instilled a sense of loyalty in them all, and as a result they have played together as a team – and won. We still have 2 matches to play (against Sussex 2nd – who also seem to have disappeared from the Table – and Norfolk) and we are hoping that they can keep up their winning record.

Our Junior 1st team which is weaker than it was last season due to some of the players now being "over-age", managed to hold their own in the first weekend, winning 2 and losing 2 matches. If they manage to do as well over the second weekend they will retain their Premier Division status and with more experience behind them should do even better next season. Our 2nd Junior team is holding 4th place in Div. 2B – and should be there to fight again next season. Our Veteran teams are not doing badly either, with the 1st team holding 6th place in the Premier Division and the 2nd in the runner-up position in Div. 2B. Our congratulations to them all.

Now all we need is a sponsor to kit them out in the manner they deserve. Although we would like them to look smart, money is very tight, and rightly or wrongly we feel that it is better spent on ensuring that as many players as possible have the honour of representing their County than turning out very few – but smart – players. We are doing all we can to get sponsorship and hope that next season we will be able to enter as many teams in the County Championships – in the smart kit they so obviously deserve.

Our next event in the Middlesex calendar is the Junior Closed which is due to be held at Brent Junior Table Tennis Club, Aylestone School, on May 18/19. The closing date for entries is May 3, so any Junior reading this article who has not yet entered, please do so immediately as we would like to have a bumper entry.

Our Inter-League Championships are going well. We have 12 teams in the Victor Barna (3 men) competition, and at Feb. 25 Willesden headed the Premier Division with an unbeaten record. Wembley 2nd, also unbeaten, headed the Div. 2 table. In the Norman Pegg (3 ladies) North Middlesex are the only unbeaten side out of 6 teams. The D. W. Birmingham (Junior) Competition has 10 teams and Wembley 1st

and S.W. Middlesex head the two Divisions, but both have been beaten and could therefore lose the first position. The Veterans – Ted Connell – Competition is the most popular of the lot. We have 14 teams in 2 divisions and they nearly always keep up-to-date with their matches. At the moment Wembley 1st heads the Premier Division on games average, but they will have to look out as S.W. Middlesex too are unbeaten. In Div. 2 Willesden heads the table having played one more match than North Acton 1st who are unbeaten.

I suppose soon I will have to start thinking about next season's Handbook, (I have already started on the election of Officers and Committee for 1985/86) apart from trying to keep up with the other jobs I have on my plate. I still hope for a "take-over bid" but with the nominations for officers already in, I will have to wait for another year as the only nominations received were for Michael Close as Chairman, Len Pilditch as Deputy Chairman and myself as Secretary-Treasurer.

John Barber reports from....

MIDLAND LEAGUE WHAT A DIFFERENCE!

MEN'S SECTION

Chesterfield gained a good 7-3 win over Birmingham 'A', their second success of the season (Wolves 'A' being their previous victims). What a difference the Billingtons make to their results! In Div. 4 Bath are having a successful first season (5 wins out of 6), and Glos. 'B' recorded their 5th successive win.

JUNIORS

In Div. 1, Wolves (without M. Roden) went down narrowly to the all conquering Notts 'A' side who have now won the championship. Derby were held by Coventry 'A' 5-5. Paul Harvey (in his last season) won all three. All the Coventry team are in their

last Junior season (G. Woodcock, R. Hayward, S. Swallow) and they are commended for their good attitude to the game. It is pleasant to read such a match report sent by Derby. In Div. 3 Walsall 'B' won 10-0 against a young Coventry team who put up a good performance. Stafford (without Nigel Tongue) lost to Eastwood, which leaves Birmingham 'B', who are unbeaten, favourites for the title. In Div. 5 Dudley won 9-1 at Kidderminster and have won the division with 100% success.

VETERANS

In Div. 1 Oxford 'A' held Birmingham 'A' to a draw in a hard fought match, and then wondered if two-coloured bats have a disadvantage against those which haven't. But they did not state which side, had which kind of bats!

Dave Pearson won three against Walsall (Notts 'B') as did Bill Horton for West Brom. against Coventry 'A'.

INTERMEDIATES

Rugby (without M. Rañdle) were held 5-5 by Walsall and thus dropped their first point of the season, but they remain firm favourites for the title for the other teams have dropped too many points to remain in contention.

WOMEN'S DIVISION

Come on ladies, some of you are a long way in arrears with your programme. Wolverhampton with four matches played have won them all and look favourites for the championship.

Results:

Men's Div. 1: Chesterfield 7 B'ham 'A' 3.
Div. 4: Coventry 'B' 3 Bath 7; Glos 'B' B Coventry 'B' 2.
Juniors Div. 1:
Derby 5 Coventry 'A' 5; Wolves 4 Notts 'A' 6.
Div. 2: Coventry 'B' 10 Burton 0; Worcester 'A' 1 B'ham 'A' 9.
Div. 3: Walsall 'B' 10 Coventry 'C' 0; Eastwood 6 Stafford 4; B'ham 'B' 7 Bromsgrove 3. (T. Holder 3).
Div. 4: Worcester 'B' 5 Nuneaton 5.
Div. 5: Kidderminster 1 Dudley 9; Mansfield 'A' 7 Mansfield 'B' 3; Kidderminster 10 Mansfield 'B' 0.
Veterans: Div. 1: Oxford 'A' 5 B'ham 'B' 6.
Div. 2: Kidderminster 3 W. Brom 7; West Brom 6 Coventry 'A' 4.
Intermediate: Rugby 8 Hinckley 2; Nuneaton 5 Walsall 5; Walsall 5 Rugby 5.
Ladies: Derby 4 Wolves 6; Kidderminster 3 Leicester 7; Bristol 6 Derby 4; Bristol 2 Notts 8.

Dennis Millman reports from . . .

NORTHANTS

SOMETHING FOR EVERYONE

When Ian Hawes struck the final shot at precisely 11.30 p.m., well over three hundred matches had been played in Kettering's Annual Closed Tournament, from the time that the first competitors had taken the floor at the Recreation Centre some fourteen and a half hours earlier. Thus ended a highly successful day which had provided something for everyone – a fitting tribute to the genial organiser Phil Slade who had forsaken his playing opportunities to remain staunchly at the tournament desk throughout the long day.

The event once again proved a triumph for Graeme McKim, who for the third year running beat Hawes in the Men's Singles final. The mercurial McKim, as ever relishing the tournament atmosphere thereby completed a notable hat-trick, with the County title and the Northampton League crown already under his belt.

McKim's semi-final victim had been the impressive Chris Handshaw, who twice during the day got the better of Steve West, but who needed nerves of steel to come out on top of his qualifying group when, after dropping the opening end to Chris Millman, he trailed badly in the second only to pull through 23-21.

The other semi saw Hawes hit back after losing the opener to Andy Edmonds ultimately notching a comfortable win. Hawes however was due to gain his reward in the doubles events, finishing on the winning side in both Men's and Mixed. He and Steve Kendall, the reigning County champions, had an uneasy passage to the final, trailing badly against Gerald Finney Dennis Millman, Andy Edmonds and Andy Trott, and finalists McKim and Handshaw, but eventually they came through to add the Kettering crown to their previous laurels.

In the Mixed, Hawes teamed up with Debbie Kimbell for the first time, and the pair progressed smoothly to the final, where they got the better of Anne Nicoll and Handshaw.

This success represented just one aspect of an extremely rewarding day for Debbie who had earlier played at her considerable best to defeat Anne Nicoll in the final of the Women's Singles, and then teamed up with her 'beaten' opponent to take the doubles at the expense of Joanne and Suzanne Hunt. Finally however in the final of the Mystery doubles, she and Mike Cryer had to admit defeat at the hands of

JUNIOR DIV. 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notts. 'A'	5	5	0	0	38	12	10
Derby	5	3	1	1	29	21	7
Wolves	5	2	1	2	30	20	5
Coventry 'A'	5	2	1	2	29	21	5
Leicester	3	1	0	2	8	22	2
Glos.	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Loughboro'	5	0	0	5	10	40	0

JUNIOR DIV. 2

Coventry 'B'	5	4	1	0	35	15	9
B'ham 'A'	4	3	1	0	32	8	7
Pontesbury	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Walsall 'A'	4	2	0	2	25	15	4
Worcester 'A'	6	2	0	4	25	35	4
Notts. 'B'	6	2	0	4	23	37	4
Burton	6	1	0	5	12	48	2

Martyn Myrick and Neil Atkinson.

Geoff Atkinson took the Veteran's Singles at the first attempt, without being fully extended, though arguably the most satisfied player in this category was Tom Cardwell, who played with care and determination to beat both Dick Cole and Dennis Millman, and so after many years of trying, reached a major final for the first time.

Millman had earlier been taken to expedite by his son Chris in the semi-final of the Consolation Singles, surmounting this obstacle only to fall to one of his former school pupils Kevin Bird in the final, while Chris gave Bird two points start in the First Division Handicap, before going on to win the final against Mike Cryer.

The handicaps created much interest, with McKim set a difficult target off -10 in the Premier section. Nevertheless he seemed set to repeat last season's win when he caught Ian Baldock at 28-all in the deciding end, but Baldock then took three points in a row going on to beat both Ian Hawes and Handshaw for the title.

In the Second Division, Dick Cole given -5 lived dangerously, taking games against Martyn Myrick, Giles Ridgley and beaten finalist Julian Allwood at the last gasp while in the Third Division, the experienced Jim Chatburn had to battle all the way to account for Myrick's son Greg.

County No. 1 Andy Trott had few problems in taking the Junior Boys Singles against Richard Ambrose, whose sister Alison just failed to avenge her brother's defeat when she succumbed 22-20 in the third to Suzanne Hunt in the girls final.

Richard did get his name on one trophy when he and Darren Underwood gained a bloodless victory in the junior doubles, while despite good performances from Rob Filik in both events, the Under-15 title went to Chris Ball and the Under-13 to Michael Cross.

Results:-

M.S.: S-Fs: McKim bt Handshaw 12,13.
Hawes bt Edmonds -15,9,15.
Final: McKim bt Hawes 19,14
W.S.: Final: Debbie Kimbell bt Anne Nicoll 12,19
M.D.: S-Fs: Hawes/Kendall bt Trott/Edmonds 13,-14,13.
McKim/Handshaw bt West/Mark Cole 11,11.
Final: Hawes/Kendall bt McKim/Handshaw 17,-18,17.
W.D.: Final: Kimbell/Nicoll bt Jo & Suzanne Hunt 4,14.
X.D.: S-Fs: Handshaw/Nicoll bt Gary Shepherd/Jo Hunt 7,7.
Hawes/Kimbell bt Ambrose/Ambrose 19,13.
Final: Hawes/Kendall bt Handshaw/Nicoll -13,16,13.
V.S.: S-Fs: Tom Cardwell bt Dennis Millman 21,-17,17.
Geoff Atkinson bt Bill Lupton 13,15.
Final: Atkinson bt Cardwell 8,12
C.S.: S-Fs: Dennis Millman bt Chris Millman -14,9,12.
Kevin Bird bt Bill Lupton 16,17.
Final: Bird bt Millman -15,20,11.
B.S.: S-Fs: Andy Trott bt Philip Cross 7,6.
Richard Ambrose bt Darren Underwood 10,10.
Final: Trott bt Ambrose 7,18
G.S.: Final: Suzanne Hunt bt Alison Ambrose -14,19,20.

J.D.: Final: Ambrose/Underwood bt Trott/Ridgley 17,19
U-15S: S-Fs: Niel Atkinson bt Rob Filik 15,12.
Chris Ball bt Michael Cross 14,13.
Final: Ball bt Atkinson 12,19.
U-13S: S-Fs: Rob Filik bt Andrew Lingley 15,12.
Michael Cross bt Stephen Atkinson 9,11.
Final: Cros bt Filik -12,14,17.
P.H.: Final: Ian Baldock (=10) bt Handshaw (Scr.) 14,18.
1st D.H.: Final: Chris Millman (+2) bt Mike Cryer (+7) -19,19,14.
2nd D.H.: Final: Dick Cole (-5) bt Julian Allwood (+10) -26,26,27.
3rd D.H.: Final: Jim Chatburn (-2) bt Greg Myrick (+8) 24,-22,22.
M.D.: Final: Martyn Myrick/Neil Atkinson bt Cryer/Kimbell -15,14,22.

Following on from the recent successful Winter League, the YMCA/Comsport Summer League will start at Northampton YMCA on Saturday April 15 and will last for eleven weeks. Sessions will commence at 9.15 a.m. and 12.30p.m. with a singles and a doubles knockout competition included in the programme. Gwil Evans will again conduct operations. Leading positions in the final league tables and top averages were as follows:-

Under-17					
	P	W	D	L	P
Weston Favell 'A'	15	14	1	0	129
Doddridge	15	12	1	2	106
Ferrers	15	9	0	6	96
Richard Elliott 100%					
John Tabbutt 98%					
Jonathan Clarke 98%					
Under-14					
	P	W	D	L	P
Ferrers 'A'	15	15	0	0	149
Ferrers 'B'	15	10	0	5	97
David Evans 100%					
Neil Stafford 100%					
Mark Lamberty 98%					

At last the long wait is over, and the County Firsts have broken their duck at the seventh time of asking with Worcestershire Seconds the unwilling victims. It was Graeme McKim and Ian Randle who paved the way as they shared five wins between them, although McKim had to go the full distance to beat Lewis Thickett, while Randle just edged out Mark Rowden 22-20 in the decider. Ian Hawes added a further point with a convincing 21-7, 21-7 win while Mandy Brown continued her impressive results with a singles success and a doubles shared with Maxine Shears.

Unfortunately the Seconds could not emulate the performance as they faced a Cheshire Seconds side led by the former English Veterans title-holder Derek Scholfield and with his experience proving too much for a young Northants side, Cheshire went on to win seven three. He provided a particularly daunting obstacle to Andy Edmonds, and to David Gallo on his return to representative ranks, but Gallo and Chris Handshaw both got the better of the Cheshire No. 3 and Dorothy Marsh completed the tally when she beat K. Tonge in two straight games.

On the league front the outstanding treble of Northampton, Wellingborough and Kettering's Premier Divisions seems well within the sights of Handshaw and

Edmonds, who playing for Malcolm Dilley Associates in Northampton, Chapmans 'A' in Wellingborough and Kettering Town 'A' in Kettering now seem odds on for a splendid achievement.

Pauline Long reports from...

NORTHUMBERLAND EXCELLENT WIN

The Northumberland County senior team had an excellent 9-1 win over Cheshire II on Feb. 16 at Byker Community Centre. The only set lost was in the top women's singles, where Caron Buglass was just beaten -20 in the third by Debbie McGuire.

Results (Northumberland names first):
Peter McQueen bt Steve Green 12, 16; bt Rob Bevan 13, 13.
Neil McMaster bt Green 22, 7; bt Ron Vose 15, 10.
Jan Robertson bt Bevan 21, -16, 11; bt Vose 13, 13.
McQueen/McMaster bt Green/Bevan 18, 9.
Caron Buglass lost to Debbie McGuire -7, 17, -20.
Christine Burke bt Shirley Smith 9, 7.
Buglass/Burke bt McGuire/Smith 9, 19.

The team was due to travel to Lincolnshire for their next fixture on March 16, which again was very close to the printing deadline, so to be on the safe side will be left until May. The outstanding match at home to Northants II has been rearranged for March 23, and the final match at home to Nottinghamshire is scheduled for Easter Saturday, April 6.

CROW'S TRANSPORT NORTHUMBERLAND JUNIOR CLOSED

In the absence of both Thomas Blackman and Keith Patterson, Peter Curry took the boys' singles title at the junior Closed tournament on February 23 at Blaydon Youth Club. He beat leading cadet Darren Shaw in two close games, but was denied the opportunity of a probable second title in the boys' doubles when his partner Steven Waugh decided he had to leave early for home - in my opinion showing a total lack of consideration for his fellow doubles player. This meant that Shaw and Jonathan Miller were declared the winners without actually playing their final match. There was a tremendous Class 2 singles final involving Derek Fairbairn and Michael Curry, with the former just getting home at 19 in the third, and a good cadet boys' final, in which Shaw had to work hard before putting down the considerable challenge of Michael Roughley.

Clare Mouzon, as expected, dominated all three of her events, winning the girls' singles, girls' doubles (with Elaine Hopper) and the mixed doubles (with Curry), although her task was made even easier because of the absence of Denise Wilkinson. Elaine at least gained some consolation after losing both the

singles and the mixed finals, her partner in the latter event being John Morton.

Results:

B.S.: P. Curry bt D. Shaw 18, 17.
G.S. C. Mouzon bt E. Hopper 11,6
B.D.: Shaw/J. Miller w.o. Curry/S. Waugh scr.
G.D.: Mouzon/Hopper bt Sarah Falcus/Rachel Shepherd 7, 11.
JXD: Murray Mouzon bt J. Morton/Hopper 7,13.
Junior Class 2 Singles: D. Fairbairn bt M. Curry 20, -20, 19.
C.B.S.: Shaw bt M. Roughley 13, -20, 16.
C.G.S.: Shepherd bt Falcus 8, 12.
C.D.: Roughley/Ian Collier bt Shaw/Michael Karczewski 20, 16.
Under-11 Singles: Collier bt Graeme Sanderson 10, 11.

The next important tournament is, of course, the Evening Chronicle Northumberland 2-Star Open at Concordia Leisure Centre, Cramlington, on April 27. By the time these notes appear in print, the closing date of April 9 will have passed, but we hope to have a big entry for the outstanding date on the County calendar. If anyone who has already entered finds that due to unforeseen circumstances they are unable to play on the day, I am sure that our organiser Aubrey Drapkin would appreciate either a letter or a telephone call - he can be contacted at 49 Beach Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear, NE26 1DZ (Tel: 091-251-4983).

It now looks as though the Northumberland Senior Closed Tournament will not be held before May. There appears to have been a great deal of difficulty this season in finding a convenient weekend, and a provisional date has been set for May 18. By then of course, the Tyneside Summer League season will have started, which will not make any difference to those who regularly play in the summer, but for those who play only in the winter, it is obviously very late in the season for a closed tournament. Whether or not this affects the entry remains to be seen.

The Northumberland junior team of Thomas Blackman, Keith Patterson and Peter Curry made further progress in the Carter Cup by beating Sunderland 6-0. In the latest Lentec Computer ranking lists, Blackman has moved down one place to No. 11 in the junior boys' list, while Curry is also down from No. 48 to No. 58. Darren Shaw also drops four places to No. 41 in the Cadet Boys' list. Clare Mouzon has emulated Blackman in moving down one place to No. 8 in the junior girls' list, but is also included in the women's list at No. 53. Northumberland players included in the men's list were Chu Van Que (35), Neil McMaster (112), Peter McQueen (124), Eddie Smith (154), and Ian Robertson (189).

Byker Newcastle's first team have certainly come in with a late run of good results in Div. 2 (North) of the Halex National League. First they achieved the

County Notes

double over Kingsborough Insurance Services Stockton by beating them 7-1 at their venue, and then made the long journey to second-placed March from which they returned with an excellent 4-4 draw, with Neil McMaster being unbeaten.

Results:

P. McQueen bt Andy Withers 14, -19, 13; lost to Stuart Palmer -14, 19, -13.
Stephen George lost to Palmer 9, -14, -19; lost to Geoff Davies -4, -16.
N. McMaster bt Davies 21, 20; bt Robert Swift 14, 15.
E. Smith lost to Withers -18, 14, -13; bt Swift 8, -18, 13.

Byker Newcastle II were unfortunately beaten 1-7 by Ormesby IV, with Maurice Cheek winning the only set.

Brian Hamilton reports from....

OXFORDSHIRE ONLY REASONABLE

The situation for the senior side seems to have got worse, following the home defeat by Avon II's 6-4 and what seemed to be a very promising season, has now turned into one that can only be described as "reasonable, but with plenty of hope for the future".

In the Avon match, the Oxon front men, Clive Morris and Neil Harris, just did not play as they have played throughout the season, especially Neil, who played his poorest table tennis of the season. However, one of the plusses, was the return to form of Norman Swift, who won both his singles in fine style and Stephanie Haddrell, who had her best performance to date.

The side's most recent fixture, away to Herts, produced a 5-5 draw, which I suppose is a reasonable result, in view of recent performances. The main problem does appear to be the inability to adapt to different styles of play and/or the variety of rubbers used by Oxon's opponents.

The Didcot League held their District Championship tournament recently, at the Harwell Atomic Establishment and with an excellent entry, had two days of very competitive play. The senior winner was Ian Mead, who defeated Nat Richardson 19, 19 in the final and Amanda Shufflebotham added another local senior title to her season's collection, when she beat Sandra Chilvers in straight games.

Richardson did make some amends for his singles loss, when he partnered Golly Collins to take the men's doubles title from Mead and Richard Knight.

Players in the Oxford and District League had a bit of a shock recently, when the news of Tim Heap's motor accident was announced. Tim received

pelvic injuries when he was in collision with another car, on returning home from a league match. However, Tim has now been released from hospital and is convalescing at his parents home in Reading. Although Tim is in his first season in the Oxford league, he has become very popular and we all wish him a speedy recovery.

One of the major shocks of the Oxford and District season, was the recent success for Mark Curtis in the Div. 1 knock-out Championships. Mark, currently ranked No. 16 in the county, surprised everyone, beating Clive Morris, Brian Hamilton and Arthur Chilvers on the way to the final, where he disposed of another shock finalist, Stan Hahn.

Stan had put out Karl Bushell and Norman Swift, but was not quite quick enough for Curtis, who was on a crest of a wave at the time and squeezed home 17 in the third.

On the league front, Haddenham 'A' still continue to head the Oxford Div. 1 table and are sure to retain the title, although they have lost their first match and have drawn a couple of others. Second-placed Vikings 'A' have lost and drawn the same amount as Haddenham, but as a result of the 1 point per set system, find that they are far too many sets down to be able to catch the leaders.

In the Didcot League, British Rail Staff 'A' are heading the top table, following their recent success over last season's champions Didcons 8-2. Nat Richardson won all three for the Railers, with Richard Burton and Brian Hamilton picking up two apiece.

I must say that there is an increased presence of Didcot players and officials at all levels of county matches this season, with David Bottomley and Sergio Di Paola making their marks in the Junior rankings and Tony Walton and Barry Yates (now Haddenham) taking care of Umpiring. This together with the exceptional efficiency with which these District Championships were run, it does seem that the Didcot League are rapidly becoming a very strong competitor for the position of Premier district of the county.

Gerald Green reports from....

SHROPSHIRE NATIONAL LEAGUE

Young Claire Potts came to the rescue of Grove II of Market Drayton in the National League when they met GKN Wolverhampton.

Thanks to Potts Grove were able to force a draw. As she bent to her task Potts beat England-ranked seniors Jill Powis and Karen Groves.

The match started badly for Grove with Keith Sillitoe losing to England international Fiona Elliot. But with wins for Stan Deakin against Jill Harris, Potts against Groves and Joe Deakin against Powis, the score sheet saw Grove leading 3-1.

Stan Deakin then lost to the in-form Elliot, Joe Deakin fell to Harris and Groves proved to be too strong for Sillitoe.

Defeat was staring Grove in the face when Potts came to the rescue. Hitting hard from both wings the talented young Grove player gained a win against Powis and so achieved a draw to leave her team unbeaten in 1985.

COUNTY LEAGUE (4-A-SIDE)

Grove made sure of success in the Shropshire four-a-side inter club league by beating Belle Vue, Shrewsbury, in a match to decide the title.

The match was played at Grove and the result was rather unfair to Belle Vue who fought hard all the way.

The tone of the match was set in the opening clash between Belle Vue's Mike Beaman who extended Grove's Stan Deakin to a tense third game.

A close set was the order of the day for Ian Baker who fell to the hard hitting Drayton player Keith Sillitoe.

Keith Williams found Grove's Anthony Harrison too strong and Chris Thompson was given little charity by the consistent Joe Deakin.

The Grove steamroller carried on as Stan Deakin beat Baker and Sillitoe beat Williams.

Joe Deakin defeated Beaman and Harrison gained the verdict against Thompson. Belle Vue finished in runners-up spot.

Shrewsbury beat Fitzalan of Oswestry 5-3. Bob Wilson was unbeaten and Stephen Morris added the vital last win over the experienced Brian Suckley.

Jim Bishton accounted for both Morris and Barry Ruddick but ended up on the losing side.

Results:
Grove 8, Belle Vue 0;
Grove Juniors 4, Telford 4;
Fitzalan, Oswestry 3, Shrewsbury 5;
Telford 11 8, Ellesmere 0;

COUNTY LEAGUE (2-A-SIDE)

Grove Junior retained their position in Div. 1 of the county's two-a-side league by winning the final session of matches in style.

Grove Junior retain the title they previously won in November.

John Ellis replaced the injured David Morris to partner Claire Potts to success with Grove's Welsh international unbeaten in the morning session of play.

Belle Vue's Ian Baker and Keith Williams, Grove's Keith Sillitoe and Anthony Harrison and Grove Junior II's Tim McGill and Justin Goodall, all fell to the talented Welshman.

Grove gained second place after beating Oswestry 3-1 and Belle Vue 4-0 with both Harrison and Sillitoe in top form.

Despite a difficult morning with defeats at the hands of Grove and Grove Junior Belle Vue's duo of Williams and Baker rallied well to beat Telford III and very deservedly gained third spot.

Division Two saw success for both Telford teams as they gained promotion to the top flight.

Telford II, represented by Robert and Nigel Holding, narrowly beat Telford I's pair, Roy Williams and Dave Fletcher, for first place.

Telford II were in fine form throughout the morning session with Grove Junior II, Oldham and Oswestry III all falling to the in form duo of Robert and Nigel Holding.

Grove Girls duly emerged victorious in division three. Pontesbury clinched the runners-up spot.

GRADED SINGLES

The February Grove School Graded Singles Competition was successfully completed despite the snow. And it turned out to be a successful event for the two players who travelled the longest distance to play in the competitions at Market Drayton.

Rohit Khurana and Karen Richardson, both of Oldham, won the IMC Grade B and the Salop Roofing Grade D singles respectively.

Keith Sillitoe, of Market Drayton, stamped his authority on the R and R. Roofing Grade A event with a series of comfortable wins before beating Grove clubmate Chris Edwards in the final.

The consolation event was won by Barry Turner, of Grove, who defeated Alan Yeomans, of the Potteries, in their final.

The IMC Grade B singles competition was closely fought before Rohit Khurana emerged as the winner. He beat Matthew Jeffrey, of Grove, into second place.

After several attempts Grove's England ranked cadet girl Vicky Boyd came good in the Roofrite Grade C singles with a final success over Matthew Parr, of the Potteries.

Paul Ainsworth of Grove won the consolation event at the expense of Stephen Yeomans (Potteries).

Karen Richardson, the Oldham girl, won the Salop Roofing

Grade D event with a final win over Neil Bratton of Grove.

Bill Pigram won the consolation event final against the rapidly improving Gail Ottolini.

In the Wylie and Holland Grade E event the talented and rapidly improving Sarah Pigram was consistent throughout her matches to emerge victorious in the final against Grove's Ian Hand.

Claire Hand won the consolation event with a final success over Sasha Talbot.

Tony Carey reports from....

SOMERSET

THE LENGTH AND BREADTH

The pace is now quickening as the season prepares for the big name events on the tournament scene which carry the highest computer points, eagerly sought after by all players burning with ambition to climb that ladder out of the mist and into the sunlight of recognition. All counties I am sure have these players of varying age groups, and there are players in our County that fit into this category. Maybe not as many as others who have had a broader base of talent for some years. But as an old County saying goes "If the seed is good and planted right then from such mighty oaks will grow".

That bit of prose cleared from the tip of my pen I will continue my report on play.

Beneficial Trust Cotswold Junior Select (Feb. 2/3)

I was unable to attend on the Saturday so I can only write what was relayed to me. I was a bit disturbed to find that our Cadet section was not as well represented as I would have hoped, considering some of the budding talent we see at coaching sessions and hear of from the Leagues. As was to be expected the competition was red hot. The brief report is that all our players played their best but without much to show for it. But I am sure that this will not deter those that competed from continuing to show their talents at other tournaments. Somerset players present were Paul Smith, Neil McKenna, Robert Fearn, Joanne Webber and Claire Brazier.

Sunday was Junior day and as on the previous day all events were filled with some of England's finest players with the South West figuring prominently. Back to Somerset and our entrants were Melonie Carey, Sarah Webb, Murray Barter and Philip Payne.

All had to play in varying standards of groups and they had their successes, Sarah being the

first casualty losing to Esme Stevenson of Cornwall in her group. Melonie's first set in her group was against Cheryl Bate-man of Surrey, a fine player and good opponent for Melonie to get her rhythm going against. Melonie had a mountain to climb in her next set with the England No. 1 Joanne Shaw of Yorkshire who is a hard hitting left-hander, but undeterred Melonie played her best shots to take the first game 19. She continued the same strategy in the second to lead 13-7 and those golden computer points looked in the bag which a win here would have brought, but Yorkshire grit inspired Joanne to go for what I would describe as percentage shots and she gained the dividend to win 19. The third was still a close fought affair with Melonie fighting all the way but having to bow this time to experience losing 16. This left an anti-climax to the group but Melonie lifted herself once again to win her remaining set to finish second. While she was having her battle with Joanne her friend and doubles partner Helen Perrott from Avon was also displaying the results of hard work and determination by creating the big upset in her group, beating England's No. 2 Jill Powis.

Exeter 1-Star Junior Open (Feb. 9)

The weekend arrives again and the mums and dads brave the elements to get their budding stars to another venue in a different direction. This meant an earlier start and some had to dig their vehicles out of the snow before they could get started. But at the venue there was a warm welcome for all, first from the organisers who were pleased to see such numbers and from the fine refreshment facilities being attended by cheerful volunteers. I will relate the happenings of the day as they affected Somerset and news throughout the day was very warming with results on the draw sheets indicating good clashes to come. As was to be expected at a tournament so near to our borders our contingent was very large and with most players involved in two or more events the inevitable local clashes occurred. This was not a bad thing in some respects when consideration is given to the fact that there were no computer points to be won or lost here, and it gave the Somerset coaching staff an opportunity to observe any improvements or otherwise of players on our various ranking lists. I believe after this day that there was quite some topics for discussion.

Of the eight events we provided no less than six semi-finalists, and from these we were represented in five finals, some of

them reached this stage by defecting their own County players, Melonie Carey beating Sarah Webb and Payne doing the same against Barter.

The finals were hard-fought affairs but unfortunately for Somerset we only shared in a win when Melonie and Helen Perrott won the girls' doubles against Stevenson and Sarah Hammond. Helen collected her second winner's trophy when she won a hard-fought battle with Melonie over 3. Payne played well but had to bow the knee to a very much on form Rodney Thomas of Dorset. Another much improved player Paul Smith also showed his potential in a fine set with Michael Auchterlonie. One of the babes of the squad, in age only I might add was Sharon Fowler of Bridgwater who put up a spirited performance against Helen Wright of Devon in the final of the U-11 Girls' before losing to what I would term as the experienced edge of Helen. I myself have had a knock on coaching nights at Bridgwater with Sharon and I believe she will progress quite rapidly. This is where our County's distant future lies amongst these fledglings if they are given the correct tuition. Well played all of you Somerset players who took part and especially for those who had such a long day by reaching the finals and finding only a few friends or organisers present when your big moment came, after you have been trying to keep your arousal level right for two hours. Still I think that is one of the facts of Table Tennis life from the big senior tournaments to the lowest Junior ones. I hope it soon changes.

County Matches (Feb. 16).

Juniors v Berks II at Chilton School, Bridgwater. Also on same day in the evening at same venue the Senior II team entertained Dorset II. The Junior match was a convincing win for us of 8-2, and the second team won also 6-4. A good day for Somerset you might say, but it proved by the end of the day to be a really **great** day, as while our Juniors and Second team were doing battle at home, the County Senior 1st team was putting on a superb performance away to Wiltshire II at Swindon. The score being a very convincing 9-1 win to us with only one set going to 3. This win confirmed Somerset as the winners of Div. 3B and a well longed for promotion to that further challenge of stronger competition from which we can only benefit. The smile on the face of Brian Reeves, Captain, and for some years a stalwart of our team, said it all. This match also saw the debut of Melonie Carey in the County Senior first team as a full member and she produced a worthy per-

formance for the occasion winning her singles against Helen Wilson and partnering Rebecca Russee in a fine doubles win over Helen and Tracey Watkins. Well played all who have brought the County to this position with their play over the season, and the coaching backup.

Bridgwater Senior Closed at Chilton Trinity School (Feb. 17).

Once again a host of players from various areas of the County who play in this League assembled to do battle for the various divisional titles and for the Senior Individual titles open to all ages. The early birds being those involved in the U-12 events.

By mid-morning the Senior players were starting their events. A look at the seedings and knowing the playing standards of each gave no concern to those present that the form book would not prove correct. But what surprises they had in store for them as we saw players of both sexes causing upsets by raising their game for this occasion, proving once again how unpredictable this game can be at times. But I suppose in retrospect it could be said that some results were not a complete surprise when the potential of some players is a considered factor.

The most encouraging sight was to see how well our Juniors fared against the seniors, gaining some notable wins. For the boys, names worthy of mention must be Paul Smith who put on a superb performance in beating No. 1 seed Chris New in the final to win the Div. 1 title. Next Philip Payne reached the semis of the Premier by beating Lee Sadler No. 2 seed in the quarters, his opponent in the semi being Tony Murrell who proved just too strong with his all-loop game. The other semi featured David Lee v Paul Lewis from Avon who plays for the Avenue team. This set proved one of the biggest upsets in the men's events with Paul gaining revenge for a defeat by David the previous week in the League. This produced a good all action pairing for the final which went to the more consistent loop on both wings of Murrell. Well played lads.

Now to the ladies' competition which, as readers will know, I usually start with but I thought the men should get the first mention this time. Quite pleasing was the fight put up by the younger girls against senior opponents which I am sure pleased the coaching staff present. The seedings in this event were not disturbed as much as the men's until the final. The only change in the predicted semis being Joanne Bush from Millfield School beating Fiona Stuart in

County Notes

the quarters. In the semis Joanne met No. 1 seed Rebecca Russe who proved too strong for her. The other semi featured No. 2 seed Melonie Carey v Sarah Webb with Melonie going forward to meet Rebecca in the final. An interesting set in prospect and so it proved with both players showing great tenacity in clawing their way back from conceding a lead to the other. The set lasted for two games which sent some hearts into overdrive before Melonie emerged the winner to reverse her defeat in the final last season by Rebecca. This is Melonie's second capture of this title in 3 years.

The mixed doubles proved a double celebration for the individual winners with Tony and Melonie combining well to beat Lee Sadler and Rebecca in the final.

The men's doubles gave some consolation to David Lee and David Wilson for their losses in the singles. They produced a great display of defence and attack against another good combination in Lee Sadler and Mark Bryant. This is the fifth time in succession they have won this title.

Last, but by no means least, a mention about the players who have developed great skill over the years, but because they have reached a certain age they are referred to as veterans, a word not always considered for what it means by the younger element until they find themselves being given a lesson in basic deception shots and ball control and finding that the loop is not always able to be played from the positions that they find the ball is being returned on the table. I refer of course to the veterans, an entertaining final with Peter Butterworth getting the edge to win against Idris Lewis 18, 17.

Glamorgan Open Senior and Junior, Cardiff (Feb. 23).

Once more the Somerset hordes crossed the Severn to do battle in the lair of the dragon. This tournament attracted some very good players, and once again the competition was fierce both between English players and between Welsh and English with the inevitable upsets. Notable results from Somerset's contingent were Paul Smith, runner-up in the Cadets' singles, Philip Payne, winner of the Junior singles, Melonie Carey continuing her rivalry with her doubles partner Helen Perrott, losing to Helen in the Junior semi in the third. She then won the final beating Lisa Robins of Beds. Another Somerset/Avon battle was in prospect when in the women's event Melonie and Helen reached the semis again, Melonie beating Heidi Cotter of

Wales and Claire Hunter of Swindon and Helen beating her team mate Michelle Cohen from Bristol and Joanne Lee of Wales along the way. Again another nail-biting set going to three before Melonie ran out the winner. The final brought together old rivals from notable past matches with Evelyn Wright of Wales reaching the final. And what a heart-stopping final this was. This was a test of stamina and skill which both girls showed they have, Melonie losing the first -16 with Evelyn nearly chopping the ball in half to retrieve every smash. The second saw Melonie showing her resilience when 11-14 down to win it 21-18. The third also followed a similar pattern with Melonie again 11-14 down, but she then seemed to move into overdrive pulling Evelyn back to level at 18-18 when she went for three winners in a row which scored to give her the title 21-18 and her first win over Evelyn in five times. Melonie and Helen continued their doubles partnership reaching the final against Lesley Tyler and Heidi Cotter but not coming away with the spoils, losing in the third when Lesley used her experience to retrieve the situation. Another notable win for Somerset came in the men's singles when David Lee beat Neil Taylor in the second round.

Jack Chalkley reports from...

STAFFORDSHIRE FIRST SUCCESS

Our senior second team scored their first success of the season with a good win over Buckinghamshire by 6 sets to 4. Joanne Chubb came into the team and joined Jill Harris to give us two ladies' singles wins but surprisingly lost the women's doubles in two-straight. Greg Hallam had a singles victory but the star of the team was Bob Murray who won both his singles and took the doubles with Hallam. The team deserves this success. After problems with some of the higher ranked players in the County, this team of Greg, Bob and Dave Hanney and Jill Harris settled down to become the regular side, building up a good team spirit. These two points are a well-merited reward.

Unfortunately, Bob will be leaving us later this month to return to Bath. He played in the

BOB MURRAY, winner over Bill Bridgeman of the Stafford Men's Singles title.

Photo: Courtesy of Stafford Newsletter.

Bath league in the mid-70's and was county ranked in Avon at No. 2 behind Chris Sewell in '74/'75. Staffordshire supporters will remember Chris as a boy coming to Stafford in the early '70's to entertain us with an outstanding performance against Tony Isaac and John Pugh, if I remember rightly. Bob then played in the German league at Munchen-Gladbach before coming to Stafford five years ago. He leaves Stafford a few weeks after gaining for the first time the Stafford men's singles title, a thoroughly deserved honour for one who has made a notable contribution to table tennis at local level.

In the men's final Bob had to battle against the favourite, Bill Bridgeman, and in what turned out to be the best final for several years, he took the title 22-20, 21-19, Bridgeman serving a fault to lose the last point. The women's title went to Rachel Roberts, who in another excellent match beat Lynne Burgess 21-15, 26-24. Other results at the Stafford Closed were:-

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On behalf of all his colleagues in Staffordshire, may I extend our good wishes for the future to Bob Murray, and continuing success at both County and local level.

Our junior second team are making a splendid effort to stay

up with the top flight in Div. 2A and their latest win against neighbouring Warwickshire puts them firmly in the middle of the table, away from the relegation zone. The score of 7-3 is a good performance against a team including nationally-ranked No. 8, Mark Randle, and Stephen Slater continued his string of successes for the County by recording a 14, 18 win over the Warwick's No. 1, Angela Sanders surprisingly narrowly lost to Dawn Bromley but with Louise Sherratt, who won her singles, they took the girls' doubles. Ian Miller had a singles win, and Adrian Thorp, still a cadet, came in as No. 3 and played remarkably well to win both his singles. Slater also won both his singles but failed to take the doubles with Miller.

Entries for the County Closed are down by about 20% on previous years, and although a good day's table tennis is promised, it is likely to put another dent in the County's finances. Favourites for the titles are Andrew Bellingham, who should recapture the men's title after his absence last year, and Jill Harris, who in the absence of Fiona Elliot, should have a clear run to recapture the women's title which she held from 1980 to '83.

It's interesting to note that, following his good results at the Premier Weekend, Adrian Dixon has shot up to No. 47 in the national computer ranking list. Janet Dunning, last year's Staffs. Ladies' Champion, comes into the Women's list at No. 74, and in an extended men's list the



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Photo: Courtesy of Stafford Newsletter.

names of John Hancock (143), Mark Evans (151) and Eddie Wilkes (161) appear. Bellingham (24), Craig Bakewell (90), Andy Rich (95), Stan Deakin (96), Fiona Elliot (5), Jill Harris (9), and Jill Powis (26) retain their positions in the top rank.

I hesitate to reply to Murray Corbin's critical comments in his recent Championships Round-up. Whilst accepting, even agreeing with, his views on the desirability of giving proper support to County teams, I can only think that Mr. Corbin is a little out of touch with table tennis at the grass roots to consider it worthwhile putting into print such pointed remarks, coupled with offensive emotive phrases, directed at the Staffordshire Association. Were Dixon and Bakewell really chewing their fingers? Do we lack respect for our players? Amateurish, void of all professional pride, light yourself afire, enthusiasm....

A balanced report would, perhaps, have mentioned that the 'dinner' was an extra to the normal weekend, that it was not inexpensive and that it took place at the hotel which was sponsoring the weekend. The full range of normal meals were provided for the players. Perhaps we could have afforded the extra £50 or so, but that is a lot of money for a relatively small county. The careful observer will have spotted that Staffs. run four county sides and that all four have reached the highest divisions possible (2 premier, 2 second div.), a feat matched this season by only Yorkshire and Essex. It may well be that we are husbanding our limited resources in a better way..... 'for the benefit of (a wider number of) players'.

As with many associations, we have difficulty in filling official positions. Two of our leagues had serious administrative problems at the start of the season and one nearly folded. In the time we can afford we manage to cope with the normal range of activities, at the same time encouraging the spread of table tennis as best we can. Sponsorship requires a lot of additional activity. We are all limited in the time we have available. I was disappointed that Mr. Corbin failed to turn up at Yarnfield for the first Premier Weekend, but up to now I had not thought it necessary to make a point of it. We had local publicity but next to no national cover.

This is probably an appropriate time to comment on what I see as a problem about sponsorship. Of course, one can 'lean on' one's business friends and associates, as is often the case. But if one approaches sponsorship on the proper basis of having something to sell, and giving

value for money, table tennis is in rather a difficult situation. No longer does it attract the general public as a spectator, nor seemingly the average run of club player. Despite good publicity in local papers and local radio, and circulation amongst the clubs and leagues in the County, we only had 40 paying customers at Yarnfield - the rest were players and officials, organisers and helpers. Most Premier Weekends don't even bother to cater for spectators. So what have we got to offer a sponsor? Table tennis at Premier Division level should surely be of high enough standard to be worth watching. If not, why not? Why does the club player not bother to give support? Until this changes, table tennis will continue to struggle, but I will leave the search for the answers to the Letters Column rather than allow these County Notes to be drawn into the general controversy. After all, I'm a Jack, not a John, if you see what I mean.

In the Schools' individual championships, Helen Lower (U-16), Adrian Thorp (U-16) and Dawn Gardener go through to represent the West Midlands, and Garry Knights and Emma Carlton represent Staffordshire Schools at the U-13 level. The other age groups have still to be played off. We wish them good fortune at the national competitions.

Finally, advanced notice of next year's Closed. It will again be at Northwood on March 9th or 16th - the alternative date to that selected will be the Potteries Closed.

Ian Bullock reports from....

SUFFOLK IPSWICH CLOSED

The Ipswich Closed, sponsored by Sun Life Assurance, was once again held at the Corn Exchange, Ipswich from 15th-17th March. Over the weekend, 190 competitors played a total of 542 games at a very pleasant venue and some 150 spectators turned up on the Sunday night to witness the finals. The trophies were presented by the President, Doris Fox and Mr. Graham Balfe of Sun Life. Joyce Love and her organising committee must have been very pleased with the smooth and efficient manner in which the event was organised and thanks must be accorded once again to all the officials who supported her.

The men's final between John Kitchener and Paul Gooding provided a thrilling finale to Finals Night with the youngster pushing John all the way in the first game, having established an early lead which he held on to, only to

be overtaken at 18 by John who scraped a 22-20 win. It was a different story in the second when John altered his pattern of services and won comfortably with Paul proving himself a worthy runner-up. Dave Halliday returned in the Veterans' Final to defeat the wily Rob Milne who still managed to entertain the spectators with his extrovert approach to the game.

Results:

Div. 1	Divisional Winners	Div. Runners-up
Div. 2	Richard Hagger	Andrew Brown
Div. 3	Andrew Dasher	David Howe
Div. 4	Michael Howson	Darren Earrey
Div. 5	David Underwood	Doug. Clarke
Div. 6	Doug. Ratcliffe	Stephen Creasey
	Steven Molyneux	Alan Board
Cadet Girls	Winner	Runner-up
	Andrea Ambrose	Karen Perkins
Cadet Boys		
	Lee Scrivener	Peter George
Junior Girls		
	Sylvia Kenyon	Karen Perkins
Junior Boys		
	Chris Nicholls	Richard Hutchinson
Junior Doubles		
	Wayne Shaw/Keith Norman bt Shaun Caraccio/ Paul Gooding 26. -13. 19.	
Women's Doubles		
	Sue Butcher/Dawn Harvey bt Karen Perkins/ Sue Welham 12. -17. 13.	
Mixed Doubles		
	John Kitchener/Welham bt Keith Basket/ Butcher 5. 11.	
Men's Doubles		
	Paul Gooding/Chris Shepherd bt Kitchener/ Malcolm Davis -20. 21. 19.	
Restricted Singles		
	Richard Hagger bt Jonathan Foulds -19. 11. 10.	
Veterans Singles		
	Dave Halliday bt Rob Milne 14. 9.	
Women's Singles		
	Welham bt Butcher 13. 18.	
Men's Singles		
	Kitchener bt Gooding 20. 9.	

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Britannia Deepsure continued their unbeaten run in the new year with a 4-4 draw at Witham and a 5-3 home win against Playrite Northampton. Manager Paul Hutchinson, a firm believer in bleeding youngsters, has used nine players and has noticed a marked improvement in the form of the younger players as they gain experience. Gooding in particular, is now ranked 23 in the Lentec Junior rankings. Kitchener is winning consistently and has been ably supported by Mick Palmer who had a very well deserved win against the accomplished McKim of Playrite. Deepsure have now accumulated 12 points and with 3 games to play could possibly finish in the top 3 although they have to rely upon E. Anglian rivals Norwich Foxwood and Witham dropping points.

CARTER CUP

On Tuesday, March 19th the Ipswich team of Gooding, Richard Hutchinson and Chris Nicholls travelled to Willesden to meet a very young, hard-hitting team of cadets in the quarter-final. Richard's defensive style of counter hitting enabled him to win two sets whilst the in-form Gooding notched all three with combinations of heavy loops and hard hitting. Chris, making his debut, was somewhat nervous

but all his scores were close despite coming second. The semi-final will be played either at Woolwich or Bournemouth.

SCHOOLS

Congratulations to Tim Collins and his Old Buckenham Hall team of boys who have reached the National Finals of the Dunlop National Team Championships which will now have been played at Matlock.

The County Finals of the Dunlop Individual Championships were held at Orwell Park School, Ipswich on March 3. The winners progress to the National Finals to be held at Mansfield Leisure Centre on Sunday, May 5.

U-19	Boy*	Nigel Howe (Ipswich) R/up Philip Marshall (Mildenhall)
	Girl:	Maxine Cobbold (Stowmarket)
U-16	BOY	Wayne Shaw (Ipswich) R/up Kieth Norman (Ipswich)
	GIRL	Denise Hinks (Haverhill) R/up Rosemary Bullock (Ipswich)
U-13	BOY	Rupert de Quincy Adams (O.B.H.) R/up Stuart Morgan (O.B.H.)
	GIRL	Karen Perkins (Ipswich) R/up Jayne Wigg (Lowestoft)
U-11	BOY	Andrew Hall (Ipswich) R/up James Harrison (O.B.H.)
	GIRL	Sophie Huzin (Ipswich) R/up Suzanne Burdett (Ipswich)

County secretary Val Fletcher has arranged a coaching session to be directed by Peter Hurst at Stowupland School on Saturday April 27 from 9 a.m. till 1 p.m. for all the above players.

Finally, many thanks to Peter Mornard for staging the event which ran very smoothly.

DIARY DATES:

April 14 - Britannia Club Championships.
April 21 - National League.
Britannia Deepsure at Halex Crusaders Lincoln.
May 3 - Britannia 30th Anniversary Club Dinner Dance.

April 14	Britannia Club Championships
April 21	National League. Britannia Deepsure at Halex Crusaders, Lincoln.
May 3	Britannia 30th Anniversary Club Dinner Dance.
May 4th	County Senior Championships at Waveney Sports and Leisure Centre, Lowestoft.
May 5th	National League. Britannia Deepsure v E.A.E. Waveney at Ipswich.
May 11th	County Junior Championships at Stowupland High School, near Stowmarket
May 19th	National League. Britannia Deepsure v Hassy Perf-Soham (away).

The closing dates for the Senior and Junior Championships are 20th and 27th April respectively.

Michael Green reports from. . .

SURREY

SIMMONDS SAVES THE DAY

In the Veterans 2B Division Surrey had only won one match.

County Notes

So we just had to beat Avon at home to attempt to escape from the relegation zone. There is some doubt on how many teams are relegated. Wiltshire appear doomed and if another team is to go it appears between Surrey, Avon and Berkshire.

Against Avon, with the score at 4-4 Brian Simmonds faced Baker, their No 2 who had earlier beaten Gordon Chapman. Brian lost the 1st game, but there were signs during it that he had the ability to win. He couldn't, however, have guessed what was to come. Baker collapsed, like a balloon without air, to the probing of Brian's delicate forehand loop and pimply punching backhand drives. This particular shot being devastating to the unwary and difficult to those in the know. Brian won 6, 7 in the second and third.

Three times this season we have gone into the last set at 4-4 but this was the first time we had finished winners.

Earlier Jenny Vass had won for the third successive time and with Brian she also won the mixed. If Jenny played more regularly she has the game and ability to become one of England's top veterans. To achieve that rating, however, she has to become more consistent with her loop (excellent when it goes on); her kill is equal to any other lady veteran I have seen.

Jenny will miss the last match of the season against Sussex because she shortly goes into hospital. We wish her the best of luck and a speedy recovery and hope she will continue the winning habit next season.

Frank Hams won the other set, but Gordon for the second successive match couldn't win a set.

This win was important because if it does enable us not to be relegated we hope to enter another team last year. If any veterans, in Surrey, wish to be considered please let me know.

At the end of the match the refreshments were again prepared by Margaret Jones. Our thanks go to her for the splendid food she has provided for all our home games.

Kent 2-Star

In this event we had 3 men's quarter-finalists with Nicky Mason going on to reach the final. Mike Hammond lost to David Tan -12, 15, -16 and Glen Baker lost to Colin Wilson 17 -10, -16.

In the final, Nicky beat Wells -15, 18, 9.

Michele Hams lost in the third of the girls' under-20 to Sue Collier, but in the women's Michele lost to the eventual winner Mandy Sainsbury, in the quarters. Jane Barella lost to Sue

Collier in both events after earlier beating Leslie Popkiewicz.

In the veterans' Ron Wilde almost beat the eventual winner Pete D'Arcy in the quarters. Frank Hams lost to Derek Schofield at the same stage.

South of England 3-Star

The South of England tournament referee has discovered my secret - I'm a masochist. I like to take an ice cold shower every morning in a cold bathroom - so I take a warm one! He knows I like to play my games reasonably close together - so he put me in a restricted singles group at 10.20am and a men's singles group at 8pm. I didn't turn-up for the first event (so giving up the pleasure of waiting!) and I'm sorry to the player inconvenienced.

But some players played in the restricted event and did not want to experience the pleasure of waiting hours for the main event, very much inconveniencing players who did wait. Surely there is a way to organise the two events so that there is less waiting time? Otherwise the problem of disappearing players will never disappear! If there are rules which govern tournaments in relation to this, perhaps they should be changed.

Incidentally the playing conditions, although lightning fast, were excellent.

The English Open

Desmond Douglas and other players have had their wish for more prize money in the Men's Singles. But is the excellent entry in the veterans' now subsidising that event? How much did the winner of the veterans' event get last year? I wonder what the ratio is to the increase in entry to the increase in prize money for both events?

Surrey had no player who got past the first round in the men's singles. David Dewsbury, however, in qualifying for the 1st round had excellent wins over M. Billington and T. Washington.

In the women's, Michele Hams lost in the 5th to Helen Williams and Jane Barella also lost first time out, to Jackie Bellinger.

In the veterans' Hams lost to R. Gunnion in Rd. 2 but Chapman went one better losing to Shearer in the quarters.

In this event Simmonds lost to L. Saywell. There was a query regarding Saywell's bat. Apparently the umpire passed the bat before the set started. After the 1st game Brian queried that decision. Both match officials conferred and agreed that the referee should be consulted. Mr. Saywell then showed the referee a similar bat with the name of the rubber upon it. To be fair both rubbers appeared to be similar and the referee accepted his

assurances on the matter. Why he didn't ask him to play with the bat that had the name upon it, as the law requires, I don't know, but he put Brian in an invidious position by asking him to agree to continue playing against an 'illegal' bat.

Thames Valley League

In the Rose Bowl competition Jane Barella, Michele Hams and Deborah Simmond's fine run of wins came to an end when they met North Middlesex represented by Sarah Sandley, Angela Mitchell and Shirely Williams (nee Cain). They lost 1-5 with Michele having an excellent win against Sarah.

In the league things are hotting up with Chessington I determined to retain the title. Spicer I, II and Elmbridge I are all chasing and much will depend on how many matches Chessington I rearrange to enable Mike Hammond to play. In this league points are given for every set won so they will struggle without his contribution. Already I understand they've postponed at least 2 matches!! No doubt the league will check if Rule 23 is being infringed. Also they conveniently fielded a stronger reserve to replace their normal No. 3 in a recent crucial match!

Dulwich Closed held at Oliver Goldsmith School.

M.S: Ray Tilling bt John Burleton
W.S: Chris Hartnett bt Mandy Jackson
V.S: Danny Kinnard bt Sid Timms
X.D: Winners Chris & Phil Hartnett
M.D: J. Burleton/Tilling bt Derek Brown/T. Ademakinwa

The co-operation of the School-keeper and his assistant was greatly appreciated by all the tournament officials.

Sutton League Closed

Youth Singles Richard Tanner bt Simon Hurley
Restricted Winner: Colin Clark
Mens Open Semi's Emil Emezc bt R. Tanner
Selwyn Walmsley bt Om Sareen
Final Walmsley beat Emezc 17 18

Walmsley with his partner Ray Ellis also won the men's doubles. In the league the title looks as if it might go to Rosehill 'A' although Wallington Crusaders and Rosehill 'C' are still in contention.

Byfleet League Closed

M.S: Norman Sliikin bt Steve Baggott
W.S: Deborah Simmonds bt Jane Mills
M.D: Baggott/John Mitchell bt Mike Barratt/J. Garland
V.D: Sliikin/Simmonds Snr bt Barratt/Garland
W.D: Winners: Vera Beesley/Simmonds
X.D: D. Simmonds/Brian Simmonds Jnr bt Mills/Baggott
V.S: B. Simmonds bt Sliikin

In the league (Div. 1) Gildas Morris are leading the rest with Mouchel 'A' having a lot to do to catch up.

Croydon League

1st Division: Hartley Down are now way out in front. Chasing them, but with many points to catch up, Sanderstead and Woodmansterne.

The League hope to arrange a

closed tournament shortly. The most likely time is early May. So don't put your bats away until after that date.

Surrey Schools' Championship

Surrey School TT would like to thank King's College School, Wimbledon for the use of their gymnasium when holding this tournament. Their thanks also go to Cornilleau who supplied the tables and Dunlop who supplied the balls and also sponsored the raffle.

The winners and losers listed below were among a total of 252 players, which included 103 in the boys' U-13 event. An excellent response to a tournament organised and refereed by John Wright in his usual splendid manner.

Boys
U-19 Matthew Pernet bt Melville Taylor
U-16 Pernet w/o Richard Jones
U-15 Jones bt Pernet
U-13 Jeremy Krzyzysniak bt A. Hole
U-11 Jason Blake bt Tom Courtney-Evans

Girls
U-19 Rachel Knight bt Cheryl Bateman
U-16 Knight bt Bateman
U-15 Lisa Pritchett bt Tracy Pritchett
U-13 Amanda Dewsbury bt Karen Ashley
U-11 Miranda Markham bt Clare Woodham

Nicky's (K) Need

Nicky Mason tells me that he injured his knee at an England Training Camp. It is possible that he may require a cartilage operation. Imagine his surprise when he was told that he was not insured by the ETTA. To have this operation on the NHS might take months and to have it done privately could cost around £1000. Naturally, if it is that serious he needs the operation done quickly.

Do the ETTA have any contact with an insurance company in Norwich who might be able to help. A damaged cartilage is bad enough but what compensation would a player get if he broke a leg?

Surely it is essential that players in this situation should be insured.

Nina Tsakarisianos

We, in Surrey, hope that it was a misprint, in Gloucester notes, that said 'Nina would be in hospital for an "indefinite" period.' I first met Nina and her father Peter when Michele played her in a cadet tournament five or six years ago at Newbury.

We hope she is soon well and playing again, before long.

Mary Rose reports from.....

WARWICKSHIRE COUNTY HOPES DASHED

Our hopes of returning to the Premier Division of the County Championships vanished on Feb. 16 when in the vital match

against Leicestershire, the team suffered a 6-4 defeat.

The match was staged by the Nuneaton League under excellent conditions and was very well supported. It was an exciting and nerve-racking encounter and a first class advertisement for our game.

After being 1-3 down the home team recovered to level at 3-3, Barry Johnson winning 19 in the third against Dave Gannon, followed by a great win by Sandra Peakman against Julie Revill. The County then went ahead with a doubles win by Morgan/Johnson.

Then disaster - Carl Morgan lost to Rogers 23 in the third - the one set we relied on to end with a draw, which was all we required for promotion.

However, it was not to be - but was even more frustrating when, in a National League match the following week, Morgan beat Chris Rogers and Phil Gunn beat Gannon.

JUNIORS

Our Juniors also had disappointing results. The 'A' team losing 1-9 to Yorkshire, and 3-7 to Staffs, whilst the 'B' side went down 3-7 to Bedfordshire.

MIDLAND LEAGUE BIRMINGHAM

To date, the season has been a disappointing one for at least one of Birmingham's teams in the Midland League.

In particular, the failure of the Men's side to retain their place in Div. 1, although not unexpected, has stressed our lack of strength, winning only one match out of six, and with relegation to Div. 2 next season, is not a particularly bright thought for the future.

It must be pointed out that none of Birmingham's leading players were included as the Johnsons, Lester Bertie, and the Gunns had National League commitments and our second line up were just not strong enough.

Fortunately all has not been lost. The Juniors are building up a reputation. The 'A' team in Div. 2 have a chance of finishing as Champions and win promotion to Div. 1. The team of Verandra Chauhan, Nigel Mayo, Darren Smith, have a record of three wins, one draw and two matches still to play against Pontesbury and Walsall.

The Junior 'B' have an even better record - four wins from four played, with one match left against Stafford. A win would put them at the top. Well done - Lee Jeffries, Nicky Felton, Haroon Rashid and Singh.

As usual, the Women's 'A' team are expected to finish as runners-up to the highly-ranked Wolverhampton side. The

Women's 'B' side have fared well, taking a valuable point from Nottingham, and recording an even better result against Leicester winning 8-2.

BIRMINGHAM WIN COTSWOLD LEAGUE

Congratulations to Birmingham who after 3 years competing in the popular Cotswold Ladies League have won the Championship of Div. 1 without the loss of a point, a great team effort, partially making up for last season's disappointment of finishing second to Worcester on games average only.

The team of Sue Culbertson, Ann Lloyd and Joan Harden played in all six matches and a good team spirit developed. Every player played her part, Sue being the match winner against last year's champion's Worcester winning all her three, beating Janet Hunt in the final set for a 6-4 win, and Joan and Ann taking the honours against a strong Swindon side which Birmingham won 7-3.

Well played ladies, its good to have Birmingham's name on another trophy.

LILLESALL WEEK-END

Birmingham propose to hold a Weekend Coaching Course at Lilleshall Hall - 1st to 3rd November 1985.

It is hoped to arrange for Donald Parker (England's National Trainer) to be in charge of the Course but as we are limited to 20 places, early application is advisable. Contact Maurice Goldstein, 31 Blenheim Road, Moseley, Birmingham B13 9TY for further details.

NATIONAL CUP COMPETITIONS

Birmingham continue to make steady progress in the Willmot Cup (Men's Competition). Carl Morgan, Alan Fletcher, and Ian Gunn gained a 6-2 win over local (and strong) rivals, Wolverhampton, in Round 2, then overwhelmed Dunstable 5-1 in the next round.

The Zone Final is against Cambridge at the Redhill Club on Saturday 30 March.

Our Carter Cup (Boys) hopes faded when the Junior team of Smith, Mayo and Felton found the Coventry side of Thomas, Hayward and Swallow too strong, losing 3-6. Nicky Felton did well beating both Hayward and Thomas.

The Girls' team represented by Dawn Bromley, Lisa Spilsbury and Alison Ledwitch, unfortunately lost 7-2 to Luton in the Bromfield Trophy. Dawn winning the 2 for Birmingham.

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

The Warwickshire "Closed" will again be held at the West

Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled, Tile Hill, Coventry, on Sunday, 28th April, 1985.

The Birmingham "Closed" Championships will be played at the Birmingham Athletic Institute (Main Hall) Balsall Heath Road, on Sunday, 7 April.

To finish, I realise this month's notes are mainly taken up with Birmingham matters, but as I have not received any news from other areas within Warwickshire, I have been unable to report on their efforts and achievements, I hope this can be remedied next month.

Laurie Selby reports from...

WILTSHIRE SHOCKS GALORE

There were more shocks in the Swindon senior championships than in a Hammer horror film.

Top of the shockers was teenager Jon Hook who sensationally disposed of the hot favourite Neil Taylor.

Juniors Paul Tuck and Raymond Powell also served up an eye-opener when they snapped up the men's doubles title against all the odds.

Another unseeded player to get in on the winning act was Michael Oxley who won the veterans' singles.

But with heads rolling all around her, Swindon's table tennis queen Claire Maisey majestically extended her reign.

She ended an action packed day with three crowns - the singles, women's and mixed doubles.

But the big surprise came in the men's singles when Hook defeated Taylor, the top seed, who has not lost a set in his first season in the Swindon league.

The unseeded Hook frustrated and finally blunted the Australian's searing attack with his blocking game.

Hook beat Taylor in the semi-final but couldn't quite match the performance in the final.

He did win a game against second seed Steve McBean but the former champion took an iron grip on the deciding game to snatch back the title he lost to Andrew Metcalfe last season.

Claire Maisey looked invincible as she swept to her third successive women's singles title.

In the final she comfortably defeated Helen Wilson who caused an upset in the semis by beating second seed Tracey Watkins.

But Tracey got her hands on the women's doubles trophy when she teamed with Claire to beat Helen Wilson and Claire Hunter in the final.

Claire claimed title number three in the mixed with Taylor.

They beat Andrew Oxley and Helen Wilson in the final.

Tuck and Powell hit scintillating form to add the men's doubles to the boys' doubles title they won earlier.

They beat top seeds Andrew and Graham Oxley and third seeds Brian Powell and Ernie Howell on the way to the final.

And in the final they capped a fine display by beating second seeds Taylor and Alan Duke.

Another toppler of top seeds was Michael Oxley who beat Howell, the No. 1, in the semi-final and Basil Thompson, No. 2, in the final.

The championship for players in the second, third and fourth divisions went to Jenny Neale who beat Mark Powell in the final.

Trophies were presented by Swindon league president Gordon Townsend and the tournament was held for the first time at Hreod Parkway School.

Results:

M.S: s-fs: S. McBean bt R. Hughes 14, 16; J. Hook bt N. Taylor 18, 18.
Final: McBEAN bt Hook 14, -16, 12.
W.S: s-fs: C. Maisey bt J. Neale 13, 11; H. Wilson bt T. Watkins 18, 19.
Final: MAISEY bt Wilson 9, 18.
V.S: s-fs: M. Oxley bt E. Howell 18, 8; B. Thompson bt B. Freeman 5, 9.
Final: OXLEY bt Thompson -9, 13, 16.
M.D: s-fs: R. Powell/P. Tuck bt B. Powell/E. Howell 20, 13;
 Taylor/A. Duke bt Hook/S. Davies -12, 15, 18.
Final: POWELL/TUCK bt Taylor/Duke -20, 17, 16.
W.D: s-fs: Maisey/Watkins bt L. Cox/S. Morse 8, 9;
 Wilson/C. Hunter bt Neale/B. Lee 7, -19, 13.
Final: MAISEY/WATKINS bt Wilson/Hunter 25, 13.
X.D: s-fs: Taylor/Maisey bt Hook/Watkins 13, 11;
 M. Oxley (Jun)/Wilson bt S. Davies/D. Aldridge 12, 17.
Final: TAYLOR/MAISEY bt Oxley/Wilson 13, 14.
Divisional singles, s-fs: Miss J. Neale bt K. Meader 19, -18, B;
 M. Powell bt J. Singh -20, 14, 12.
Final: MISS NEALE bt Powell 14, -18, 9.

Signed, sealed and delivered - that was the neat package tied up by the seeds in the Swindon junior tournament.

There was only one small loose end as the ranked players kept their challengers dangling on a string.

Paul Tuck, top seed, did what was expected of him in the boys' singles when he beat Raymond Powell, the second seed, in the final.

But Powell wasted a 16-9 lead in the opening game and had a six point advantage in the second before Tuck's more consistent game took him to victory.

Last year the bridesmaid, this year the bride - that was the story of Jenny Neale who won the girls' singles.

Jenny, the top seed, was runner-up last season but she finished in pride of place after beating Lorraine Cox in the final.

Jenny was forced to a deciding game before she clinched her victory.

The top seeds met in the U-15 singles but the title went to No. 2 seed Mark Powell.

His win against Martin Edwards

County Notes

was the nearest thing to a shock in the tournament. Powell lost the opening game and looked to be slipping to defeat in the second. But he hit back to take the second and sneaked out in the third.

Nathan Pickett was another top seed to sail calmly to the winners' rostrum. He won the U-13 singles with a straight games victory over Alex Collar.

Tuck and Raymond Powell teamed up to take the boys' doubles. The No. 1 seeds ran out straight games winners over the second seeds, Ian Neate and Edwards.

The tournament was staged at Hreod Burna school and trophies were presented by Gordon Townsend, president of the Swindon and District League.

Results:

B.S. s-fs: P. Tuck bt M. Oxley 18, 18; R. Powell bt I. Neate 18, 16.
Final: TUCK bt Powell 20, 14.
G.S. s-fs: J. Neale bt S. Vowles 8, 10; L. Cox bt R. Watkins 2, 13.
Final: NEALE bt Cox 15, -14, 6.
U-15 Singles: s-fs:
 M. Edwards bt C. Worgan 18, 15;
 M. Powell bt S. Ely 10, 12, 6;
Final: POWELL bt Edwards -19, 18, 19.
U-13 Singles: s-fs:
 N. Pickett bt P. Collar 14, 5;
 A. Collar bt D. Bellamy 17, 19.
Final: PICKETT bt Collar 18, 9.
Junior Division: s-fs:
 J. McCormick bt M. Fry 8, 6;
 Pickett bt S. Fry 9, 14.
Final: MCCORMICK bt Pickett 15, -18, 16.
Boys' Doubles: Final:
 TUCK/R. POWELL bt Neate/Edwards 14, 14.

There was double delight for the two top Wiltshire teams in the County Championships.

The senior first team breathed a sigh of relief when they swept aside their relegation fears with an 8-2 victory over Gloucestershire.

And the top junior team kept their promotion programme rolling with a 6-4 win against Sussex.

The juniors staged a dramatic finale to their match at Huntispool.

They were locked at 4-4 when Jenny Neale stepped up to give Wiltshire a vital lead. Then Raymond Powell won the final set to pinch both points for Wilts.

Jenny Neale and Julie Mills again provided a solid foundation for victory. Both were undefeated and Powell also chipped in with two singles.

Wilts seniors had to win against bottom-placed Gloucs. to stay clear of relegation. And they did it in style.

Kevin Satchell, Kevin Edwards, Claire Maisey and Janet Parker were all undefeated in the match at Gloucester.

But both Wiltshire second teams were trounced. The seniors were battered 9-1 by Somerset, Tracey Watkins scoring Wiltshire's only success.

The juniors seconds were thrashed 10-0 by Surrey seconds. Both matches were played in Swindon.

Senior results:

Wiltshire I v Gloucestershire:
 Neil Taylor lost to Kevin Satchell -9, -14;
 Andrew Golding bt Andrew Oxley 8, 19;
 Darren Griffin lost to Kevin Edwards -18, -19;
 Christine Robb/Christine Jacopi lost to Claire Maisey/Janet Parker -12, -14;
 Taylor/Golding lost to Satchell and Edwards -25, -14.
 Taylor bt Oxley 8, 15;
 Jacopi lost to Parker -14, -18;
 Griffin lost to Satchell -10, -16;
 Robb lost to Maisey -5, -6;
 Golding lost to Edwards 15, -14, -12.

Wiltshire II v Somerset:
 Graham Oxley lost to Brian Reeves -14, -14;
 Jon Hook lost to Lee Sadler -14, -14;
 Brian Powell lost to David Lee -8, -13.
 Helen Wilson/Tracey Watkins lost to Rebecca Russe/Mary Carey 16, -14, -13;
 Powell/Oxley lost to Reeves/Sadler -15, -13.
 Oxley lost to Sadler -13, -17;
 Wilson lost to Carey -16, -15;
 Powell lost to Reeves -16, -20;
 Watkins bt Russe 15, 12;
 Hook lost to Lee -4, -8.

Junior Results:

Wiltshire I v Sussex:
 Patrick Street bt Paul Tuck -12, 17, 17;
 David Mammone lost to Ian Neate -17, -19;
 Paul Elphick lost to Raymond Powell 14, -14, -13;
 Lyn Tussell/Debbie Holloway lost to Jenny Neale/Julie Mills -6, -15;
 Elphick/Street bt Tuck/Powell -17, 19, 11;
 Street bt Neate 19, 13;
 Holloway lost to Mills -20, 17, -19;
 Elphick bt Tuck 15, -13, 14;
 Tussell lost to Neale -18, -13;
 Mammone lost to Powell -11, -21.
Wiltshire II v Surrey II:
 Mark Powell lost to Matthew Pernet -8, -21;
 Clive Sims lost to Peter Burgess Allan -9, 15, -16;
 Mark Colyer lost to Simon Phillips -17, -16;
 Lorraine Cox/Susan Vowles lost to Cheryl Bateman/Eloise Kerr -10, 16, -6;
 Colyer/Powell lost to Pernet/Burgess Allan -15, -17.
 Powell lost to Burgess Allan -15, 21, -22;
 Vowles lost to Kerr -16, -11;
 Elphick bt Pernet -20, 20, -12;
 Cox lost to Bateman 18, -18, -19;
 Sims lost to Phillips -11, 20, -14.

Swindon players are heading the way in four sections of the Wiltshire rankings.

Claire Maisey, following her tremendous form in the Swindon championships, is the undisputed No. 1 in the women's list.

Tuck and Jenny Neale, head the under-18 sections.

Rachel Watkins in the under 12 section is Swindon's other table topper.

Satchell remains without a serious challenger as No. 1 in the men's section with Edwards second.

Current Wiltshire champion Terry Bruce is No. 3 but both he and McBean, No. 4, have asked not to be selected for the county.

Full rankings are:

Men: 1 K. Satchell (W. Wilts), 2 K. Edwards (W. Wilts), 3 T. Bruce (Sal), 4 S. McBean (Swi), 5 J. Chandler (W. Wilts), 6 B. Powell (Swi), 7 R. Hughes (Swi), 8 G. Oxley (Cal), 9 A. Oxley (Cal), 10 M. Oxley (Cal), 11 K. Harford (W. Wilts), 12 S. Davies (Swi), 13 J. Hook (Swi), 14 A. Metcalfe (Swi), 15 R. Powell (Swi), 16 P. Tuck (Swi), 17 A. Duke (Swi), 18 M. Holt (Sal), 19 D. Richards (Dev), 20 L. Morse (Swi).

Women: 1 C. Maisey (Swi), 2 J. Parker (Swi), 3 T. Watkins (Swi), 4 B. Lee (Swi), 5 A. Boyce (Dev), 6 H. Wilson (Swi), 7 C. Hunter (Swi), 8 J. Neale (Swi), 9 P. Townsend (Swi), 10 D. Aldridge (Swi), 11 S. Morse (Swi), 12 J. Mills (Cal), 13 C. Richards (Dev), 14 A. Morse (Swi).

Boys: 1 Tuck, 2 R. Powell (Swi), 3 I. Neate (Swi), 4 M. Colyer (Dev), 5 M. Auchterlonie (Sal), 6 M. Powell (Swi), 7 C. Sims (W. Wilts), 8 J. Neale (Swi), 9 S. Ely (Swi), 10 L. Godbold (Swi), 11 J. Singh (Swi), 12 M. Kemp (Swi).

Girls: 1 Neale, 2 Mills, 3 L. Cox (Swi), 4 S. Vowles, 5 S. Phillips (Sal), 6 T. Mills (Cal), 7 R. Watkins (Swi).

Cadet Boys: 1 Auchterlonie, 2 P. Timms (Swi), 3 M. Nelson (Swi), 4 C. Morgan (Swi), 5 N. Pickett (Swi), 6 D. Bellamy (Swi), 7 M. Willis (Swi), 9 A. Collar (Swi), 10 M. Willis (Swi).

Cadet Girls: 1 Mills, 2 Watkins.
U-12 Boys: 1 Auchterlonie, 2 Pickett, 3 Bellamy, 4 P. Fry (Swi), 5 A. Collar (Swi), 6 A. Willis (Swi).
U-12 Girls: 1 Watkins, 2 Mills.

Swindon's women's team went out of the National Rose

Bowl competition when they lost 5-2 to Bournemouth.

But the home side went on to fight their third round victory.

The opening two rubbers were both close. Jenny Neale battled hard before losing to Sarah Thomas -18, 16, -19 in the opening set.

Brenda Lee also lost by a whisker when she went down -20, -20 to Samm Scott-Pawson.

But Tracey Watkins put Swindon on the scoreboard with her 12, 21 victory over Leanne Harman.

Another close set went Bournemouth's way when Miss Neale was pipped -19, -19 to Miss Scott-Pawson.

Swindon's hopes were again kept alive by Miss Watkins who beat Miss Thomas 15, 11.

But the visitors' joy was short lived. Miss Harman beat Miss Lee 18, 15 and Miss Scott-Pawson sewed up the match when she defeated Miss Watkins 19, 15.

Doug Moss reports from...

WORCESTERSHIRE SHOCK FOR CLAXTON

The month of March sees the Leagues involved in their annual Individual Championships. There was somewhat of a surprise in the Worcester Men's Singles when Bill Dawe, the No. 2 seed, beat Simon Claxton two straight, the second being at 'deuce'. Bill has been travelling from Glos. and playing regularly for YMCA in Worcester Div. I. Lynda Reid met Janet Hunt in the Ladies' final, which was a repeat of the County Veterans' Ladies' final. Lynda repeated her success with a two straight win. Lewis Siket beat Dean Kloos in the Intermediates final but Dean had compensation in winning the Junior Singles title meeting S. Reen in the final. Claxton gained revenge over Dawe when with partner Siket they beat Dawe and Ken Firkins. With Debbie Hough not available, Diana Moss stepped in to partner Claxton. They reached the final and things were even until the half way stage in the 3rd when Nicky Mytton and Lynda Reid forged ahead to win 14. With a small entry in the Ladies' Doubles there was a draw made for partners. This enabled the Worcester Girl Cadets to show their worth and they certainly played well with their more experienced partners. Helen Pogmore and Nicola Jones lost at -21 in the decider to Janet Hunt and Beryl Shammou. Sheila Foley and 12-year-old Michelle McDornell played well to beat Lynda Reid and Sarah Stone to reach the

final. Sheila and Michelle played well but the more experienced pair were not to be beaten and Janet and Beryl took the title.

In the Junior events Mark Woodward was in a class of his own in the under-12 Competition. The Under-14 championship is open to boys and girls. David Pendry, who is a promising player with 3 more years as a junior, beat Nicola Jones 19 in the 3rd. The Girls' Singles Championship was played as a group with 13-year-old Nicola Jones coming out as the winner for the second year in succession. Sarah Stone was the runner-up on this occasion. The doubles was a draw for partner competition separating the stronger and weaker players. Phil Lewis was lucky to draw his usual partner Gary Vicarage, who just got into the weaker section. They swept all before them to win the title. There was however a remarkable fight by Dean Kloos who, with 12-year-old Sarah Steade who had previously not played competitively, did very well to reach the final - much to the delight of his partner!

In the Bromsgrove League Championships, Tim Holder, County Junior player and now nationally ranked as No. 41 Junior, retained the title beating T. Schafer in the final. Tim was partnered by David Rogers in the Men's Doubles and they defeated A. Taylor and Brian de St. Croix, former County Association secretary and expert Bowls player, in the final. B. Martin was the winner of the Handicap Singles title beating D. Holdsworth in the final. Tim Holder became a triple champion when he beat John Lakin in the Junior Singles final.

The Malvern League Men's Singles title was retained by Lewis Siket, the No. 1 seed, who beat Brian Thompson in the final. Lewis and partner Dave Smith however failed to hold onto their doubles title when they were somewhat surprisingly beaten by Alan Salisbury and Ray Page. The title was won by Willy Ahern and Paul Ashcroft who beat the father and son team of Brian and Neil Thompson -15, 16 in the final. Thompson also won the Veterans' Singles event beating team mate Malcolm Dicks 13, 16. Janet Hunt retained the ladies' singles title triumphing over Sheila Foley 20, 8. There were only two junior entries! Richard Pratley beat Mark Gibson 13, 20.

In the English Closed Senior Championships Murray Jukes again emphasised his quality as a doubles player when with partner Adrian Dixon they reached the Quarter-Final. At this stage they were eclipsed by Desmond Douglas and Carl Preen. Janet

Hunt reached the semi-final of the Veterans' ladies' singles when she again had to meet the ultimate winner Doreen Schofield.

Nicola Jones (Worcester) the 13-year-old Cadet who has quickly advanced to joint No. 12 in the national rankings, is very unfortunately unable to accept the invitation to the "Top 12" at Shotley Gate, Ipswich, over the weekend 30/31 March. Nicola has grown so tall so quickly that there is a problem with her knees. She played in the Derby Beneficial Trust Junior/Cadet championships but was in pain and so obviously restricted in movements. On medical advice she has to have a rest but we expect to see her back in aggressive style at the start of next season. Hopefully she will be able to have some coaching/practice during the summer. 13-year-old Sarah Stone and 12-year-old Michelle McDornell played at Derby in their second Tournament. They had top players to play in their singles groups but did well to win their first round doubles at 19 in the third.

The Worcester League has Veterans' Championships organised at the Perdiswell Sports Centre in April. It will be interesting to see the results of the Dudley, Evesham and Kidderminster Championships which can provide useful information for County selectors.

Les D'Arcy reports from.....

YORKSHIRE UNDISPUTED AUTHORITY

Delighted to have received a wealth of information about the Bradford League from Malcolm Hartley, a Y.T.T.A. vice-president, who is deeply respected throughout the county for his work on behalf of Yorkshire table tennis with special reference to Bradford, where he is the undisputed authority on players, officials, clubs and their records over a long period of time. For several years Malcolm covered Yorkshire events in this column with the same kind of flare and dedication which he gives to his present work which is an inspiration to the many thousands who know him.

A new trophy is to be added to the Bradford League's impressive array to commemorate the late Frank Briggs. John Rawnsley and Peter Eastaugh are taking charge of the fund raising project and have written to all Bradford clubs to invite donations. The new trophy is to be awarded to the true club player as typified

by Frank who was such a splendid ambassador of our sport. The County Management Committee are also considering making an additional memorial award. Any individual or league wishing to contribute should contact the County General Secretary, Keith Shepherd, Tel: 0532 577591.

Steve Sharpe who had won all his 66 singles in Bradford, lost his chance of creating a new record for the top division when he dropped one set against Stewart Milnes (Unity 'C') with only three matches to go to the end of the season. Only two players have ever gone through the prestigious Division One without defeat: Maurice Pitts who won all his 63 sets in 1958-59. Kevin Beadsley has three times been unbeaten, but never played a full season, his best being last season's 52-0. Most sets won in the top section is 79 with 5 defeats, Richard Priestley in 1973-74. The best 100% record belongs to Duncan Clayton who won all his 78 singles in Division 2 in 1956-57. One of the emerging young stars in Div. 1 is Michael Emmerson who earlier in the season beat former England Champion, Denis Neale, and is still good enough to represent Ormesby in the Premier Division of the National League this season. Denis, who is now 40, could be one of the players to beat, if he decides to enter the next World Veterans' Championships in Rimini 1986, which gives some indication of young Emmerson's calibre.

One of the Bradford League's best known sporting personalities is 2-Star diploma coach and Yorkshire League player, Sylvia Broadbent. Sylvia in addition to being the League's coaching secretary, also coaches at the Leeds Centre of Excellence. She was Bradford women's champion four seasons in a row (1971-74) and has won ten city doubles titles. A regular county player in the early 70's she was the first Bradford woman to represent Yorkshire in a Premier Division women's singles and by 1976 had also represented Bradford on 82 occasions at Yorkshire League level. Illness and knee trouble halted a succession of playing triumphs and, it seemed, her chance of joining the small group of players who had represented Bradford a hundred times at inter-league level. Sylvia had other ideas and against Leeds Women earlier this season she finally made it with an unbeaten performance. One of Sylvia's lesser known contributions to the League is producing beautiful copper plate handwriting on certificates to mark performances of distinction. This time she had the added pleasure of writing one out for herself.

SELBY

The Selby Closed was acclaimed by some of the senior players as one of the most exciting so far and contained a number of shock results. No. 1 seed, Nigel Thorn, was knocked out of the men's event by No. 1 junior, Richard Pike who went on to reach the final, but was unable to overcome the holder, regional coach, Mick Wilcockson who retained his title in two straight. Mick, with Phil Greenwood, went on to capture the doubles title in a repeat of the 1984 final against Jim Robe and Pete Harpham.

The women's singles was dominated by young players with 12 yrs old Ellen Meddings Yorkshire No. 3 Cadet defeating the County's No. 10 Junior, Sharron Phillipson in the final.

Thorne gained some consolation for his early exit in the open singles by beating Len Crabb, League President in the veterans' final. Brian Williamson, 1984 Champion, went down to Roger Hewitt in the first round. Another shock result was in the boys' event when the 1984 champion, Pike crashed out of the competition to 12-yrs-old Craig Smith and was joined by 1983 champion, Ian Mason, defeated by the eventual winner, unseeded, Jonathan Glazier who beat top cadet, Robert Carle, in the final.

Unseeded Chris Nicholls produced the next shock in the Cadet competition when defeating No. 3 seed, Chris Hewitt in the final of an event which showed the Selby League's wealth of young talent.

Other results:

U-12's: Craig Smith bt Ellen Meddings.
Hard bat: Mick Wilcockson bt Chris Harris.
Handicap: Karl Horsefield bt Ellen Meddings.
Handicap doubles: Meddings/David Milner bt Robert Carle/Gary Horsefield.
Div. 2: Ian Whitehead bt Robert Robinson.
Consolation: Whitehead bt Craig Smith.

HARROGATE

Denis Neale who has been playing in the League since last September has left the area for a coaching appointment in Saudi Arabia.

Harrogate men's team, current Yorkshire Premier Division Champions with players of the calibre of Nicky Davies, Richard Whiteley and Mike Emmerson to represent them and a 100% record so far after five of seven matches to play, are all set to retain the title.

Former Y.T.T.A. Chairman, Geoff Scruton, current Gen. Sec. of the League still finds time to represent Knaresborough Social 'F' with younger son, Phil, and currently lead Div. 4. Other divisional leaders are:— (1) St. George's (2) NEGAS (3) Knaresborough Forest C.C. with the 'B' team leading division 5 after being in danger of relegation last

year (6) newcomers Rudgate Prison Officers.

HULL

In a comprehensive Newsletter edited by Mrs. Pat Bray the indications are that the Hull T.T.L. is in a very healthy state. Schools in the area are as usual setting very high standards in E.S.T.A. competitions. Neasden J.H.S. (1) Wold J.H.S. (2) and Sidney Smith's (1) all qualifying for the N. of England Finals at Moor Grange, Leeds on February 24th with Sidney Smith's U-16 team qualifying for the National Finals and the Wold's U-13 girls just missing out after a count back of games won.

At top senior level, Grimsby Mariners lead the elite six team Humberside League. Hull League officials were enthusiastic to use the experience gained in the Humberside League as a stepping stone into the National League next season. Regrettably the enthusiasm was not shown by a number of the top players and a valuable opportunity was missed and reflected in Hull teams filling the bottom three places. Understandably, the National League project will not now go ahead next season. There must be sufficient high class players in a league the size of Hull to form a first class squad for the 1986-7 season. If you are interested why not contact Mrs. Pat Bray, Tel: 0482 55383.

MATTHEW IN SHOCK VICTORY

16-year-old Matthew Connell, who represents Leeds in the National League and trains at the Alan Hydes Dunlop ATC, Wakefield, created one of the major upsets during the Yorkshire Closed Championships at Scatcherd Sports Centre, Morley.

He defeated England No. 18 Nicky Newton of Doncaster, in the boys' final 17, -20, 16, after eliminating junior international Michael O'Driscoll earlier in the competition.

Steve Mills, Yorkshire men's No. 3 and England No. 13, proved to be the outstanding man. He captured both major titles.

In the men's final Mills, of Sheffield, was in devastating form as he powered his way to a 19, 13 victory over Yorkshire No. 2 Kevin Beadsley (Nemis) after defeating defending champion Steven Sharpe (Unity) in a semi-final.

Mills and Beadsley joined forces in the doubles and proved too strong for the opposition, despite some determined attacking play by Sharpe and Richard Priestley, whom they accounted for in the final 19, 17.

Melanie Seaton also gained a commendable double in the women's championships by taking the doubles with Sheffield

Junior Top 12 Tournament

YORKSHIRE LEAGUE TABLES compiled by Graham Coe.

Penultimate Tables – Leading positions.

MEN'S PREMIER	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Harrogate 1	5	5	0	0	37	10
Bradford 1	4	4	0	0	29	8
Sheffield 1	4	3	0	1	22	6

MEN'S DIV. ONE	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Leeds 1	4	4	0	0	30	8
Harrogate 2	5	4	0	1	32	8
Wakefield 1	5	4	0	1	32	8
Sheffield 2	5	3	1	1	26	7

MEN'S DIV. TWO	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Barnsley 1	5	4	0	1	30	8
Leeds 2	5	3	2	0	30	8
Rotherham	5	3	1	1	28	7
Dewsbury 1	5	2	2	1	28	6

MEN'S DIV. THREE	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
York 3	4	3	1	0	31	7
Castleford/Pon	5	3	1	1	33	7
Leeds 3	3	3	0	0	22	6

MEN'S DIV. FOUR	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Northall 2	4	4	0	0	33	8
Hull 3	4	3	1	0	30	7
Halifax 2	3	2	0	1	19	4
York 4	3	2	0	1	18	4

WOMEN'S DIV.	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Bradford	5	5	0	0	45	10
Sheffield	4	4	0	0	38	8
Wakefield	4	4	0	0	35	8
Hull 1	4	4	0	0	30	8

VETS' DIV. ONE	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
York 1	5	4	1	0	34	9
Huddersfield 1	4	3	1	0	27	7
Wakefield	4	3	0	1	30	6

VETS' DIV. TWO	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Barnsley	4	4	0	0	32	8
Castleford/Pon	4	4	0	0	30	8
York 2	4	3	0	1	31	6
Halifax 1	4	3	0	1	26	6

VETS' DIV. THREE	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Dewsbury	4	4	0	0	36	8
Sheffield	4	4	0	0	30	8
York 3	5	3	0	2	31	6

JUNIOR PREMIER	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Doncaster 1	5	4	0	1	36	8
Sheffield 1	4	4	0	0	28	8
Bradford 1	5	4	0	1	31	8
Wakefield 1	4	3	0	1	30	6

JUNIOR DIV. ONE	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Wakefield 2	5	5	0	0	31	10
Selby	5	4	0	1	26	8
Harrogate	6	4	0	2	27	8
Sheffield 2	4	3	0	1	22	6

CADETS DIV. ONE	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Castleford/Pon	4	4	0	0	26	8
Selby 1	4	3	0	1	26	6
Sheffield	5	3	0	2	23	6

CADETS DIV. TWO	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Barnsley	3	3	0	0	16	6
Hull	3	2	0	1	18	4
Halifax	3	2	0	1	14	4

team-mate Josette Ryalls when defeating Karen Burrows, of Castleford, and Helen Shields, of Bradford, in the final 19, 14 and then crowned her day by dominating the singles final – beating Lesley Broomhead, of Sheffield. Stewart Milnes, of Dewsbury, who has had an excellent first season in the veteran ranks lost -11, -3 to Ian Walmsley of Harrogate in the veterans' final.

NORTH YORKSHIRE JUNIOR OPEN

Yorkshire's No. 2 Cadet, Chris Oldfield of Sheffield produced one of the best results of his career when he powered his way to victory over junior international, England Cadet No. 3*

Michael O'Driscoll in the final of the Cadet Boys' event at Morley Sports' Centre. Oldfield was also successful in winning the Cadet Boys' Doubles with Sheffield team mate, Mark Ward.

Debbie Toole (Normanton) won her first open tournament when she defeated Scotland's No. 1, S. Hurry 15, 20 in the Cadet girls' final after defeating Kerry Hall, England No. 5 junior on her way to the final. Wakefield 'Dunlop' A.T.C. team mate, Ellen Meddings, won the U-12's girls' event and with Debbie reached the final of the cadet girls doubles.

Two other Yorkshire players impressed: Sally Marling who won the under 10's and sister, Samantha who reached the final of the under 12's.

The event was sponsored by Jarvis Sports.

Junior Top 12 Ranking Tournament Shotley

by Mike Watts

The Junior and Cadet Top 12 Ranking Tournament took place at the Eurosport Village at Shotley near Ipswich over the weekend of the 30th/31st March, 1985 and, for the second year running, was rated a huge success by players, coaches and parents alike. Some like the Wright's from Plymouth and the Soothills from Cumbria had very long journeys to cover but the

accommodation and surroundings were compensation for their efforts.

The tournament was hard for all concerned. In an Open Tournament the top players have some easy games before the climax but here, with virtually all of the top Juniors and Cadets in attendance, there were no easy games.

Late replacements had to be

sought in the Junior Boys after Bradley Billington dropped out at the last moment with an arm injury and Richard Hayward (Staffs) replaced him. In the Cadet Boys Neil Simms and Nicky Ryder were unable to be present and they were replaced by Gary Knights (Staffs) and Mark Ward (Yorkshire).

DAY 1

Boys' Singles

Adrian Dixon (Staffs) was the early leader going through his first six games unbeaten. He was followed by Matthew Syed (Berks) with five wins losing to Michael O'Driscoll (as he did at this stage went to Mark Randle (Warwick) with only Richard Hayward (Staffs) not scoring.

Junior Top 12 Tournament

Girls' Singles

The event was nicely balanced with four players with four wins namely Joanne Shaw (Yorks), Jill Powis (Staffs), Claire Potts (Cheshire) and Alison Boxall (Herts). However Joanne Shaw had two uncharacteristic losses to Louise Davies (Staffs) – her first win and Lisa Hayden (Essex).

Cadet Boys

Chris Oldfield (Yorks) and Andrew Houghton (Kent) were the clear leaders in this event with six straight wins each followed by Adrian Thorpe (Staffs) with five. Mark Ward (Yorks) the late replacement was also in contention with four wins.

Cadet Girls

Julie Billington (Derby) and Debbie Toole (Yorks) led both unbeaten whilst in third place surprisingly was Anne Pashly (Cleveland) with five wins. Julie Norman (Berks) who must have felt in with a chance of success started disastrously losing to Caroline Buckley (Beds) 23-21 in the third and then to Julie Brion (Bucks) 23-21 in the third but after beating Nicola McGrath (Lancs) 21-19 in the third she recovered to finish with four wins.

DAY 2

Boys' Singles

Whilst Matthew Syed progressed smoothly to his final confrontation with Adrian Dixon, the Staffs lad had his problems losing to Rodney Thomas (Dorset) 21-19 in the third and, in the final game to decide the winner, Syed triumphed 21-12, 21-11 to finish with 10 wins out of 11 games. There was a four way tie for third place all with 7 wins involving Mark Randle, Paul Amos (Kent), Michael O'Driscoll (Yorks) and Murray Jukes (Worcs.). Randle was the clear leaders of this group (and therefore third) having beaten all three but the other three all beat each other. The result announced showed Amos as fourth but later checking of the individual game slips showed a mistake in Jukes' favour and the final result showed Jukes as fourth (3-2 games average), O'Driscoll fifth (3-3) and Amos sixth (2-3).

Girls' Singles

Joanne Shaw, regaining the form that she showed at the Commonwealth's went through the second day unbeaten although her final game against Andrea Holt (Lancs) was marred by an outburst following comments made by spectators at the court side. This was close with Joanne finally just getting home 21-17 in the third. Surprise package Lisa Hayden came through strongly with four wins on the second day to snatch second place ahead of Claire Potts who also won 7 and three players tied for fourth place with Andrea Holt taking fourth place by virtue of her wins over the other two, Juliet Houghton fifth and Jill Powis sixth. Debbie Soothill (Cumbria) unfortunately had to withdraw after two games with influenza and her games already played were declared null and void.

Cadet Boys

Chris Oldfield continued his superiority of this event with five more wins albeit only 21-19 in the third to Neil Pickard (Norfolk) in the last match to finish with a magnificent 22-1 games average for the weekend. However Andrew Houghton had a disastrous day losing his first four matches and dropping to sixth place. Replacement Mark Ward continued his good run with four more wins as did Adrian Thorpe both tied for second place with eight wins with Ward finishing second after beating Thorpe. Again three players tied for fourth place with Damien Holland (Essex) finishing on top beating both Pickard (who finished fifth) and Houghton.

Cadet Girls

Like Oldfield, Julie Billington was unstoppable and five more wins on the second day gained her the verdict. The vital game was her match with Debbie Toole (Yorks) which Julie just won 19-21, 22-20, 21-13 and in her final game Jane Wright (Devon) also took Julie close only going down 21-18 in the third leaving Julie with a 22-2 average for the tournament. Debbie Toole with only the one loss finished second and Anne Pashley and Nicola McGrath finished joint third with Anne Pashley getting the verdict having beaten McGrath – a good performance by the Cleveland girl.

Over the weekend 264 games were played of which 89 required a third game. Umpires who gave their services came from Suffolk, Cambridge, Essex and Middlesex, and the overall organisation was provided by

the Ipswich and District Table Tennis League headed by Mrs. Joyce Love the General Secretary.

A great weekend and plans are already in hand for a repeat next season.

FINAL POSITIONS

Junior Boys

	P	W	L	F	A
1. Matthew Syed (Bk)	11	10	1	20	5
2. Adrian Dixon (St)	11	9	2	19	5
3. Mark Randle (Wa)	11	7	4	16	10
4. Murray Jukes (Wo)	11	7	4	16	10
5. Michael O'Driscoll (Y)	11	7	4	15	9
6. Paul Amos (K)	11	7	4	15	12
7. Rodney Thomas (Do)	11	5	6	13	14
8. Thomas Blackman (Nd)	11	5	6	12	14
9. Clive Guest (Y)	11	4	7	10	15
10. Paul Savins (Bk)	11	3	8	9	18
11. Graham Kemp (Bk)	11	1	10	2	21
12. Richard Hayward (St)	11	1	10	7	19

Junior Girls

	P	W	L	F	A
1. Joanne Shaw (Y)	10	8	2	16	8
2. Lisa Hayden (E)	10	7	3	15	9
3. Claire Potts (Ch)	10	7	3	14	7
4. Andrea Holt (La)	10	6	4	15	11
5. Juliet Houghton (K)	10	6	4	14	9
6. Jill Powis (St)	10	6	4	13	10
7. Alison Boxall (He)	10	5	5	12	11
8. Louise Davies (Wo)	10	4	6	8	12
9. Kerry Hall (Dy)	10	4	6	10	15
10. Tanya Holland (E)	10	2	8	8	16
11. Lesley Souter (Mi)	10	0	10	5	20

Cadet Boys

	P	W	L	F	A
1. Chris Oldfield (Y)	11	11	0	22	1
2. Mark Ward (Y)	11	8	3	18	10
3. Adrian Thorpe (St)	11	8	3	17	9
4. Damien Holland (E)	11	7	4	15	8
5. Neil Pickard (Nk)	11	7	4	14	10
6. Andrew Houghton (K)	11	7	4	16	10
7. Gary Knights (St)	11	5	6	12	18
8. Dale Saunders (Gs)	11	4	7	10	14
9. Richard Jones (Sy)	11	3	8	10	17
10. Leigh Jeffries (Wa)	11	3	8	8	17
11. David Morris (Sp)	11	2	9	7	18
12. Steven Miller (Cv)	11	1	10	3	21

Cadet Girls

	P	W	L	F	A
1. Julie Billington (Dy)	11	11	0	22	2
2. Debbie Toole (Y)	11	10	1	21	6
3. Anne Pashley (Cv)	11	7	4	16	12
4. Nicola McGrath (La)	11	7	4	17	10
5. Julie Norman (Bk)	11	6	5	16	14
6. Julie Forster (Le)	11	6	5	12	12
7. Jane Wright (Dv)	11	6	5	14	11
8. Caroline Buckley (Bd)	11	5	6	12	14
9. Suzanne Lawton (Cv)	11	3	8	8	18
10. Ellen Meddings (Y)	11	2	9	9	18
11. Julie Brion (Bu)	11	2	9	6	20
12. Cheryl Bateman (Sy)	11	1	10	5	22

By Fiona Brown

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Thorn EMI Ellenborough	10	7	1	2	57	23	35
2. Ormesby I	8	6	1	1	44	20	33
3. Omega Reading I	8	5	1	2	37	27	31
4. G.K.N. Steelstock Wolverhampton I	9	4	3	2	38	34	21
5. Jaques Fareham I	9	1	6	3	31	41	7
6. Grove Market Drayton I	9	2	0	7	24	48	4
7. Tibhar London	9	0	1	8	17	55	1

Cleveland Club Ormesby, now look set to make a late charge on the Premier Division title following yet another fine win when they beat Tibhar Larkhall 5-3 in their recent fixture. Joe Kennedy started the afternoon well for Larkhall by defeating Ormesby No. 1 Nigel Eckersley and when David Dodd added a second against Richard Yule it appeared that the Northern club may be faced with a harder battle than they had envisaged. However, four consecutive sets for Ormesby earned them their first point and although Kennedy picked up his second win for Larkhall Paul Nambjou proved no match for Scotsman John Broe as he sped to victory in straight games to clinch Ormesby's second point.

Meanwhile League leaders Thorn-EMI Ellenborough were forced to struggle when they met Omega Reading. Playing without the services of England international Graham Sandley much responsibility rested on the shoulders of David Wells and Colin Wilson, both seemed equal to the task as they despatched John Souter and Philip Bradbury respectively in the opening two sets. The rot was only stopped by the experienced David Barr who reclaimed a set by overwhelming Welsh star Nigel Tyler, then junior Andrew Syed swiftly dispelled any rumours concerning his form by racing to a swift victory over Mark Mitchell. The next three sets went to Omega placing them in an unassailable position, but Mitchell claimed a consolation victory in the final set of the afternoon with a three game win over Barr.

In their following match Ellenborough fared little better although a flurry of three wins in the final three sets did rescue a point against Jaques Fareham. For Fareham Nicky Mason was in excellent form, recording victories over David Wells and Graham Sandley, Jaques' other successes came from Kevin Satchell and Mark Oakley. Although Ellenborough maintain their position at the head of the table it has been gravely weakened by these results. GKN Steelstock Wolverhampton have maintained their fourth position by adding three points to their total from their last two matches. In a close fought match with Jaques Fareham Wolverhampton's Adrian Dixon recorded a maximum in defeating M. Wilding and Glen Baker, GKN's other sets were provided by Steven Scowcroft and Trevor Washington. In the following fixture the return of Skylet Andrew and Max Crimmins brought Wolverhampton back to full strength, they had earned three rubbers before Anwar Majid scored the first success for opponents, Grove. Majid continued his winning ways by defeating Andy Bellingham in the final game of the afternoon, but to no avail as Wolverhampton had already secured both match points.

FIRST DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Bath Toyota	11	8	2	1	58	30	18
2. Omega Reading II	10	7	3	0	58	22	17
3. South Yorkshire I	10	7	3	0	57	23	17
4. Birmingham Optical	11	7	0	4	54	34	14
5. M.B.S. St. Neots I	11	3	2	6	36	52	8
6. Dagenham F.C.	11	3	1	7	40	48	7
7. Butterfly Cardiff	12	1	2	9	25	71	4
8. Ormesby II	10	0	1	9	16	64	1

Bath Toyota maintained their leading position by overcoming MBS St Neots 5-3. Although the consistent performances of Carl Preen throughout the season have proved significant in earning vital points for Bath, their scorelines have not been as impressive as other teams in the division, and both Omega Reading and South Yorkshire each a point behind the leaders with a game in hand, have superior games averages, a factor which may well come into consideration as the season draws to its conclusion.

South Yorkshire claimed a further two points when they entertained Birmingham Optical for whom only Carl Morgan against Chris Rogers and Phil Gunn against Dave Gannon recorded any success. South Yorkshire No. 1 Steve Mills emphasised his continued improvement in overcoming firstly Barry Johnson and then Carl Morgan. Omega Reading showed little mercy when they met Dagenham F.C. Despite a below par performance from Jimmy Stokes who dropped both sets, the efforts of Andy Wellman, Matthew Syed and Chris Bartram were sufficient to secure both points in a 5-3 victory. The following week Omega made no mistake when they travelled to Wales, whitewashing Butterfly Cardiff in a match where only three rubbers went the full distance. This result completed a demoralising fortnight for the Welsh club who had earlier been beaten by the same score when visiting Birmingham Optical.

Dagenham FC all but ensured their place in next year's first division by claiming two points in an 8-0 win over Northern visitors Ormesby, who seem to be in the midst of a disastrous run, having succumbed 1-7 to MBS St Neots, on that occasion Ormesby's solitary success came in the second rubber of the afternoon when Lindsay Taylor defeated Steven Moore in straight games.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Patsun Target Gold	10	9	1	0	56	24	19
2. Chan Construction	10	5	3	2	50	30	13
3. March	10	4	4	2	47	33	12
4. G.K.N. Steelstock Wolverhampton II	9	3	3	3	40	32	9
5. Byker Newcastle I	9	3	2	4	35	37	8
6. Sincil Lincoln	10	2	4	4	34	46	8
7. South Yorkshire II	10	2	2	6	29	51	6
8. Kingsbro' Insurance Services	10	1	1	8	21	59	3

South Yorkshire now face the threat of relegation having fallen 7-1 to League leaders, Salford. The Salford side remain on target for the title, having maintained their unbeaten record after ten matches. Latest victims Halex Sincil Lincoln, could only salvage two rubbers on their recent visit to Lancashire, Bradley Billington, recovered from the loss of the first game to defeat Mike Owen and in the penultimate set of the afternoon Terry Carey trounced Andy Leigh. Billington had proved instrumental in the previous week's match against GKN Steelstock Wolverhampton when in the fourth rubber he defeated Ray Williams to give Lincoln their first success of the afternoon. Despite his later loss to Craig Bakewell Lincoln team-mates Dave Skerratt, Terry Carey and Stuart Worrell were able to rescue a League point.

Chan Construction have succeeded in displacing March from the second League place. The two teams met in early February and a half time scoreline of 2-all suggested that a tense battle was underway. But only Chan's Stuart Palmer, who overcame Lester Bertie, was able to add to the Chan scoreline. The final three sets of the afternoon were fiercely contested and each was only decided in the third game, as Adrian Pilgrim, Ian Gunn and Murray Jukes all clinched victory for the Cambridgeshire club. Obviously inspired by this fine performance March added to South Yorkshire's misery the following week by defeating them 6-2, both South Yorkshire sets being collected by No. 1 Tony Sanderson.

Byker Newcastle, who have been unlucky in finishing at the wrong end of several 5-3 scorelines during the season, are finally savouring success. Against bottom club Kingsbro' Insurance Services they wasted little time in racing to a 6-0 lead before Ian Plummer could claim Kingsbro's only rubber of the afternoon, Eddy Smith completed the Byker haul when he scraped home in the third game against Terry Murphy. Byker demonstrated that confidence rather than a lack of talent may have been their stumbling block earlier in the season. When they entertained a strong March team two wins from Neil McMaster, ably supported by singles from Peter McQueen and Eddy Smith, were sufficient to secure a point. Three points adrift at the bottom of the table Kingsbro Insurance Services now look certain to make the drop into the Third Division North.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Holts Carpets Salisbury	10	0	0	0	60	20	20
2. T.C.B. Dolphins	10	8	1	1	55	25	17
3. Jaques Fareham II	10	6	1	3	46	34	13
4. Cranfield Colours Halex	10	4	1	5	41	39	9
5. Omega Reading III	10	3	1	6	33	47	7
6. Gunnersbury Triangle	10	3	1	6	32	48	7
7. TSP Larkhall	10	2	1	7	31	49	5
8. Spicer New Malden	10	0	2	8	21	59	2

The success of Holts Carpets Salisbury is becoming something of a saga this season as the team have now added a further two wins to their tally, maintaining a 100% record. In the match against TSP Larkhall Mark Holt proved the only weak link in the team. Dave Constance, Tony Clayton and Gary Lambert recorded another brace of maximums as Dave Harding and Brian Garroway picked up two consolation rubbers for the visitors. In the following match the Holts players repeated this scoreline, 6-2, once again Mark Holt struggled to find his form but was unlucky to lose in a close deciding game with Andrew Evans. This result marked a disappointing week for Cranfield Colours who had earlier been beaten 7-1 by second placed club TCB Dolphins. On that occasion only Brian Jeanes managed to prevent the whitewash as he triumphed over Steven Holloway 22-20 in the third game.

The Dolphins picked up a further two points when they travelled to play Sussex team Spicer New Malden. Spicer star Michael Hammond clinched the team's only two rubbers and while Neil Sutton and Andy Hardy came close to levelling the match in the last two sets of the afternoon Dolphin's Phil Smith and Ritchie Venner proved more than equal to the last minute challenge.

While third placed Jaques Fareham earned two valuable points in their match against Spicer New Malden, the Hampshire team suffered a surprise defeat in their following match against London club Gunnersbury Triangle and as a result fall away from the promotion race.

Meanwhile Gunnersbury further improved their chance of avoiding relegation by claiming a point from their visit to Omega Reading. In a close match Simon Rowland and Paul Savins gave Omega a 2-0 lead but Simon Proffitt and Peter Harry reinstated the equilibrium and in the second half rubbers were scored by each team in alternation. Omega's most recent fixture, against TSB Larkhall, was somewhat less successful. Despite the return of Mandy Sainsbury, who recorded the double success against Percy Collino and Derek Holman, Gordon Chapman and Brian Garroway provided excellent wins for the home team, only Paul Savins could add to Sainsbury's score as Omega returned home at the wrong end of the 5-3 scoreline.

THIRD DIVISION NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Unity Bradford	10	10	0	0	61	19	20
2. Unity Leeds	10	8	0	2	56	24	16
3. South Yorkshire III	10	6	0	4	43	37	12
4. Vickers Barrow	10	4	1	5	32	48	9
5. Washington	10	3	2	5	39	41	8
6. Ormesby IV	10	4	0	6	35	45	8
7. Ormesby III	10	3	1	6	35	45	7
8. Byker Newcastle II	10	0	0	10	19	61	0

Although Peter Curry scored one success for Byker Newcastle and came close to adding a second against Unity Bradford the League leaders marched relentlessly on to a 7-1 victory against the Newcastle team. However, Bradford's most convincing win of the season came in the following match against local rivals Unity Leeds, their only serious rivals for the League title. Steven Sharpe claimed the first rubber for Bradford overcoming Keith Mkandla in two games, the scene seemed set for a close tussle when Timothy Dyson levelled the match at 1-all against Craig Render. However, Shaun Gibson, Michael O'Driscoll and Steven Sharpe had other ideas as they totally demoralised the Leeds team with three quick victories. Although Paul Samson rallied to take the sixth rubber and preserve Leeds' hopes of rescuing a point, these ideas were short lived. Shaun Gibson and Michael O'Driscoll returned to the table to defeat Mkandla and Ian Dicksbury respectively, resulting in a 6-2 victory for the leaders.

Ormesby III team take an unexpected tumble down the division following defeat by their clubmates Ormesby IV 6-2, and a 5-3 loss against South Yorkshire for whom only three players participated in the match. South Yorkshire had earlier suffered a surprising 5-3 defeat when they travelled north to face Washington. Only Alan Andrews, 2, and Mick Carr, 1, sampled success for the South Yorkshire club. This 5-3 victory by Washington was followed by a further success in their away game with Vickers Sports Barrow in a remarkable match where Vickers' Neil Smith captured the first rubber and thereafter the rubbers went alternately to each team, resulting in

a draw and another point for Washington who are now well clear of the relegation zone.

Vickers are having a lean spell having succumbed 8-0 to Unity Leeds the previous week.

THIRD DIVISION SOUTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Medway	11	8	2	0	64	24	20
2. The DSC Rams	10	7	1	2	52	28	15
3. Cippenham	9	6	1	2	45	27	13
4. Nittaku Ruislip	9	4	4	1	43	29	12
5. Ashford	10	1	4	5	29	51	6
6. AHW Pioneers	10	2	1	7	33	47	5
7. Errey's Print '84	10	2	1	7	28	52	5
8. Abeng Warriors (Stiga)	11	1	2	8	26	62	4

Leaders Medway dropped only their second point of the season when they entertained the DSC Rams. Rams players John Dennison and Des Charlery lead the team off to a fine start with wins over Andy Mitchell and Paul Amos respectively. However, the leaders rallied as Bobby Brown and Tony Spain levelled the score with wins in straight games over Tony Briscoe and Jeff Chapman. At this point the balance swung back in favour of the visitors as Charlery earned his second win of the afternoon in a tense three game struggle against Andy Mitchell, but Paul Amos had no intention of letting the points slip as he galloped to victory against Jeff Chapman.

Bobby Brown struggled to hold the first game against Dennison before conceding at 21-23, in the second the Rams player made no mistake winning 21-13 to secure at least one point for the visitors. When Tony Spain dropped the first game of the final rubber to Rams' Tony Briscoe it appeared that Medway may well be facing their first defeat of the season but a strong revival in the remaining games allowed Spain to scoop the set and level the match score.

With this the Rams sacrificed any realistic hopes they may have had of clinching the title but in their following match proved that they are certainly a force to be reckoned with as they plundered both points in a 5-3 victory over AHW Pioneers for whom Les Wooding was the most successful performer. This was in fact Les' second maximum within a space of ten days as he had earlier claimed two of the three sets scored by the Pioneers in their match against Abeng. Unfortunately on that occasion only Ken Muhr was able to add to this tally and the young Stiga team of Joseph Quansah, David Dewsbury, Anthony Fitzgerald and Neville Miller claimed two very vital points.

In the following match Abeng Warriors met fellow bottom of the table strugglers Erreys Print who had fallen 3-5 in their previous match against a strong Cippenham side. Against Abeng Erreys No. 1 Paul Rowden captured the first rubber but their London visitors looked set to earn further rewards as they clinched the following three rubbers to lead 3-1 at the break. Although David Dewsbury against Paul Rowden and Lionel Faure against John Green each held a one game advantage for the Abeng side, Erreys were not to be denied on the day as they bagged the remaining four rubbers and both points with a 5-3 victory.

The mid-table tussle between Nittaku Ruislip and Ashford resulted in a 4-all draw with Nittaku's John Burleton and Ashford's Darryl Windsor recording two wins each.

THIRD DIVISION EAST

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. EAE Waveney	10	9	1	0	56	24	19
2. Norwich Foxwood	10	6	3	1	50	30	15
3. Witham Town F.C.	10	4	3	3	44	36	11
4. Playrite Northampton	10	3	4	3	43	37	10
5. Britannia Deepsure	10	2	4	3	39	41	10
6. M.B.S. St Neots II	10	3	2	5	39	41	8
7. Hassy Perfection Soham	10	3	0	7	32	48	6
8. Crusaders Lincoln	10	0	1	9	17	63	1

Following yet another fine win when they beat Tibhar Larkhall 5-3 in their recent fixture, EAE Waveney are now comfortably positioned at the head of the table with a four point lead over nearest rivals Norwich Foxwood. The Waveney club destroyed visitors Halex Crusaders Lincoln 8-0 in early February. Only Crusaders No. 2 Roy Harper was able to take a single game from a Waveney player, this in the first rubber of the afternoon against Philip Logsdon.

In the meantime closest rivals Norwich Foxwood have fallen further behind having dropped a point to Witham FC despite being in a potentially match winning situation with a 4-1 lead. A convincing 6-2 win the following week against bottom club Crusaders Lincoln means that Norwich are now unlikely to be caught by Witham, who dropped a point on the same day when they entertained Ipswich team Britannia Deepsure. The Suffolk side had earlier claimed both points in their meeting against MBS St Neots and their recent haul has resulted in their elevation from sixth to fifth position, overtaking the

Halex League



Third Division East leaders:
EAE Waveney line up left to right:

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| 1. Mick Broughton | 5. Trevor Bunn |
| 2. David Henderson | 6. David Smith |
| 3. Phil Logsdon | 7. Russell King |
| 4. Neil Pickard | |

Cambridgeshire club who could only hold one point when they faced Playrite Northampton. However, this was a respectable performance in the light of the fact that Playrite had earlier despatched Hassy Perfection Soham 5-3.

THIRD DIVISION WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Pengeley Sports Torbay	9	9	0	0	58	14	18
2. Olivers Shoes Hinckley	9	7	1	1	50	22	15
3. Hereford Times	9	5	3	1	42	30	13
4. Jolliffe Poole	9	4	1	4	35	37	9
5. G.K.N. Steelstock Ladies	8	2	2	4	30	34	6
6. Grove Market Drayton II	9	1	2	6	27	45	4
7. Global Sports Plymouth	9	2	0	7	23	49	4
8. Launceston Kernow	8	0	1	7	15	49	1

Global Sports Plymouth moved off to a fine start in their recent match against unbeaten Pengelly Sports Torbay when former Pengeley player Gary Wilson claimed the first rubber in two comfortable games over Mark Ellett. Unfortunately the Global hopes were short lived as Pengeley captured the remaining 7 rubbers, of which only two went to a deciding third game. In fact Plymouth have little to cheer about at the moment, having lost their previous match 5-3 to a strong Hereford Times team. The Hereford club later went on to inflict a second successive defeat upon GKN Wolverhampton Ladies, despite the fine performances of Fiona Elliot in both matches.

Second placed side Olivers Shoes Hinckley maintained their challenge to the leaders following a convincing 8-0 victory over Cornwall club Launceston Kernow. Launceston are now in severe difficulties at the foot of the division having lost their latest match, 5-3, against Jolliffe Poole.

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MEANWHILE, AT THE LOCAL SPORTS HALL...

By Malcolm Brown



This month the 38th World Championships are taking place in Gothenburg. Not only will you not see much, if any, of them on television, you will have to scour the newspapers very carefully to find the odd solitary paragraph on the sports pages.

What a pity that **this** magazine isn't published more often. Hopefully, when Table Tennis becomes more popular, which I feel it must if it is to survive, we will be able to get more information about international matches. Then we would know what is happening world-wide and it would give us a better overall perspective of new developments. It could even improve your own game by seeing professionals in action.

But there is another event taking place in Gothenburg this month which could have drastic long term effects on the future of Table Tennis. Why? Because the I.T.T.F. (The International Table Tennis Federation) is proposing some changes in the ruling on the equipment you can use. There are five proposals altogether and, while three are fairly harmless, two could be positively destructive.

Let's take a look at all five. I've given the name of the proposing member in brackets.

PROPOSAL NUMBER 17 (New Zealand). To restrict the colours of racket coverings to black and red, with clear specification of colour.

At first glance, this proposal looks innocent enough, if a little boring. You may not care **what** colour your racket is covered in. But in the long term, it could push the price of your racket up because manufacturers might have to pay more for the 'specified' colour. If this were to happen, younger players might find that the cost of equipment is too high for them, so they won't even begin to play.

From the manufacturers' point of view, apart from a possible cost increase, this proposal would not allow them to distinguish their product range by using, for example, green or blue or natural.

PROPOSAL NUMBER 18 (Australia and Japan). To specify and classify the possible colours of racket coverings, and, to specify the permissible combinations of colours.

While similar to Proposal 17, the second part of this proposal provides a much more economical and logical solution to finally define colour com-

binations. Manufacturers could still produce their equipment as they do now but officials would have a clear guideline to determine if anyone was trying to 'bend' the rules.

But now things get worse.

PROPOSAL NUMBER 19 (England)... **England???** To allow the use of an uncovered side of the racket blade as a striking surface.

In these times of the 'short rally,' someone has suggested that wooden bat blades be brought back. What advancement can be made to the game by making wooden bats legal? How do **you** feel about this?

A wooden bat cannot compete in the modern game of Table Tennis, not against the high coefficient of rubbers. If the I.T.T.F. is going to cater for small minorities, why can't there be rulings that aid the defensive player, or the all-round player?

The irony is that this proposal has a good chance of becoming an official ruling because anyone using a wooden bat would not be seen as a serious threat in top-class Table Tennis. That is, until somebody starts to experiment with different surface finishes - and someone else suggests that a ruling be passed to control the type of surface finish that wooden bats could have - and someone else suggests....

PROPOSAL NUMBER 20 (Australia and the Council). To require both striking surfaces of the racket blade to be of the same material, with either: the thickness of the covering material to be the same on both sides (Australia); or, the thickness of the covering material on both sides allowed to be different (Council).

Is this proposal trying to limit the use of combination bats? If this proposal an attempt to do away with the 'funny bat' merchants? If so, in either case, it will fail because it is very simple to make an effective long-pimpled rubber out of exactly the same material as used for a reversed rubber.

No, if the aim is to destroy the chances of a combination bat player, something else would need to be suggested. And it has been, in Proposal 21.

PROPOSAL NUMBER 21 (Yugoslavia). To limit the thickness of sandwich rubber to 3mm, with pimpled rubber being limited to 1.5mm.

This, in my opinion, is the most dangerous of all the proposals because it would affect Table Tennis in a number of very significant ways.

Long-pimpled rubber was invented mostly by chance. But it has been developed to aid modern defensive players. Take away the control these players have and you'll be left with shorter and shorter rallies. How ironic that, at a time when we crave for more spectacular games to attract and maintain interest, the I.T.T.F. seeks to kill them off.

Attacking players would also suffer from the loss of long-pimpled rubber. There's a certain young international player who has recently used his own skill and long-pimpled rubber to emerge as one of England's best prospects for years.

Advanced players currently using two different rubbers on the bat in order to favour their strong points will have to completely rethink their game.

But, perhaps, the saddest loss will be for beginner and intermediate players because they won't be allowed to experiment with different rubber types and sponge thicknesses to perfect their individual technique.

All of these proposals have been put forward in good faith to find a 'cure' without really knowing what the 'illness' is and without the knowledge to offer the best 'prescription'. If the I.T.T.F. seeks to improve any faults in Table Tennis, the equipment you use shouldn't automatically be the adjusting factor. And, personally, I feel we are in danger of having an over-regulated game.

Meanwhile, what will be happening through the summer months at your local sports hall? It's an excellent opportunity to improve your game, no matter what level you're playing at, and the LENTEC TABLE TENNIS MANUAL will be published during the summer. This will give you all the technical information you need to aid you in constructive experiments with your bat combination.

One of the most important points to remember is not to be too drastic when altering your surface rubber unless, of course, you're absolutely certain you need to make a change in your playing style. For example, you may wish to change from counter-hitting and looping to all-out spin attack. In this case

you would need to change the surface rubber to one with a greater coefficient of friction and, if possible, increase the sponge thickness to allow greater dwell time for the ball on the bat face.

If you're currently playing at a high level, you may feel as though you can't afford to change your bat combination completely because, with the difference between winning and losing is so slight, it would take too long to adjust to a major change. However, if you're looking for just one or two more points in your favour, you could afford to make a gradual change and at the same time make a big improvement of where you are in the rankings.

Here are some examples of things you could try that may help you this summer.

IMPROVEMENT OF SPIN SHOTS FOR BEGINNERS

The rubber and sponge can be upgraded to a combination that has a higher coefficient of friction than you're currently using. But, the sponge **thickness** should remain the same so that the dwell time is not increased too much.

This gives a beginning player a chance to develop a feel for getting the most out of his technique rather than relying on the surface rubber to do all the work. Reliance on the rubber is often the cause for a beginner developing a weak style.

IMPROVEMENT OF SPIN SHOTS FOR INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED PLAYERS

It's of paramount importance for you to increase the dwell time, so the first thing to change would usually be the sponge thickness rather than the surface rubber.

Sometimes this isn't possible though. If, for example, you're already using a 2.5mm sponge or, if you haven't been making much progress for a while, a complete change of surface rubber should be tried.

At intermediate level, if a player hasn't been making much improvement, it's sometimes wise to **reduce** the thickness of the sponge when changing surface rubber. But, advanced players should have less trouble adjusting and results will be favourable at both levels.

IMPROVING CONTROL AND SPEED

It's generally believed that by decreasing your sponge thick-

ness, you'll increase your control. At top level, however, all this succeeds in doing is to decrease the dwell time and, therefore, to decrease the spin speed and control potential.

If you want to increase speed for an attacking combination, increase the sponge thickness. This will increase the 'energy absorption' or, in other words, the amount of speed the combination can 'store' and then return to your opponent.

At advanced and intermediate levels, the same principle applies

to increasing control. By increasing your speed you increase the dwell time that you have to control the shot.

The reason thinner sponges seem to give greater control is that the ball comes off the bat surface much more quickly. This makes it seem as though the oncoming spin has had no effect. Also, the less thickness there is between the ball and the vibration of your bat blade, the more you can 'feel' the shot. This is all very well at beginner level, but if you're looking for maximum

potential from the combination, the lower dwell time is not really suitable for you.

GENERAL IMPROVEMENTS

Talk to your coach or your club-mates and ask them to review your overall game. A different perspective on things, especially a knowledgeable perspective, can show you what should and could be improved in your technique.

When the LENTEC MANUAL is published, study the technical differences between the various rubbers and sponges and discuss

these with your coach. Experiment until you find the right combination for your style of play. Hopefully, when the new season approaches, you'll find yourself in peak condition to reach the top of the rankings.

Remember, you may not be number one yet or competing at the World Championships this year, but be proud of your own achievements. Your interest and your enthusiasm are essential to the future of Table Tennis, no matter what is decided in Gothenburg this month.

OLDHAM SPORTS CENTRE — THE BEST OF EVERYTHING!

On Friday, 19th April, the Oldham Sports Centre will be officially opened by Neil MacFarlane, MP and Minister for Sport.

The Sports Centre, one of the biggest of its kind in England has been designed to cater for as many sports as possible with no expense spared. The centre was built as an extension of the swimming stadium and is complementary to it.

A large and attractive viewing gallery and bar area overlooks the magnificent twin sports hall and squash courts where sports such as badminton, basketball, cricket, five-a-side football, gymnastics, yoga, handball, hockey, lacrosse, netball, tennis, volleyball and dance can be played.

An indoor bowls hall and combat room have been accommodated in the new centre. The bowls hall gives three lanes to the English Associations Affiliation standard to ensure bowling all year round and the combat room caters for such sports as karate, judo, kendo and fencing. Facilities have also been set aside for weight training, table tennis, tennis, trampolining, tug-of-war, sauna and solarium and snooker.

The pay at the door scheme in

operation at Oldham Sports Centre holds many advantages over those offered by private sports clubs — with a fraction of the facilities offered by Oldham sports centre. Consider the member of a private club who is paying probably in excess of £150 a year in fees. If he plays squash only twice a month, that probably works out with court fees, an average of at least £5.00 per game. At Oldham you only pay when you play.

In difficult times, especially in recession hit industrial towns such as Oldham in Manchester, it is more than encouraging that the local council have found a way to offer world class sporting facilities to not only the people of Oldham and the surrounding areas, but also a first class sporting arena for the staging of national fixtures and events.

The sports centre offers concessions for the unemployed and have also taken the disabled into account with widened doors, lifts and special changing and shower areas.

To reserve courts and other facilities at the centre, telephone 061-678 4090 or call into: The Oldham Sports Centre, Lord Street, Oldham, LO1 3HA.

7th HALEX GWENT CLOSED

by Stephen Gibbs

Gary Wilkins regained the Halex Gwent Singles title when he beat Brian Jeanes in the final of the Gwent Closed at Abersychan Leisure Centre on March 31. Both Wilkins and Jeanes, the obvious favourites, had scares on the way to the final. In his quarter-final Jeanes was fully tested by Kevin Boalch before taking the deciding game. Wilkins came close to defeat in his semi against Andrew Evans who held game points in both games.

In the final the result was never in doubt. After ten points of the first game Jeanes looked very tired and could not cope with Wilkins' continual switching wide to the forehand. Wilkins contained all of Jeanes' top spin shots with ease and then stepped in to kill any loose balls. With the first game under his belt Wilkins continued to dominate in the second. Jeanes tried a little harder but his heart was not in it and although he held a narrow lead towards the end Wilkins won three in a row to take the game and thus win his third Halex Gwent Closed title.

Wilkins appeared in another final, the doubles, but this time it was his turn to be on the receiving end. Without his original partner, Wilkins teamed up with Jeremy Price. Their final opponents were Evans and Boalch. Both pairs had very tough semis. Wilkins and Price only just made it against Warwick Armstrong and Graham Sell, while Evans and Boalch fought off the very stern challenge of second seeds Jeanes and Paul Williamson. The final saw Evans assert the dominance while Wilkins never got going. Evans and Boalch, already Eastern Valley Champions, took their first Gwent Doubles title.

The biggest upset of the day happened in the Junior Singles. Steve Ward faced Paul Jones for

a place in the final against Jeff Turner. Ward playing with a borrowed bat fought every inch of the way to beat Gwent's No. 2 Junior. Having reached the final he proved no match for Turner who took his third Junior title.

The longest final of the day was between the Veterans Peter Pitfield and Alan O'Connell. Their set seemed to go on most of the afternoon with Pitfield determined to defend his 1984 title. However it was O'Connell who proved to be the steadier and he took the title.

However, the most determined winner of the day was to be one of the youngest players on show, David Buck who is Gwent's and Eastern Valley's great hope for the future but as yet is not powerful enough to hold his own against stronger opponents. In the Handicap Singles he gets an even chance to show his best. He progressed through five rounds of Handicap play always receiving a generous start but always taking on first division, County or National League opposition. In his semi he took on Armstrong. The likeable Warwick played his best but Buck reached the final. Buck's final opponent was to be the awkward Tony Collins. For the final Buck received 12 start and proved to be an easy winner.

Results:—

'Open' Halex Singles:
S-F: B. Jeanes (EV) bt W. Armstrong (Npt) 5,19.
G. Wilkins (Abg) bt A. Evans (EV) 22,20.
Final: Wilkins bt Jeanes 14,19.

Doubles

S-F: J. Price (Tdgr)/Wilkins bt Armstrong/G. Sell (Npt) 16,-21,19.
K. Boalch (EV)/Evans bt Jeanes/P. Williamson (Abg) -21,15,19.
Final: Boalch/Evans bt Price/Wilkins 10,-15,12.

Junior Singles

S-F: J. Turner (Tdgr) bt M. Farrow (Npt) 22,21.
S. Ward (EV) bt P. Jones (Npt) 18,-18,18.
Final: Turner bt Ward 11,6.

Veteran Singles

S-F: P. Pitfield (EV) bt T. Jones (EV) -15,15,14.
A. O'Connell (Tdgr) bt A. Jones (EV) 16,12.
Final: O'Connell bt Pitfield 19,-23,18.

Handicap Singles:

S-F: D. Buck (EV) +14 bt Armstrong -21,3,19.
A. Collins (Npt) bt A. Penduck (Npt) +12, 16,17.
Final: Buck +12 bt Collins 9,11.



TARGET GOLD

by Graham Compton

Target Gold are the poorest table tennis organisation in the country, yet the richest. A contradiction? Explanations are needed. True we do not have a penny, nor a bank account. What we do have though is membership of the City of Salford Sports Federation, a unique federation of sports organisations.

The Federation consists of various sports including Table Tennis, Handball, Gymnastics, Volleyball and Roller Skating. Organised by the City of Salford Recreation Department all sports participate in their development scheme – Target Gold.

The aims of Target Gold are:—

- 1) Participation in sport by as many people as possible over the widest possible age range and at all levels of ability.
- 2) Ensuring the best use of recreational facilities by local people.
- 3) The pursuit and development of excellence.
- 4) Enjoyment of sport at all levels.

Membership is available at three levels. Full, Affiliate and Associate. To become full members sports must coach on a voluntary basis in four of the city's seven centres every week, must be organised by a full committee and must have its own rules and regulations.

The Target Gold Table Tennis

Council is a full member. We run ten coaching sessions in all seven centres every week. A 2-hour session costs just 25p. All monies collected by all sports from coaching, sponsorship and fund raising are pooled. Incidentally, at fund raising and sporting events all sports assist. I know little of Handball or Volleyball, but can serve tea, enabling the officials of these sports to get on with what they do best. Table Tennis benefits when staging an event of its own.

Full members share up to 70% of these pooled funds, have first choice of hall hire and first call on the mini buses available. The more effort put in, the more your organisation benefits. Currently 6,000 youngsters are members of Target Gold in all sections. The scheme is further helped by the Council employing MSC workers, who visit schools and introduce the sports in addition to coaching.

Table Tennis has, in the last four years, had the benefit of three players under this scheme. Tony Boasman, Tony Taylor and, currently, Mike Owen. It can be seen from these few facts that the benefits can be enormous for any organisation willing to put in the time and effort.

The Target Gold Table Tennis Council is currently involved in the following aspects of the

game in addition to the ten coaching sessions previously mentioned. Promising players from the coaching sessions are coached as a Top Squad by our National League team. We take over one sports centre every Monday from 4.30 p.m. until 10.30 p.m.

From 4.30 p.m. until 6.30 p.m. school children (collected from around the City by mini bus) play in two leagues. A Primary League for players from Primary schools and a Junior League for players from the coaching sessions. From 7 p.m. until 10.30 p.m. the Senior League takes over. The benefits from a Senior League are considerable. No more late match cards, or disagreements that can fester until the next committee meeting. No problems of finding suitable premises, or visiting teams finding yours! No equipment problems, postal charges, telephone bills and a better organised social week knowing every Monday is Target Gold night.

All this for 50p per player per match. The hall cost is of course paid for out of the pool money. We are able to finance the National League team from the pool and the hope is eventually to have a team that has gone through the system. This season the team looks likely to be in the prize money, which will go into

the pool. Next season may not be so rewarding but we shall have a well-kitted out team that travels in comfort.

Other benefits of running the leagues at one sports centre venue are that youngsters grow up in a sports centre environment and the senior players can share and enjoy the bar facilities after playing. We are building quite a club atmosphere in this way. We shall be keeping all activities alive during the close season by running Summer Leagues. Already 84 players are registered for these leagues. Next September sees the start of our second season. Should we prove so successful the one sports centre cannot accommodate, we can simply start other divisions in another centre.

It can now be seen why we are a very rich organisation. I have put pen to paper so that other officials, working just as hard as our committee, may like to approach their respective Councils. Unfortunately not many will be as enlightened as the City of Salford Recreation Department. We are indeed lucky. We have recently printed a handbook covering all aspects in detail. It includes five sections – General Information, Regulations, Target Gold, a 12 month and a 5 year plan and the Award Scheme. These are available on request from myself at 9 Parkstone Lane, Worsley, Manchester M28 4TW.

THE TRUSTEE SAVINGS BANK Cornish Junior 2-Star Open

The T.S.B. Cornish Junior 2-Star Open was once again successfully held at the Carn Brea Leisure Centre, Redruth on Saturday, March 2. Generous sponsorship once again from the Trustee Savings Bank enabled the Cornish Association to stage the top table tennis event in the South West.

A total entry of one hundred and forty-six players from as far away as London, Wales and the Midlands was slightly down on last season; the overall standard of table tennis was also slightly down but as usual the Cornish Open continues to provide upsets, and entertainment for the Cornish public. As with previous tournaments, players from outside Cornwall dominated the

older age groups, whilst in the younger age groups Cornish youngsters once again excelled themselves – there was even a Cornish winner, for the first time since 1982.

Winner of the main event, the Boys' Singles was Dorset's Rodney Thomas who more than justified his top seeding. Thomas won the event without the loss of a single end and even in a rather disappointing final he was never seriously threatened by Berkshire's Paul Savins, the number 2 seed. Thomas' scores during the later stages of 6, 8, 11, 11, 7, 8, 15, 13, 17 confirmed his superiority in this event.

The best game of the day – the semi final between Savins and

Somerset defender Philip Payne eventually went to the former at 20 in the third end. This was after Payne had squandered a strong third game lead with some dour defending, particularly from the backhand flank.

Cornwall's main hopes in this event Mark James and Graham Reed seeded 7 and 8 respectively seemed a little too anxious in their last year as Juniors. James went out to Payne in a good quarter final while Reed was eliminated by Kelvin Roberts, the only Welshman to make any impression.

Somerset and Avon totally dominated the Junior Girls events. Bridgwater's Melonie Carey went one stage further

from her cadet title here the previous year by winning both the Girls' Singles' and Girls' Doubles' events – the only player to win more than one title. Her final victim was Avon's Helen Perrott whom she beat 2-straight in a close fought match. The two paired up to overwhelm another Somerset/Avon combination Michele Cohen and Sarah Webb to take the doubles.

There was little doubt about the best Cornish performance this year when unseeded Rachel Plummer, a member of that old, distinguished St. Ives Club scooped the Girls' under 12 event to bring the house down. Rachel gave the top seed and holder Denise Elward (Wales) a trimming

Home News

in her semi-final to meet Plymouth's Helen Wright in the final. In probably the most entertaining final of the day, the Cornish girl got the better of the Devonian at 18 in the third.

Another Cornish finalist was 11 years old Neil Bevan of Bude who played some brilliant table tennis to reach the Boys' under 14 and under 12 finals with some useful scalps. Bevan was eventually defeated in the under 12 final by Wiltshire's Michael Aucterlonie in a continuing battle

between these two players. Having earlier beaten Aucterlonie, Bevan reached the Cadet Boys' final where top seed Matthew Pernet (Thames Valley) proved far too sharp for anyone and took the event at 8 and 11.

Dorset took a second title when Tracy Scott-Pawson had little difficulty in defeating Avon's Sarah Kettle in the Cadet Girls' final. Sian Evans of Wales caused the upset in this event by defeating the favourite Jane Wright (Plymouth) at 17 in the third to

crown an unusually lean day for Devon's contingent. Results:

BS: q-f's:

R. Thomas (Do) bt P. Tuck (Wi) 11, 7;
M. Barter (So) bt M. Pernet (Sv) 12, 10;
P. Payne (So) bt M. James (Co) 19, 15;
P. Savins (Bk) bt K. Roberts (Wal) 15, 20.

Semi-finals:

Thomas bt Barter B. 15;
Savins bt Payne -17, 15, 20.
Final: **THOMAS** bt Savins 13, 17.

GS: Semi-finals:

M. Carey (So) bt M. Cohen (Av) 14, -13, 14;
H. Perrott (Av) bt C. Brooks (Sv) 11, 4.
Final: **CAREY** bt Perrott 18, 17.

CBS: Semi-finals:

M. Pernet (Sv) bt J. Krystiniak (Sv) -19, 13, 7;
N. Bevan (Co) bt M. Aucterlonie (Wi) 17, 19.
Final: **PERNETT** bt Bevan 8, 11.

GS: U-14 Semi-finals:

S. Kettle (Av) bt S. Evans (Wal) -17, 18, 19;

T. Scott-Pawson (Do) bt J. Webber (So) 14, 15.
Final: **SCOTT-PAWSON** bt Kettle 13, 16.

GS U-12 Semi-finals:

R. Plummer (Co) bt D. Elward (Wal) 15, 18;
H. Wright (Dv) bt S. Fowler (So) 3, 7.
Final: **PLUMMER** bt Wright 18, -19, 18.

BS: U-12 Semi-finals:

Aucterlonie bt J. Webber (So) 17, 14;
Bevan bt M. Bawden (Co) 19, 23.
Final: **AUCTERLONIE** bt Bevan -10, 14, 16.

BD: Semi-finals:

Savins/D. Smith (Wa) bt R. Aitken/G. Hughes (Dv) 13, 18;
Payne/Barter bt James/G. Reed (Co) 14, 14.
Final: **BARTER/PAYNE** bt Savins/Smith 15, 13.

GD: Semi-finals:

Carey/Perrott bt E. Stevenson (Co)/J. Neale (Wi) 15, 11;
Cohen/S. Webb (So) bt Brooks/K. Withyman (So) 10, 18.
Final: **CAREY/PERROTT** bt Cohen/Webb 11, 13.

Hoechst Yorkshire Open

COMPLETE CONFUSION

by Rea Balmford

What promised to be the best Yorkshire Open for many years went off course when the non-arrival of three of the four top half seeds necessitated a re-draw in the seeded places to restore the imbalance of the major Men's Singles event.

This necessary change not only caused discontent among the players, of which more later, but threw the time schedule into complete confusion, leaving the organisers with no room for manoeuvre in the late stages when the same players were involved in two or more events.

Referee Ron Wilson, knowing only that Chris Bartram, the only one of the three absentees who had taken the trouble to telephone, was a non-starter, was left in an impossible position when, at the scheduled time for the start of the event, Steve Scowcroft, Carl Morgan and Nigel Eckersley, had not reported.

The draw was seriously out of balance; the seeds, having a Round 1 bye, were not due to be present until the round was nearly completed; but no change could be made once the event was under way.

Nigel arrived well within his time, a provisional draw which had been made was thus rendered invalid and the whole process had to be gone through again, with play eventually starting just under an hour late.

Matters were not helped by at least four matches round this vital period going to 'expedite', thus further stretching the already tight schedule, and this was only the start of the prob-

lems, for the vacant seeded places 6, 7 and 8 had to be filled by the strongest ADDITIONAL entries (I.T.T.F. Regulation 4.5.4.7.1) - an obscure regulation which no one would expect the players to know - and, not surprisingly, there was consternation on the floor of the hall.

So the Tournament, which had begun so well, petered out at far too late an hour to excite the enthusiasm of the players, the organisers or first time sponsors Hoechst U.K. Ltd., without whom an event on the scale planned would have been well beyond the bounds of possibility.

Apologies to all, and particularly to our guest of honour, Mr. Len Holland and his party representing our sponsors, to whom go our sincere thanks.

For the record Benny Robertson and Brian Jeanes, two of the 'new' seeds were dismissed by Brian Johns and Richard Whiteley respectively, but the quarters was the end of the road for both as they went out to Kevin Satchell and Eckersley, the men at either end of the draw.

It was in the second quarter that the seeded Barry Johnson went out to Steve Sharpe, the Yorkshire man in turn falling to Dave Gannon before it all came right when Steve Mills, who had cruised comfortably through at the bottom with straight wins, claimed his fourth to put an end to Gannon's hopes.

The third section saw the departure of local man Kevin Beadsley, banished by Peter McQueen, the third of the 'additional' entries who merited

a seeded spot. The Tynesider went on to upset Eckersley in a thriller, but it was Mills, who had had a surprisingly comfortable passage against Satchell, who continued his march in the final to take the top prize.

There was consolation for Robertson and Johns in the Men's Doubles, where they came through in three against Satchell - Steve Brunskill; the evergreen Derek Schofield won yet another battle in his long drawn out war with Matt Shearer; while former International Melody Hill showed that she is still a force well beyond the confines of her native county as she swept to a comfortable Women's Singles win and then added the Doubles with Cheryl Buttery.

Melody conceded less than a hundred points in her four visits to the table, but a word of praise for another rising Yorkshire star in Karen Burrows, who was on the losing end in both finals.

Results:-

M.S.: q-f's: Steve Mills (Y) bt Dave Gannon (Le) 13, 18;
Peter McQueen (Nd) bt Kevin Beadsley (Y) 19, 17;

Kevin Satchell (Wi) bt Brian Johns (Ch) 10, 12;
Nigel Eckersley (La) bt Richard Whiteley (Y) 19, 16.

S-f's: Mills bt Satchell 3, 18;

McQueen bt Eckersley 20, 18.

Final: **MILLS** bt McQueen 18, 17.

M.D.: s-f's: Benny Robertson (Nd)/Johns bt Gannon/Steve George (Du) -15, 17, 15;
Satchell/Steve Brunskill (Cv) bt McQueen/Neil McMaster (Nd) 16, conceded.

Final: **ROBERTSON/JOHNS** bt Satchell/Brunskill -17, 15, 13.

W.S.: s-f's: Melody Hill (Y) bt Lesley Broomhead (Y) 16, 10;

Karen Burrows (Y) bt Doreen Schofield (Ch) 23-21, 18.

Final: **HILL** bt Burrows 16, 13.

W.D.: s-f's: Hill/Cheryl Buttery (Ha) bt Elaine Sayer/Kim Mudge (E) -19, 8, 9;
Burrows/Julie Speight (Y) bt Hazel Kavanagh (Y)/Susan Richmond (Cv) 6, 11.

Final: **HILL/BUTTERY** bt Burrows/Speight 14, 16.
V.S.: s-f's: Derek Schofield (Ch) bt Ian Walmsley (Y) 18, 12;

Matt Shearer (Li) bt Ron Norton (Hu) 9, 9.

Final: **SCHOFIELD** bt Shearer 16, 8.

MIXED CLASS 2 SINGLES

S-f's: McQueen bt George 7, 18;

Steven Sharpe (Y) bt Mick Owen (Ch) 16, 17.

Final: **McQUEEN** bt Sharpe 11, 14.

MIXED CLASS 3 SINGLES

S-f's: Tony Bottomley (Y) bt A. Hare (Wa) -14, 10, 16.

Mick Emmerson (Y) bt D. Pamar (Wa) -16, 19, 18.

Final: **BOTTOMLEY** bt Emmerson 18, -14, 11.

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The Oldham & District Closed Championships

by Murray Corbin

HATTON AND WHITEHEAD TAKE MAJOR TITLES

Tim Hatton of Stott-Benham's won the main Mixed Singles event of the Oldham & District TTL Closed Championships, which were held in February, at the prestigious Queen Elizabeth Hall in Oldham. The Ladies Singles, went to **Carey Whitehead**.

Fourteen of the sixteen seeds took part and all but one, Terry Scoltock of Royton CC, who was beaten in the third round by **Nigel Greenwood**, reached the fourth round. At this stage, the number two seed **Phil Aspinall** of Coldhurst CC, nearly fell to Nicky Mooney – the 14th seed. Phil lost the first at 19, was 19-20 down in the second, took that one and the third; but it was never easy. On another table, the skilled **Tim Malkin**, also of Royton CC and seeded ten, was putting out Mark Hankey, the third seed. Previously, Mark took a long time to dispose of Derrick 'The Cap' Hendry. Every time Derrick sent Mark wide on the wings, the surrounds went flying everywhere. It was a nice spectacle and played with humour, sometimes.

The Final was a showcase of thrills and skills. **Tim Hatton** proved a very exciting performer and one that many youngsters should watch. I particularly liked to see how he rehearsed every stroke that was unsuccessful, before he played another one. **Phil Aspinall**, his adversary in the final, proved very capable of causing the major upset, but he

did not take advantage of those situations to keep real pressure on Tim, combined with the fact that, for a left hander, his forehand skills are limited to one big hit, which exploded often and accurately. His forehand kill is one of the most vicious forces I have seen for many a year. Tim, on the other hand, is an artist, and used his bat majestically, to paint victory, which came after a most exciting third game in the set.

MIXED SINGLES

Quarters: Tim Hatton Vs Howard Leigh 14,10. Larry Bainbridge Vs Tim Malkin 26,21,14. Ron Wetherby Vs Ian McLean 16-17,23. Phil Aspinall Vs John de Pledge 9,8. **Semis:** Tim Hatton Vs Tim Malkin 16,10. Phil Aspinall Vs Ron Wetherby 19,17. **Final:** Tim Hatton Vs Phil Aspinall 21-17,18.

LADIES SINGLES

Last year's winner Amanda Goodwin was away on a course in London, and as was expected, **Carey Whitehead** took advantage of this opportunity to get her name on the Cup, by going through to the final and then thrashing Freda Jackson 13 and 9. Many were surprised with Freda's victory over the lovely model-like Lynne Errock of Coldhurst, in the semis, since Freda was seeded behind Lynne and Carole Greenwood. Lynne won the first at 18 against Freda, who then turned the tables and won the next two at 12 and 15. Lynne's style is somewhat similar to Phil Aspinall's, which is a lot of blocking to prepare for the big forehand crash. Freda, realising this, made sure that Lynne was always blocking. This frustrated Lynne because the

big-shot opportunity was now becoming non-existent and she sooner than later, went for the wrong ball. **Freda Jackson** of Oldham CC played very tactically at that stage. Her meeting with Carey in the final was a good example of the difference between the modern and old game. Freda, who I can see is a great campaigner and a credit to the game, simply was not quick enough for the red hot firebrand **Carey Whitehead** of Greenhill CC.

Quarters: Carey Whitehead Vs Karen Richardson 9,9. Carole Greenwood Vs Deborah Fletcher 14,15. Freda Jackson Vs Colette Goodwin 13-19,18. Lynne Errock Vs Rachel Greenwood 14,11. **Semis:** Carey Whitehead Vs Carole Greenwood 13,17. Freda Jackson Vs Lynne Errock -18,12,15. **Final:** Carey Whitehead Vs Freda Jackson 13,9.

THE ALAN DYSON MEMORIAL TROPHY

Due to Alan Dyson's untimely death a few months ago, while on duty at the table for his Club Greenhill Community Centre, the Mens Doubles Championship has been appropriately renamed accordingly. I did not have the good fortune to meet Alan, but I am informed that he was a conscientious Team man, very kind, loved the game, and always had time to listen to and advise others, besides being a loving family man. I had the pleasure of sitting and talking to his widow Barbara and their son Mark. I will cherish the opportunity of doing so.

Semis: Phil Aspinall/Ian McLean Vs Derrick Hendry/Ron Weatherby 9,11. Tony Worthington/John Hope Vs Larry Bainbridge/Mark Hankey -13,20,9. **Final:** Aspinall/McLean Vs Worthington/Hope 16,12.

JUNIOR SINGLES

Out of an entry of twenty-seven, **Nigel Greenwood** (Coldhurst) and **Wayne Renton** (Courtauld's) went through to the final, where, in spite of Nigel's greater power and better all round play, I saw flashes from Wayne that should see him in good standing in the near future, but much time will have to be invested in the art of serving and receiving. Another young man caught my eye whenever he was at the table. Yes, Darryl Sneyd is an impressive little looper, who must now be taught how to flat kill and finish off a rally. He is a very polite and likeable chap. By the way Darryl, congratulations on your number 38 Cadet National ranking.

Semis: Nigel Greenwood Vs Rohit Khurana 9,21. Wayne Renton Vs Darryl Sneyd 14-13,17. **Final:** Greenwood Vs Renton 15,21.

THE VETERANS SINGLES

Either one of the eight seeds could have won this keenly contested competition, but honours went to those who got really stuck in. I marvelled at the incredible and unorthodox skill of the pen-holder **Bernard 'Jesus Wept' Davies**. Bernard was defeated in the semis by the

eventual winner – Norman Thewlis, a man who takes every aspect of the game very seriously. In an earlier round, as he was preparing to serve, an onlooker sneezed. Norman turned around and pleaded, "Can't you see I'm about to serve? Shut up!" Meanwhile, on the other half of the draw, Bob Forrest, to my surprise, found Terry Donlon and then Derrick Hendry, rather easier to defeat than we had expected. This gave us the show-down that had the large crowd fascinated – Forrest Vs Thewlis. In the first game of the final, Bob was attacking at times with great imagination and was clearly the crowd's favourite. Norman's defence was at times stretched, and not being blessed with Bob's nimbleness of feet, he decided to break up his defence with light and then hard backhand kills, to take that game. Bob took the next after keeping the ball very short to Norman's backhand and then killing through his forehand. This Norman is a smart cookie and like the great reader of the game he is, once he decided to take over the attacking role which put Bob into a blocking situation, all he then had to do was choose the correct ball to put beyond Bob. This was a great game.

Quarters: Norman Thewlis Vs John Lloyd 15,11. Bernard Davies Vs George Mather 13-15,17. Bob Forrest Vs Terry Donlon 20,9. Derrick Hendry Vs Brian Huskinson 16,14. **Semis:** Thewlis Vs Davies 21,12. Forrest Vs Hendry 11,21. **Final:** Thewlis Vs Forrest 15-18,19.

Consolation Singles

Quarters: John Hinchliffe Vs Geoff Hollin 8,16. Bernard Davies Vs Stuart Wales 14,12. Wayne Renton Vs Glen Hewitt 13,19. Peter Lord Vs Matthew Nettleton 15-17,12. **Semis:** Davies Vs Hinchliffe 25-19,16. Lord Vs Renton 18,15. **Final:** Lord Vs Davies 21-15,17.

MIXED DOUBLES

Aspinall/Carey Whitehead Vs Henkey/Rachel Greenwood 10,12. Stuart Wales/Freda Jackson Vs Larry Bainbridge/Karen Richardson 12-15,16. Les Evans/Carole Greenwood Vs David & Rebecca Greenwood, 17,11. Ian McLean/Lynne Errock Vs Tony Barber/Deborah Fletcher 13,6. **Semis:** Aspinall/Whitehead Vs Evans/Greenwood 12,17. McLean/Errock Vs Wales/Jackson 18,10. **Final:** Aspinall/Whitehead Vs McLean/Errock 10,17.

TRIBUTE TO THE COMMITTEE

This was one of the best Championships that I have attended and the organisation by Marjorie Riddle and Stuart Sneyd deserves full praise. They were also responsible for motivating the Committee to invite me to Oldham to present the trophies and cover the Championships for this magazine. In doing so, I met a lot of interesting and very nice people and I wish to thank them all for talking to me. A special thank you must be extended to Phil Coombs who later presented me with a very, very old all sponge bat, which may have been used mainly by the Japanese in the 30's and 40's. Thank you one and all.



Tim Hatton of Stott-Benham's receiving the Big Pot from Ken Jackson, Chairman of the Oldham & District TTL, shortly after Tim had engaged Phil Aspinall, on the left, in a most exciting final, to climax big entry to the Mixed Singles. (Oldham Closed)



Barbara Dyson being surrounded by a bevy of muscles. On the left, the Alan Dyson Memorial Trophy winners Phil Aspinall/Ian McLean, and on the right, runners-up Tony Worthington/John Hope. (Oldham Closed)

ENGLISH CLOSED TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

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DOUGLAS DOMINATES

By Fiona Brown

National No. 1 Desmond Douglas retained his English Closed Men's Singles title for a record seventh consecutive time and eighth overall when the 1984/85 Championships took place at Bletchley Leisure Centre, Milton Keynes over the weekend of March 8/10.

Over 250 players contested the seven events in the hope of capturing a title and a share of the prize fund; and unfortunately the television cameras were absent. A real shame in view of the fact that Derbyshire's Alan Cooke caused an early upset in the Men's final where he held five points for a two games to nil lead before being caught and overtaken by the incredible Douglas. The Bellingers created a little bit of Table Tennis history by becoming the first sisters to contest the Women's Singles final.

In the Men's event John Payne was the most successful qualifier, reaching the third round before conceding to the talents of England No. 6 David Wells. John Souter provided a major surprise by displacing No. 3 seed Carl Prean at the same stage and Yorkshireman Steve Mills em-

phasised his continuing improvement by resisting the challenge of a below par Graham Sandley.

Douglas reached the final without dropping a game whereas Cooke had needed four in his matches against Nigel Eckersley and Skylet Andrew but when the final commenced it began to look as if Cooke had the answer to Douglas's game, his attacking flair made a mockery of recent suggestions that he does not have sufficient power to bring him success against top class opposition. The crowd of over 300 showed their appreciation of his efforts but they were even more generous in their applause for the reigning champion when he rallied to recover from a 20-15 deficit in the second game to level the match.

Cooke's failure to capitalise on this situation marked the turning point as Douglas moved up a gear to dominate the remaining games and despite valiant attempts which often took Cooke crashing into the barriers the reigning champion proved that he is still England's best player as he captured a record eighth singles title.

In the Women's event Lisa Bellinger who had won her first major domestic title the previous week faced her toughest challenge against the holder, Alison Gordon, in the semi-final. Her determined defensive play effectively restricted the use of Miss Gordon's powerful loop and despite a 2-1 deficit Miss Bellinger refused to be tempted onto the attack, her tactics were rewarded as she clinched a place in the final joining elder sister Jackie who had already dispatched former champion Karen Witt in the penultimate round. The No. 2 seed, Joy Grundy of Preston having earlier withdrawn from this section of the draw suffering from a back injury.

In the final Lisa was never seriously threatened although she was forced to employ a more varied style in order to win. After the match she commented, "I knew that I could not beat Jackie by defence alone", an understandable statement in view of the fact that the two sisters are also regular practise partners. When asked whether they enjoyed playing each other in competition the girls laughingly agreed "we would rather have tossed a coin".

The Bellingers had earlier paired up to win the Women's Doubles event, defeating holders Alison Gordon and Mandy Sainsbury en route to a final against Karen Witt and Sarah Sandley.

In the Mens Doubles final favourites Douglas and Prean raced ahead and despite the concentrated efforts of surprise opponents John Souter and Colin Wilson the England pair held a substantial lead throughout the opening game. The Middlesex

duo settled in the second as Wilson played a number of intelligent shots clearly showing he had learnt from his earlier singles match against Douglas. With Souter recapturing moments of the brilliance he had displayed against Prean in the earlier event they were able to level the score. But it was to no avail as the England pair demonstrated the type of teamwork which had brought them the Dutch Open title back in October 1984. The result gave Douglas his eighth success in this event alone and Prean his first English Championship trophy.

In the Mixed Doubles Miss Witt once again benefited from the withdrawal of Miss Grundy as she and partner Joe Kennedy of Kent progressed to the final. When they claimed the first game from No. 1 seeds Alison Gordon and Graham Sandley a surprise looked on the cards, but once again international experience began to play its part and the Berkshire/Middlesex combination sped to victory.

From a strong entry of 50, No. 4 seed, Ralph Gunnion from Warwickshire provided a surprise result in the Veteran Men's Singles. In the Saturday evening final he entertained the small yet appreciative audience with a fine display of controlled defence and selective attack as he demoralised Lincolnshire's Matt Shearer to capture the trophy and earn the distinction of being the only competitor in the Championships to win a title without the loss of a single game.

Unlike husband Derek, who had fallen in the first round of the



Bellinger Sisters

Jackie and Lisa shared the womens double title and then went on to make championship history by becoming the first sisters to contest the womens singles title.

English Closed Table Tennis Championships

Veteran Men's event, Doreen Schofield retained her Veteran Women's title with a determined performance to overcome Berkshire's Mary Stafford. Mrs. Stafford, who had earlier beaten the No. 2 seed, Kent's Margaret Dignum, forged into a 1-0 lead in the final but struggled to match Mrs. Schofield consistency throughout the remaining games.

POSTSCRIPT: All entrants at this Championship were given the opportunity of booking sensibly-priced comfortable accommodation in advance through the ETTA. Much to our surprise so few people took advantage of this arrangement that we were forced to cancel the booking and the result, as predicted, was a headache for players and organisers alike as frantic last minute efforts were needed to find hotel space which inevitably proved more expensive.

However the Association will make every effort to secure similar advance arrangements for next year's event and we hope that you will take up the offer.

S. Sandley (Mi) bt T. Moore (Sx) 18, 15, -18, 18;
J. Bellinger (Bd) bt J. Barella (Sy) 11, 13, 12;
S. Collier (Bk) bt C. Maisey (Wj) 17, 18, 22.

Quarter-finals:

Gordon bt Sainsbury -19, 6, 17, 13;
L. Bellinger bt Elliot 10, 11, -12, 20;
Witt bt Sandley 20, -9, 14, 13;
J. Bellinger bt Collier 11, 14, 18.

Semi-finals:

L. Bellinger bt Gordon -20, 13, -10, 13, 18;
J. Bellinger bt Witt 18, 15, 20.

Final:

L. BELLINGER bt J. Bellinger 18, 13, 18.

Men's Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Douglas/Preen bt A. Dixon (St)/M. Jukes (Wj) 9, 14;

K. Satchell (Wj)/Wellman bt Andrew/N. Mason (Wj) 17, 15;

Souter/Wilson bt Bradbury/Wells 19, 18;

Mills/C. Rogers (Le) bt Cooke/Sandley 13, -21, 19.

Semi-finals:

Douglas/Preen bt Satchell/Wellman 8, 14;
Souter/Wilson bt Mills/Rogers 20, 19.

Final:

DOUGLAS/PREEN bt Souter/Wilson 9, -18, 13.

Women's Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Gordon/Sainsbury bt Bardwell/A. Hillard (Av) 10, 15;

Bellinger/Bellinger bt S. Hunt (Lj)/Smith 11, 16;
Sandley/Witt bt Elliot/Harris 14, 7;

J. Collins (Bk)/Maisey bt Barella/S. Weston (Sx) 16, 14.

Semi-finals:

Bellinger/Bellinger bt Gordon/Sainsbury 25, 20;
Sandley/Witt bt Collins/Maisey 19, 18.

Final:

BELLINGER/BELLINGER bt Sandley/Witt -15, 8, 17.

Mixed Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Sandley/Gordon bt G. Wilson (Dvj)/J. Dimmock (Bd) 9, 14;

Wells/Sainsbury bt Cooke/Collier 19, 18;

A. Moore (Sx)/L. Bellinger bt Wilson/Williams 18, -18, 20;

J. Kennedy (K)/Witt bt M. Oakley (Sy)/Barella 15, -12, 8.

Semi-finals:

Sandley/Gordon bt Wells/Sainsbury 16, 14;

Kennedy/Witt bt Moore/L. Bellinger -10, 10, 13.

Final:

SANDLEY/GORDON bt Kennedy/Witt -20, 15, 13.

Men's Veterans' Singles: Round 2:

F. Earis (Bu) bt B. Varnham (Ox) 17, -18, 19;

B. Adedayo (Mi) bt W. Allanson (Bk) 21, 13;

R. Norton (Hu) bt A. Watson (Bu) 8, 19;

R. Gunnion (Wj) bt F. Hams (Sy) 10, 16;

I. Jones (Bk) bt W. Brookman (Mi) 21, 18;

D. Seaholme (He) bt B. Edlington (Lj) 17, -13, 17;

G. Chapman (Sy) bt T. Adams (K) 23, -7, 12;

M. Shearer (Lj) bt M. Billington (Dy) 17, 13.

Quarter-Finals:

Adedayo bt Earis 13, 14;

Gunnion bt Norton 17, 14;

Seaholme bt Jones 13, 15;

Shearer bt Chapman 10, 12.

Semi-finals:

Gunnion bt Adedayo 15, 14;

Shearer bt Seaholme 15, 16.

Final:

GUNNION bt Shearer 17, 8.

Women's Veterans' Singles: Quarter-finals:

D. Schofield (Ch) bt I. Kershaw (Ha) 13, 10;

J. Hunt (Wo) bt G. Knightley (Bk) 19, 18;

M. Stafford (Bk) bt S. Tyler (He) 8, 15;

M. Dignum (K) bt A. Robinson (Bd) 9, 14;

Semi-finals:

Schofield bt Hunt 14, 13;

Stafford bt Dignum 11, 12.

Final:

SCHOFIELD bt Stafford -15, 15, 16.

Men's Singles: Round 3:

D. Douglas (Wj) bt S. Scowcroft (La) 13, 13, 14;

C. Wilson (Mi) bt P. Bradbury (Bu) 20, -17, -19, 19, 19;

S. Mills (Y) bt A. Wellman (Bk) -16, 4, 15, 14;

G. Sandley (Mi) bt B. Johns (Ch) 9, 15, 17;

J. Souter (Mi) bt C. Preen (IOW) 19, -15, 18, -19, 11;

D. Wells (Mi) bt J. Payne (Mi) 12, 18, 16;

S. Andrew (E) bt J. Burtleton (K) 17, 17, 18;

A. Cooke (Dy) bt K. Richardson (Ca) 11, 9, 19.

Quarter-finals:

Douglas bt Wilson 14, 10, 7;

Mills bt Sandley -19, 20, 14, -16, 16;

Wells bt Souter 17, 17, 18;

Cooke bt Andrew -20, 13, 19, 18.

Semi-finals:

Douglas bt Mills 16, 11, 19;

Cooke bt Wells 16, 11, 11.

Final:

DOUGLAS bt Cooke -16, 21, 13, 19.

Women's Singles: Round 2:

A. Gordon (Bk) bt L. Hayden (E) 7, 8, 9;

M. Sainsbury (Bk) bt J. Harris (St) 14, 17, -18, 16;

F. Elliot (St) bt K. Smith (Le) 20, 15, 13;

L. Bellinger (Bd) bt H. Williams (Mi) 5, 13, 19;

K. Witt (Bk) bt H. Bardwell (Hu) 18, -22, 13, -20, 11;



Alan Cooke
Faced his first mens singles final with confidence but was unable to take the title from Desmond Douglas.



Karen Witt
Womens singles champion in 1983 but no match for Jackie Bellinger in the 1985 semi final.



Steven Scowcroft
Who has moved up seventeen places to No. 10 in the mens ranking list this season faced Desmond Douglas in the 2nd round of the mens singles.

SPOT THE TOPS

Winners of the competition featured in the programme of the English Closed Championships held at Bletchley Leisure Centre, 8th/10th March, 1985 were:

£40 Teesport gift voucher:
Paul Wain, 28 Queens Road, Barnet, Herts EN5 4DG.

£30 Playrite Sports gift voucher:
Peter Ptak, 253 Crescent Drive, Pettswood, Orpington, Kent.

£20 Jarvis Sports gift voucher:
Neil Pickard, Oakwood Church Street, Reepham, Norfolk.

English Schools' Table Tennis Association

DUNLOP NATIONAL SCHOOL TEAM CHAMPIONSHIP FINALS

by David Lomas



Schools from the North of England took the major honours at the Dunlop National School Team Championships Finals which were held at Lea Green, Matlock, on Saturday, March 23rd.

Six of the eight titles went to the north and they also lifted both "Best Performance" awards. Never before have the north done so well. Bury Grammar School won their first national title in winning the Norman Cook Cup for the senior (Boys' U-19) event and in so doing became the first Greater Manchester boys team to gain national honours.

Highfield County Primary School, Chorley, became Lancashire Schools' first champions since local government reorganisation in 1974 when they won an exciting Girls' U-11 event which went to a nail-biting "tie-breaker" doubles. Sydney Smith High School (Hull) were comfortable winners of the Girls' U-16 event and the biggest winners on the day were Yarlside Primary, Barrow-in-Furness, who had maximum wins - 8-0, 8-0, in the Boys' U-11 event.

There were two successes for West Yorkshire schools in the Under-13 events. Battleyford C.E. Middle School, Mirfield, held on to their Boys' title (the only team to retain their title) whilst Archbishop Cranmer C.E. Middle School, Leeds won the Girls category with a strong team.

For the first time since 1978 there was no place on the winners' rostrum for a Market Drayton side. The Grove had to be content with third place in the Girls' U-13 event whilst former Girls' U-11 holders, Market Drayton Junior School, also finished third even though by the narrowest of margins.

The other titles went to twice former winners of the Girls' U-19 title, Bournemouth School for Girls who edged out holders Brampton Manor, Newham, 5-3, and Bedford Modern School who made hard work of winning the Leach-Carrington Trophy (B16).

The Boys "Best Performance" award (for the Gerald Gurney Trophy) went to Bury Grammar No. 1, Lee Brown, who had maximum wins. For the first time the Girls "Best Performance" award was shared. Highfield doubles pair Maria Thornley and Joanne Locke were the recipients for their thrilling doubles win in which they came from 15-9



ETTA Coach, Peter Simpson, presents Lee Brown of Bury Grammar School with the Gerald Gurney Trophy for the Boys' "Best Performance" Award.



ETTA President, Mr. Maurice Goldstein, O.B.E., presents the T. Austin Harrison Cup to Battyeford C.E. Middle School, Mirfield (West Yorkshire) who retained the Boys' U13 title.



Sydney Smith High School, Hull - winners of the Girls' U-16 Trophy - with Lea Green Principal, Mr. Phil Gregory.

down in the final game against Buttsbury's pair to win 21-19 and so gain the Girls' U-11 title.

The annual Championships - now nineteen years old - are organised by the ESTTA through the Team Championships Organiser, Geoff Gardiner, and sponsored by the Dunlop Sports Company.

Results:-

BOYS' U-19:

1. BURY GRAMMAR (Greater Manchester)
 2. Camborne (Cornwall)
 3. Bedford Modern (Bedfordshire)
- | | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|---|
| Bury Grammar | 5 | Bedford Modern | 3 |
| Bedford Modern | 3 | Camborne | 5 |
| Camborne | 3 | Bury Grammar | 5 |

A closely-contested competition in which Bury edged home against Camborne thanks to a 2-1 win by Lee Brown over Camborne No. 1, Mark James.

GIRLS' U-19:

1. BOURNEMOUTH SCHOOL FOR GIRLS (Dorset)
 2. Brampton Manor, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
 3. Caistor Grammar (Lincolnshire)
- | | | | |
|-----------------|---|-----------------|---|
| Caistor Grammar | 2 | Bournemouth | 6 |
| Brampton Manor | 5 | Caistor Grammar | 3 |
| Bournemouth | 5 | Brampton Manor | 3 |

Bournemouth's Nos. 1 and 2, Samantha and Tracy Scott-Pawson, had maximum wins including two defeats for Brampton's Gillian Patten.

BOYS' U-16:

1. BEDFORD MODERN (Bedfordshire)
 2. Budehaven, Bude (Cornwall)
 3. Woodlands, Derby (Derbyshire)
- | | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|---|
| Woodlands | 3 | Budehaven | 5 |
| Bedford Modern | 6 | Woodlands | 2 |
| Budehaven | 4 | Bedford Modern | 4 |

Maximums for Bedford Modern's Andrew Trott and Gavin Black. First-ever finals appearances for Woodlands and Budehaven.

GIRLS' U-16:

1. SYDNEY SMITH HIGH, HULL (Humberside)
 2. Hanley High, Stoke-on-Trent (Staffordshire)
 3. Tamworth Manor High, Mitcham (Surrey Metropolitan)
- | | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|---|
| Sydney Smith | 7 | Hanley High | 1 |
| Hanley High | 5 | Tamworth Manor | 3 |
| Tamworth Manor | 1 | Sydney Smith | 7 |

A convincing performance by Sydney Smith's ex-Wold Junior High pupils. Fourth Lea Green appearance by Alison Evans.

BOYS' U-13:

1. BATTYEFORD C.E. MIDDLE, MIRFIELD (West Yorkshire)
 2. Brislington, Bristol (Avon)
 3. Downside, Purley (Surrey Metropolitan)
- | | | | |
|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| Downside | 3 | Brislington | 5 |
| Battyeford | 4 | Downside | 4 |
| Brislington | 3 | Battyeford | 5 |

Quite a close contest with last year's U-11 winners, Downside putting up a fight but finishing in third spot. First-ever national final for Brislington but Battyeford retain their crown.

GIRLS' U-13:

1. ARCHBISHOP CRANMER C.E. MIDDLE, LEEDS (West Yorkshire)
 2. Longsands, St. Neots (Cambridgeshire)
 3. The Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire)
- | | | | |
|--------------------|---|--------------------|---|
| Archbishop Cranmer | 6 | Longsands | 2 |
| Longsands | 4 | The Grove | 4 |
| The Grove | 1 | Archbishop Cranmer | 7 |

Longsands No.1, Tracy Slater, unbeaten but a convincing all-round performance by the Leeds girls gives them their first national title.

BOYS' U-11:

1. YARLSIDE PRIMARY, BARROW-IN-FURNESS (Cumbria)
 2. Old Buckenham Hall, Ipswich (Suffolk)
 3. Bilton Grange, Rugby (Warwickshire)
- | | | | |
|---------------|---|---------------|---|
| Yarlside | 8 | Bilton Grange | 0 |
| Bilton Grange | 1 | OBH | 7 |
| OBH | 0 | Yarlside | 8 |

A "clean-sweep" for Yarlside who won every set and only dropped one solitary game. Good to see Cumbria still winning titles after Millom's nine titles in the '70's.

GIRLS' U-11:

1. HIGHFIELD COUNTY PRIMARY, CHORLEY (Lancs)

2. Buttsbury Junior, Billericay (Essex County)
 3. Market Drayton Junior (Shropshire)
- | | | | |
|----------------|---|----------------|---|
| Highfield | 4 | Buttsbury | 4 |
| Buttsbury | 5 | Market Drayton | 3 |
| Market Drayton | 3 | Highfield | 5 |

Delia Holland unbeaten for Buttsbury. Three very closely contested matches with that doubles decider in which Highfield edged home 7-21, 25-23, 21-19. The event was played in a good spirit and the standard of play was probably the highest ever for U-11.

Almost 300 players – each player being the county champion – are expected to be involved in the Dunlop English Schools' Individual Championships which are due to take place at Mansfield Leisure Centre on **Sunday, May 5th**.

Northern players are the No. 1 seeds in seven of the eight events.



Bournemouth School for Girls – winners of the Girls' U-19 event for the third time, with Councillor F. Revell, Chairman of Derbyshire Education Committee.

(l to r: Rebecca Ramsay, Tracy Scott-Pawson, Samantha Scott-Pawson, Elisabeth Hoskins)



Dunlop's Table Tennis Marketing Manager, Alan Hydes, with Highfield's Girls' U-11 doubles pairing of Maria Thornley and Joanne Locke who won the Girls' "Best Performance" Award.

(Photographic coverage by John O'Sullivan.)

The 1985 Lincoln Handicap ETTA Lottery

This year's Lottery achieved nearly £6,600 in ticket sales and of this amount nearly £3,500 was returned to participating leagues and counties to help their finances. The No. 1 Sales Spot was gained by the South West Middlesex League with a magnificent £580 or 2320 books or 11,600 tickets – many congratulations to them and their band of dedicated and enthusiastic helpers. Their rebate cheque for £290 is on its way. Second Spot went to Reading with tremendous sales of £423, and a further four leagues achieved over £300. Congratulations to them and thanks to all those participating, not forgetting the "punters" of course who bought the tickets.

Lady Luck smiled on fifty-seven people at the Draw, although only 26 horses actually ran on the day, and all these were assured of at least a £10 prize. The winner was Cataldi and the **FIRST PRIZE** of £500 went to Mr. G. Clement of Cumbria, with the

SECOND PRIZE of £250 going to Mrs. M. Lewis of Dorset. Congratulations to them and to all Prize Winners, with the total prize money amounting to £1430.

Our thanks go to Mr. C. T. Hyland, Chairman of the Hastings and District Table Tennis Association, for conducting the Draw, and to all the people who bought and sold tickets.

To those Leagues participating this year our thanks and hopes that they will continue their support. To those Leagues yet to participate may we remind them that as a method of fund-raising it could not be easier as; 1) you risk no financial loss at all; 2) the ETTA provide the Prize Money and, 3) the ETTA pay all printing costs. Full details will be circulated in September and we hope that more leagues will apply for free tickets for this excellent Fund Raising Vehicle.

Credit must be afforded to R. J. Stevens, the promoter. (Ed.)

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

April		May	
13/14	Beneficial Trust Essex Junior Select , Harlow Sports Centre, Hammerskjold Road, Harlow, Essex.	1	Friendly International – ENGLAND v NETHERLANDS George Lawton Centre, Mossley, Tameside.
14	Bedford 1-Star Open	4/5	Hollington Junior 1-Star Open C.D. 4.5.85. Entry forms from: S. Godfrey, 29 Marile Rd., St. Leonards-on-Sea. Phone: 0424 52371.
20	Dunlop Lancashire 2-Star Open, British Aerospace Dynamics, Lostock, Bolton.	5	Halex National League (13) ETTA Individual Championships (Mansfield)
20/21	Grievson, Grant Tunbridge Wells Junior 2-Star Open, Sandown Court School, Blackhurst Lane, Tunbridge Wells, Kent.	11/12	BENEFICIAL TRUST ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN , Mountbatten Sports Centre, Portsmouth.
21	Halex National League (12)	19	Halex National League (14)
27	Evening Chronicle Northumberland 2-Star Open, Concordia Leisure Centre, Cramlington, Northumberland.	26/27	Salford 2-Star Open
27/28	Beneficial Trust Yorkshire Junior Select , North Bridge Leisure Centre, Halifax.		

CHANCE TO TALK

Table tennis is one of the eight sports to be featured in a new BBC Radio Schools' Broadcasting programme "Talk to a Sports star" which commences on May 2nd on Radio 4 VHF (10.25 a.m. – 10.45 a.m.). The programme Chairman is Ron Pickering.

The table tennis programme is not due to go on the air until June. Schools and children are invited to **write in** to the programme and send their particular question. Once a question has been selected the BBC will notify the schools

and arrange to phone at an agreed time when the questioner can put his or her question to the sports star in the BBC studio.

The programme is directed towards children in primary and middle schools.

Write: "Talk to a Sports Star!" BBC School Radio, Broadcasting House, LONDON W1A 1AA –or phone the producer, Peter Ward, on 01-927 5716 (direct line).

Over to you! This is your chance to talk to a table tennis star.

South of England Three-Star Open

by Michael Green

RE-DRAW AT FARNBOROUGH

The South of England Open Championships, played at Farnborough Recreation Centre in Hampshire over March 2/3, saw many of the country's top players struggling against lower ranked individuals battling to catch the selectors' eye.

Although seventeen of the country's top twenty men had originally entered, a number of withdrawals, most notably Carl Prean and Nicky Mason, forced Tournament Referee Len Pilditch to re-draw the seeds in the Men's Singles.

This enabled defending champion Graham Sandley to move up to second seed but Graham's poor recent form continued and he was bundled out by Middlesex colleague John Souter.

Fourth seed Philip Bradbury (Bu) lasted no time at all, crashing out early to Leicestershire's Chris Rogers. Seventh seed Andrew Syed halted Rogers' progress in the Quarters. Andrew had previously defeated Nigel Tyler and his own brother Matthew. Indeed, the Syed brothers' clash fired the spectators' imagination and the match itself was superb. Matthew, no

doubt, felt he should have won as, at one stage, he significantly held the upper hand.

The Souter/Syed semi-final was, quite simply, gripping. Souter, well down in the third, climbed the mountain to triumph 15, -20, 19.

The other half of the draw went to form. In the Quarters, Alan Cooke (Dy) beat Colin Wilson (Mi) and third seed David Wells (Mi) defeated fifth seed Skylet Andrew (E). Cooke crushed Wells in the semi-final.

The Middlesex pessimists reckoned sixth-seeded Souter had no chance in the Final. It'll be one-sided, they said. It was. However, it was Souter who was the dominant force. Hitting ferociously and not allowing Cooke to settle, Souter easily took the title of Lambeth Building Society Men's Champion 14, 16.

Souter wasn't content with the Singles title either. In the Cornilleau Men's Doubles he and partner Wilson defeated second seeds Bradbury and Wells in the final -18, 16, 18. Top seeds Cooke and Sandley had lost to the Moore brothers who then went out to the eventual champions.

The Borough of Rushmoor, whose staff at the Centre were unstintingly helpful in assisting the staging of the tourna-

ment, sponsored the Women's Singles. All the top lady players were present, although many of them probably wished they hadn't bothered.

Top seed Alison Gordon lost her first match to Karen Smith (Le) 23 in the third. Seventh seed Mandy Sainsbury (Bk) then saw off Karen to earn a semi-final place against Karen Witt (Bk) the third seed. This encounter had its fair share of bad-temper but this made it all the more interesting for the spectators. Karen was not best pleased to lose -14, 22, -19 as you can probably imagine.

Lancastrian Joy Grundy, seeded at two, also bowed out early losing easily to the talented Staffordshire girl Fiona Elliot. In the semi-final, in another entertaining match, Fiona just lost out to fourth seed Lisa Bellinger (Bd).

Lisa had really looked on top form all the way through and it was no surprise when she defeated Mandy 23, 11 in the final.

Lisa also followed in the footsteps of Souter by making it a pair of titles in lifting the Foxgrove Construction Women's Doubles title with sister Jackie. The final against top seeds Gordon and Sainsbury was a classic with fortunes fluctuating. The score-line in favour of the Bellingers will suffice to suggest the tension:- 20, 21, 19.

The Playrite Sports Veterans' event certainly had some grueling encounters. What about Derek Seaholme's win over Frank Hams 22 in the third on expedite!

Ralph Gunnion (Wa) took the title, easily beating Derek Schofield (Ch) in the final. Derek probably hadn't got his breath back after his 'deuce' in the third victory in the semi against Maurice Billington (Dy). Ralph had defeated second seed Matt Shearer (Li) in his semi.

That man Schofield was also the losing finalist in the Restricted final which was held on the Saturday. His victorious opponent on this occasion was Paul Whiting from Devon. In one of the best matches of the weekend Paul triumphed -16, 20, 18.

It was the first time that Surrey had used Farnborough Recreation Centre, and the organising committee were delighted with the way things went and very appreciative of the help and assistance given by the Centre staff. The event was another "Norman Hooper Production" assisted by Jimmy Anderson, John Somerville, Mike Strode and others. The Referee was Len Pilditch and Assistant was Phil Goacher. The tables were provided by Cornilleau.

Norman is currently writing a book on how to organise three-star tournaments. He is now adding a further chapter entitled "Towing stricken Vehicles". This chapter is being added as a result of Norman towing the stricken Ford belonging to Phil Cooper, International Umpire, forty miles in the early hours of Monday morning. An organiser's job is never done...

NORTH YORKSHIRE CADET OPEN

HONOURS EVENLY SPREAD

The inaugural North Yorkshire Cadet Open was played at Scatcherd Sports Centre, Morley, near Leeds on 2nd March. The original venue at York suffered a heating failure some weeks earlier so swift arrangements were made to switch the venue. Over 150 players entered the eight events at Cadet, Under-12 and Under-10 age groups.

Honours were evenly spread with no fewer than seventeen players contesting the eight finals. Sheffield's Chris Oldfield overcame Norfolk's Neil Pickard and his close rival Michael O'Driscoll to take the Cadet Boys' title. Local girl Debbie Toole surprised top seed Kerry Hall in the semi-final and followed with a straight games success over Scotland's leading junior, 13-year-old Sarah Hurry.

Brian Mileham travelled from Kent to win the Under-12 Boys' Singles with a final victory over

Gary Knights, after a close set with Andrew Eden in the semi-final. Mileham also progressed to the cadet quarter-final before going out to the eventual winner Oldfield. Hull's Marling sisters showed great promise with Samantha only losing to the more experienced Ellen Meddings in the Under-12 final and younger sister Sally taking the Under-10 title.

Stuart Sherlock and Richard Scruton ensured an early finish for the finalists and hope to attract an equally talented and well behaved group of players to next season's tournament.

Cadet Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
M. O'Driscoll (Y) bt L. Jefferies (Wa) 7, 11;
S. Miller (Cv) bt A. Eden (La) 19, -17, 18;
N. Pickard (Nk) bt J. Collins (Ca) 19, -9, 13;
C. Oldfield (Y) bt B. Mileham (K) 16, 10.
Semi-finals:
O'Driscoll bt Miller -18, 20, 12;
Oldfield bt Pickard 17, 15.
Final: OLDFIELD bt O'Driscoll 14, 15.
Cadet Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:
K. Hall (Dy) bt J. Forster (Dy) 13, 19;
D. Toole (Y) bt J. Harrison (Y) 15, 14;
J. Billington (Dy) bt N. McGrath (La) 16, 16;
S. Hurry (SCO) bt A. Pashley (Cv) 11, 4.

Semi-finals:

Toole bt Hall -16, 13, 19;
Hurry bt Billington 16, -18, 17.
Final: TOOLE bt Hurry 15, 20.

Under-12 Boys' Singles: Semi-finals:

G. Knights (Dy) bt Jefferies 14, 16;
Mileham bt Eden 13, -19, 19.

Final: MILEHAM

bt Knights 17, 16.

Under-12 Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:

Samantha Marling (Y) bt C. Buckley (Bd) 19, -15, 18;

E. Meddings (Y) bt S. Lawton (Cv) 15, 18.

Final: MEDDINGS

bt Marling 13, 12.
Under-10 Boys' Singles: Final:
D. BAKER (Mi) bt M. King (Li) 16, 11.

Under-10 Girls' Singles: Final:
SALLY MARLING (Y) bt M. Bubb (Ch) 5, 10.

Cadet Boys' Doubles: Final:
OLDFIELD/M. WARD (Y) bt S. Grassick (He)/Pickard -13, 20, 11.

Cadet Girls' Doubles: Final:
BILLINGTON/HALL bt Meddings/Toole 20, 8.

CAFFYNS HASTINGS CLOSED

BACK IN BUSINESS

by Ron Kemp

The Hastings Closed, originally scheduled to have been in February last but cancelled due to our sponsor dropping out, is back in business on Sunday, April 28/85 at the Sports Centre, Bohemia Road, Hastings with local car firm Caffyns of Bexhill taking over.

It is still a well attended event, especially so now we have a Divisional Championship to attract players from the lower divisions who otherwise would not have bothered - who wants to be beaten 21-1, 21-0 by Steven or Adrian Moore in Round

1! However, this year our top two will likely be Adrian Moore and Graham Gillett, so the final of the men's singles should be pretty good at least!

County teammates Teresa Moore and Sheila King are the two favourites in the women's events. As before at the Sports Centre, 12 tables will be used from 9.30 a.m. until about 6 p.m. Finals to start at 7.30 p.m. in the presence of the Mayor of Hastings, Councillor R. Saunders, and Mr. Chas Pearce, General Manager of Caffyns - with the Mayor presenting the trophies.



THE E.T.T.A.'S NEW FREEDOM OF SPEECH?

May I ask for a few questions, before I too will be banned?

- 1) Is Deputy Chairman, Editor Yates telling us whom to select as our County Correspondent? If so, may I please ask for details of the rules and regulations that give him that authority?
- 2) Is Selector Charters telling us whom we should elect as our National Councillor? Would he enjoy it if we offered similar advice to HIS county?
- 3) Will Chairman Blunn please tell us why dictatorship is being introduced into the ETTA? Previously he told us that we had fought the last war "to eliminate dictators".
- 4) Will Treasurer Drapkin please tell us why we, members, cannot look at his books? Or Why John Prean's offer of £1,000 is refused? I thought the ETTA was short of money. The purpose of the efficiency audit offered by John Prean is not to tell the ETTA what they should spend their money on, but whether the ETTA got good value for what they spent. The members have a right to know and the abbreviated accounts we do get are not terribly helpful.
- 5) Does Editor Yates think that this Magazine will improve as a result of the banning of one of the few contributors who is always lively, cares passionately about the Game and tells us something new in almost every article?
- 6) Why not ban the whole of the Isle of Wight? It would save us hundreds. With apologies to Clint Eastwood: Go on, make our day.
- 7) In short, should the ETTA embrace the ethics of a banana republic and the freedom of speech of a dictatorship?

ERICA PREAN
National Councillor,
Isle of Wight.

12 Marlborough Road,
Ryde, Isle of Wight.
PO33 1AA

BACKBONE

Peter Charters' article in the February issue of Table Tennis News was of much interest and contained a great deal of truth.

There is, perhaps, a point to be made concerning Leagues and their Member Clubs. As we all know, Clubs can be large or very small, i.e. 10 or 20 teams or 3 people, 1 table and a room 20 x 10 feet.

I think all would agree that the League system is the "backbone" of Table Tennis in this country, but perhaps it contains seeds of apathy, that might well result in the retardation of the game. If we go back to our small Club; it would be possible for those 3 players to join the League, play their season's Fixture List and wait until next season for it to happen all over again! What is wrong with that, you might ask? Nothing, except that if this is then perpetuated all over the country, we are left with only small concepts and whilst this situation can go on *ad infinitum*, the game, as a whole, will not progress.

We should be looking at how other countries play the game – at all levels, how other sports are organised in this country, how Clubs and Sports Centres can cater for family groups and players who find League Table Tennis not to their taste and are often lost to the game; when they could, in fact, contribute greatly to its future development.

Before there are a large number of replies from irate, and very hard working, League committee members – I would like them to know that I imply no criticism, but am seeking to broaden concepts for the game at all levels.

JOHN FENTON

79 Elm Road,
Earley, Reading,
Berks.

DISSOCIATED

My Club, by far the largest in Eastbourne, with 11 Teams out of 60, wishes to dissociate itself entirely from the comments made by John Woodford in your February issue.

As a Club we wholeheartedly approve of the decision taken by the Executive Committee of the Eastbourne League in suspending the registration of two of the Town's best players earlier in the season. We know that other Clubs were also strongly in favour, and it is nonsense for John Woodford to assert that the League had no backing amongst players in Eastbourne.

The Executive Committee acted in accordance with League rules, and we utterly deplore the unwarranted attacks made against

Derek Wilkinson, who was only doing his duty as League Secretary. Derek, who has been one of the best Secretaries that the League has ever had, was but one member of the Committee who made the decision, and it would be a great shame if what appears to be a vendetta to hound him out of Office is allowed to succeed.

This dispute has been raging for several months, and as the 2 players concerned are now playing regularly, may I express the hope that the matter can finally be regarded as closed.

A. ATKINSON
Chairman,
Southbourne Table Tennis Club.

A MESSAGE FROM THE POOP-DECK

I think that Dick Hopkins has misunderstood the point which I was really trying to get over with my analogy of the Mary Rose; which incidentally I am pleased he found amusing. The points I am trying to make are: YES, we don't want 3-ball rallies and YES, the game must be made more entertaining both to draw back the crowds and any sponsors that may have waned to the wall. But NO, I don't think altering the service rule will accomplish this and NO, I don't believe that raising the net will improve the game.

I don't even believe that standardisation is the answer. I do however believe that we need to make Joe Public more aware of our game and its strength. In this country at present we have some 6 million plus snooker players, yet in the last five years this sport has gained more sponsorship and TV coverage than our so-called national sport of soccer. This in short has been achieved by some very far ahead thinking and planning by the governing body of the sport and I say to them WELL DONE!!

No one would doubt for one minute that Table Tennis would not come across on TV the same as snooker does. However I feel that we do not really suffer a lack of exciting rallies or a lack of standardisation. What I believe we really suffer from is a lack of the **right type** of advertising for our sport. I recently took three friends to an exhibition at Salford between Jacques Secretin and Vincent Purkart and all three of my non-playing friends said they would like to see more live TT but do not know of any matches or venues.

I suggest that to get the crowds back we get our sport advertised and packaged by people who know the correct ways to do this and attempt to make the game as available as possible to the

public. Indeed, let's play the English Closed in Southampton harbour in the hope that the chief officers will see beyond the bridge and the confident bulletins will once again begin to mean something. On a personal note, I have never actually managed to screw up a first division player with my serve, but, by hell, I have had 'em thinking.

JOHN HYLAND
44 Regent St.,
Heywood, Lancs.
OL10 3BX

RE: DRESS REGULATIONS, AGE RANGES

This letter is a double-header, to be discussed by the relevant people within the E.T.T.A., and to be printed in the magazine.

I pose this question to the E.T.T.A.,

Are we trying to encourage youngsters to take up this game of table tennis or discourage them?

I have a young, inexperienced group of players at the youth club. They come along regularly to practise, and, when they are accepted into the team squad (a method of encouraging their practise and achievement), they are given one of the youth club shirts to retain, as long as they are members of the squad. They are proud of these shirts, and wear them at home, and school, as well as at the club for matches etc. However, when they go to Tournaments ZAP! the avenging angel, the referee descends upon them and orders them to remove the offending garment or turn it inside out. Why? I ask, and get an uncertain reply about rules and advertising and sponsorship. After discussion, common sense prevails, and the lads are allowed to wear the shirts. What is table tennis coming to when a youngster cannot wear the shirt of the youth club he attends and proudly say to the world that he wants to be part of that group?

Are we trying to encourage or discourage?

Secondly, can someone tell me why the age range between cadet players, and junior players is so great, 3 years in terms of the development of players is one heck of a gap. I have no figures to base my feelings on. However, I think that this age gap is probably the biggest single factor which causes a drop-out in table tennis.

If anyone else feels as I do, I should like them to contact me, perhaps I may be able to put something together to present to the E.T.T.A. at some time in the future.

B. R. THOMPSON
Shibdon Road,
Blaydon on Tyne
Tyne & Wear
NE21 5PT.

THE NATURAL FLOW

A lot has been written about the problems in our sport and suggestions given for curing them, such as a higher net, serving diagonally, a bigger ball or even going back to hard rubber bats. A great deal has also been said about the different rubbers and the twiddlers, but I haven't seen anything about what I consider the main problem.

I refer to the **natural flow of the ball** and if just the rubbers, that stop the natural flow were banned, I'm sure this would solve a lot of the problems. We could then get back to winning by skill and not other people's mistakes. I have spoken to various people up and down the country about this and have got the general opinion that we are a little afraid of doing anything in case we upset sponsors.

I realise they have put a lot of time and money into the game and their sponsorship is greatly appreciated. But unless something is done soon there will be nothing for them to sponsor. On the other hand if something is done, people who have left the game will come back, coaching will be a lot easier, and it will help us to recruit new players who, in turn, will help the sponsors as they will need bats etc., and finally there will be a lot less frustrated players about. P.S. I haven't reached for a life-jacket yet!

KATH FISHER

West Garth,
Alvingham Road,
Yarburgh, Nr. Louth,
Lincs.

THE 1985 VARSITY MATCH

Contrary to popular belief, there is more to Oxbridge sport than just rugby and rowing. Interschool table tennis matches have been taking place every year since the early 1930's, with the exception of the war years, the venue now alternating between Oxford and Cambridge.

This year's match took place in Cambridge on Feb. 23. Two ladies' teams of four contested the opening event which had been won by Oxford in the previous two years. The Cambridge team had been strengthened by the return of Carolyn Gale from Spain to take the No. 2 spot behind Hilary Finch. Carolyn and Hilary were unbeaten, winning two singles each then teaming up to win their doubles, although the Oxford No. 1 Alison Burke was unlucky in losing 19 in the third to Carolyn. In the bottom half Louise Hiley and Christine McHugh each won one singles to give Cambridge a 7-3 victory. Mention must be made of the Oxford captain Christine Muskett who had a hand in all three Oxford wins, pairing up with Clare MacRae to win the doubles.

While the ladies' match was in progress, the men's second team match was underway at another venue. This was a closely contested affair with Cambridge eventually winning 6-4.

The main event of the day was the meeting of the men's first teams. Following last year's 6-4 win for Oxford, both teams had been strengthened by the intake of first-year students. Oxford, having lost the services of defender Adrian Hill, were no doubt

pleased to welcome another defender in the form of Phil Huggon of Lancashire. For their part, Cambridge benefitted from the arrival of Simon Griew of Leicestershire to team up with second-year Paul Dilger of Staffs.

Griew started the Cambridge ball rolling with a nervous three game victory over Trevor Walton in which neither player ever really settled. The next set, Huggon against Dilger, produced some excellent play with Dilger looping as though his life depended on it, but Huggon's speed and spin were too much for Dilger who lost two-straight, a feat later emulated by Griew. Oxford's captain and second defender Steve Ludlow also proved to be a thorn in the Cambridge side, winning both his singles against their No. 3 and No. 4, Tuan Chew and Nick Jeffreys. With Dilger beating Walton, and Dilger and Griew giving an impressive display when winning their doubles, it was left to Chew and Jeffreys to clinch the match. This they did by winning one singles each and then pairing up to win their doubles 20 in the third after saving four match points. So, a 6-4 victory in the match and a clean sweep for Cambridge. On behalf of both teams I should like to extend our warmest thanks to Mr. Ken Green who very kindly agreed to officiate and found himself with the unenviable task of umpiring fifteen sets. Thanks Ken!

A plea to the Oxford League Committee - the Cambridge University club has three teams playing in the local league. Although the university vacations necessitate the re-arrangement

of many fixtures, I am sure that the Cambridge League Committee would agree that the presence of the university teams can only enhance the competition. It is therefore difficult to understand why the Oxford League does not show more tolerance and readmit the Oxford University teams to its competition. In these days of diminishing leagues, surely any club should be made welcome and particularly one whose membership is talented, young, and enthusiastic.

Finally, Cambridge University TTC would be very pleased to hear from any players who have either got a confirmed place or are holding a conditional offer for entry this October. Please get in touch with Hilary Finch at St. John's College, Cambridge CB2 1TP.



TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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DUNLOP SKILLS AWARD SCHEME NORTH WEST REGIONAL LAUNCH Monday, 22nd April, 1985

If you live in the North West and are interested in table tennis either as a player or a coach please take the opportunity of attending this launch which will take place on Monday, 22nd April 1985 commencing at 7.30 p.m. at the Penwortham Leisure Centre, Crookings Lane, Penwortham, Near Preston.

Peter Simpson, the ETTA Senior National Coach for the

North of England will introduce each of the five awards with the aid of demonstrations and then you will have the opportunity to raise any questions. Promotional literature will be available and the Regional Coaching Chairman Mr. David Hewitt will be happy to discuss the administrative aspects of promoting the scheme.

**DUNLOP
SKILLS
AWARD
SCHEME**

SKILLS TESTS DEVISED BY THE ETTA/ETTA

