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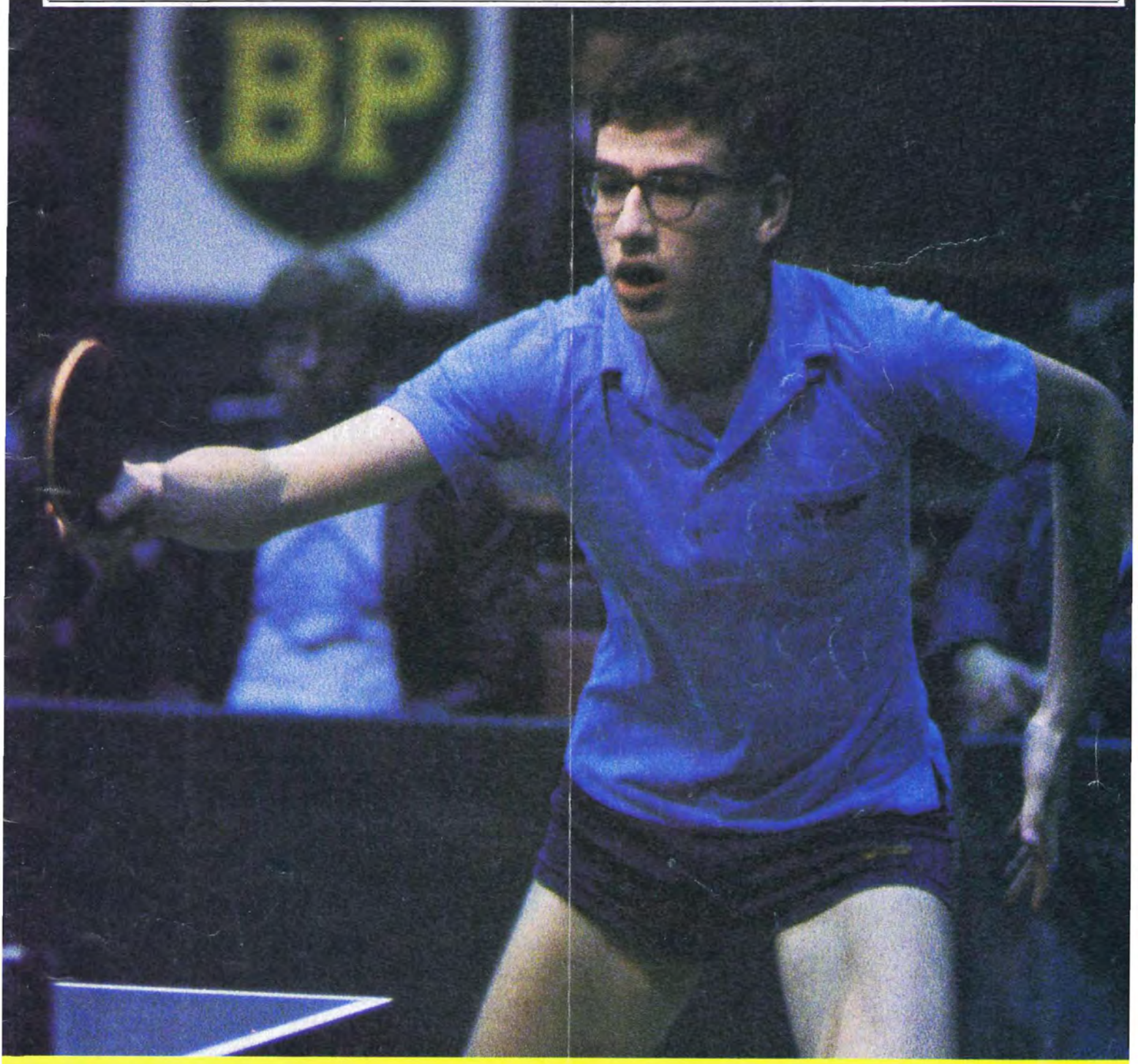

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FLAG WAVING

English successes in foreign fields have been few and far between in recent years, hence hats off to Carl Prean who, in the very first Euro Junior Top 12, played in the Republic of San Marino last month, put his and England's name in the record books for all time.

It is good to have a winner, the sport thrives on it, as no doubt Poland would agree following the impressive performances put up by their ace man, Andrzej Grubba who, in the course of eight days in the United Kingdom, clobbered everyone out of sight.

News of his successes in the Charles Church Championship at Wembley, the Cleveland County 3-Star at Thornaby and the Dong-Ah Welsh Open at Cardiff must have reverberated throughout the length and breadth of his homeland, as well it should.

But let it not be overlooked that at Thornaby Pavilion the final of the women's singles was fought out by two English girls, namely Joy Grundy and Alison Gordon, despite foreign opposition being in contention.

Oh yes, we do have our moments, scant though they may be. But concentration on out top juniors and cadets, especially the girl cadets, Andrea Holt, Claire Potts and Kerry Hall – all in the top five of the girls' (U-17) category – should pay dividends for future flag waving.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

By The Editor

NORWEGIAN TRAGEDY

The table tennis world was shocked by the news of the death of their top woman player, Tone Folkeson, and severe injuries sustained by their No. 1 man, Erik Rasmussen, in a road accident en route to the airport following their European League Division 1 match against Spain in Huelva on January 12.

Fortunately Norway's other player, Tom Johansen, and coach, Christer Johansson, were in another car and not involved in the accident. But our heartfelt sympathies go to the Norwegian Association on their tragic loss and one can only pray for surgical wonders to be performed on the injured Erik.

Big shock in the **Super Division** of the European League was the 4-3 home reverse suffered by Poland at the hands of the Netherlands in Siedlce on Jan. 23. Piotr Molenda, playing singles instead of Leszek Kucharsky was beaten both by Henk van Spanje and Bob Potton with the former, pairing up with his brother Ron, winning the men's doubles. Bettine Vriesekoop, as expected, won her singles.

England, away to Yugoslavia in Borovo, were beaten 4-3 with both **Carl Prean** and **Alan Cooke** beating the bespectacled Stefan Kovac and **Alison Gordon** just getting the better of Gordana Perkucin, 22 in the third. Dragutin Surbek took both his singles and, Ilija Lupulescu, with Surbek and Perkucin, annexed both doubles. Scores:–

D. Surbek bt A. Cooke 16, 14;
S. Kovac lost to C. Prean -14, -13;
G. Perkucin lost to A. Gordon 14, -14, -22;
I. Lupulescu/Surbek bt Cooke/G. Sandley 18, 19;
Lupulescu/Perkucin bt Sandley/Gordon 18, 19;
Surbek bt Prean 16, 22;
Kovac lost to Cooke 19, -21, -13.

Czechoslovakia, the defending champions, lost both their unbeaten record and top position when beaten 4-3 by Sweden, the new leaders, in Vimmerby, whilst Hungary moved into third place with a 6-1 win over Federal Germany in Kecskemet. Result sheets are still awaited.

Caymel. Scores:–

J-M. Pales lost to T. Johansen -18, -19;
R. Casares lost to E. Rasmussen -18, -7;
M. Weisz lost to T. Folkeson -12, -14;
I. Caymel/Pales bt Johansen/Rasmussen 15, -21, 19;
Pales/Weisz lost to Johansen/Folkeson -14, -15;
Pales lost to Rasmussen -12, -19;
Casares lost to Johansen -20, -11.

SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
SWEDEN	5	4	1	22	13	4
Czechoslovakia	5	4	1	20	15	4
Hungary	5	3	2	21	14	3
Federal Germany	5	3	2	19	16	3
Yugoslavia	5	2	3	18	17	2
Poland	5	2	3	17	18	2
England	5	1	4	15	20	1
Netherlands	5	1	4	8	27	1

Fixtures for Feb. 20 are:–

Poland	v Hungary (Rzeszow)
Netherlands	v Czechoslovakia (Nijkerk)
Sweden	v Yugoslavia (Visby)
England	v Federal Germany (Portsmouth)

France, in **Division 1,** continued their winning ways with a 6-1 win over Denmark in Dunkerque on Jan. 12, the one to escape them being the women's singles with Beatrice Abgrall losing to Susanne Pedersen. Scores:–

P. Birocheau bt J. Harkamp 11, 13;
P. Renverse bt C. Pedersen 18, -17, 13;
B. Abgrall lost to S. Pedersen -19, -19;
Birocheau/B. Parietti bt Harkamp/Pedersen 13, 14;
Renverse/Abgrall bt J. Hansen/Pedersen 10, 20;
Birocheau bt Pedersen 14, 18;
Renverse bt Harkamp 8, 17.

Both Italy and Norway, each with one defeat, had 6-1 wins but what now the chances of the latter with their ranks decimated?

Italy, against Luxembourg in Rome on Jan. 11, dropped only the mixed doubles when Massimo Costantini and Marina Cergol lost to Yves Maas and Corinne Risch. Scores:–

G. Bisi bt A. Hartmann 16, 13;
L. Nannoni bt Y. Maas 15, -19, 6;
A. Busnardo bt C. Risch 19, -19, 17;
M. Costantini/S. Pero bt Hartmann/Maas 17, 12;
Constantini/M. Cergol lost to Maas/Risch -20, 12, -15;
Bisi bt Maas 20, 14;
Nannoni bt Hartmann 13, 8.

In Huelva, on Jan. 12, it was the men's doubles set that was lost by Norway when Erik Rasmussen and Tom Johansen lost to Jose-Marie Pales and Ismael

Norway's Tone Folkeson tragically killed in a road accident in Spain. 'Photo by Graeme Stevenson, Scotland.

International News

To complete a series of 6-1 results in this division, Finland achieved such a score against Belgium in Kerava on Jan. 13 the last set of the match providing a win for Remo de Prophetis against Jukka Ikonen.

Scores:–

J. Jokinen bt R. de Prophetis 18, 13;
J. Ikonen bt J-M. Saive 20, -17, 17;
S. Grefberg bt K. Bogaerts 18, 15;
Ikonen/Jokinen bt de Prophetis/Saive 19, 10;
Jokinen/Grefberg bt de Prophetis/Bogaerts 19, 10;
Jokinen bt Saive 20, 19;
Ikonen lost to de Prophetis -14, -16.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
FRANCE	5	5	0	28	7	5
Finland	6	4	2	29	13	4
Italy	5	4	1	22	13	4
Norway	5	4	1	22	13	4
Denmark	6	4	2	23	19	4
Belgium	6	3	3	19	23	3
Austria	5	0	5	10	25	0
Luxembourg	5	0	5	8	27	0
Spain	5	0	5	7	28	0

Fixtures for February:

9th	Belgium	v Denmark
	Luxembourg	v France
	Norway	v Italy (Alesund)
	Spain	v Austria
22nd	Austria	v Luxembourg (Gmllnden)
23rd	Italy	v Spain (Bari)
	Norway	v Denmark
24th	Finland	v France (Jyvaskyla)

Away to Greece in Nafplion on Jan. 12, Switzerland completed their season's fixtures in the denuded **Division 2** with a 5-2 win in which all five singles went to the visitors. Scores:–

K. Priftis lost to T. Miller -12, 16, -14;
D. Zikos lost to T. Busin 19, -19, -14;
M. Louka lost to B. Hirzel -18, 20, -14;
Priftis/Zikos bt Busin/Miller 20, 10;
Zikos/Louka bt Busin/Hirzel 18, 21;
Priftis lost to Busin -17, -20;
Zikos lost to Miller -18, -18.

Wales, at home to Bulgaria, were beaten 5-2, the Welsh wins coming from the two Nigels, Tyler and Thomas, against the Bulgarian No. 2.

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
BULGARIA	2	2	0	11	3	2
Wales	2	1	1	8	6	1
Greece	2	1	1	7	7	1
Scotland	2	1	1	7	7	1
Switzerland	4	1	3	9	19	1

Fixtures for February

9th	**Wales**	v Greece
24th	Bulgaria	v **Scotland**

WOMEN'S GRAND PRIX

As a result of her success in winning the women's singles title in the Dong-Ah Welsh Open, Federal Germany's Olga Nemes not only is due 1,000 DM but moves into second position, behind Bettine Vriesekoop of the Netherlands, in the points table.

England's Alison Gordon now totals 30 pts as a result of reaching the last 16 in both the French and Welsh Opens but shares 14th place with eight others. The points table reads:–

1	**Bettine Vriesekoop** (HOL)	175
2	Olga Nemes (FRG)	150
3	Marie Hrachova (TCH)	125
	Zsuzsa Olah (HUN)	125
5	Branka Batinic (YUG)	100
	Valentina Popova (URS)	100
7	Sonja Grefberg (FIN)	65
8	Marie Lindblad (SWE)	60
9	Elena Kovtun (URS)	50
10	Gordana Perkucin (YUG)	45
	Gabriella Szabo (HUN)	45
	Edit Urban (HUN)	45
	Susanne Wenzel (FRG)	45
14	Marie Alboiu (ROM)	30
	Narine Antonian (URS)	30
	Fliura Bulatova (URS)	30
	Nadine Daviaud (FRA)	30
	Alison Gordon (ENG)	30
	Dana Guergueltcheva (BUL)	30
	Anka Olschewski (FRG)	30
	Alice Pelikanova (TCH)	30
	Anita Zacharian (URS)	30

Participants in the final tournament to be played in Breda, Holland (May 19/85) will comprise the 8 players heading the points list together with 2 'wild cards' (one held by the ETTU and the other by the organising association). Minimum prize money will be No. 1 DM 8,000, No. 2 DM 5,000, Nos. 3/4 DM 3,500 and Nos. 5/8 DM 2,000.

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS 1985

Dates for this season's European Youth Championships are **July 13/20** in Den Haag, Holland.

INTERNATIONAL OPEN DATES

1985 Polish Open Oct. 26/28
1986 English Open (Brighton) Jan. 23/25.

SCANDINAVIAN JUNIOR OPEN (SOJC)

These championships will take place in Bergen, on the west coast of Norway over the weekend of May 4/5, 1985. Enquiries should be made to Norges Bordtennisforbund, Hauger Skoles vei 1, N-1351 Rud, Norway. ('Phone: 2 134290).

He stoops to conquer – Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia. 'Photo by Don Morely, Reigate, Surrey.

Alison Gordon, victor over Gordana Perkucin in Borova.

1st EURO JUNIOR TOP 12
REPUBLICAN VICTORY FOR CARL

England's CARL PREAN , unbeaten in eleven sets and without the loss of a single game, stamped his authority on all and sundry in the 1st Euro Junior Top 12 played in the Republic of San Marino over the weekend of Jan. 5/6, 1985.

And, for good measure, **Andrew Syed**, a late replacement for Federal Germany's injured Steffen Fetzner, finished in 8th place with victories over Regis Rossignol of France, Vasile Florea of Rumania, Josef Braun of Czechoslovakia and Lorenzo Nannoni, preferred to Francesco Manneschi of the 'wild card' Italian entry.

Belgium's Euro cadet champion, Jean-Michel Saive, finished runner-up to Prean equating with Florea on seven wins but beating the Rumanian boy -12,19 and 22 when they met in the penultimate series of matches.

Federal Germany's **OLGA NEMES**, like Prean the top seed, won the counterpart girls' event losing just one set, to Ivana Masarikova of Czechoslovakia, but beating Csilla Batorfi of Hungary when it mattered – the Hungarian girl's only loss.

But what a fillip for the four cadets taking part with Saive (2) and Milan Grman of Czechoslovakia (4) in the boys' event and Otilia Badescu of Rumania (3) and Krisztina Nagy of Hungary (8) in the girls'. Miss Badescu is, of course, the reigning Euro cadet champion having beaten Katja Nolten of Federal Germany in the Linz final.

Notwithstanding the non-participation of Ilija Lupulescu of Yugoslavia and Thomas von Scheele of Sweden all credit must to to Prean on his magnificent return, his hardest encounter being against young Saive 11 and 21 being the scores. Credit must also be afforded Paul Day in captaining the two English boys, their successes being also his. Results:–

BOYS
ROUND 1
Group A
Prean (ENG) bt Gatien (FRA) 13,18;
Rossignol (FRA) bt Toma (ROM) 15,-21,14;
Saive (BEL) bt **Syed** (ENG) -19,8,15.
Group B
Florea (ROM) bt Braun (TCH) 16,18;
Mommessin (FRA) bt Nannoni (ITA) -23,18,15;
Primorac (YUG) bt Grman (TCH) 18,20.
ROUND 2
Group A
Prean bt Rossignol 14,12;
Toma bt Saive 13,17;
Gatien bt **Syed** -12,20,11.
Group B
Florea bt Nannoni 19,12;
Mommessin bt Grman -14,17,14;
Braun bt Primorac -14,12,12.
ROUND 3
Group A
Prean bt Toma 5,4;
Saive bt Gatien 17,13;
Syed bt Rossignol -19,15,25.
Group B
Florea bt Mommessin 13,18;
Braun bt Grman 19,-10,9;
Nannoni bt Primorac -15,14,15.
ROUND 4
Group A
Prean bt Saive 11,21;
Toma bt **Syed** -19,17,17;
Gatien bt Rossignol 13,19.
Group B
Florea bt Grman 16,19;
Mommessin bt Primorac 15,17;
Nannoni bt Braun 16,19.
ROUND 5
Group A
Prean bt **Syed** 12,10;
Toma bt Gatien 17,-14,17;
Rossignol bt Saive -11,20,18.
Group B
Primorac bt Florea 23,5;
Braun bt Mommessin 19,10;
Grman bt Nannoni 10,15.
ROUND 6
Prean bt Grman 13,15;
Nannoni bt Toma 17,10;
Saive bt Primorac -19,11,14;
Gatien bt Braun -9,15,16;
Mommessin bt Rossignol 17,15;
Syed bt Florea 14,-12,15.
ROUND 7
Prean bt Primorac 8,13;
Grman bt Toma 22,11;
Saive bt Nannoni -11,14,17;
Mommessin bt Gatien -16,17,10;
Florea bt Rossignol 17,14;
Syed bt Braun -19,17,17.
ROUND 8
Prean bt Nannoni 12,13;
Toma bt Primorac 21,17;
Grman bt Saive 19,-15,15;
Florea bt Gatien 19,13;
Rossignol bt Braun 18,14;
Mommessin bt **Syed** 12,12.
ROUND 9
Prean bt Mommessin 13,11;
Florea bt Toma 14,16;
Saive bt Braun 20,20;
Grman bt Gatien 15,-18,19;
Rossignol bt Nannoni 17,15;
Primorac bt **Syed** 14,17.
ROUND 10
Prean bt Braun 9,12;
Toma bt Mommessin 18,18;
Saive bt Florea -12,19,22;
Gatien bt Primorac 16,18;
Grman bt Rossignol 15,19;
Syed bt Bannoni 13,15.
ROUND 11
Prean bt Florea 19,12;
Toma bt Braun 18,17;
Saive bt Mommessin -16,17,15;
Nannoni bt Gatien 18,17;
Rossignol bt Primorac 23,-12,17;
Grman bt **Syed** 17,12.

FINAL PLACINGS

		Sets Won
1	**Carl Prean (ENG)**	11
2	Jean-Michel Saive (BEL)	7
3	Vasile Florea (ROM)	7
4	Milan Grman (TCH)	6
5	Calin Toma (ROM)	6
6	Didier Mommessin (FRA)	6
7	Regis Rossignol (FRA)	5
8	**Andrew Syed (ENG)**	4
9	Lorenzo Nannoni (ITA)	4
10	Jean-Philippe Gatien (FRA)	4
11	Josef Braun (TCH)	3
12	Zoran Primorac (YUG)	3

GIRLS
ROUND 1
Group A
Nemes (FRG) bt Delepine (FRA) -22,15,13;
Ojstersek (YUG) bt Lindnerova (TCH) 15,16;
Kasalova (TCH) bt Nagy (HUN) 7,-15,18.
Group B
Batorfi (HUN) bt Pangert (FRG) 15,9;
Maier (AUT) bt Zampini (ITA) 17,13;
Badesu (ROM) bt Masarikova 16,14.
ROUND 2
Group A
Nemes bt Lindnerova 12, 16;
Ojstersek bt Nagy 21, -22, 22;
Kasalova bt Delepine 7,22.
Group B
Batorfi bt Zampini 11,12;
Badescu bt Maier -12,18,20;
Masarikova bt Pangert 8,-17,13.
ROUND 3
Group A
Nemes bt Ojstersek 20,11;
Delepine bt Nagy 20,20;
Kasalova bt Lindnerova 18,11.
Group B
Batorfi bt Maier 14,13;
Badescu bt Pangert 14,20;
Masarikova bt Zampini 19,19.
ROUND 4
Group A
Nemes bt Nagy 10,2;
Ojstersek bt Kasalova 15,18;
Lindnerova bt Delepine 14,10.
Group B
Batorfi bt Badescu -8,15,13;
Maier bt Masarikova 14,14;
Pangert bt Zampini 17,15.
ROUND 5
Group A
Nemes bt Kasalova 13,12;
Delepine bt Ojstersek 8,13;
Nagy bt Lindnerova 19,8.
Group B
Batorfi bt Masarikova -11,14,18;
Maier bt Pangert -20,11,14;
Badescu bt Zampini -19,17,16.
ROUND 6
Nemes bt Zampini 13,7;
Masarikova bt Ojstersek 13,20;
Kasalova bt Pangert 6,9;
Badescu bt Delepine -20,17,17;
Maier bt Nagy 17,-18,16;
Batorfi bt Lindnerova 11,13.
ROUND 7
Nemes bt Pangert 11,7;
Ojstersek bt Zampini 11,-18,11;
Kasalova bt Masarikova 15,19;
Maier bt Delepine 19,15;
Batorfi bt Nagy 12,17;
Badescu bt Lindnerova 15,18.
ROUND 8
Masarikova bt Nemes 23,19;
Ojstersek bt Pangert 11,14;
Kasalova bt Zampini 9,15;
Batorfi bt Delepine 10,9;
Badescu bt Nagy 13,18;
Maier bt Lindnerova -13,19,8.
ROUND 9
Nemes bt Maier 11,13;
Batorfi bt Ojstersek 15,10;
Badescu bt Kasalova 15,-10,18;
Delepine bt Zampini 14,-9,7;
Nagy bt Masarikova -20,13,12;
Lindnerova bt Pangert 18,20.
ROUND 10
Nemes bt Badescu 8,11;
Maier bt Ojstersek 13,10;
Batorfi bt Kasalova 13,9;
Delepine bt Pangert 15,8;
Nagy bt Zampini 19,6;
Lindnerova bt Masarikova 11,18.
ROUND 11
Nemes bt Batorfi 9, 17;
Badescu bt Ojstersek 16, 21;
Maier bt Kasalova -16, 18, 17;
Masarikova bt Delepine 9, 10;
Nagy bt Pangert 14, 17;
Lindnerova bt Zampini 14, 16.

FINAL PLACINGS

		Sets Won
1	**Olga Nemes** (FRG)	10
2	Csilla Batorfi (HUN)	10
3	Otilia Badescu (ROM)	9
4	Elisabeth Maier (AUT)	8
5	Renata Kasalova (TCH)	6
6	Ivana Masarikova (TCH)	5
7	Vesna Ojstersek (YUG)	5
8	Krisztina Nagy (HUN)	4
9	Renata Lindnerova (TCH)	4
10	Isabelle Delepine (FRA)	4
11	Elke Pangert (FRG)	1
12	Giorgia Zampini (ITA)	0

FORTHCOMING ETTA EVENTS

Wednesday, 20th February, 1985
European League, England v Federal Germany, Mountbatten Sports Centre, Portsmouth.

Friday/Saturday/Sunday 8/9/10th March, 1985
English Closed Championships, Bletchley Leisure Centre, Princes Way, Bletchley, Milton Keynes.

Saturday/Sunday, 11th/12th May, 1985
Beneficial Trust English Junior Open, Mountbatten Sports Centre, Portsmouth.

KJELL JOHANSSON – Ex-World Doubles Champion with Hans Alser, and Ex-Swedish National Trainer/Coach, congratulates TONY FITZGERALD (left), of ABENG WARRIORS after a work-out when Kjell visited the ABENG STIGA ACADEMY OF TABLE TENNIS recently, in Brixton, South London. Kjell was promoting STIGA EQUIPMENT and joined in the training session of MURRAY CORBIN with some of his pupils including GLEN BAKER, NICKY MASON, NEVILLE MILLER, CHARLES AQUAH, JEROME JONAH, JANET SMITH, MELVILLE TAYLOR, FARHAT RASUL, ANDREI GARANT and MARTIN PACKHAM.

Charles Church Championship

WEMBLEY SPECTACULAR

By Albert Shipley

CHARLES CHURCH *Championship*

Biggest and best would be the two words most appropriate for this season's Charles Church Championship. After last season's event, the sponsor increased his cash input considerably in order to increase the number of players from six to eight, to include two top Asian players and to increase the prize money. All this was achieved but from an organisational point of view it meant that the two groups of four would have to be played simultaneously on two tables in order to arrive at an afternoon final for the benefit of BBC, who transmitted the later stages on Grandstand that afternoon.

And so, on Saturday, 12th January 1985 at Wembley Conference Centre, before an audience of around 1,600 spectators, which included invited officials from over 50 leagues, some excellent table tennis was witnessed.

In Group 1, interest was centred upon the European champion, Ulf Bengtsson, and the entertaining play of Jacques Secretin. By the narrowest of margins these were the two players who triumphed over the young Jindrich Pansky and the Korean Ahn Jae Hyung, a late replacement for the injured Kim Ki Taek. Five out of the six matches in this group needed a third game and despite the slow deliberate play of Ahn, the 30 minute per match schedule was only exceeded by 7 minutes.

Group 2 included Desmond Douglas who came with the remarkable record of having appeared in the final of this event on the past nine occasions, winning four of them. His main danger to that record was Andrzej Grubba of Poland, who had shown a remarkable consistency of play all season, and the unknown quantity of Wei Quingguang, the Chinese national champion. The arrival of Desmond signified a sigh of relief for all concerned as he was only able to fly in from Germany on the morning of the tournament due to a commitment for his German club from which he was unable to be released.

The first match in this group was a fascinating duel between Grubba and Wei and it must have taken some of the heart out of the Chinese player when Grubba edged home 22-20 in both games. Douglas and Grubba both disposed of Kriston (Hungary) fairly comfortably but then an out of touch Douglas lost to Wei over three games. This created a situation whereby unless Kriston beat Wei in two straight games, then Douglas would have to beat Grubba for a place in the semi-finals. Kriston won the first game and England hearts fluttered in the second when Wei levelled the score at 20-all after Kriston had led 20-17. Kriston thought he had won the game at 18 but a split-second call of 'let' for a ball intruding into the court gave the Chinese a second chance. However, all fears were dispelled when Kriston took the next two points for a surprise win. This meant that the Douglas v Grubba group match was inconsequential and gave the players the opportunity to indulge in some exhibition-type play.

The cross over system of winners and runners-up in the two groups gave semi-finals of Bengtsson v Douglas and Grubba v Secretin. The inclusion of Secretin drew the appreciation of the crowd as he had been so entertaining in his group matches.

First into the arena was Ulf Bengtsson against Desmond Douglas under the full scrutiny of the television cameras and the media, all hoping for a continuation of the Douglas record. First game to Bengtsson, with Des tending to overhit the top spin but probably some good advice from Donald Parker enabled a slight change of tactic in the second game in which Des took an early lead. In the third game, Des was always trailing and struggling to find the touch upon which he relies so much, but he fought hard and to the delight of his supporters drew level towards the end of the game. Alas, the dream ended when Bengtsson took advantage of the third match point to win 23-21.

The first game of the Grubba v Secretin semi-final was a classic with Secretin using many of his exhibition techniques and the surrounds took a battering during some of the retrievals. In winning the first game 24-22 Secretin seemed to run out of steam and Grubba took the next two games rather easily, but with a fair measure of humour thrown in.

The final was perhaps the most disappointing aspect of the whole event for Bengtsson v Grubba was a repeat of the final of the 1984 European Championships, which was a cliff-hanger of five sets. At Wembley, Grubba was so determined to gain revenge that he did not allow Bengtsson any time to settle to a rhythm, and regrettably for the television image of our sport, two rather scrappy games saw Grubba lift the trophy and the £3,000 first prize.

There is no doubt that the Wembley Conference Centre is

ANDRZEJ GRUBBA of Poland and ULF BENGTSSON of Sweden in action during the finals of THE CHARLES CHURCH CHAMPIONSHIPS at Wembley Conference Centre.

one of the finest arenas to present our sport (apart from my personal preference of the Dome at Brighton) and if we can solve the difficult equation of the European calendar, the venue availability and the television slot, we all look forward to next season's event as the showpiece of table tennis.

RESULTS:
Group 1
Bengtsson beat Secretin 19, -13, 17
beat Pansky -19, 16, 14
beat Ahn 19, 14
Ahn beat Pansky -12, 22, 18
Secretin beat Ahn -15, 18, 13
Pansky beat Secretin -10, 14, 16

Group 2:
Grubba beat Wei 20, 20
beat Kriston 17, 15
beat Douglas 18, -9, 10
Douglas beat Kriston 13, 18
Wei beat Douglas 10, -10 13
Kriston beat Wei 15, 20

Semi-finals:
Bengtsson beat Douglas 17, -15, 21
Grubba beat Secretin -22, 13, 11

FINAL:
Grubba beat Bengtsson 9, 10

Your turn to call Mr Secretin. Earlier, I caught Kriston with my threesided coin. I can put on a show too, you know, says International Umpire JACK MELNICK (centre).

Photo by Murray Corbin of Wimbledon.

ABOUT OUR SPONSOR

Charles Church is one of the largest private housebuilders in the country. It is well known for designing and building to a very high standard and is current holder of the top prize for the best building site in the south-east region from the National House Building Council – an accolade which it has won for the past two years.

The company was established by Charles and Susanna Church in 1966 from the proceeds of building one house. The group now has 700 houses a year in its sights ranging in price from £30,000 to £400,000. It builds almost exclusively in the Home Counties.

The group, which is based in Camberley, Surrey, first became involved in table tennis by supporting local events in the south-east of England. It sponsored its first national event in November 1983 with the first Charles Church Championship. Following this, it announced in October 1984 that it will be giving £100,000 to the sport over the next four years, making Charles Church the biggest sponsor of the sport in the country.

FORMER CHAMPIONS

This annual invitation event has been held every year since 1974 under various sponsors.

	Winner	Runner-up
1974	M. Orlowski (C)	C. Pedersen (D)
1975	D. Surbek (Y)	D. Douglas (E)
1976	S. Bengtsson (S)	D. Douglas (E)
1977	M. Orlowski (C)	D.Douglas (E)
1978	D. Surbek (Y)	D. Douglas (E)
1979	D. Douglas (E)	U. Thorsell (S)
1980	T. Klampar (H)	D. Douglas (E)
1981	D. Douglas (E)	Liang Geliang (Ch)
1982	D. Douglas (E)	J. Secretin (F)
1983	D. Douglas (E)	U. Carlsson (S)

(C) = Czechoslovakia
(Y) = Yugoslavia
(S) = Sweden
(E) = England
(D) = Denmark
(Ch) = China
(F) = France

CLEVELAND COUNTY 3-STAR OPEN
GRUBBA THE STAR AT THORNABY

by Alan Ransome

ANDRZEJ GRUBBA, the European No. 2 from Poland, won both the men's singles and doubles title at the Cleveland County 3-Star Open at Thornaby Pavilion over the weekend of Jan. 12/13 after most of the other seeds had been toppled like ninepins.

Grubba won the men's singles championship without the loss of a single game to add to his Charles Church title at Wembley Conference won a day earlier. He beat Nicky Mason and two Japanese players, Yoshikazu Murakami and Takehiro Inoue, to reach the final in which he scored a comfortable victory over John Souter.

Souter came through to the final with a win over Stephen Scowcroft who had earlier defeated the No. 2 seed Jindrich Pansky of Czechoslovakia to provide the biggest shock of the tournament. Souter's best win was in the quarters when he overcame Hirohiko Ono of Japan to be followed, in the semis, by victory over Skylet Andrew who came through at the expense of Phil Bradbury and Alan Griffiths of Wales.

Another shock defeat was the elimination of Graham Sandley, who was representing England in the tournament. He was beaten 28-26 in the third by former European champion John Hilton who was nominated as an England official for the championships. Hilton was subsequently beaten by Scotland's John Broe who did well to reach the quarters.

Grubba's second title was in the men's doubles when he was partnered by **Pansky**. They ran out comfortable winners over

Joy Grundy and Andzej Grubba, the singles champions at Thornaby Pavilion.

Cleveland County Open

Inoue and Murakami having accounted for Souter and Colin Wilson in the semis, the Japanese pair having initially been at pains to dispose of Andrew Syed and Jimmy Stokes.

In the women's singles, the English girls excelled in keeping the foreign opposition at bay. **Joy Grundy** won comfortably in the final against the current English champion Alison Gordon. Joy's hardest set was in the quarters against Lisa Bellinger winning 20 in the third.

Like Grubba, Joy also won a second title in the doubles when, partnered by her Preston colleague, **Jean Parker**, they beat Fiona Elliot and Jill Harris. The prizes were presented by Cleveland County Councillor, Bill Emerson, the Chairman of Cleveland County Council Leisure Services Committee who sponsored the event.

BUTTERFLY INTERNATIONAL TEAM EVENT

England paid the penalty for fielding a weakened men's side (mainly due to the Charles Church clash) in the Butterfly International team event, when they were beaten by Scotland at the semi-final stage.

England, represented by Sandley and David Wells, looked decidely shaky from the outset. In the second round they came close to crashing out to Jaques Generation, for whom Nicky Mason out hit both England players. In the end England ran out 3-2 winners but one of the victories were "deuce" in the third for Sandley against Kevin Satchell. After a long second round, the England players wasted no time in the quarter-final, dismissing the Omega Reading youngsters 3-0. The man responsible for England's defeat in the semi-final was David Hannah. In the first set he took Sandley, then combined with David McIlroy to win the all-important doubles and finally to clinch victory, proved he had a better nerve than Wells when the chips were down.

In the bottom half of the draw Japan made their way through to the semi-final with victories over South Yorkshire, GKN Steelstock Wolverhampton and Ormesby without the loss of a single set and then in the final proved too strong for Scotland winning 3-1 with only Hannah able to score a victory over Ono.

In the women's event the English girls, Alison Gordon and Karen Witt kept some pride for the home nation. They won the event without the loss of a single set, defeating Ellenborough, Canada, and in the final Japan. The best match of the event was Japan's 3-2 victory over AWH Pioneers of Bletchley for whom the Bellinger sisters, Lisa and Jackie, won a singles each.

Results:—

Men's Singles: Round 4
A. Grubba (POL) bt N. Mason (Sy) 14,15;
Y. Murakami (JPN) bt A. Cooke (Cy) 12,14;
J. Broe (SCO) bt J. Hilton (La) 17,16;
T. Inoue (JPN bt D. Hannah (SCO) -18,16,10;
A. Griffiths (WAL) bt H. Pintea (CAN) 15,15;
S. Andrew (E) bt P. Bradbury (Bu) -16,19,16;
H. Ono (JPN) bt D. Wells (ENG) 15,11;
J. Souter (Mi) bt S. Scowcroft (La) 11,12.
Quarter-finals:
Grubba bt Murakami 13,14;
Inoue bt Broe 14,10;
Andrew bt Griffiths 10,22;
Souter bt Ono 18,-15,19.
Semi-finals:
Grubba bt Inoue 18,13;
Souter bt Andrew 18,18.
Final: GRUBBA bt Souter 18,13.
Women's Singles: Round 3
A. Gordon (ENG) bt S. Sandley (Mi) 10,-14,9;
M. Domonkos (CAN) bt C. Maisey (Wi) 17,8;
J. Bellinger (Bd) bt M. Sainsbury (Bk) -7,20,20;
A. Wada (JPN) bt J. Shaw (Y) 15,11;
J. Grundy (La) bt S. Hunt (Li) 10,18;
L. Bellinger (Bd) bt Thanh Mach (CAN) 11,9;
K. Witt (ENG) bt F. Elliot (St) -22,17,16;
M. Fukotome (JPN) bt L. Johnston (SCO) 20,12.
Quarter-finals:
Gordon bt Domonkos 13,-19,10;
J. Bellinger bt Wada 13,-19,14;
Grundy bt L. Bellinger -19,13,20;
Witt bt Fukotome 15,8.
Semi-finals:
Gordon bt J. Bellinger -19,7,8;
Grundy bt Witt 14,17.
Final: GRUNDY bt Gordon 9,15.
Men's Doubles: Quarter-finals:
Grubba/J. Pansky (TCH) bt A. Bourbonnais (CAN)/Ono 9,14;
Souter/C. Wilson (Mi) bt G. Sandley (ENG)/ Wells 19,19;
Inoue/Murakami bt D. Dodd (K)/N. Eckersley (Ch) 18,18;
J. Stokes/A. Syed (Bk) bt Cooke/Bradbury 19,16.
Semi-finals:
Grubba/Pansky bt Souter/Wilson 14,15;
Inoue/Murakami bt Stokes/Syed -22,9,13.
Final: GRUBBA/PANSKY bt Inoue/Murakami 18,15.
Women's Doubles: Quarter-finals:
Gordon/Witt bt Domonkos/G. Hsu (CAN) 11,-16,19;
Elliot/J. Harris (St) bt J. and L. Bellinger 10,17;
Grundy/J. Parker (La) bt J. Barella (Sy)/K. Ridgard (Ha) 16,11;
Fukutome/Wada bt J. Palmer (Sk)/H. Shields (Y) 15,-16,10.
Semi-finals:
Elliot/Harris bt Gordon/Witt 17,18;
Grundy/Parker bt Fukutome/Wada 12,16.
Final: GRUNDY/PARKER bt Elliot/Harris 7,10.
Mixed Class 2 Singles: Quarter-finals:
L. Wooding (Bd) bt D. Skerratt (Li) -12,14,13;
D. Gannon (Le) bt S. George (Du) 17,6;
R. Swift (Ca) bt S. Brunskill (Cv) 17,-11,19;
D. Iszatt (E) bt N. Davies (Y) 18,19.
Semi-finals:
Gannon bt Wooding 15,16; Iszatt bt Swift 19,12.
Final: GANNON bt Iszatt 20,15.

TEAM EVENTS

Men
Round 1
Jaques Fareham 3 Birmingham Optical 0
Round 2
England 3 Jaques Fareham 2
G. Sandley bt K. Satchell -15,15,20;
D. Wells lost to N. Mason -19,-13;
Sandley/Wells bt Mason/Satchell 9,11;
Sandley lost to Mason 19,-20,-15;
Wells bt Satchell 11,11.
Omega Reading II 3 Tibhar Larkhall 0
Canada 3 Thorn EMI ELlenboro 0
Scotland 3 Ormesby II 0
Grove 3 Wales 2
Ormesby I 3 Omega Reading I 1
GKN Wolves 3 MBS St Neots 0
Japan 3 South Yorkshire 0
Quarter-finals:
England 3 Omega Reading II 0
Sandley bt J. Stokes 16,18;
Wells bt A. Syed 9,11;
Sandley/Wells bt Stokes/Syed 18,9.
Scotland 3 Canada 1
Ormesby I 3 Grove 2
Japan 3 GKN Wolves 0
Semi-finals:
Scotland 3 England 1
D. McIlroy lost to Wells -19,-18;
D. Hannah bt Sandley 18,16;
Hannah/McIlroy bt Sandley/Wells 18,12;
Hannah bt Wells -18,17,15.
Japan 3 Ormesby I 0
T. Inoue bt A. Cooke -17,15,15;
H. Ono bt N. Eckersley -13,16,14;
Inoue/Murakami bt Cooke/Eckersley 12,12.
Final:
JAPAN 3 Scotland 1
Inoue bt McIlroy 9,8;
Ono lost to Hannah -15,-19;
Inoue/Murakami bt Hannah/McIlroy 18,14;
Inoue bt Hannah 13,11.

Women
Round 1
GKN Wolves 3 Wales 0
Unity 3 Knighton Park 0
EMI Ellenboro' 3 Omega 1
Quarter-finals:
Japan 3 GKN Wolves 2
AHW Pioneers 3 Scotland 0
Canada 3 Unity 0
England 3 EMI Ellenboro' 0
K. Witt bt S. Sandley 10,18;
A. Gordon bt H. Williams 15,9;
Gordon/Witt bt Sandley/Williams 11,14.
Semi-finals:
Japan 3 AHW Pioneers 2
A. Wada lost to J. Bellinger -19,-20;
M. Fukutome bt L. Bellinger 15,-18,17;
Fukutome/Wada bt Bellinger/Bellinger 19,18;
Wada lost to L. Bellinger -19,14,-18;
Fukutome bt J. Bellinger -15,12,19.
England 3 Canada 0
Witt bt T. Mach -19,7,20;
Gordon bt M. Domonkos 13,-10,20;
Gordon/Witt bt Domonkos/G. Hsu -18,19,19.
Final:
ENGLAND 3 Japan 0
Witt bt Fukutome 19,18; Gordon bt Wada 11,15;
Gordon/Witt bt Fukutome/Wada 14,17.

County Councillor Bill Emerson shakes hands with the men's singles finalists Grubba and John Souter.

Butterfly men's team event winners, Japan, with Cleveland Leisure Services Officer, Alan Alden.

The front bank of tables at Thornaby Pavilion.

Photos by courtesy of Alan Ransome, Ormesby.

DONG-AH WELSH OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS

GRUBBA YET AGAIN

By George R. Yates

Not content with his wins in the Charles Church Championship at Wembley and in the Cleveland County 3-Star Open at Thornaby, Poland's **Andrzej Grubba** made it a hat-trick of successes by winning the men's singles titles in the star-studded Dong-Ah Welsh Open at the National Sports Centre for Wales, in Cardiff, over the period Jan. 17/19, 1985.

Successive wins over David Dodd, Stellan Bengtsson, Igor Solopov, Patrick Birocheau and, in the semis, Desmond Douglas carried the Gdansk man to a final confrontation with the French ace, Jacques Secretin, the defending title holder.

As elsewhere the crowd responded to Secretin's high-lobbed returns but they were not enough to stay the continued onslaught of the aggressive Pole whose slight stature belies the power of his shot. And the crowd, giving the impression of being behind the Frenchman, simply had to acknowledge the attributes of the winner in the end.

Splendid too was the success of **Olga Nemes** who, on her defection from Rumania, carried the green colours of the Federal Republic of Germany onto the top step of the podium as the winner of the women's singles with a final win over Han Yan of the People's Republic of China, no less!

Secretin obtained solace for his title loss in the men's singles by pairing with his compatriot, **Birocheau,** to win the men's doubles at the final expense of Sweden's Jonny Akesson and Jörgen Persson winners of this title in the Italian Open.

Both the women's and mixed doubles titles went East with **Han Yan** and **Liu Wei** of China taking the former and **Park Ji Hun** and **Hyun Jung Hwa** of the Republic of Korea the latter. All this after **Poland** had won the men's team event and **Korea,** the women's.

BRONZE

In the men's team event England qualified for bronze medals in reaching the semi-final stage there to lose to Poland after a dramatic win over the Soviet Union in Rd. 2. With the match score equated at 2-2 Carl Prean got the better of the defensive Solopov to win the day, but after a comfortable second victory over Denmark, the chop came at the hands of Poland whose Grubba – inevitably – had the measure of both Douglas and Prean also partnering Kucharski to a doubles win after the latter, in the opening set, had lost to Douglas.

In the women's team event, after the initial scare of Alison Gordon losing to Marianne Domonkos, we sailed home 3-1 against Canada, but the scoreline was reversed when opposed by Korea with Joy Grundy taking our only set.

But back to the men's singles in which only three English players survived the first round – Douglas, Skylet Andrew and John Souter, the latter going out to Des in the next round.

Skylet, however, after accounting for Jan Harkamp of Denmark in the first round, had his chances of making further progress at the expense of the European Youth champion, Andrei Mazunov of the Soviet Union.

Leads of 18-13 and 19-17 availed the Essex man no reward in the fifth and deciding game with the Russian taking it at 19 to subsequently go under to Secretin in straight games.

Douglas, after wins over Didier Mommessin, the French junior, Souter and Takehiro Inoue of Japan reached the quarters there to renew acquaintance with a fellow Bundesliga player, Georg Böhm, a Rumanian by birth like Miss Nemes.

SHOCK DEPARTURE

Des was looking to give Georg a hiding and this he did but subsequently took one himself when opposed to Grubba in the semis. What then of England's other notables? Well, Prean took a shock departure when beaten 3-straight by Josef Bogan of Israel and Alan Cooke fell in 5 games to Horatio Pintea of Canada.

Graham Sandley went down fighting against the determined Solopov who also saw off the prospects of Alan Griffiths of Welsh fame whose colleagues, the two Nigels, Thomas and Tyler, as well as Mark Thomas went out, respectively, to Mazunov, Souter and Euro cadet champion Jean-Michel Saive.

Scotland's David Hannah fell in the first round to Bengtsson and Ireland's Colum Slevin to Secretin so, Douglas apart, when it came to the last eight, players from the U.K. were conspicuous by their absence. But Douglas did get a bronze.

No such medals for the women in their singles although four English girls made it to the second but no further. Alison Gordon fell

Olga Nemes

WELSH WIZARDS

Andrzej Grubba

to Elena Kovtun, the Euro Youth champion from Russia, Joy Grundy to the beaten finalist, Han Yan, Karen Witt to Nadine Daviaud of France and Fiona Elliot to Liu Wei of China after the Staffs girl had ousted Camilla Björk. of Sweden.

HALF SHARE

England's third bronze award came in the mixed doubles in which Carl and Joy reached the semis only to lose to Mazunov and his Czech partner, Alice Pelikanova. The fourth bronze was the half share claimed by Des, with Grubba, in the men's doubles when they lost to Secretin and Birocheau.

Prean and Cooke had an opening win against the Danes, Claus Pedersen and Harkamp but thereafter fell to Akesson and Persson, the defeated finalists. Alison and Joy went out at the first time of asking to Russia's Elena Kovtun and Raisa Diachenko.

But spare a thought for Guernsey's Ian Gallienne and Shaun Torade who made the trip from the Channel Isles only to meet up with China in the men's team event. What a tale to tell to Horace Mallett!

And what a tale to tell by Roy and Nancy Evans who are doubtless still recovering from their toils in promoting this event along with Eddie Thomas and Hon. Referee Alan Morris. But, despite all that the elements could throw against them they succeeded in bringing matters to a successful conclusion not least being the finals party which went with a swing at the Angel Hotel.

Results:—

Men's Singles: Round 4
J. Secretin (FRA) bt L. Kucharski (POL) 17, 18, 20;
A. Mazunov (URS) bt S. Andrew (E) 16, -18, 11, -17, 19;
H. Ono (JPN) bt V. Shevchenko (URS) 16, -22, 14, 17;
Fan Baozhang (CHN) bt An Jae Hyung (KOR) 16, 14, -15, 13;
D. Douglas (ENG) bt T. Inoue (JPN) 17, -20, 17, -17, 17;
G. Böhm (FRG) bt U. Carlsson (SWE) 17, -13, 18, 19;
P. Birocheau (FRA) bt Lee Jung Hak (KOR) 8, 18, 16;
A. Grubba (POL) bt I. Solopov (URS) 15, 12, -18, 16.

Quarter-finals:
Secretin bt Mazunov 16, 12, 11;
Fan Baozhang bt Ono -19, 10, 13, 16;
Douglas bt Böhm 18, 19, 13;
Grubba bt Birocheau 14, 10, 13.

Semi-finals:
Secretin bt Fan Baozhang 16, -13, -18, 17, 17;
Grubba bt Douglas 12, -19, 15, 15.

Final: GRUBBA bt Secretin -19, 13, 18, 17.

Women's Singles: Round 3:
S. Wenzel (FRG) bt K. Bogaerts (BEL) 12, 17, 20;
Han Yan (CHN) bt J. Grundy (ENG) 14, 16, 10;
E. Kovtun (URS) bt A. Gordon (ENG) 20, 13, -17, 19;
A. Olschewski (FRG) bt G. Borgström (SWE) 16, -19, -21, 12, 21;
S. Grefberg (FIN) bt M. Fukutome (JPN) 12, 17, -17, 12;
Liu Wei (CHN) bt F. Elliot (St) 14, 18, 19;
N. Daviaud (FRA) bt K. Witt (Bk) -19, 19, -15, 12, 16;
O. Nemes (FRG) bt Yoon Kyung Mi (KOR) -10, -17, 22, 18, 18.

Quarter-finals:
Han Yan bt Wenzel -19, 10, 11, 15;
Kovtun bt Olschewski 14, -12, 19, -17, 10;
Grefberg bt Liu Wei 21, -13, 20, -13, 19;
Nemes bt Daviaud 9, 15, 20.

Semi-finals:
Han Yan bt Kovtun 10, 14, 14;
Nemes bt Grefberg 18, 16, 14.

Final: NEMES bt Han Yan 19, 19, 9.

Men's Doubles: Quarter-finals:
Böhm/Kucharski bt Fan Baozhang/Wang Zhenyi (CHN) 13, -13, 17;
J. Akesson/J. Persson bt An Jae Hyung/Lee Jung Hak 13, 7;
Birocheau/Secretin bt Mazunov/Rozenberg (URS) 19, -19, 14;
Douglas/Grubba bt U. Bengtsson (SWE)/Carlsson 10, 12.

Semi-finals:
Akesson/Persson bt Böhm/Kucharski -14, 18, 12;
Birocheau/Secretin bt Douglas/Grubba 19, 18.
Final: BIROCHEAU/SECRETIN bt Akesson/Persson 19, -11, 10.

Women's Doubles: Quarter-finals:
Lee Kye Sun (KOR)/Yoon Kyung Mi bt Bogaerts/N. Higuet (BEL) 12, 21;
Daviaud/B. Thiriet (FRA) bt R. Diacheno (URS)/Kovtun 16, 11;
Hong Cha Ok/Hyun Jung Hwa (KOR) bt Fukutome/A. Wada (JPN) -16, 19, 9;
Han/Yan/Liu Wei bt Borgström/A. Johansson (SWE) -19, 21, 13.

Semi-finals:
Lee Kye Sun/Yoon Kyung Mi bt Daviaud/Thiriet 18, 8;
Han Yan/Liu Wei bt Hong Cha Ok/Hyun Jung Hwa -22, 17, 26.

Final: HAN YAN/LIU WEI bt Lee Ke Sun/Yoon Kyung Mi 12, 13.

Mixed Doubles: Quarter-finals:
S. Bengtsson (SWE)/Johansson bt C. Borsos (FRG)/Nemes 17, -16, 28;
Park Ji Hun (KOR)/Hyun Jung Hwa bt J. Rosskopf (FRG)/Wenzel 15, 10;
Mazunov/A. Pelikanova (TCH) bt Kucharski/Brzezinska (POL) -12, 21, 19;
C. Prean (ENG)/Grundy bt Carlsson/Borgström 20, 14.

Semi-finals:
Park Ji Hun/Hyun Jung Hwa bt Bengtsson/Johansson 18, 10;
Mazonov/Pelikanova bt Prean/Grundy 20, 18.
Final: PARK JI HUN/HYUN JUNG HWA bt Mazunov/Pelikanova 15, -18, 11.

Men's Consolation Singles: Semi-finals:
A. Rosenbaum (ISR) bt I. McLean (SCO) 10, 18;
B. Wright (SCO) bt S. Davies (Wl) 18, 10.
Final: ROSENBAUM bt Wright -20, 14, 9.

Women's Consolation Singles: Semi-finals:
Higuet bt N. Deltour (LUX) -18, 12, 21;
B. Herzel (SUI) bt L. Tyler (WAL) 16, -11, 14.
Final: HERZEL bt Higuet 13, -12, 19.

TEAM EVENTS

Men
Round 1
Guernsey w.o. Norway (scr)
Belgium 3 Wales I 0
J-M. Saive bt N. Thomas 17, 12;
M. Lambot bt N. Tyler -12, 17, 21;
Lambot/Saive bt Thomas/Tyler 19, -16, 18.
Canada 3 Israel 0
U.S.S.R. 3 Ireland 0
A. Mazunov bt M. Kelly 9, 8;
I. Solopov bt C. Slevin 15, 12;
Mazonov/Rosenberg bt Kelly/Slevin 13, -15, 14.
Switzerland 3 Wales II 1
S. Renold lost to A. Griffiths -6, -16;
T. Miller bt M. Thomas 12, -17, 9;
Miller/Renold bt Griffiths/Thomas 17, 19;
Miller bt Griffiths 17, 17.
Scotland 3 Luxembourg 0
J. Broe bt Y. Maas 14, 12;
D. Hannah bt G. Stebens 14, 11;
Broe/Hannah bt Maas/Stebins 17, 11.

Round 2
China 3 Guernsey 0
Fan Baozhang bt I. Gallienne 5, 7;
Wang Zhenyi bt S. Torode, 17;
Fan/Wang bt Gallienne/Torode 11, 6.
Belgium w.o. U.S.A. (scr)
France 3 Federal Germany 1
Japan 3 Canada 0
England 3 U.S.S.R. 2
C. Prean lost to Mazunov -19, -13;
D. Douglas bt I. Solopov 11, 12;
Douglas/Prean bt Mazunov/Rozenberg 19, 18;
Douglas lost to Mazunov 15, -18, -19;
Prean bt Solopov 16, -12, 16.
Denmark 3 Rep. of Korea 1
Poland 3 Switzerland 0
Sweden 3 Scotland 0
J. Persson bt Hannah 16, 14;
U. Carlsson bt Broe 11, 13;
J. Akesson/Persson bt Broe/Hannah 20, -12, 6.

Quarter-finals:
China 3 Belgium 0
Japan 3 France 2
England 3 Denmark 0
Douglas bt J. Harkamp 17, -16, 18;
Prean bt C. Pedersen -17, 10, 12;
Douglas/Prean bt Harkamp/Pedersen 15, 15.
Poland 3 Sweden 1

Semi-finals:
China 3 Japan 0
Fan Baozhang bt T. Inoue 13, 17;
Wang Zhenyi bt H. Ono 14, 18;
Fan/Wang bt Inoue/Ono -15, 18, 18.
Poland 3 England 1
L. Kucharski lost to Douglas -19, 19, -18;
A. Grubba bt Prean 7, -7, 11;
Grubba/Kucharski bt Douglas/Prean 17, 19;
Grubba bt Douglas 19, -16, 15.

Final:
POLAND 3 China 1
Grubba bt Wang Zhenyi 8, 10;
Kucharski lost to Fan Baozhang -17, -16;
Grubba/Kucharski bt Fan/Wang 18, 18;
Kucharski bt Wang Zhenyi 20, 13.

Women
Round 1
Israel 3 Ireland 1
I. Carmi lost to A. Leonard -14, 15, -16;
S. Lev bt N. McEvoy 10, 16;
Carmi/Lev bt Leonard/McEvoy 11, 21;
Carmi bt McEvoy 9, 6.
Luxembourg 3 Wales I 1
N. Deltour lost to L. Tyler 29, -17, -17;
B. Fisch bt S. Williams -18, 8, 17;
Deltour/Fisch bt Tyler/Williams 14, 22;
Fisch bt Tyler 12, 19.
Scotland 3 Wales II 1
L. Johnston lost to E. Wright -12, -16;
J. Smith bt H. Cotter 17, 11;
Johnston/Smith bt Cotter/Wright -16, 16, 15;
Smith bt Wright 18, 18.

Round 2
China 3 Israel 0
Czechoslovakia 3 Belgium 2
Federal Germany 3 Poland 2
U.S.S.R. 3 Luxembourg 0
Rep. of Korea 3 Scotland 0
Yoon Kyung Mi bt Johnston 15, 9;
Lee Kye Sun bt Smith 9, 5;
Lee/Yoon bt Johnston/Smith 6,13.
England 3 Canada 1
A. Gordon bt M. Domonkos 17, 18;
J. Grundy bt T. Mach 21, 14;
Gordon/Grundy lost to Domonkos/G. Hsu -17, 14, -17;
Grundy bt Domonkos -17, 21, 14.
France 3 Sweden 1
Japan 3 Switzerland 0

Quarter-finals:
China 3 Czechoslovakia 1
U.S.S.R. 3 Federal Germany 2
Rep of Korea 3 England 1
Yoon bt Gordon 17, 11;
Lee lost to Grundy -21, 13, -19;
Lee/Yoon bt Gordon/Grundy 7, -17, 14;
Yoon bt Grundy 14, 15.
France 3 Japan 1

Semi-finals:
China 3 U.S.S.R. 1
Liu Wei bt E. Kovtun 19, 7;
Han Yan bt R. Diachenko 7, 17;
Han Yan/Liu Wei lost to Diachenk/Kovtun -19, 9, -17;
Liu Wei bt Diachenko 19, 15.
Rep. of Korea 3 France 0
Lee bt Daviaud 18, 13;
Yoon bt Thiriet 12, 11;
Lee/Yoon bt Daviaud/Thiriet 15, -14, 22.

Final:
REPUBLIC OF KOREA 3 China 2
Lee lost to Liu Wei -15, -17;
Yoon bt Han Yan -18, 14, 15;
Lee/Yoon bt Liu/Han 18, -18, 19;
Yoon lost to Liu -14, 20, -18;
Lee bt Han Yan -13, 18, 17.

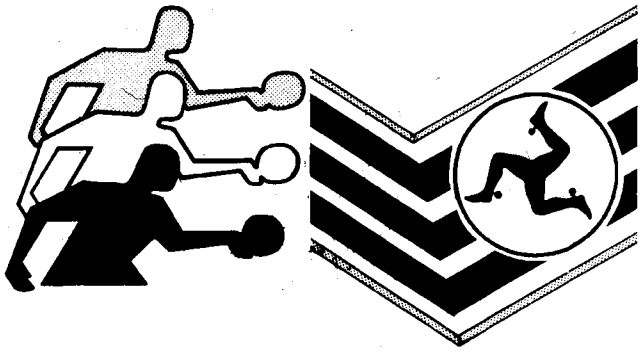
The Editor renews acquaintance with Japan's team manager Shojiro Ogata, Council Member of the Japan Table Tennis Association.

Photos by Denis George, Helensburgh, Scotland.

8th Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships 1985

Douglas, Isle of Man

17th — 23rd March



WORLD-CLASS ENTRY

A total of 21 countries have so far indicated their intention of participating in the 8th Commonwealth Championships to be held at the Palace Lido, Douglas, Isle of Man from March 17-23, 1985 with Hong Kong, Nigeria and England heading the field.

Hong Kong's men's team includes three of the team which won the team event in Kuala Lumpur in 1983. They are Chiu Man Kuen, Chan Kong Wah and Vong Iu Veng. Chiu Man Kuen is the current Commonwealth men's singles and doubles champion.

Chan Kong Wah was runner-up in the men's singles in 1983, semi-finalist in the men's doubles and winner of the mixed. He is ranked No. 2 in the Commonwealth.

Vong Iu Veng was a semi-finalist in 1983 and took the doubles championship. Newcomer Lo Cheun Chung completes the colony's impressive line-up. Their women's team will also travel to the Isle of Man as current team champions. They will rely on the same team as in 1983, namely Yue Kam Kai, Hui So Hung and Mok Ka Sha. Yue Kam Kai is the reigning women's singles champion, was runner-up in the women's doubles and a beaten semi-finalist in the mixed. Hui So Hung was runner-up in the 1983 women's singles and is ranked No. 2 in the Commonwealth, one place in front of Mok Ka Sha.

The other 20 countries intending to enter are:— Australia, Canada, Cyprus, England, Guernsey, India, Isle of Man, Jersey, Kenya, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria, Nthn Ireland, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Scotland, Wales and Zibbabwe.

Nigeria's men's team were runners-up in 1983 and four of their 5-man squad are scheduled to visit Douglas. In Kuala, Atanda Musa was the bronze medalist his teammates on that occasion being Sunday Eboh and Francis Sule.

ENGLAND SELECTIONS

The ETTA's Selection Committee announced on Jan. 21 their selections both for the 8th Commonwealth and 38th World Championships (Mar. 28 – Apl. 7). They are (age in brackets):—

MEN
Desmond Douglas (29)
Alan Cooke (18)
Carl Prean (17)
Graham Sandley (21)
Skylet Andrew (22)

WOMEN
Alison Gordon (21)
Joy Grundy (21)
Karen Witt (23)
Lisa Bellinger (18)

With the exception of Skylet Andrew, who earns his place by virtue of a series of consistent domestic results and his efforts in the Dong-Ah Welsh Open, this is the team which competed in Moscow. National Trainer/Coach **Donald Parker,** will travel with the team direct from the English Closed at Bletchley to the Isle of Man on Mar. 10 as a short training camp has been arranged in preparation for the hectic programme.

Additional places in the individual events allocated to England have been afforded to (at their own expense):— David Wells (Mi), Phil Bradbury (Bu), Nicky Mason (Sy), John Souter (Mi), Andrew Syed (Bk), David Dodd (K), Stephen Scowcroft (La), Carl Morgan (Wa), Jimmy Stokes (Bk), Matthew Syed (Bk) and Adrian Dixon (St) as well as to Fiona Elliot (St), Mandy Sainsbury (Bk), Jean Parker (La), Joanne Shaw (Y), Jill Powis (St), Andrea Holt (La), Claire Potts (Ch) and Kerry Hall (Dy).

COACHING COURSE

Course Leader –
David A. Fairholm, E.T.T.A. National Coach

Course Structure

(a) Assemble – Saturday 16th March, 1985 at 8 p.m. at the Palace Hotel when Mr. Fairholm will welcome participants, and outline the course. There will be T.T. videos and an Open Forum.
(b) Daily – (i) Participants will be split into pairs or groups of 4 every day and given a specific project which could be either Technical (stroke production, service, receipt, movement, combinations, equipment).
or Tactical (general tactics, specific tactics, 3rd and 5th ball attack, 2nd and 4th ball attack, gamesmanship, bench coaching, rally analysis.)
Each project will take 2-3 hours.
(ii) Each day 1-2 hours will be spent viewing and discussing a series of matches as a group.
(iii) Each evening the group will reassemble to disseminate the day's information and discuss projects for the following day.

Course Duration

The final meeting of participants will be at 8.30 p.m. on Friday, March 22. Please note that no projects will be set for Wednesday, March 20, but the group will meet after the team finals which take place on this evening.

Attendance

Participants are strongly recommended to attend the whole course but the structure allows partial participation. However, the minimum involvement would be for 2 days.

Costs

The registration fee for the full course will be £20. (This fee will be reduced by £2 for each day missed). This fee does **not** include accommodation and meals but does include admission to the Championships.

Championship Programme

The programme for the Championship is as follows:—

Sunday, 17th March:
Team events commence in the morning. Opening Ceremony in the evening.

Monday/Tuesday, 18/19th March
Team events continue.

Wednesday, 20th March
Free Day. Team Finals in the evening.

Thursday/Friday, 21st/22nd March
Individual Events.

Saturday, 23rd March
Individual Events – continue in the morning. Individual Finals and Closing Ceremony in the afternoon.

There will be morning, afternoon and evening sessions on each day except Wednesday, 20th March.

Free Day

If you are new to the Island, why not take advantage of the coach trip around the Island which has been arranged for Wednesday, 20th March from approximately 11 a.m. until 3.30 p.m. The cost of this trip will not exceed £5.

Registration

To register for the course please contact Mr. G. A. Baker, Organising Director, 8th Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships, The Lodge, Ballasalla, Isle of Man.

PACKAGE DEALS

Group and Conference Travel, Central Promenade, Douglas, Isle of Man, 'Phone: (0624) 27711 Telex 627742 have inclusive package prices starting from as little as £59.50 per person; all the packages include travel, accommodation and admission to the championships.

Travel can be arranged, by sea or air, from a number of departure points in the U.K., and there is a wide variety of hotels and guest houses from which to choose.

Prices Include:
* Return travel by either Sea or Air to the Isle of Man.
* Return transfers from either the Sea Terminal or the Airport to your Hotel.
* 3, 4, 5 or 7 Nights' accommodation on a Bed & Breakfast or Dinner/Bed & Breakfast basis in various licensed Hotels in Douglas.
* Complimentary admission into the Palace Casino and Whispers Nightclub on certain evenings of your stay (not Saturday). Admission cannot be guaranteed after 10.30 p.m. Jackets must be worn and no jeans are permitted.
* Entrance fees to all the Matches in the Palace Lido.
* Souvenir Brochure of the Championships.
* All service charges and 15% VAT.

Our Package Prices are per person as follows:

		(3)	(4)	(5)	(7)
Atholville	Bed/Breakfast	59.50	66.50	73.50	87.00
	Dinner, Bed/Breakfast	65.75	74.75	84.00	102.00
Marlborough	Bed/Breakfast	61.00	68.50	76.00	91.00
	Dinner, Bed/Breakfast	65.50	74.50	83.50	101.50

Palatine/ Oaklands	Bed/Breakfast	62.50	70.50	78.75	94.75
	Dinner, Bed/Breakfast	66.00	75.25	84.50	103.00
Queenscliff	Bed/Breakfast	65.50	74.50	83.50	101.50
	Dinner, Bed/Breakfast	71.00	82.00	93.00	114.50
Grasmere	Bed/Breakfast	62.50	70.50	78.75	94.75
	Dinner, Bed/Breakfast	81.50	96.00	110.25	139.00
New Rotherham	Bed/Breakfast	62.50	70.75	78.75	94.75
	Dinner, Bed/Breakfast	68.75	79.00	89.00	109.25

Air Supplements

Blackpool – £24.95;
Manchester – £35.95;
London Heathrow – £57.95;
Glasgow – £37.95;
Liverpool – £33.95;
Belfast Harbour – £31.95.

HOTEL DETAILS

Atholville, 3/4 Castle Drive, Douglas.

The Atholville is situated just off the Central Promenade. It is a licensed Hotel with a games room and a television room. There is a lift to all floors, and each room has a radio. No rooms with private facilities are available.

Marlborough, Central Promenade, Douglas.

This licensed Hotel is on the promenade in a corner position. It has a lift to all floors, games room and television room. No rooms with private facilities are available.

Palatine, 2 Castle Drive, Douglas.

The Palatine is situated in the same road as the Atholville just off the promenade. It is a licensed Hotel with the same range of facilities as the two Hotels already mentioned. Rooms with private facilities are not available.

Oaklands, 1 Palace View Terrace, Douglas.

This licensed Hotel is just off the promenade around the corner from the Palace Hotel. No rooms have private facilities, each room does have a radio. There is a games room and a television room.

Queenscliff, 2 Palace View Terrace, Douglas.

The Queenscliff is next door to the Oaklands and is licensed with a modern bar lounge for the residents. A games room and a television room are available. None of the bedrooms have private facilities.

Grasmere, Central Promenade, Douglas.

This fairly large Hotel is situated on the promenade near to the Palace Hotel. It has a number of rooms with private facilities, all rooms have a radio/intercom and baby listening service. There is a lift to all floors, television lounge, games room and laundry room. It is also licensed with two bars.

New Rotherham, Central Promenade, Douglas.

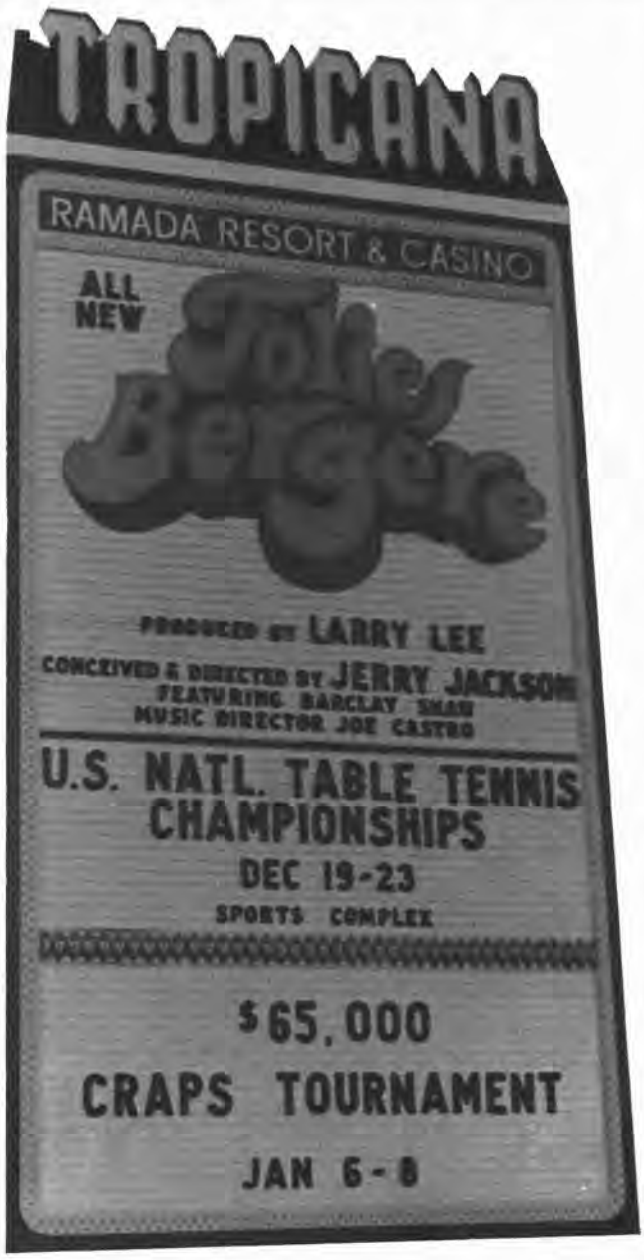
This Hotel is situated next door to the Marlborough on Central Promenade. It has a lift to all the floors and is licensed. There is a games room and a television room, also central heating throughout. Some rooms having private facilities are available if required.

All the above Hotels are within walking distance of the Palace Lido which is where the Championships are being held.

SCOTTISH SPONSOR

Bill Proudfoot, Chief General Manager of Scottish Amicable Life Assurance Company is here seen handing over the sponsorship cheque to STTA Deputy Chairman, Ben Dawson with Richard Yule and Carole Dayrymple also in attendance.

Photo by courtesy of The Scotsman Publications Ltd., North Bridge, Edinburgh.



1984 U.S. CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS AND TEAM TRIAL

Tropicana Hotel, Las Vegas, Nevada, December 19-23, 1984.

By Malcolm Anderson, Chairman, Photographic Committee U.S.T.T.A.

The Men's and Women's events were round robin format, with the order of finish in the final round robin becoming the order on our International Team Squad, so these events determined our teams to the next World Championships as well as the U.S. Champions.

In the Men's, the final match was between Eric Boggan (9-1) and **Danny Seemiller** (10-0). Dan won the first game at 19, Eric led most of the second game, only to see Danny tie it at deuce. Eric then rallied to win the game at 20, and the next two games at 17 and 17, to become our Men's Champion. Other results:

3. Sean O'Neill (7-4)
4. Ricky Seemiller (7-4)
5. Brian Masters (6-5)
6. Attila Malek (6-5)
7. Scott Boggan (5-6)
8. Quang Bui (5-6)
9. Brandon Olsen (4-7)
10. Khoa Nguyen (3-8)
11. Perry Schwarzberg (2-9)
12. George Braithwaite (1-10)

In the Women's, **Julie Au**, newly arrived from China, dominated the field, losing only one game (to Cheryl Dadian). Results were:

1. Julie Au (9-0)
2. Lan Vuong (8-1)
3. Jin Na (6-3)
4. Takako Trenholme (5-4)
5. Kasia Dawidowicz (5-4)
6. Lisa Gee (4-5)
7. Alice Green Kimble (3-6)
8. Shelia O'Dougherty (2-7)
9. Cheryl Dadian (2-7)
10. Jasmine Wang (1-8)

In Sook Bhushan did not compete, and will not be at the World Championships, because she and Shekhar will have their second child in January.

Julie Au is our new champion, but she also will not compete in the World Championships, as she has been a resident of the U.S.A. for less than 2 years.

Men's Amateur Singles:
Final: Quang Bui d. Mike Bush, 12, 20;
Semis: Bui d. Brian Masters -17, 18, 12;
Bush d. Allen Kaichi 14, -18, 18.
Women's Amateur Singles:
Final: Julie Au d. Diana Gee 18, 21;
Semis: Au d. Carol Davidson 13, 13;
Gee d. Alice Kimble 16, 11.
Men's Doubles:
Final: Scott Boggan/Perry Schwartzberg d. Brian Masters/Quang Bui -13, 18, 16.
Women's Doubles:
Final: Lisa and Diana Gee d. Cheryl Dadian/Kasia Dawidowicz 15, 16.
Mixed Doubles:
Final: Quang Do/Lisa Gee d. Brian Masters/Diana Gee 18, -16, 19.
Over 30 Singles:
Final: David Sakai d. Bob Fields 11, 12.
Boys' -17 Singles:
Final: Sean O'Neill d. Scott Butler -17, 20, 21, 13;
Semis: O'Neill d. James Butler 9, 12, 12;
S. Butler d. Gene Lonnon 20, 13, -18, 19.
Girls' -17 Singles:
Final: Lan Vuong d. Diana Gee 15, 17, -14, 22;
Semis: Vuong d. Lisa Gee -25, 17, -17, 16, 16;
D. Gee d. Jasmine Wang 15, 15, 19.
Boys' -17 Doubles:
Final: Scott and Jim Butler d. Sean O'Neill/Gene Lonnon 16, -14, 10.
Girls' -17 Doubles:
Final: Diana and Lisa Gee d. Michelle Mantel/Liana Panesko 11, 13.
Over 40 Singles:
Final: George Braithwaite d. Bohdan Dawidowicz -19, 15, 21.
Semis: Braithwaite d. Houshang Bozorgzadeh 16, 16.
Dawidowicz d. Martin Doss 17, 15.
Over 40 Doubles:
Final: Martin Doss/Bob Fields d. Bohdan Dawidowicz/Tim Boggan 10, 15.
Boys' -15 Singles:
Final: Jim Butler d. Dhiren Narotam 9, 19.
Girls' -15 Singles:
Round Robin:
1. **Michelle Mantel** (3-0)
2. Stephanie Fox (2-1)
3. Janine Schroeder (1-2)
4. Gayanne Homer (0-3)
Under 15 Doubles:
Final: J. Butler/D. Narotam d. Stephanie Fox/Janine Schroeder 13, 17.
Over 50 Singles:
Final: Tim Boggan d. Frank Suran 17, -19, 13.
Semis: Boggan d. Azmy Ibrahim 9, 19;
Suran d. Dan Banach -16, 18, 21.
Over 50 Doubles:
Final: T. Boggan/Charles Burns d. Stan Schuman/Ed Gutman 19, 11.
Boys' -13 Singles:
Final: Dhiren Narotam d. Jeff Fori 17, 8.
3rd: Ed Weiss; 4th Eric Owens.
Girls' -13 Singles:
Round Robin:
1. **Michelle Mantel** (3-0)
2. Stephanie Fox (2-1)
3. Janine Schroeder (1-2)
4. Gayanne Homer (0-3)
Under 13 Doubles:
Final: D. Narotam/Ed Weiss d. K. Schultz/E. Owens 12, 19.
Over 60 Singles:
Final: Chuck Burns d. Jack Loth 11, 9;
Semis: Burns d. Y. C. Lee -19, 15, 15;
Loth d. Fred Borges 17, 14.
Under 11 Singles:
Final: Eddie Weiss d. Eric Owens 13, 10.
Over 70 Singles:
Final: Wing Lock Koon d. Robert Green 17, 17.
Semis: Koon d. Wiley Riggs 17, 9;
Green d. Harry Bloom 12, 18.
Over 80 Singles:
Round Robin:
1. **Joel Mallory** (3-0)
2. Oliver Nicholas (2-1)
3. Charles H. McCallister (1-2)
4. Stan Morest (0-3)
Hard Rubber Singles:
Final: Roberto Byles d. Houshang Bozorgzadeh 19, 19.

1984 U.S. Closed men's singles final Eric Boggan (l) and Dan Seemiller (r).

Women's singles finalists Lan Vuong (l) and Julie Au (r).

Diane and Lisa Gee U.S. women's doubles champions.

The veterans Over-70 final Bob Green (l) and Wing Lock Koon.

Photographs by Mal Anderson.

The Cost of the Future

By ETTA Chairman, Tom Blunn

I suppose it is inevitable that sometime during the season I would write on financial matters. On this occasion I think it would be of benefit to readers if I re-stated the current position with regard to the Sports Council grant aid.

The Sports Council has supplied grant aid to governing bodies of sport for over twenty years. The first grants related only to coaching and the ETTA took advantage of the system by appointing the late Jack Carrington as our first professional coach. Then in 1965 the Sports Council invited the governing bodies to each prepare a five year plan for their sport which would be considered for grant aid in further areas, such as administration, travel and training. As Treasurer at the time it was my job to prepare our five year plan which I did in 1965 under the title of "A plan for Table Tennis". It was a white document and not green like the one which is appearing regularly on television!

Our plan was the first to be received by the Sports Council and they used it as a blue print for other sports and paid for it to be printed and distributed to every other governing body in the country. We were given very satisfactory grant aid and this has been progressive to the extent that we come to regard it as a permanent income giving us some form of security. All we needed to do was to account for each year's claim and submit a claim for the following year on an every increasing basis. This season we will receive about £150,000 compared with £100,000 from our own members.

The Sports Council has changed the system and issued recommendations for a "new approach" to grant aid. This requires the governing bodies to prepare a plan for 3, 4 or 5 years and to cost this in every area covered by the plan. It is important that the governing body makes a serious attempt to provide a realistic contribution from its own members. That is why it was necessary to ask our members for a substantial increase in fees this season. Even now at £1.50 per team place per annum it is only ⅔rd of the grant we are currently receiving from the Sports Council. The present grant ceases on March 31, 1985 and we have no idea what we will be given for season 1985/86 and subsequently. It all depends on how well our own particular plan is received and adopted.

Again I will be preparing our plan using the document "Table Tennis to the 1990's" prepared by the Development Committee under Alan Ransome. The financial details will be worked out with the Treasurer, Aubrey Drapkin, and the final drafting and submission will be completed with the assistance of the General Secretary, Albert Shipley.

Our plan is quite progressive and includes certain items of additional expenditure as approved by the National Council. There will be a shortfall between the estimated expenditure and what we can expect to receive as income from our own members and our own other resources, such as the trade, sponsors, television, spectators, advertisers etc. This shortfall will be considered by the Sports Council in relation to the plan as a whole and a figure of grant aid will then be offered. It could be the full shortfall or only a proportion – only time will tell!

FRONT PAGE COVER
England's ace Junior Carl Prean, winner of the first Euro Junior Top 12 in San Marino last month.
Photo by Ian Ball FRPS, Hampstead, London NW3.

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NATIONAL LEAGUE

By Fiona Brown

SPORTSMANSHIP NOT GAMESMANSHIP, IF YOU PLEASE!

The way things have been happening recently it seems that this season's league winners may be the teams who cannot only play the best table tennis, but who can turn their hands to the sport of orienteering! Without mentioning any names it has been brought to my attention that certain clubs are being less than helpful when it comes to providing the opposition with directions to their home venue, this is leading to unnecessary delays and as you might imagine more than a little ill feeling. Please nip this problem in the bud and make every effort to extend a little more courtesy to your opponents, just remember that they are people too and not simply the dreaded enemy to be overcome at all costs!

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
1. Thorn EMI Ellenborough	6	5	0	1	35	13	10
2. Ormesby I	6	4	1	1	33	15	9
3. G.K.N. Steelstock Wolverhampton I	7	3	2	2	29	27	8
4. Omega Reading I	6	3	1	2	26	22	7
5. Jaques Fareham I	6	1	3	2	21	27	5
6. Grove Market Drayton I	6	2	0	4	18	30	4
7. Tibhar London	7	0	1	6	14	42	1

G.K.N. Steelstock, Wolverhampton's Premier Division team (l to r): Stephen Scowcroft, Skylet Andrew, Max Crimmins and Andy Bellingham – 6-2 winners over Omega Reading I.

Omega Reading's title hopes have suffered a setback following their 6-2 defeat by GKN Wolverhampton. With the score standing at 1-1 the Midlanders struck three times in succession to secure their first point. David Barr then beat Max Crimmins in straight games to preserve Reading's hopes of salvaging a point but these were quickly dashed when GKN's Andy Bellingham scored his second success of the afternoon by easing away from John Souter to win at 19 in the third. In the final set Stephen Scowcroft rubbed salt into the Omega wound with a businesslike two game victory over Andy Wellman.

This win enabled GKN to move above Omega in the table, despite having lost to league leaders Thorn EMI Ellenborough 2-6 in their following match. Ellenborough maintain a tenuous hold on the number one spot but Ormesby are waiting eagerly in the wings having collected a further two points by defeating Jaques Fareham 6-2. Kevin Satchell created an early surprise when he overcame Ormesby's new England No. 2 Alan Cooke in straight games and despite a lack of support Satchell later returned to the table with the score standing at 5-1 to despatch Richard Yule in similar style.

Jaques have suffered a rather lean Christmas as they were held to a draw by bottom club Tibhar Larkhall, a rather surprising result as the Larkhall club had failed to score a single point in any of their previous six fixtures. David Dodd was definitely Larkhall's star on this occasion as he emerged victorious from the closest of duels with Nicky Mason to level the score at 1-1 and went on to deal swiftly with brother Andrew to level once more at 3-3.

The confidence Larkhall gained from this result was immediately evident in their next fixture as they moved into a 3-1 lead over fellow strugglers, Grove, but the Shropshire squad fought back to lead 4-3 and despite a determined effort by Larkhall's Gary Spencer the points slipped away as Anwar Majid clinched the final set in three games to earn his first win of the afternoon and maximum points for his team.

Omega meanwhile must be content with second place despite a 5-3 win over Birmingham Optical for whom Carl Morgan provided two superb rubbers with straight set wins over Andrew Syed and Chris Bartram, Barry Johnson added Birmingham's third by edging home 19 in the third against Matthew Syed.

Over in Wales there is little to celebrate as Butterfly Cardiff have picked up only one point in their last two outings. This was collected in the home fixture with MBS St Neots. Cardiff's four rubbers coming from Nigel Thomas and Trevor Manning with Keith Richardson the only St Neots player not to record a win.

FIRST DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
1. Bath Toyota	9	6	2	1	46	26	14
2. Omega Reading II	8	5	3	0	45	19	13
3. South Yorkshire I	8	5	3	0	44	20	13
4. Birmingham Optical	8	5	0	3	39	25	10
5. Dagenham F.C.	8	2	1	5	26	38	5
6. M.B.S. St. Neots I	7	1	2	4	20	36	4
7. Butterfly Cardiff	8	1	2	5	21	43	4
8. Ormesby II	8	0	1	7	15	49	1

Bath Toyota succeed in displacing Omega Reading to reclaim their position at the head of the table having bagged four points from a possible six in their recent set of fixtures. England No. 3 Carl Prean is proving invaluable to their promotion surge and with a 100% record at this point in the season Carl must surely be well satisfied with his contribution to this effort.

Against Dagenham he recorded two comfortable victories over Tony Penny and David Newman and was ably supported by Adrian Moore who fought back from a game down to overcome Dagenham's Kevin Caldon and retained his composure in the final set of the afternoon to beat Stuart Gibbs and claim the full two points for Bath with a match result of 5-3. Bath's other set was provided by Andy Creed when he triumphed over Caldon in the penultimate rubber.

Bath's other established international, Women's No. 1 Alison Gordon, failed by a whisker to claim a set in either this fixture or the following one against South Yorkshire but the scorelines in each of these four visits to the table suggest that a lack of confidence rather than talent may be Alison's major stumbling block.

Against South Yorkshire she held a one game advantage over Dave Gannon before losing at 16 in the third and came even closer to upsetting Chu Van Que, the penholder who had almost ended Prean's unbeaten run in the opening game of the match. In fact the opposition in this fixture probably provided Carl with his toughest task to date this season as he struggled to overcome Chris Rogers in three very close games. Such is the Northerners' strength in depth that only Andy Creed succeeded in adding to Prean's tally with a well deserved win over Steve Mills as he recovered from a game down to snatch victory at 18 in the third. With the score standing at 4-3 in favour of South Yorkshire Adrian Moore staged a last ditch attempt to salvage a point for Bath and when he captured the first game 25-23 against new signing Dave Gannon, there seemed to be hope but this effort had drained his resources and Gannon was never seriously troubled as he coasted to victory at 14 in the final game of the afternoon.

South Yorkshire moved on the following day to tackle Omega Reading and with the revised ranking list having come into use Andy Wellman replaced Andrew Syed who will now play for the Omega first team; Wellman lead the way with an opening win over Chris Rogers and followed it up with a second win in a closely contested three ender with Steve Mills when the score stood at two sets all. Chris Bartram was in fine form as he tackled first Dave Gannon and then Chris Rogers to add a further two sets to the Omega total, but two comfortable wins by Chu Van Que and one each from Mills and

Gannon resulted in a 4-4 tie, an equitable result in a match where no more than a single rubber ever divided the teams. Both South Yorkshire and Bath Toyota have met and defeated Ormesby in recent weeks, the former 7-1, the latter 6-2; results which leave the Cleveland side floundering three points adrift at the foot of the table.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
1. Patsun Target Gold	7	7	0	0	39	17	14
2. March	7	4	2	1	39	17	10
3. Chan Construction	7	2	3	2	32	24	7
4. G.K.N. Steelstock Wolverhampton II	7	2	2	3	28	28	6
5. South Yorkshire II	7	2	2	3	25	31	6
6. Byker Newcastle I	7	2	1	4	24	32	5
7. Sincil Lincoln	7	1	3	3	21	35	5
8. Kingsbro' Insurance Services	7	1	1	5	19	37	3

Patsun Target Gold marched relentlessly on towards the title with a convincing 6-2 win when they met Kingsbro Insurance Services. The Stockton team, jubilant after their win over South Yorkshire proved no match for the likely champions when it came to the crucial points, Salford's Tony Boasman and Andy Leigh emerging victorious at 21 in third in the sixth and seventh rubbers respectively to secure yet another two points and leave the Stockton side two points adrift at the foot of the table.

Salford's only serious remaining rivals, March, suffered a setback when they were held to a 4-4 draw by mid table team South Yorkshire. March raced into a 4-1 lead before South Yorkshire's Illingsworth twins could stem the flow, firstly Mark beat Andy Withers in straight games and then David, despite losing the first game came back to quash Geoff Davies. Paul Longstone earned South Yorkshire a point with an excellent win over Robert Smith.

Further north in Geordie land Byker Newcastle must be rejoicing as three points in their last two games have considerably reduced the relegation threat which was beginning to cloud their season. Against Sincil Lincoln Steven George and the much improved junior Thomas Blackman collected the four rubbers which resulted in a 4-4 draw, Neil McMaster must have been disappointed to lose at 17 in the third with the match score standing at 4-3 to Byker but on the day he was out-classed by March's Trevor Kerry. In the final rubber England cadet Bradley Billington displayed the composure that we expect of a future champion in cruising to a comfortable win over Eddy Smith in two games.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
1. Holts Carpets Salisbury	7	7	0	0	42	14	14
2. TCB Dolphins	7	6	0	1	39	17	12
3. Jaques Fareham II	7	4	1	2	30	26	9
4. Cranfield Colours Halex	7	3	1	3	31	25	7
5. Omega Reading III	7	3	0	4	25	31	6
6. Gunnersbury Triangle	7	2	0	5	20	36	4
7. TSP Larkhall	7	1	0	6	20	36	2
8. Spicer New Malden	7	0	2	5	17	38	2

Can anyone halt Holts? It seems more unlikely as each match passes. The Salisbury side's latest victims Omega Reading were shown no favour when the two teams met recently. The only weak link in the side on that occasion, Mark Holt, was swept easily aside by both Simon Rowland and Steve Hodder but the combined talents of Dave Constance, Tony Clayton and Gary Lambert proved more than adequate as the leaders marched to a 6-2 victory.

Despite Holt's continuing success they are not yet assured of the title. TCB Dolphins have now been awarded two points from their controversial fixture with Spicer New Malden which took place way back in September and added a further two points to their total by defeating Gunnersbury Triangle 6-2, a match in which both Graham Gillett and Keith Horton recorded two wins each. When Dolphins and Holts met earlier this season the latter emerged 5-3 winners and with both teams very obviously in excellent form their second meeting on 21st April should provide an extremely close encounter but between now and then the Sussex side must strive to improve their games average.

Jaques Fareham have crept past Cranfield Colours following their meeting from which Fareham claimed both points in a close 5-3 finish. Brian Jeanes gave Cranfield the chance to rescue a point when he beat Mark Wilding in two games in the seventh rubber but teammate Warwick Armstrong could not contain Cranfield's Dave Pilcher who clinched the third game 21-18, and both Cranfield and the two points returned to the valleys.

Spicer New Malden dropped to the depths of the division by virtue of a 6-2 defeat by TSP Larkhall who must be delighted to have broken their duck at long last.

THIRD DIVISION NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
1. Unity Bradford	7	7	0	0	41	15	14
2. Unity Leeds	7	6	0	1	40	16	12
3. South Yorkshire III	7	4	0	3	32	24	8
4. Ormesby III	7	3	1	3	29	27	7
5. Vickers Sports Barrow	7	3	1	3	25	31	7
6. Washington	7	2	2	3	25	31	6
7. Ormesby IV	7	1	0	6	17	39	2
8. Byker Newcastle II	7	0	0	7	15	41	0

South Yorkshire have finally dropped out of the promotion race following their 6-2 defeat by Unity Leeds a result which enables the latter to remain within striking distance of local rivals Unity Bradford. Bradford, meanwhile have not been letting the grass grow under their feet as Washington discovered to their peril when they travelled south for a pre-Christmas meeting. Chris Blake, playing at No. 3 for the Tynesiders recorded the visitors; first win when the score stood at 3-0 and Phil Stafford their last when it stood at 5-1, the Bradford boys certainly mean business this season! Byker Newcastle and Ormesby III enjoyed a hard fought match from which the Cleveland visitors escaped with both points thanks to two wins in the last two rubbers by Dave Fewsdale and Chris Metcalfe over Maurice Clark and Robert Dodds respectively, a disappointing result for the Byker team who had held an early lead.

Ormesby IV were not as fortunate when they entertained Vickers Sports Barrow; for Vickers Neil Smith and Allan Fay played well to win two rubbers each with teammate Andrew Murphy claiming the decider in what must surely be one of the shortest League matches on record as it was completed in 2 hours 2 minutes!

THIRD DIVISION SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
1. Medway	7	6	1	0	40	16	13
2. The DSC Rams	7	5	0	2	37	19	10
3. Nittaku Ruislip	7	4	2	1	35	21	10
4. ASPRO Cippenham	7	4	1	2	32	24	9
5. AHW Pioneers	7	2	1	4	24	32	5
6. Ashford	7	1	3	3	22	34	5
7. Abeng Warriors (Stiga)	7	0	2	5	18	38	2
8. Erreys Print '84	7	1	0	6	16	40	2

Abeng Warriors' new found confidence suffered a severe blow at the hands of leaders Medway who raced to a 6-0 lead when the two teams met in December. Medway's No. 2 Bobby Brown set the scene with a win in the opening rubber over David Dewsbury but ironically it was Brown who lost to Lionel Faure, Abeng's No. 3, in the penultimate set, a result which obviously inspired Mike Ling as he picked up a second consolation set for Abeng and gave the final scoreline, 6-2, an air of respectabilfty. This win gives Medway a three point lead in the division but two teams are engaged in an interesting tussle for second place. Nittaku Ruislip collected two points in their 5-3 defeat of Erreys Print. Erreys' father and son duo Paul and Alan Rowden won their first rubbers comfortably to level the score at the half way stage but three sets to Nittaku directly after the break secured both points before Andy Walker overcame Viv McCarthy in three games to give Erreys the final set of the day; with this result the Sussex side now drop to the bottom of the division by virtue of an inferior game average to that of young London side Abeng Warriors. Erreys remain hopeful as they have secured the services of another experienced player, Brighton Polytechnic student John Green.

Due to exam pressures John has not played in competitive table tennis since the end of last season but he is now eager to rise back up the ranking list.

Meanwhile Nittaku Ruislip are becoming serious contenders for the League title as they demonstrated by squashing early season leaders Cippenham 7-1, only Clive Young prevented the whitewash by beating Ruislip No. 4 Viv McCarthy in straight games.

The other team involved in the tussle for second spot, DSC Rams, wasted little time in gacing to a 4-0 lead over Erreys Print and despite Paul Rowdens point saving efforts against Desmond Charlery the match slipped away in the sixth set when Junior Facey recovered from a game down to beat Errey's Peter Barham and secure full points for the Rams who finished 6-2 winners.

Ashford and AHW Pioneers earned a point each from their mid table tie, for the Ashford club brothers David and Jonathan Goode provided four successes and Pioneers' Wooding, Luscombe, Doughty and Bradbury earned a single each.

THIRD DIVISION EAST	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
1. EAE Waveney	7	7	0	0	39	17	14
2. Norwich Foxwood	7	5	1	1	36	20	11
3. Witham Town F.C.	7	4	0	3	32	24	8
4. M.B.S. St. Neots II	7	3	1	3	29	27	7
5. Playrite Northampton	7	2	2	3	30	26	6
6. Britannia Deepsure	7	2	2	3	26	30	6
7. Hassy Perfection Soham	7	2	0	5	21	35	4
8. Crusaders Lincoln	7	0	0	7	11	45	0

Halex National League

It has been a quiet month in this division with only two matches played. MBS St Neots triumphed 7-1 over Crusaders Lincoln, a result which pushes the Cambridgeshire side up above Playrite Northampton and leaves Lincoln with little hope of catching nearest rivals Hassy Soham. East Anglians Britannia Deepsure secured their tenure of sixth position with an emphatic performance in beating Soham 6-2. By the time that Soham's Julian Wheel beat Mick Palmer and teammate Peter Holliday overcame Paul Gooding the match was already lost.

THIRD DIVISION WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
1. Pengeley Sports Torbay	8	8	0	0	51	13	16
2. Olivers Shoes Hinckley	7	5	1	1	36	20	11
3. Hereford Times	7	3	3	1	32	24	9
4. Jolliffe Poole	8	3	1	4	29	35	7
5. G.K.N. Steelstock Ladies	6	2	1	3	23	25	5
6. Global Sports Plymouth	7	2	0	5	19	37	4
7. Grove Market Drayton II	7	1	1	5	21	35	3
8. Launceston Kernow	6	0	1	5	14	34	1

Leaders Pengelley Torbay certainly seem destined to take the second division South by storm. Against Jolliffe Poole in their opening fixture of 1985 they scored their third 7-1 win in three matches. Any remaining dreams of title hopes which Olivers Shoes Hinckley may have held evaporated when they were held to a 4-4 draw by Hereford Times. In fact they were fortunate to recover from a 0-2 deficit and then claim the final set of the afternoon.

At the foot of the table Grove at long last, have cause for celebration. A 6-2 win over Global Plymouth raises them off the bottom of the table once more.

JIMMY STOKES – A CREDIT TO TABLE TENNIS

by Paul A. Clare
Yorkshire County Umpire

It was for me a pleasure to umpire a quarter-final set between Jimmy Stokes of Berkshire and Frank Boute of the Netherlands in the Cleveland Junior International played at Eston over the weekend of Nov. 24/25, 1984. Jimmy played with such skill and determination, and his temperament was of the highest calibre, given the pressures of the game.

It was also pleasing to note his courtesy and politeness shown to officials and spectators, both on and off the table. When Jimmy played in the next round of the boys' singles, having beaten Boute, with a fine, no, superlative, performance of physical fitness and table tennis skills, he unfortunately lost in the semis to Regis Rossignol of France.

In a very tight and close finish the French boy won through with a succession of net and edge balls. The point I am making is that many players in this situation would have become somewhat vexed and, to a certain degree impolite. But Jimmy remained calm and it is in this situation that one can sort out the 'elite' players from the good ones. Jimmy, quite naturally, falls into the 'elite' category and he has my respect both as a player and as an individual.

At the Cleveland 3-Star Open held in January, I was following Jimmy's progress with interest and although he narrowly lost in the qualifying groups of the men's singles – beating Steve Mills but losing to Keith Rodger – he still maintained his skill and determination to the last point played.

In the men's doubles Jimmy was partnered by another skilled and courteous player in the person of Andrew Syed and together they produced a fine performance of outstanding ability to beat Alan Cooke and Phil Bradbury in the quarters. One England player said to me "How come two young lads beat someone like Cooke and Bradbury"? The answer, I would say, is obvious: Jimmy and Andrew were the better players and a force to be reckoned with.

The Berkshire pair then went on to play Takehiro Inoue and Yoshikazu Murakami of Japan but, having won the first game 19, they lost the second 15 and after some fantastic, long and hard-fought rallies, the Japanese pair with a couple of lucky edges took the decider at 18.

Jimmy puts in a lot of hard work and training into his table tennis. He plays every day, adheres to a strict training schedule and to quote him he goes on training camps when selected "without fail". With this sort of dedication, enthusiasm and ability, I feel sure that Jimmy will go far. He has certainly come a long way since playing on the kitchen table and winning his first trophy at the age of eleven in the Reading Under-11 boys' singles. I will follow his progress with more than a passing interest for Jimmy is a credit to table tennis.

Picture by R.K.M. Photography, Trinity Galleries, Hinckley, Leics.

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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND-UP

By MURRAY CORBIN

MIDDLESEX...YET AGAIN!

MIDDLESEX, by games difference, retained supremacy of the SENIOR PREMIER DIVISION of the COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS, when the second and final part of the knock-out competition was staged at WANSTEAD SPORTS CENTRE, East London, on 26/27th January.

During this weekend of paramount importance to English Table Tennis, MIDDLESEX defeated Berkshire 7-2, Yorkshire 7-2, Essex 8-1, and lost only one match – the exciting encounter with **LANCASHIRE,** who must be kicking themselves at their only loss, to Surrey, during the first weekend at Stone, Staffordshire, last November. Had they not slipped at this hurdle, the championship would have been theirs.

CONDITIONS: STAGING: CATERING.

The weather was amiable and the playing conditions at Wanstead were superb. Once again, the organiser **DICK ROFFE and the Essex TTA** did our sport proud. As expected, great attention was paid to every fine detail in their planning. Unfortunately, one unforeseen incident marred the opening ceremony just as the great **JOHNNY LEACH, MBE,** was about to open the games officially, the power amplification system did not respond. It was O.K. a few minutes previously. After a delay of about twenty minutes, improvisation was the necessary action to take, and Johnny was soon meeting the Teams and Managers. **VALERIE ROFFE,** Dick's wife, had a successful weekend in her first outing as Referee, and I would like to see her in this position more often. Her Umpiring Staff of FRED GROOM/BILL LAVIS (Kent), JACK MELNICK/DAVE PERRY/DAVE MILLER/JACK RANDALL (Middx), MARGARET PLUMB/TED FISHER (Wilts), the gracious DI WINMILL and BILL WILSON (Hants), plus the one and only STUART SNEYD of Lancashire, worked well together. Graham Parkes of Essex did not turn up. I hope that he is well.

The Catering Ladies – **FRANCES WAYLAND, PAT BARKER AND JUNE SAYER,** and their helpers, provided excellent lunch and buffet between play and the success in this area must have helped the players reach very high standards of play during both days. Thank you also to County Championships Committee man **STANLEY PARR** of Coventry, who liaised with Dick Roffe in order to plan effectively for the occasion.

SPONSORSHIP

Sponsorship for the second successive year was provided by **The WOODFORD MOAT HOUSE HOTEL** at Oak Hill, Woodford Green, where the players and officials dined and slept on the first evening. Enormous gratitude can be showered on **GUNTER L. STOHR,** the General Manager of this fine establishment, because without his enthusiasm for table tennis, and its growth in Essex and the substantial financial support he invests in these weekends, we would be unable to present the game as it is done by Essex TTA. We can only hope that in spite of Essex being relegated to the Second Division, along with Cambridgeshire, that his interest will remain with this second premier weekend.

THE LINE-UP OF THE TEAMS

BERKSHIRE:
David Barr; Andy Wellman; Paul Savins; Mandy Sainsbury. **Brian Latham – Captain.**

CAMBRIDGESHIRE:
Keith Richardson; Mick Harper; Andy Withers; Joanne Palmer; **Geoff Waters – Team Manager.**

ESSEX:
Skylet Andrew; Dave Newman; Tony Penny; Des Charlery; Kevin Caldon; Elaine Sayer and Lisa Hayden. **Alan Shepherd – Team Manager.**

LANCASHIRE:
Steve Turner; Steve Scowcroft; Shaun Browne; Jean Parker. **Majorie Riddle – Team Manager.**

MIDDLESEX:
Graham Sandley; Dave Wells; Colin Wilson; John Souter and Sarah Sandley. **Len Pilditch – Team Manager.**

STAFFORDSHIRE:
Andrew Bellingham; Andrew Rich; Craig Bakewell; Adrian Dixon and Fiona Elliott. **Paul Chester – Team Manager.**

SURREY:
Nicky Mason; Mark Oakley; Steve Holloway; Glen Baker; Jane Barella and Michele Hams. **Mike Kercher – Captain/Team Manager.**

YORKSHIRE:
Alan Fletcher; Kevin Beadsley; Steve Mills and Melody Hill. **Eric Hill – Team Manager.**

SATURDAY RESULTS:

Yorkshire 8 Surrey 1: **Staffordshire** 6 Cambridgeshire 3: Berkshire 2 **Middlesex** 7: **Lancashire** 5 Essex 4: Cambridgeshire 2 **Berkshire** 7: Middlesex 4 **Lancashire** 5: Essex 2 **Yorkshire** 7: Surrey 3 **Staffordshire** 6.

SUNDAY RESULTS:

Berkshire 4 **Staffordshire** 5: Essex 3 **Surrey** 6: Lancashire 6 Cambridgeshire 3: Yorkshire 2 **Middlesex** 7: **Middlesex** 8 Essex 1: Cambridgeshire 0 **Yorkshire** 9: Staffordshire 1 **Lancashire** 8: **Surrey** 6 Berkshire 3.

MIDDLESEX/LANCASHIRE SCORE SHEET

MIDDLESEX	vs	LANCASHIRE	SCORES	GAMES
Colin Wilson	vs	STEVE TURNER	18-21; 21-16; 18-21.	0 – 1
JOHN SOUTER	vs	Shaun Browne	21-19; 17-21; 21-16.	1 – 1
DAVE WELLS	vs	Steve Scowcroft	21-9; 15-21; 21-17.	2 – 1
Wells/Sarah Sandley	vs	SCOWCROFT/ JEAN PARKER	17-21; 21-17; 22-24.	2 – 2
SOUTER/WILSON	vs	Turner/Browne	23-21; 17-21; 21-18.	3 – 2
Sarah Sandley	vs	JEAN PARKER	16-21; 21-12; 18-21.	3 – 3
COLIN WILSON	vs	Shaun Browne	20-22; 21-12; 21-16.	4 – 3
David Wells	vs	STEVE TURNER	20-22; 17-21.	4 – 4
John Souter	vs	STEVE SCOWCROFT	18-21; 18-21.	4 – 5

1st PREMIER DIVISION TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
MIDDLESEX	3	3	0	23	4	6
LANCASHIRE	3	2	1	14	13	4
Yorkshire	3	2	1	13	14	4
Surrey	3	2	1	11	16	4
Berkshire	3	1	2	14	13	2
Essex	3	1	2	13	14	2
Staffordshire	3	1	2	10	17	2
Cambridgeshire	3	0	3	10	17	0

2nd AND FINAL TABLE

MIDDLESEX	7	6	1	49	14	12
LANCASHIRE	7	6	1	38	25	12
YORKSHIRE	7	5	2	39	24	10
Staffordshire	7	4	3	28	35	8
Surrey	7	4	3	27	36	8
Berkshire	7	2	5	30	33	4
Essex	7	1	6	23	40	2
Cambridgeshire	7	0	7	18	45	0

DRESS -- COUNTY COLOURS

It was evident that my plea in the last issue of this Magazine for Counties, in particular, Middlesex, to pull their socks up, did not fall on stony ground. They themselves made a concentrated effort, in spite of falling short where John Souter was concerned. Shaun Browne of Lancashire, on the other hand, made John look pretty smart. Was Shaun's Team Manager **Marjorie Riddle,** trying to hide behind her spectacles on seeing his appearance during play and at dinner? Congratulations to Team Manager **Eric Hill** of Yorkshire for nearly doing a complete overhaul on **Kevin 'T Shirt' Beadsley,** who played excellently, very often. By the way, a Middlesex official confided in me during the weekend that he was pleased with my scolding Middlesex, because, for years, he has been trying to impress this and matters regarding presentation to the powers that be in the County. If a player turns up at County Weekends or for County matches, not properly dressed when at the table, this is generally the County's fault. All Counties must be made to understand the importance of presentation and the Team feeling it creates. Furthermore, Counties should cater for buying their Teams uniforms. When I hear of players having to pay to play for their Counties, I again realise that there is so much wrong in County planning. Here, I always get the feeling that because officials are giving their time freely to help keep table tennis going, it can be an excuse to think small, be amateurish and void of all professional pride in what they are doing. I do not think they are helping to raise the game from the pits.

Staffordshire, for example, could not afford to pay for the evening meal at the Hotel on Saturday night. **I saw young Adrian Dixon and Craig Bakewell chewing their fingers outside the dining area, while the other Teams were eating. In a later conversation with Paul Chester, for clarification and explanation, he told me that the County could not afford to pay for dinner for the Team, and**

Top: Winners MIDDLESEX Team Manager LEN PILDITCH, third from left, holding the Championship Trophy after its presentation to him by GUNTER STOHR, (centre), General Manager of the WOODFORD MOAT HOUSE HOTEL at Oak Hill, Woodford Green, East London, and his wife GLYNNE, while the playing Members of MIDDLESEX, on the left, Graham Sandley, Colin Wilson, and from the right, John Souter, Sarah Sandley and David Wells, look on proudly.
Bottom row from left: The extrovert GLEN BAKER listens to tactical advice from Manager/Captain MIKE KERCHER of Surrey, during play on the Sunday: The lovely MARGARET PLUMB of Wiltshire, just about to umpire one of her many matches: County Championships Administrator LESLIE SMITH and ETTA Chairman TOM BLUNN discussing the poor dress appearance of a few of the Teams, which something will have to be done about.

furthermore, all County members of Staffordshire, unfortunately, have to pay to play for the County. Now, I am not trying to say that it is wrong for a player to do this; what I am hoping to impress upon Counties with similar shortcomings, is the fact that if the County officials were more enthusiastic, go-ahead in ideas and filled with an abundance of pride and respect for their players, they would make greater efforts year after year to obtain sponsorship for internal competitions and come up with money raising ideas. Sponsorship is out there, you just have to keep plugging away relentlessly. Do not wait until a month before an event to start looking for finance. At least nine months must be held in hand in case you get turned down one after the other. A company who cannot help this year may be in a position to do so next year. Build up a bank of contacts and keep working on them. Be assured that they will turn up trumps at some time. If I can help you to follow up on your contacts, I would be glad to do so, if asked. I do not want to offend anyone in the Counties, who, in general, are fantastic people and doing a fair job. In my enthusiasm to build the game for the players, I just want to make you aware of the success your responsibility can bring to the game. Go on, light yourself afire with pride and enthusiasm and build the sport up for the benefit of the players. I know you can do it!

PUBLICITY

Leading up to, and during this weekend at Wanstead, I received great support from BRIAN PARRISH, ESSEX RADIO and LONDON & ESSEX GUARDIAN NEWSPAPERS. After the event and in time for going to press, I contacted all of the National Daily Newspapers and gave them three very short paragraphs of the outcome of the Premier Championships. As far as I could record, only **THE TIMES and THE DAILY MAIL** gave us a little space. I was most disappointed that the Daily Telegraph, The Guardian, The Express and The Sun, did not show printed interest, in this instance. If I have to start modelling to be noticed by the Sports Editors, then I will give it my best shots. If I fail, I will have to enlist the help of **HELEN WILLIAMS.**

JUNIOR PREMIER WEEKEND

The second and final Junior Premier Weekend will be held at St Neots, Cambridgeshire, on 6/7th April. Please start getting your players in shape and iron out any clothing problem, right now. Thank you!

SENIORS
Division 2:
Leics 7 Cheshire 3
Lancs 0 Warwicks 10
Bucks 6 Yorks 2 4
Staffs 2 Suffolk 8

Division 2B:
Essex 2 2 Devon 8
Sussex 9 Hants 1
Wilts 4 Kent 6
Gloucs 2 Dorset 8

Division 3A:
Derby 10 Northants 2 0
Lincs 8 Notts 2
Cheshire 2 4 Clwyd 6

Division 3B:
Somerset 9 Cornwall 1
Dorset 2 7 Wilts 2 3
Avon 7 Somerset 2 3

Division 3C:
Avon 2 4 Beds 6
Worcs 8 Oxon 2
Hunts 9 Worcs 2 1
Herts 6 Northants 4

Division 3D:
Kent 2 10 Suffolk 2 0
Norfolk 2 Essex 3
Sussex 2 9 Cambs 2 1
Surrey 2 9 Norfolk 1

JUNIORS:
Division 2A:
Yorks 2 9 Warwicks 1
Lancs 9 Leics 1
Northumberland 9 Cleveland 1
Cheshire 5 Staffs 2 5

Division 2B:
Essex 2 3 Wilts 7
Middx 2 Northants
Herts 7 Devon 3

Division 3A:
Cleveland 2 5 Cheshire 2 5
Lincs 4 Derbys 2 6
Cumbria 5 Notts 5

Division 3B:
Oxon 4 Gloucs 6
Beds 6 Worcs 4
Warwicks 2 9 Gwent 1

Division 3C:
Hants 8 Avon 2

VETERANS:
Premier:
Essex 2 Kent 7
Middx 1 Cheshire 8
Lincs 7 Notts 2
Hunts 3 Herts 6

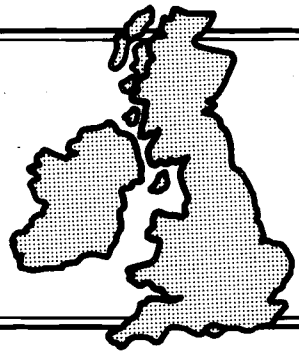
Division 2A:
Essex 2 4 Bucks 5
Herts 2 9 Beds 0
Worcs 6 Oxon 3

Division 2B:
Dorset 6 Berks 3
Sussex 6 Hants 3
Avon 7 Wilts 2
Surrey 4 Middx 5

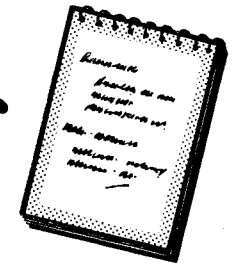
Division 3A:
Northants 3 Essex 3 6

Division 3B:
Wilts 2 5 Herts 3 4
Sussex 3 3 Kent 2 6
Hants 2 8 Dorset 2 1
Berks 2 5 Sussex 2 4

Top: DICK ROFFE, Organiser of this Premier Weekend, with JOHNNY LEACH, MBE, ex-Essex World Champion, and PAT DUKES – Member of the ETTA Disciplinary Committee and ex-Essex National Councillor (right) laughing at the rumour of film not being in my camera. Middle: The very well turned out STAFFORDSHIRE TEAM, with Manager PAUL CHESTER, second from the left. Bottom: The CAMBRIDGESHIRE UNIT with Manager GEOFF WATERS on the right, still smiling even after their hasty retreat for cover to the second division.



County Notes



Mary Williams reports from...

BEDFORDSHIRE

REVISED RANKINGS

The latest ranking lists issued by the Beds. TTA are:–

Men	Women
1 D. Sharpe	1 L. Bellinger
2 I. Doughty	2 J. Bellinger
3 A. Conquest	3 J. Dimmock
4 D. Cartwright	4 L. Robins
5 D. Foster	5 D. Campbell
6 K. Thompson	6 A. Robinson
7 L. Jones	7 M. Jarrett
8 M. Lyons	8 B. Hammond
9 P. Edwards	9 J. Mitchell
10 G. Black	10 C. Buckley
11 M. Verdon	11 R. Forrester
12 D. Hyde	
13 D. Gilbert	
14 B. Byron	
15 L. Holmes	
16 G. Pepper	
17 N. Stanley	
18 N. Jarvis	

Boys	Girls
1 Edwards	1 Robins
2 Black	2 Mitchell
3 Stanley	3 Buckley
4 N. Apps	4 Forrester
5 M. Sharpe	5 J. Strode
6 R. Pratley	6 L. Dean
7 P. Bowler	7 C. Lawrence
8 N. Ali	8 D. de Groot
9 M. Weldon	9 M. Willis
10 R. Simmons	10 A. Cotterill
11 M. Beaumont	11 B. Satchell
12 S. Graham	12 S. Dawson
13 M. Wilkins	13 J. Green
14 P. Farris	14 M. Harmer
15 J. Masters	15 M. Davidson
16 I. Alderson	16 K. Cotterill
17 T. Harris	
18 S. West	
19 G. Taylor	
20 R. Bowler	
21 N. Wisbey	
22 G. Maunders	
23 A. Bradbury	
24 K. Mitchell	
25 M. Masters	
26 P. Maunders	
27 S. Ouinn	

There were early shocks in the Bedford League's W. G. Smith Cup competition with both last season's finalists eliminated. Holders Elstow from Div. 4 were beaten by Goldington Electric "A" from Div. 1, and Bedford Modern "A" from Div. 1 (last season's runners-up) were given their marching orders by Sandy "C" from Div. 3. Of the larger clubs, NALGO still have 4 of their 5 team remaining, St Neots with 5 from 7 and Bedford Modern School have 5 from 8.

The Luton League's divisional tournaments were held at Vauxhall Motors in the week prior to Christmas with the following results:–

	Winner	R-up
Div. 1	L. Wooding	C. Luscombe
Div. 2	C. Smith	S. Griffiths
Div. 3	D. Keane	P. Bowler
Div. 4	D. Miles	D. Quarmby
Div. 5	T. Broadhead	R. Ireson
Div. 6	A. Wakefield	F. Bossis
Div. 7	Z. Hussain	G. Hotard

In the Div. 1 doubles event Wooding and Luscombe teamed up to account for D. Cartwright and M. Porter.

Les Wooding reports from....

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

REFRESHING CHANGE

It is a refreshing change to report that for the first time ever Buckinghamshire TTA are arranging and running a residential course for their Juniors. When the idea was first muted the obvious responses of "it will never work"; "there will not be enough interest"; etc. etc. etc., were voiced. However, due to the untiring efforts of Tony Emery better known for his excellent umpiring arrangements the prospect has materialised.

The coaching week will be run between July 29 and August 2 in conjunction with the 5th Buckinghamshire School of Sport at Green Park, Aston Clinton, near Aylesbury. The chief coaches will be Ken Muhr and Colin Wilson.

This success is not an isolated one in the essential area of coaching. Thanks to the hard work of Ken Muhr, Mike Prior of Aylesbury, Steve Bigrave of Leighton Buzzard, David Stamford and Tony Curzon, both of Milton Keynes qualified as Club Coaches after a recent assessment by David Fairholm. Mike's qualification is subject to one further practical coaching session under Ken's guidance which I am sure he will pass with flying colours.

It is hoped that the first all-day Sunday Session will be arranged during February in Aylesbury. The other areas are equally active with Roger Clark making arrangements in Chalfont, Karl Bushell in High Wycombe and Rodney Potts is doing a good job in Slough. Children of all ages who wish to learn to play Table Tennis in Slough are invited to turn up at the Haymill Centre in Burnham Lane, Slough at 6.30 p.m. on Tuesdays for the hour and a half sessions at a cost of 50p. Further details can be obtained from Rodney on Slough 77049.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Without any County matches to report the attention turns to the Halex National League. The last two matches of the season resulted in a good 4-4 away draw for the A.H.W. Pioneers against Ashford but a disastrous 1-7 defeat for Cippenham at the hands of Nittaku Ruislip.

CIPPENHAM 1
NITTAKU RUISLIP 7

In the first Halex National League match played at the new Haymill Centre in Slough the local side were beaten 7-1 and are now virtually out of the promotion race, after having led Div. 3 South for three months. Once again Cippenham's star players from Kent, Ray Tilling and Richard Beckham failed to win. Cippenham's lone success came from Clive Young when he defeated the former Cippenham player Viv McCarthy.

Ray Tilling lost to Dipay Topiwala 15, -12, -17;
Richard Beckham lost to John Burleton -19, -14;
Clive Young bt Viv McCarthy 11, 14;
Steve Everard lost to Rupert Bole -12, -17;
Tilling lost to Burleton -16, -13;
Beckham lost to Bole -19, 20, -22;
Young lost to Topiwala -9, -18;
Everard lost to McCarthy -18, -15.

ASHFORD 4
A.H.W. PIONEERS 4

The Pioneers continued their recent good run and it took the combined resources of the 'Goodies' to stop them taking both points. Ian Doughty made an excellent return to the team playing some of his best Table Tennis for several months.

(A.H.W. Pioneers names first)
Jon Bradbury lost to David Goode -13, -5;
Les Wooding bt Daryll Windsor 14, 16;
Colin Luscombe bt Mark Butler -18, 9, 13;
Ian Doughty lost to Jonathon Goode -17, -19;
Wooding lost to D. Goode 14, -16, -8;
Doughty bt Windsor 18, -18, 17;
Bradbury bt Butler 15, 20;
Luscombe lost to J. Goode 18, -15; -14.

WILMOTT CUP

OXFORD 4
MILTON KEYNES 5

Due to the serious accident to Ian Doughty and Ken Muhr's car being stolen the North Bucks side found themselves in the unenviable position of visiting an Oxford team comprising 3 of Oxfordshire's top players. Things looked even bleaker when Robert Harman lost his first set but he played two of the best sets of his career to help the Bucks side steal victory.

(Milton Keynes names first)
Les Wooding bt Clive Morris 14, -19, 14;
Robert Harman lost to Neil Harris 17, -18, -19;
Les Wooding bt Harris 7, 6;
Harman bt Arthur Chilvers 13, 19;
Wooding bt Chilvers 11, 11;
Harman bt Morris 18, -18, 15.

NATIONAL CLUB COMPETITION

LEGGATTS (WATFORD) 4
APOLLO (HIGH WYCOMBE) 5

An excellent victory for the High Wycombe champions thanks to a maximum from Karl Bushell. Mark Curtis failed to record a win but Oxfordshire County player Norman Swift recorded victories over Chris Ogle and Roger Pyle to help his side to victory.

(High Wycombe names first)
Bushell bt Pyle 13, 15;
Swift bt Ogle 8, -18, 20;
Curtis lost to Paul Bishop 18, 16;
Bushell bt Ogle 18, 9;
Curtis lost to Pyle -18, -19;
Swift lost to Bishop -20, 26, -8;
Curtis lost to Ogle -15, -18;
Bushell bt Bishop -17, 8, 15;
Swift bt Pyle 14, -18, 14.

CIPPENHAM (SLOUGH) 3
B.C.L. (BRIDGWATER) 5

Having beaten the same Bridgwater team 5-1 in the 3rd round of last season's competition, Cippenham started as pre-match favourites.

However, the Slough team found the ultra slow conditions very difficult to master and were 1-4 down by the time they had started to time the ball.

(Cippenham names first)
Dave Poutney lost to D. Lee -17, -13;
Frank Earis lost to L. Sadler -15, -19;
Alec Watson bt J. Crabtree 11, 14;
Poutney lost to Sadler 21, -22, -16;
Watson lost to Lee -17, -18;
Earis bt Crabtree 17, 15;
Watson bt Sadler 16, -12, 14;
Poutney lost to Crabtree -17, 17, -17.

AYLESBURY LEADING PLAYERS (PREMIER DIVISION)

Minimum of 5 matches played

S. Douglas (Hazells 'A')	95%
L. Wooding (Bucks CC 'A')	95%
J. Bradbury (Quainton 'A')	94%
C. Leslie (Ludwig Guttman 'A')	90%
L. Rose (Rediffusion 'A')	84%
N. Hansell (Hazells 'A')	83%
D. Wackrill (Sports 'A')	79%
Julie Richards (Sports 'A')	79%
C. Belcher (Hazells 'A')	74%
W. Barnard (Timberlab 'A')	70%

MILTON KEYNES

Events have been overtaken with the extremely tragic accident that happened to young Ian Doughty. Working for his new firm three fingers of his playing hand were almost severed by a Beer Keg. However, our heartfelt thanks go out to Milton Keynes Hospital and to the top micro-surgeon who was just leaving the hospital after a visit but who agreed to stay behind and perform a miraculous 2 hour operation on young Ian's hand. We all pray that he will fully recover the use of his hand and once again in the future treat us to his natural talent.

Leading Players (Minimum 5 games)
Premier Division

Les Wooding (A.H.W. Comets)	100%
Ken Muhr (C.A. Hammers)	92%
Ian Doughty (Gossard Wonderbras)	90%
Geoff Giles (Gossard Wonderbras)	87%
Colin Luscombe (A.H.W. Comets)	84%

Brian Ingram (Barclay Eagles)	75%
Andy Conquest (Gossard Wonderbras)	74%
Julie Richards (A.H.W. Sapphires)	71%

"Fennell" Cup Handicap Competition

This popular Christmas tournament was excellently organised by Bill Wooding.

Results:

Group 'A'	Winner	Trevor Thomas
	R-Up	Gerald Ridgeway
Group 'B'	Tied	Carol Bamsey
		David Gatiss
Group 'C'	Winner	Robert Harman
	R-Up	Derrick Harris
Group 'D'	Tied	Bob Phillips
		Richard White
Group 'E'	Winner	Ken Muhr
	R-Up	David MacManus
Group 'F'	Winner	Colin Luscombe
	R-Up	Iain Lindsay
SEMI FINAL GROUPS		
Group 'X'	Winner	Colin Luscombe
	R-Up	David Gatiss
Group 'Y'	Winner	Ken Muhr
	R-Up	Iain Lindsay
FINAL		
	Winner	Colin Luscombe
	R-Up	Ken Muhr

SLOUGH
Leading players (minimum 5 matches)

D. Poutney (Cippenham Buccaneers)	100%
G. Harris (South Bucks NALGO Wasps)	93%
F. Earis (Cippenham Buccaneers)	92%
A. Maude (South Bucks NALGO Bees)	81%
B. Savage (Burnham 1)	79%
P. Swinn (Cippenham Outlaws)	78%
M. King (Cippenham Outlaws)	74%
P. Leckie-Snr (Burnham 2)	71%

Geoff Waters reports from....

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

HISTORIC HIGH

There have been no county matches during the last month, although by the time these notes are read, the senior first team will have played their second series of Premier Division matches.

As a result of the first Premier weekend, Mick Harper and Keith Richardson have both risen several places in the Lentec Computer Rankings. In fact, with seven men and two women in the lists Cambridgeshire now have the highest number in their history.

Harper has moved up to No. 29, which puts him in the No. 1 spot for MBS St Neots in the Halex National League. MBS colleague Richardson with Premier wins over John Souter and Max Crimmins jumps over twenty places to 36.

Robert Swift, Andy Withers and Geoff Davies, all of whom play for March in the National League are in the List at 95, 109 and 142 respectively. The remaining two men are Martyn Livermore and Julian Wheel, both of whom play for Hassy Soham and the county second team. Martyn is at 137 and Julian 149.

In the women's list Joanne Palmer and Hilary Finch have both dropped a few places with the Newmarket girl at 32 and the Cambridge University undergraduate at 53.

In the second round of the Wilmott Cup, Cambridge had an easy 5-0 win. Richardson and Livermore both won two, while Wheel chipped in with one.

Results (Cambridge names first):

M. Livermore bt R. Swift 17, 15; bt P. Holliday -14, 16, 16;
K. Richardson bt M. Oldroyd 13, 11; bt Swift 16, 16;
J. Wheel bt Holliday 13, -14, 6.

Jeremy Williams reports from . .

CORNWALL

NEW CROP OF BOYS

The latest County rankings which took effect from Dec. 1, '84 have shown a few changes and John Bassett commences the New Year as the No. 1 man. Graham Reed swaps places with Mark James in both the Senior and Junior lists while Ian James who recently won the Metropolitan Police championships for the fourth successive year remains at four. Ian's sister, Sharon, enters the Women's list at three after an absence of two years. Whilst there are still a number of absentees in some categories, it is very encouraging to see a new crop of Junior boys appearing behind the older players.

Men
1) J. Bassett (St. Ives) (2)
2) J. Williams (Falmouth) (1)
3) G. Reed (Falmouth) (5)
4) I. James (Falmouth) (4)
5) M. James (Camborne) (3)
6) M. Starkie (Redruth) (6)
7) R. Prendergast (Redruth) (7)
8) M. Peters (Falmouth) (8)
9) R. Jacobs (Truro) (9)
10) S. Lobb (Redruth) (10)
11) G. Marquand (Launceston) (11)
12) N. Cock (Penzance) (12)
13) A. Hunt (Launceston) (13)
14) D. Williams (Falmouth) (14)

Women
1) A. Clemens (Camborne) (2)
2) S. Rapsey (Truro) (3)
3) S. James-Prowse (Penzance) (–)
4) E. Stevenson (Bude) (4)
5) G. Davies (Truro) (1)
6) J. Menzel (Camborne) (5)
7) K. Broczek (Launceston) (–)
8) S. Yorke (Camborne) (6)

Boys
1) G. Reed (2)
2) M. James (1)
3) M. Peters (3)
4) A. Hunt (4)
5) K. Stevenson (Bude) (5)
6) X. Ly (Launceston) (6)
7) M. Stanley (Bude) (8)
8) P. Rees (St. Austell) (7)
9) N. Bevan (Bude) (–)
10) M. Bawden (Launceston) (–)
11) A. Bevan (Bude) (–)
12) K. Hockridge (Launceston) (10)
13) S. Cleworth (Bude) (9)
14) D. Clarke (Falmouth) (11)

Girls
1) E. Stevenson (1)
2) K. Broczek (2)
3) L. Jewell (Falmouth) (3)
4) S. Hunt (Launceston) (4)
5) M. Broczek (Launceston) (5)
6) T. Logg (Launceston) (6)
7) R. Plummer (St. Ives) (7)
8) L. Clarke (Falmouth) (8)

COUNTY MATCHES

Cornwall 3, Dorset II 7;
Cornwall Jun. I 10, Berkshire II 0;
Somerset 3, Cornwall Jun. I 7;
Wiltshire II 5, Cornwall Jun. II 5;
Cornwall Jun. II 2, Berkshire II 8;
Avon 5, Cornwall Jun. II 5.

Congratulations are in order to our Junior 1sts after that superb 7-3 win at Somerset which has all but clinched Div. 3C. A draw would have been a good result especially with Somerset's girls undefeated, but the Cornish boys came to the rescue to take an unbelievable 7 sets in devastating style. What a pity only Karen Broczek survives from this team next season, in what has been the strongest ever Cornwall Junior team.

The Seniors blew it against Dorset II and will now have to labour to win promotion although it is still quite possible. The women still seem to be unsettled – Sharon James made an encouraging comeback and Susan Yorke a reasonable debut but on the whole a disappointing display by Cornwall.

An opportunity to blood some new youngsters in the Junior Seconds has been taken and recent results show they have acquitted themselves quite well.

Match scores:–

Somerset v Cornwall
P. Payne lost to G. Reed -17,14,-17; lost to M. James 12,-19,-14.
M. Barter lost to Reed 16,-17,-19; lost to M. Peters 18,-19,-15.
D. Wooldridge lost to James 19,-9,-9; lost to Peters -17,-22.
M. Carey bt E. Stevenson 10,12.
S. Webb bt K. Broczek 10,17.
Payne/Barter lost to James/Reed -11,19,-11.
Carey/Webb bt Stevenson/Broczek 22,19.

CORNISH INTER-TOWN LEAGUE

Series 2:
St. Ives 4, Truro 4
Launceston 3, Redruth 5
Falmouth 8, Helston 0
Bude 5, Camborne 3
Series 3:
St. Ives 6, Falmouth 2
Launceston 5, Bude 3
Redruth 8, Helston 0

The new leaders of the Inter-Town League are Redruth following a big upset in December when St. Ives defeated reigning champions Falmouth to bring to an end a two year unbeaten record by Falmouth. Hero for St. Ives was 18-years-old Michael Kent who defeated both Dennis Williams and Neville Reed. John Bassett also had a finger in the pie with victories over Jeremy Williams and Graham Reed and further wins from Rodney Smith and Eddie Curnon gave St. Ives a valuable victory. It now looks to be a three horse race and Redruth's team of Melvin Starkie, Rob Prendergast, Steven Lobb and Austin Chapman seems to be well balanced although they still have to play both Falmouth and St. Ives in two very interesting crunch matches. The table reads:–

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Redruth	3	3	0	0	19	5	6
St. Ives	3	2	1	0	16	8	5
Falmouth	3	2	0	1	17	7	4
Bude	3	2	0	1	13	11	4
Launceston	3	1	0	2	9	15	2
Truro	2	0	1	1	6	10	1
Camborne	2	0	0	2	5	11	0
Helston	3	0	0	3	3	21	0

HALEX NATIONAL LEAGUE

Hereford Times 7, Launceston Kernow 1;
Launceston Kernow 1, Pengeley Torbay 7.

Only two matches involving Launceston Kernow of late against perhaps the two strongest teams in Div. 3 (West) and sadly two heavy defeats. It has been a trying season for Launceston having lost two key players for the time being and unavailability problems as well. However, every cloud has a silver lining and two fine wins resulted; Mark James over Michael Owens and John Bassett continues to pick off ranked players, his latest victim being Torbay's Malcolm Francis in an entertaining Cornwall/Devon Christmas derby match.

Match scores:–

Launceston Kernow v Pengeley Torbay
J. Williams lost to M. Francis -8,-14; lost to M. Ellett 11,-14,-16.
J. Bassett bt Francis 17,16; lost to P. Whiting -17,-15.
G. Reed lost to Ellett 16,-19,-11; lost to P. Giles -12,-13.
A. Hunt lost to Whiting -7,-8; lost to Giles -11, -17.

NEWS IN BRIEF

The new Cornish Club champions are Bude Central who earned the honour of being the best all round team of the day when they finished first out of eight teams over Christmas; beating holders Camborne into second place . . . . in the National Junior Ranking trials at Hinckley on Jan. 6 Mark James and Graham Reed were Cornwall's only successful players each winning two singles . . . . plans are now well in hand for the fifth T.S.B. Cornish Junior 2-Star. Entry forms can be obtained from John Crocker at 'Falaise', Cliff View Road, Camborne, Cornwall.

Colin Taylor reports from....

CUMBRIA

IN WITH A CHANCE

The County Junior team have not played since my last report and are still in 3rd place in Division 3A of the County Championships. Their remaining matches are against HUNTINGDONSHIRE who have yet to gain a point and NOTTINGHAMSHIRE who lie 2nd and are unbeaten. On current form the Juniors have a good chance of ending NOTTS run.

On the League front, upsets in BARROW-IN-FURNESS mean VICKERS 'A' are heading the 1st Division of 12 teams with a healthy lead of 7 points over VICKERS and MILLOM F.P. VICKERS 'A' are setting the pace thanks to the super form shown by NEIL SMITH and ALAN MANSON. NEIL had a year off recently, got married and moved to BARROW, so VICKERS' gain is MILLOM'S loss, but it is good to see NEIL playing at top form. The 'A' team have so far dropped only 3 points out of a possible 48 and have beaten their higher-ranked team and drawn with MILLOM F.P. Former Pupils are unbeaten but are dropping points because

they are unable to field a full strength team each week. For F.P. ANDREW PACHUL is having a good season and is above brother TIM in the averages.

County junior JOHN BACKHOUSE is doing well in Div. 1 and has won 25 out of 39 singles for his club, VICKERS, who have 5 teams in the division which is a remarkable achievement.

DIVISION ONE, BARROW LEAGUE – LEADING POSITIONS

	P	W	D	L	Pts
VICKERS 'A'	12	11	1	0	45
VICKERS	11	9	1	1	38
MILLOM F.P.	12	9	3	0	38
ST PATRICKS	12	8	0	4	33
GLAXO	12	8	1	3	31

LEADING AVERAGES

	P	W	%
NEIL SMITH (VSC 'A')	36	36	100
ALAN MANSON (VSC 'A')	36	32	94.44
ANDREW PACHUL (M.F.P.)	36	32	94.44
ANDREW MURPHY (VSC)	32	27	84.37
ALAN FAY (VSC)	32	27	84.37
TIM PACHUL (M.F.P.)	33	27	81.81
NEIL YARDLEY (VSC)	26	21	80.76
GEORGE GIBSON (ST PATS)	36	27	75
NEIL HONEYMAN (GLAXO)	36	27	75

The **CARLISLE and DISTRICT LEAGUE** have lost six teams from last season and have rearranged their league into a Premier Division of six teams and 13 teams in each of divisions one and two. The leaders in the Premier Division, SPORTSTYLE (GEORGE GRAY, IAN BROWN, IAN OLIVER) and ROYAL OAK, Scotby (ALEC CRAIB, BRIAN BELL, PAUL WATSON) recently drew 5-5, after ROYAL OAK led 5-2. CRAIB and WATSON lead the averages with ROGER STEWART (SC SPARTANS) close behind.

In Div. 1 'NEWS' are romping away in 1st place and have yet to drop a point (PAUL KIRKBRIDE, TONY GILSENAN, STEWART O'NEIL). Second place is hotly contested between DUMFRIES, SC NOMADS, SCOTBY, TELESPORT 'A' and CAVENDISH. TONY GILSENAN has established a lead in the averages.

In Div. 2 CIVIL SERVICE 'A' are unbeaten at the top but could be stretched by SALVATION ARMY, SC STRAND ROAD and SC STARS.

The CARLISLE league team of ROGER STEWART, ALEC CRAIB and PAUL WATSON have beaten WESTMORLAND 7-2 in the WILMOTT Cup and play BURY away in the next round.

PREMIER DIVISION – CARLISLE LEAGUE

	P	W	D	L	Pts
SPORTSTYLE	7	5	2	0	12
ROYAL OAK	6	5	1	0	11
CHAPELCROSS 'A'	8	4	1	3	9
SC SPARTANS	8	3	1	4	7
CIVIL SERVICE 'B'	8	2	0	6	4
WIGTON	7	0	1	6	1

DIVISION ONE – LEADING POSITIONS

	P	W	D	L	Pts
NEWS	13	13	0	0	26
DUMFRIES	11	7	1	4	15
SC NOMADS	9	6	2	1	14
SCOTBY	9	6	1	2	13
TELESPORT 'A'	9	5	2	2	12
INFIRMARY 'A'	10	5	2	3	12
CAVENDISH	8	4	2	2	10

DIVISION TWO – LEADING POSITIONS

	P	W	D	L	Pts
CIVIL SERVICE 'A'	7	7	0	0	14
SALVATION ARMY	9	6	2	1	14
SC STRAND ROAD	9	6	2	1	14
SC STARS	9	6	1	2	13
FERGUSON 'A'	9	6	0	3	12
AGLIONBY 14	8	4	3	1	11

Malcolm Allsop reports from . .

DERBYSHIRE

VITAL ABILITY

E.S.P. is a vital ability for anyone wishing to be Derbyshire Press Officer and, unfortunately, I do not have that ability. Hence I have received criticism for not commenting upon certain events. I expect a lot of people to be at the Derbyshire A.G.M. eager to take over the position of Derbyshire Press Officer!

The Dunlop Derbyshire Closed Championships will be held at the Lea Green Sports Centre, near Matlock on Sunday, March 24.

The Derbyshire T.T.A. are very pleased to announce that the Dunlop Sports Company will be supplying all the equipment for the Championships and Trencher Engineers, Burton-on-Trent will be sponsoring the trophies.

The closing date for entries is Feb. 28 which should be returned to Mr. Les Allwood, 13 Prospect Road, Marlpool, Heanor, Derbyshire, DE7 7NF. The Honorary Referee will be Colin McLean.

INTER-TOWN LEAGUE

In Division One, Burton 1st gained a surprisingly easy 8-2 victory over Eastwood – Paul Harvey winning his 3 singles, with Stuart Brooks and Charlie Kyles winning 2 each and combining to win the doubles. David Greaves and Tony Holand replied with 1 each for Eastwood but Mick Peska had a blank night.

Derby 1st gained a 9-1 win on the table over Matlock 1st, but the validity of Trevor Kerry's presence (3 singles and a doubles win) could leave the result as a 5-5 draw.

Chesterfield 1st set the standard in Div. 2 with a 7-3 win over Burton 2nd with D. Allison having 3 singles wins, coupled with 2 each from A. Burton and A. White. S. Bentley had 2 singles wins for Burton and combined with R. Vernall to win the doubles.

David Hall had 3 singles wins and combined with D. Edwards for Buxton to force a 5-5 draw with last season's Champions Derby 2nd. Alfreton gained an 8-2 win over Matlock 2nd.

In the Veterans Section, Rose Haggar had 3 wins for Burton who forced a 5-5 draw with Eastwood, for whom Fred Clarke and Dave Inkley won 2 singles each and combined to win the doubles. In the other matches, Derby and Matlock gained 10-0 wins over Chesterfield and Buxton respectively.

In the Junior Division, John Davies and C. Glossop won maximums for Chesterfield 1st in an 8-2 win over Buxton. G. Farnsworth won his 3 singles and combined with Martin Starr to win the doubles for Eastwood in a 6-4 win over Chesterfield 2nd.

DERBY LEAGUE

The Derby Individual Championships are being held at the St. Ralph Sherwin School on Sunday, March 3.

EASTWOOD LEAGUE

The Eastwood League Championships are being held at the Heanor Community Centre on Sunday, Feb. 24.

In the Midland League the Eastwood senior team lost 3-7 to Gloucester and 1-9 to Bath; whilst the Juniors lost 0-10 to a strong Birmingham team but were victorious 6-4 at Walsall.

Harry Black reports from . . .

DURHAM

NEW YEAR RANKINGS

The County issued the following rankings for January:–

Men
1 Tony Gelder (S)
2 David Blackburne (Pl)
3 Stephen George (S)
4 Cliff Olsson (Ph)
5 Robert Reed (S)
6 David Godbold (Ph)
7 Bill Reay (Pl)
8 Tom Robson (Ph)
9 Don MacIver (Ph)
10 Philip Stafford (S)
11 Gary Webstell (B/A)
12 Paul Smith (Pl)
13 Chris Blake (S)
14 Paul Young (Pl
15 Allan Thompson (Ph)
16 Norman Hunt (Pl)
17 Neil Herrington (S)

Women
1 Lynne Bainbridge (S)
2 Shirley Gelder (S)
3 Lynne Yarnell (S)
4 Linda Spensley (S)
5 Jeanette Roberts (S)
6 Judith Grant (Pl)
7 Helen Reed (S)
8 Jeanette Turner (Pl)

Boys
1 Michael Roughley (Pl)
2 P. Young (Pl)
3 Neil Thornley (Pl)
4 Mickey Chong (Ph)
5 Paul Swift (Ph)
6 Ian Telford (Ph)
7 Ian Collier (S)
8 Dermot Ledwith (S)

Key
B/A = Bishop Auckland
Ph = Philadelphia
Pl = Peterlee
S = Sunderland

COUNTY LEAGUE

Sunderland 'B' are the new leaders of the Senior Division after their recent victory over Sunderland 'C'. They lead by 1 pt from Peterlee who beat Philadelphia 'A' 6-4. Sunderland 'A' are a further point behind but have a match in hand. Results:–

Senior Division			
Bishop Auckland	5	Durham	5
Sunderland 'B'	8	Sunderland 'C'	2
Peterlee	6	Philadelphia 'A'	4
Philadelphia 'B'	7	Darlington	3
Boys' Division			
Peterlee	6	Bishop Auckland	4
Peterlee	6	Philadelphia 'A'	4
Sunderland	0	Philadelphia 'A'	10
Philadelphia 'B'	7	Sunderland	3

TABLES (Leading positions)

Senior	P	W	D	L	Pts
Sunderland 'B'	4	3	1	0	14
Peterlee	4	3	1	0	13
Sunderland 'A'	3	3	0	0	12
Philadelphia 'B'	4	3	0	1	11
Boys					
Peterlee	2	2	0	0	6
Philadelphia 'A'	2	1	0	1	5
Phildelphia 'B'	1	1	0	0	4

LEADING AVERAGES

Senior Division

	P	W	L	Ave.
D. Blackburne (Peterlee)	9	9	0	100%
T. Bainbridge (Sun 'B')	12	11	1	92
A. Gelder (Sun 'A')	9	8	1	88
P. Stafford (Sun 'A')	9	8	1	88
B. Cuthbertson (Sun 'B')	9	8	1	88
B. Reay (Peterlee)	12	8	4	66
N. Herrington (Sun 'E')	9	6	3	66

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Washington travelled to league leaders Unity Bradford on Dec. 23 and were beaten 6-2. Chris Blake, on his debut, beat Andy Ball in his opening set, the only other success coming from Phil Stafford who accounted for Michael O'Driscoll. Scores:–

R. Reed lost to S. Gibson -12,-9; lost to S. Sharpe -16,-10.
P. Stafford bt M. O'Driscoll 19,20; lost to Sharpe -8,-15.
C. Blake bt A. Ball 11,21; lost to Gibson -10, -11.
D. Lawrence lost to O'Driscoll -10,-11; lost to Ball -9,-15.

WILMOTT CUP

Sunderland were knocked out by local rivals Northumberland in Round 2 at Byker by a 6-3 scoreline on Jan. 6. Neil McMaster and Stephen George gained maximums, Tony Gelder, Phil Stafford and Chris Blake all defeating Eddie Smith. Scores (Sunderland names first) were:–

Gelder bt Smith 14,21; lost to McMaster -17,14, -19; lost to George -24,13,-18.
Stafford bt Smith 20,17; lost to George 19,-11, -22; lost to McMaster -16,-12.
Blake bt Smith 11,23; lost to George -17,-11; lost to McMaster -10,-18.

John Holland reports from....

ESSEX

JUNIOR DOMINATION

The last month has been dominated by junior affairs both domestically and internationally, with the English Junior "Closed", English Junior and Cadet Ranking Trials, and, most significant, the first European Junior Top Twelve. The last will be covered extensively elsewhere but I would like to offer warmest congratulations to Carl Prean for the astonishing achievement of not just winning this prestige event but staying unbeaten through a gruelling schedule of eleven sets. Once again, his father, John, was the cornerman and successful organiser of Carl's preparation. Incidentally, let me apologise for an inaccuracy in my last notes. I described Andy Syed as "hottest favourite for years" for the "Closed" Boys Singles title. It is, of course, only two years since Carl was an even hotter favourite.

I referred briefly to the "Closed" last notes, with special attention to the impressive Chesterfield stable. They were at it again in the Coventry trials. Bradley Billington followed up his sensational success of gaining the silver medal in the "Closed" boys' singles by winning the cadet trials, taking all eight of the sets he contested in straight games. Sister Julie and cousin Kerry were both losing semi-finalists in the cadet girls' event. Julie, who is rapidly developing her skills as a play-making attacker, scored a narrow quarter-final victory over Debbie Toole (Yorks), a composed and accomplished stonewaller and counter-hitter, coming from a game and 17-20 down.

In the under-17 event, at Coventry, Kerry (still an under-13!), further extended the claims of the Hall/Billington clan, by reaching the final – where she lost to Joanne Shaw (Yorks.). Kerry's victims included Claire Potts (Cheshire), in the group, Helen Lower (Staffs.), Sarah Hammond (Hants.) and Andrea Holt (Lancs.) – in the semi-final.

It's interesting to note that Hall/Billington table tennis is very much a family affair; Maurice and Jackie Billington and Eric Hall share the planning, coaching and corner work. It seems to work. While still in Chesterfield it's worth noting that Alan Cooke (inevitably, a close friend of the H/B clan but, mercifully, not a relation) has reached No. 2 in the national Senior Men's list. He is only 18. So any foreign power seeking to damage the future of English Table Tennis could do worse than detonate a tactical nuclear device in the vicinity of the crooked spire!

What has all this, you may ask, to do with the Kingdom of the East Saxons? The short reply is very little but we must lift up our eyes to the hills if our players, who also contested both the junior "Closed" and the Coventry Trials, are to emulate the best.

Most successful of our contingent was Kate Gower (Ingatestone) our cadet girls' county champion. She reached the quarter-final before falling to eventual winner, and top seed, Andrea Holt. Kate has now risen to 17 in the national cadet list and is now, indisputably, our best player in this category. She now needs to turn her attention towards the junior ranks which she joins in September. To make her mark there on the national scene she will need to get more venom into her promising but bland game.

Damian Holland also reached the quarter-final in the cadet boys' event. At this stage, he contested a thrilling and enthralling set with Chris Oldfield (Yorks.), falling at 18 in the third. He has the encouragement of rising from 8 to 6 on the new national under-14 boys' list. Jason Tendler (Waltham Forest) also performed very creditably in this event, winning three out of six sets in his group, including a good win over R. Yong (Notts) at 18 in the third. Paul Pesce (Ilford), also scheduled to compete at Coventry, in the cadet boys' singles, failed to materialise. I hope he's alright.

Our other players in the cadet trials were Martina Hicks (Brentwood) and Kelly Bennett (Waltham Forest). Both did well to gain two victories each in their groups though this was not enough to proceed to the first knock-out stage of the last sixteen.

Our juniors found the going mostly uphill. Lisa Hayden (Brentwood) won six out of six sets in her group, with an outstanding straight games success over the wily defence of cadet champion, Andrea Holt. In the last sixteen she fell, 18 and 23 to the always dangerous, big-hitting, Lesley Souter (Middx.). Tanya Holland (Billericay) was favoured to get through her group of seven but three defeats and three victories were only sufficient to secure fourth place. Helen Platt (Billericay), our No. 4, won two and lost four in her first national trials and will undoubtedly have learned from the experience. In the boys' event, James Griffiths (Silvertown) and Tony West (Wickford) both had tough groups and neither reached the knock-out, stage but both are still under 16.

As a postscript to the trials, the new junior girls' ranking list shows the amazing advance of the present exceptional wave of top cadets, with Claire Potts, Kerry Hall and Andrea Holt all in the top six!

Our juniors and cadets must be looking for a better tomorrow. Part of the foundations for progress are being laid in the revived coaching scheme under the driving leadership of Dick Roffe. A coaching day for Essex-ranked juniors (21) was held in Hornchurch on Jan. 13. The coaches were Peter Hirst, Malcolm Cole, Joe Wigley and Phil Gower. The Harrow Lodge centre is now open every Thursday evening and on occasional Sundays (all day) and could help to revitalise the county junior scene.

In the National League Division I Dagenham F.C. have been getting their act together and now stand a good chance of avoiding the drop to Div. 2. In two home games over the Christmas period they fell 3-5 to high-riding Bath – spearheaded by Carl Prean – then defeated Cardiff by the same score. Highlights of the Bath match were fluctuating encounters with Alison Gordon for both Stuart Gibbs and Tony Penny. Gibbs seemed totally outpaced by the English Ladies' champion as she raced to 19-11 in the first end but, remarkably, the veteran of more than 50 international appearances then reeled off 10 consecutive points to win 21-19! Alison took the second at 16 and established another commanding lead in the third. Stuart was not to be denied, however, and his superior end game took him to victory at 18 in the third. At 2-3 in sets, Tony Penny faced Miss Gordon. She swept to victory at 21-8 in the first end with great ease. Then the game was transformed as Penny introduced changes of pace and prolonged the rallies, forcing frequent errors from Alison. She still hit many winners on both wings but the percentage was not quite enough to defeat the consistent Penny who won -8, 20, 19, to level the match at 3-3. Andrew Creed and Adrian Moore then stopped the rot for Bath by gaining straight games victories over Caldon and Gibbs, respectively.

An ingredient which appealed to the appreciative crowd of some 150 was the offer of £100 bonus (by Dagenham Motors) to any Dagenham player who could defeat Prean. However, the Isle of Wight youngster cruised to victory against Penny and Dave Newman, retaining his unbeaten record. Newman scored the third Dagenham success with an excellent win over Creed.

The encounter with Cardiff appears to have been a somewhat unfriendly affair which is regrettable. Still the result was satisfying to the Daggers, reversing a 5-3 defeat at Cardiff in October. Kevin Caldon atoned for two defeats against Bath by beating both Bryn Tyler and Tony Healan. Newman and Penny both scored excellent victories over Welsh International, Nigel Thomas, and Gibbs also beat Tyler. For the visitors, the chopping and retrieving of Trevor Manning was very impressive; he overcame both Penny and Gibbs.

Dagenham have just successfully concluded the signing of David Tan for their squad. He was likely to face Birmingham on Jan. 20. This is a considerable fillip to the Daggers' campaign. The full squad in rank order is now as follows: 1. D. Newman; 2. I. Kenyon; 3. T. Penny; 4. D. Tan; 5. K. Caldon; 6. S. Dettmar; 7. S. Gibbs.

With Kenyon out of form and currently dropped, the strongest team looks like Newman, Penny, Tan and Caldon. This should be good enough to defeat both Ormesby and St. Neots in key home matches on Feb. 24 and May 5, the likely pre-requisites for survival.

Alf Pepperd reports from....

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

REFLECTIONS

I write these notes in early January, a new year is suddenly upon us and I pause to reflect just what the future of table

tennis in Gloucestershire will be.

Many changes will unquestionably take place on the County Committee, several stalwarts have already indicated their desire to vacate important positions. Of course it will be sad to see them go but this does not mean the end of the world. I wrote in last month's T.T.N. that as one door closes so another quite unexpectedly opens.

Since the boundary changes of 1974 (when we lost a part of Bristol to Avon) Glo'shire was considerably reduced in size with three leagues only. But despite our minority 'Status Quo', we are and always have been an exceptionally busy little County– with teams in the Midland League, The Cotswold Ladies' League, The Schools, The Warner Shield, and more recently – The Capitol Providence County Premier League, all well organised, providing entertainment and enjoyment for the enthusiasts.

Having mentioned all this with reckless abandon – it would be very remiss of me if I did not mention the NOT SO HAPPY 'Status Quo' that I think prevails today. Simply that a few members of the County Committee are perhaps not really interested in what is going on COUNTY-WISE. I can sympathise with these members, perhaps they were coerced against their wishes to represent their respective Leagues, but on the other hand if the County is to continue to function efficiently then it must have enthusiastic members willing to work.

It would indeed be nice to enlarge our sport within our boundaries for there must be a vast wealth of untaped talent, in say, the Cirencester area, and the surrounding regions of the Cotswolds. Last January the County Premier League played up there under very good conditions at the Cirencester Sports Complex.

It only requires one or two table tennis-orientated people to get something of a concrete nature going where, at the moment, table tennis **IS played,** BUT not at League level. If this happened I am sure the County T.T.A. would not only take a great interest, but would proffer all the help and assistance they could.

I read with great interest a former Gloucester colleague's remarks in T.T.N. Staff's report for Dec. '84.

That person was Jack Chalkley, current Chairman and Press Officer of Staffordshire. Jack's remarks concerned County-ranked players in Staffs failing to turn out for their County when required. Jack went on to say–"These players who are not committed to the County just do not deserve the privilege of a County ranking."

A very similar state of affairs exists in Glo'shire. In the top 10 of the Senior ranking list (issued by the selectors Jan. '85) we have FIVE ranked players who for various reasons, WILL NOT, or do not, wish to play for the County, and yet have to be given a ranking for seeding purposes, i.e. County Closed. The plain fact that they have paid their affiliation fees, many have a genuine reason – i.e., Business, others perhaps prefer football on a Saturday afternoon, and finally not wishing to offend, perhaps some have taken umbrage at the Selectors for reasons of which this writer is not prepared to enlarge on. Summing up, ours is a free Country and people and players surely have the prerogative of choice. No one, after all, is indispensable. It is so easy to lead a horse to water, getting it to drink is entirely another matter.

COUNTY PREMIER LEAGUE

Only one round of matches in the Providence Capitol County Premier League has been played since the last report. The 4th round matches scheduled for Dec. 14, which would have included the fixture between – League leaders, "Taylor's Pommies" and title favourites, "Griffin's Tornados" was postponed, when several players declared themselves unavailable and reserves of comparable ability could not be found.

In the 5th round Neil Taylor retained his unbeaten singles record and led his team to a 5-4 victory over Golding's Golddiggers. The other matches both ended up with a 7-2 scoreline, Slack's Savages took full advantage of Richard Russell's absence and likewise Griffin's Tornados took full advantage of a knee injury to Frank Jones in his first set of the evening.

The League Table, after 4 rounds stands:–

	P	W	L	Pts
Taylor's Pommies	4	4	0	23
Slack's Savages	4	3	1	21
Griffin's Tornados	4	2	2	19
Golding's Golddiggers	4	1	3	17
Moreman's Muppets	4	1	3	15
Russell's Razzle Dazzlers	4	1	3	13

Neil Taylor's team's lead has now been cut to 2 points and in the next round they play Slack's Savages in a crucial fixture. Griffin's Tornados, who have risen from bottom place but are now playing more like the title favourites, will hope to make up further ground at the expense of bottom team, Russell's Razzle Dazzlers.

Leading point scorers, (All out of 12 sets):

1. Neil Taylor (12) Graham Slack and Steve Moreman (10) Andrew Golding (9).
2. Martyn Lane (7) Sylvester Callum, David Smith and Peter Wood (6).
3. Craig Saunders (6) Adrian Vale (5).

And finally with six rounds still to be played and with nine points going in each match, the competition is still wide open and, as happened last season, the title might only be decided in the Final Round of matches, WHO KNOWS?

My very grateful thanks to John Boyd, Chairman of The County Premier League, for this enlightened report.

COUNTY RANKINGS

Gloucester = G. Cheltenham = C. Stroud = S.

Men
1. Darren Griffin (G)
2. Neil Taylor (S)
3. Andrew Golding (S)
4. Graham Slack (C)
5. Steve Moreman (G)
6. Paul Jackson (G)
7. Martyn Lane (G)
8. William Dawe (G)
9. Sylvester Callum (C)
10. Frank Jones (C)
11. David Smith (G)
12. Paul Tsakarisianos (C)
13. Craig Saunders (G)

Women
1. Nina Tsakarisianos (G)
2. Cathy Robb (C)
3. Christine Iacopi (G)
4. Heather Colwill (G)
5. Jenny Ellery (G)
6. Julia Evans (C)
7. Julie Bearcroft (C)
8. June Hall (C)
9. Suzanne Webley (S)
10. Clare Symonds (G)

Boys
1. Craig Saunders (G)
2. Dale Saunders (G)
3. Lawrence Symonds (G)
4. Anthony Wilson (G)
5. Howard Williams (S)
6. Adam Peck (C)
7. Neil Gingell (S)
8. Keith Rodway (S)
9. Gary Thomas (G)
10. Ralph Pobjoy (S)

Girls
1. Ellery (G)
2. Webley (S)
3. Symonds (G)
4. Dawn Boles (C)
5. Nikkie Clarke (C)
6. Jenny Egan (C)
7. Cheryl Finnan (G)
8. Megan Willshire (S)
9. Caroline Steiner (S)
10. Elizabeth Turner (C)
11. Listra Maisey (C)
12. Wendy Nicholls (S)
13. Fiona Black (G)
14. Rachel Hopkins (G)
15. Lisa Crawford (G)

BITS & PIECES

The Rudford and Highleadon T.T.C. in the City League have just welcomed two new members – Ken Smith from Cheltenham and Nina Tsakarisianos. The club now sports nine teams in the Gloucester League and membership-wise must rank the largest in the County. My thanks to Rudford's Secretary for this information, Stenneth Salisbury.

Meanwhile Nina's table tennis future is in doubt. She checked into Standish Hospital on Jan. 5 for investigation and possible treatment for her serious back complaint which has dogged her for the past 15 or 16 months. This injury has caused her to drop from No. 20 to 39 in the National Rankings.

Nina had been playing in Germany up and until last Autumn, but the injury became so bad that she had to return earlier than planned.

She has not played competitively since her return, and at the time of writing I understand that her stay in hospital is thought to be indefinite. Hurry up and get well soon Nina.

COACHING

Coaching is still very actively being carried out in the City by Paddy Jackson, the County Coach, and George Norvorth. Both these hard working gentlemen report a heavy influx of youngsters ready, willing and able to better themselves at our sport.

In Cheltenham, Peter Cruwys, despite his many T.T. activities, still seems to find valuable time for serious coaching on the nine by five.

In Stroud, Head Coach Alan Giles takes control. Proof of the good work done here, coupled with the stalwart work of Trevor Golding, IS THAT STROUD now have a formidable force of very good Juniors whose results this season in the Midland League speak for themselves.

NEWSLETTER WRITERS ASSOCIATION

Around the County's local Scribes:– Cheltenham's Gill Smith's "Nett & Edge" continues to provide good local news and equally good reading also.

Likewise in Gloucester City:– Andy Browett's "Bat Chat" confirms what I have always suspected – its Editor HAS A GREAT SENSE OF HUMOUR?

The Stroud "Pointmaker":– Well put together by Dave Popjoy is also a joy to read. Being a bank manager Dave's a born diplomat, it's a good job I am with Lloyds!

Summing up these three T.T. Scribes, they all do a great job and I'm pleased to note that they allow their individual Newsletters to be distributed all around the County, That's good.

Harry Stevens reports from....

HERTFORDSHIRE

HERTS. & BEDS. LEAGUE CUP

A new invitation competition, 'The Herts. & Beds. League Cup' is set to be launched and the Organisers are hoping that this

will, through sponsorship, become a major event in the local calendar.

Seventeen teams have entered the competition, and cash prizes, as well as the prestigious league cup are at stake.

A consolation plate event is being run for first round losers with trophies and medals on offer to the finalists.

Favourites at this stage would appear to be Motorola, headed by England-ranked Mike Harper and Phoenix TTC, from Barnet, who are led by Welsh International Nigel Tyler, but the event boasts some good sides with such distinguished players as Jackie Bellinger, Keith Samuels and Les Wooding taking part.

Any clubs or individuals not entered this year, but who think they would like to participate in 1986 should contact Roger Bowler – (H) Stevenage 60986 for details.

Our Junior 1st team were at home to Middlesex 2nd team. Herts were represented by Derek Rogers, Leonard Rosso, Michael Boardman, Alison Boxall and Tracy Baines. Derek had 2 wins, Alison one and Alison and Tracy were winners in the doubles, resulting in a 6-4 victory to Middlesex.

Diary dates – Barnet Table Tennis Centre:

Feb. 9	Junior Training
Feb. 10	Inter League
Feb. 16	County Championships, Junior 2 – Kent 2 Vets 1 – Kent 1
23/24	SENIOR CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS
March 2	Junior Training
March 9	County Championships Senior 1 – Oxford
March 17	Barnet League 2-a-side
March 30	Junior Training

John Prean looks beyond the . .

ISLE OF WIGHT

TO BURY CAESAR OR TO PRAISE HIM ?

(with apologies to W. Shakespeare)

Various representations I made to the ETTA about what seemed shabby treatment of our players were due to be discussed by the National Council in January. A full house was in attendance. Whether the purpose was to bury me or to praise me remains to be seen.

"The Great Debate"

For a number of reasons 'the great debate' was postponed. A proposal to invite me to state the case was voted down. I would have welcomed this and thank all those who supported freedom of speech.

Only in Fairy Tales . . .

The public image of our Sport depends greatly on our leading players. If we treat them like Cinderellas, the Princes of Television and Sponsorship will continue to court the ugly sisters of other sports or turn to foreigners when it is our rare turn to appear on the box. Cinderella only wins in fairy tales. Constant protests that our players are no good (. . "except Des, of course," to quote it all in full) do a disservice to the English Sport. I KNOW how hard our players work and how little they get. Yes, I do see red when I see how readily money is spent, sometimes wasted in other directions.

A long, bloody battle . . but 'only' for commonsense . . .

This is what I have fought on another front. Time and time again our players arrived tired and washed out after long journeys, having to play the next day at 9 or even 8 a.m. when well below their best. Time and time again wé got rotten results. I asked for no extra money, no new budgets, no favours, just commonsense, but even that turned into a long battle. I think it has now been won. I thank the Chairman of the Selectors and the England Captain for their part in the victory for commonsense. I hope my praise will not undermine their career prospects.

The best prepared . . .

Carl Prean was perhaps not the best player who ever left these shores for foreign lands, but he WAS the best prepared for the European Junior Top 12 which he won in the Snows of San Marino. For this I thank Don Parker who planned it all, Paul Day who masterminded the details throughout the final week, the pre-match practice, the corner tactics and all the rest. Get behind these chaps, gentlemen of Hastings, National Council and Management Committee and one day we shall beat the world, just as this time we beat junior Europe. All sets were won in straight games – a day to celebrate, but not for all . . .

"What's this? OLD Prean in The Telegraph again?"

I opened this newspaper which is the one that gives Table Tennis the best deal and I read ". . . Widespread Controversy continues to surround the teenager's development and in particular the coaching of him at the court side. ETTA officials maintain that his best results have been achieved on occasions when he has been advised at the table by the England coaches and when his father has not been present..." I do **not** blame Mr. John Woodford who quotes what he is told.

The first Lemon of the Year Award

I DO award the first Prean Lemon of 1985 to the anonymous 'officials'. THEY saw no need to praise what was a pretty fair performance when they could find something unpleasant to say about me. Sadly I had to conclude yet again that people can spend a lifetime in Table Tennis without knowing the first thing about it. Perhaps the ceaseless search for foreign stars for the ETTA's next Invitation Event has left them tired and irritable. Encouraged by the success of an earlier poem may I submit another?

It is hard to kick the bot
Of the one who wins a lot
In short: Good friends, don't be too sad
You can still KICK the young man's Dad.

Sourpusses and Nice Guys...

When players are on England duties, they are ALWAYS captained by England captains and not by Mr. John Prean. Whether my advice on these occasions would have been better or, as is probable, worse we shall never know. I have only attended two overseas events. In one, Carl won the European Cadet Title, the other brought the Silver in the Junior. I hope this clears up the officials' problems.

Not all officials are sourpusses, however. I was much moved by another who 'phoned 'long distance' to tell me: "This has got to be the greatest performance ever by an English Junior . . I am over the moon . . " It takes all kinds . . good guys and the others, sadly not uncommon in our sport, who have such an irresistible urge to spoil others fleeting moments of joy.

Local Matters

We pass on to other local matters. Our 1st Division was most interestingly poised between Ryde, Sandown and Shanklin when I wrote my earlier notes. Ryde, in beating Sandown, have now taken a big step forward. The almost inevitable three from Jim Daly and the doubles with Mike Turner provide 4 bankers which present their opponents with a mountain to climb. Mike, after hanging up his combination bat to concentrate on all-sponge, is winning again and Ryde look very secure.

Champions vs The Rest

Our showpiece match was also won by Ryde despite injury to Dave Tolfrey, their No. 3 and much improved player these last two seasons. Daly & Turner safely saw the ship home. For THE REST Roger Hookey, Ian Smith and Keith Taylor all had their moments against Jim and Ian beat Mike, but Jim seemed able to slip into a higher gear every time he was under pressure. Carl Prean was in San Marino. The match took place at Newport Vics' new sports complex, the result of an immense effort by the club. For Bill and Joan Rossi it must have been a dream come true to see their beloved club at last settled in such beautiful surroundings. Surely Newport Table Tennis can only go up and up from now on. The 'A' Team with Robert Warren looking almost invincible (after a long absence) are heading for Div. 1 and that will give encouragement to the rest. The 'B' Team may not wait too long to follow them. The RYDE Club under the energetic leadership of John Rawlings is actually getting new members, an impressive feat these days and John himself is playing better than ever despite these diversions. Less good the news from Shanklin and Sandown, two famous old clubs, where membership figures are down. Both have had to find new premises in recent years, causing upheavals and change at a time when tranquality and stability were needed. Their time will come again.

Icy Blasts

When the above notes were written, I had not seen the January issue of T.T. News, which contained icy blasts from Aubrey Drapkin, Treasurer and Peter Charters, Chairman of Selectors at the time of the Moscow disaster. Both seem to me to suffer from an identity problem. They think THEY and other officials ARE the Sport. It is perfectly reasonable to love the Sport, yet to criticise the administration of it. I propose to answer both of them next month.

Terry Bown reports from....

LEICESTERSHIRE

WELL DONE, HINCKLEY

An exciting climax to 1984 was experienced by local players and officials of the Hinckley & District League when instant stardom came the way of Mick Holt, Alex McLeish, Stuart Burwood and Stephen Brown. The BBC brought along their TV cameras to interview Mick Holt the organiser of the Beneficial Trust English Junior Championships held at Hinckley Leisure Centre. Congratulations go to Mick and John Iliffe for their sterling work, and to the magnificent work done by local league players, officials and their families. A superbly organised tournament then, with the prospect of these Championships returning to Hinckley later in the year.

The County Selection Committee issued their latest ranking lists just before Christmas, and these are as follows:-

Men. 1. Chris Rogers; 2. Dave Gannon; 3. Mark Illingworth; 4. Phil Smith; 5. Martin Pickles; 6. Graham Hall; 7. Maurice Newman; 8. Tony Kinsey; 9. Keith Fellows; 10. Simon Griew; 11. Steve Day; 12. Paul Bumpus.

Women. 1. Karen Smith; 2. Julie Revill; 3. Yvonne Hall; 4. Eileen Shaler; 5. Joanne Heath; 6. Tracey Clark; 7. Jane Heath; 8. Joanne Murray.
Veterans. 1. John Iliffe; 2. Geoff Aldwinckle; 3. Colin Truman; 4. Brian Mayfield; 5. Alan Crowson; 6. Mike Meredith; 7. Rod Pickering; 8. John Davies; 9. Terry Yeomanson; 10. Brian Kimble.
Women Veterans. 1. Glenys Odams; 2. Pat Kilsby; 3. Jose Rogers.

In Div. 1 of the Midland League, Geoff Aldwinckle reports that the men travelled to Wolverhampton for their opening fixtures and were on the wrong end of a 7-3 scoreline. However, in the 7 sets lost all went to a deciding game. Graham Hall was in very good form beating M. Browne and A. Cockerill, but losing to newcomer D. Parmar who went on to complete a maximum for Wolves I. The scoreline was reversed when the men travelled yet again to the West Midlands to face Wolves II. Phil Smith was in outstanding form to score a maximum and was only extended by Steve Dunning. With 2 wins each by Maurice Newman and Hall, Leicester Men claimed their first win of the season. A Karen Smith maximum with support from Yvonne Hall and Joanne Heath enabled the ladies to see off the challenge of Notts ladies by 7-3. Good all round performances from Phil Overend, Geoff Aldwinckle and Bryan Hall have seen the Veterans continue their Div. 1 challenge with victories of 7-3 and 6-4 over Walsall and Leamington respectively. The Junior's season of woe continued in their latest fixture when they went down to the maximum score against Derby. Strangely, the same junior players were in action again in the Carter Cup with Leicester bowing out at 0-6 down. Olivers Shoes, Hinckley, who are doing very well thank you, in the National League Div 3 (West), recently recorded their first draw of the season against Hereford Times. The top 2 Hereford players were in great form and remained unbeaten, but fortunately Graham Hall was again in super shape winning both his singles. Hinckley were never ahead and came back from 2-0 and 4-3 down.

DETAILS.
Phil Smith lost to Griffin -11, -18; lost to Mark Owen -14, -15.
Martin Pickles lost to M. Owen -19, -13; bt Micheal Owens -18, 18, 11.
Maurice Newman bt Castle 18, -22, 19; lost to Griffin -15, -9.
Graham Hall bt Owens 14, 15; bt Castle -17, 16, 10.

Best wishes go to the Leicester League President, Vice-Chairman and elder statesman, Phil Smith who is recovering quite nicely after undergoing a nasty operation over the Christmas period.

Kath Fisher reports from.....

LINCOLNSHIRE

FANTASTIC WIN

Cheshire 23 not out, Match 24 whoops beaten by Lincs! A fantastic win for our Vets' team conquering the mighty team from Cheshire who had not been beaten since the Vets' divisions were formed.

Matt Sheader gave them a good start beating Pete D'Arcy 15, 12. Brian Edlington then had a tough set with Eddy Griffiths before emerging the winner 22 in the third. Brian Allison then played Derek Schofield and was leading 20-16 in the third but Derek managed to pull this one back 21-23. Edlington and Connie Moran then won the mixed -18, 21, 15. Sheader and Allison made it 4-1 taking the other doubles against Derek and Eddy this also going to three -18, 13, 17.

Cheshire then started to come back, Doreen Schofield beating Connie 10, 12. D'Arcy made it 3-4 taking Edlington but Lincs came yet again, Matt beating Derek 15, 13 and Allison taking the final set against Eddy 19, 16 to give them a greatly deserved 6-3 win.

Lincoln Ladies beat Grimsby in the Rose Bowl competition 5-4 and in the Butlin Cup 6-4 to get revenge after losing to them earlier in the season. Sue Radly won all her sets and Julie Evans only lost to Connie Moran. Ann Green, although without a win, showed good potential for the future. She has a nice steady game and if someone could encourage her to hit a bit more, she could become a useful player.

In the Pontefract 1-star tournament, Brian Edlington from Gainsborough won the Vets' singles title.

In the December issue,1 made a mistake with the name of the tournament. Matt Sheader won the West Yorkshire Vets and not the North of England as stated. My apologies to Derek Schofield who won that event and a slap on the wrist for me!!!

Ray Hogg reports from.....

NORFOLK

FINISHED??

"Doug Bennett retires." So said the headline in the local paper – retired from National League, County and domestic play as from the end December. His last appearance was for Norwich Foxwood against Waveney Lowestoft and despite his usual 100% performance on the table something was missing and the resulting loss of the match no doubt, in my mind, confirmed his intention of finishing. Only in his early twenties he has been around for some fourteen years man and boy and for ten of those years always at or near the top and is one of the few players Norfolk have produced who is known outside the County.

One of the few side effects of this will be that most of the better players in Norwich are concentrated at the CEYMS club and the only time they will get a game is if they could play themselves! Going back to Norwich Foxwood versus Waveney this match did live up to expectations with an excellent atmosphere created by the large and vocal crowd that attended. Waveney triumphed 5-3 and must be certs. for promotion to Div. 2. I hope they manage to keep their squad together. For Foxwood second place for the second season, so back to the drawing board as promotion is a must next season to keep interest alive both for the players and supporters. Norwich finally played a Wilmott cup match on Dec. 29 with Ely the visitors. Andy Withers beat Phil Logsdon second game on and that was the end of this season's cup run by Norwich. A better story in the Carter Cup with Stephen Fox, Neil Pickard, and Simon Steward so far beating Bedford and Northampton away and waiting to see who they have at home next round.

I gather Cromer have disaffiliated from the E.T.T.A. I don't pretend to know exactly what that means except that the County income suffers, but I see no dramatic effect such as picket lines or barricades across the A.140 just north of Aylsham.

Dennis Millman reports from . .

NORTHANTS

SUCCESS STORY

At a time when results at County level, Juniors excepted, are not all that could be desired, it is pleasing to hear of a genuine Northamptonshire success story. My congratulations go to Wellingborough for another outstanding win in the St. Neots Winter League under enthusiastic skipper Chris Handshaw, with Graeme McKim and Andy Edmonds putting the finishing touches to a fine campaign as RAF were beaten 5-4, and St. Neots 6-3 to complete the nine match programme unbeaten.

Although Wellingborough proved strong enough to retain this title against strong opposition, a rule change in the County League set-up may make it more difficult for them to hold on to the County League title, although with such a well balanced squad they must again start favourites. The rule in question makes a player ineligible for selection unless he has appeared in more than 50% of his team's matches in a particular league, and this could deprive Wellingborough of McKim, whose appearances for Chapmans have been few and far between this term. However the issue will be settled on Saturday 30th and Sunday 31st March, when the five member leagues will dispute the County League title at Lings Forum.

Despite the absence of McKim, Chapmans have built up a commanding lead at the top of Wellingborough's Premier Division, with Edmonds, Handshaw and Mark Nannery all making sizable contributions, and only a lapse on their part, or a major improvement from Higham Band seems likely to change the current situation.

LEADING POSITIONS

Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Chapmans 'A'	9	9	0	0	85
Higham Band Club 'A'	9	8	0	1	75
Team Electric	9	7	0	2	66
Burton Britannia	9	6	0	3	56

Leading Averages:

Andy Edmonds (Chapmans)	23–24=95.8%
Andy Trott (Higham Band)	23–24=95.8%
Mark Nannery (Chapmans)	25–27=92.6%
Steve Brown (Higham Band)	19–21=90.5%
Chris Handshaw (Chapmans)	19–21=90.5%
Gavin Black (Higham Band)	15–18=83.3%
Dennis Millman (Britannia)	14–18=77.8%
Steve West (Electric)	21–27=77.8%
Graham Ball (Electric)	20-27=74.1%
Mark Cole (Electric)	16-24=66.7%

Although temporarily halted by an unlikely Barclaycard 'B' team selection, Malcolm Dilley Associates hold a definite advantage in Northampton's Premier League with Abington Nomads most probable candidates to cash in if the leaders falter, and ACC 'A' with John Sanders and a rejuvenated John Palmer holding on comfortably to third place.

Leading Positions:
Northampton Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Malcolm Dilley Ass.	10	8	2	0	87
Abington Nomads	9	8	1	0	72
ACC 'A'	10	7	0	3	64
Timken 'A'	10	5	1	4	52
Roadmender	8	5	0	3	48

Leading Averages:

Graeme McKim (MDA)	26–27=96.3%
David Gallo (Barclay 'A')	26–27=96.3%
Keith Jones (Abington)	26–27=96.3%
Andy Edmonds (MDA)	25–30=83.3%
Chris Handshaw (MDA)	25–30=83.3%
John Sanders (ACC 'A')	23–30=76.7%
Brian D'Hooghe (Abington)	18–24=75%
John Palmer (ACC 'A')	18–24=75%
Ray Kingston (Roadmender)	17–24=70.8%
Phil Snelling (Roadmender)	17–24=70.8%
Adrian Roper (Doddridge)	18–27=66.7%

With all of Kettering's divisions reduced to ten clubs, partly to intensify the competition, and partly to make room for a Points Cup organised on a group basis, most clubs find themselves with only six league games remaining, and Town 'A' having stolen a

march on their rivals by bringing one forward, hold a lead which looks more generous than it may turn out to be.

Town 'A's Chris Handshaw and Andy Edmonds are joined by Andy Trott, and in the crucial return fixture between Town and nearest challengers Wellingborough, it was five wins shared between Edmonds and Trott which ensured that a superb hat-trick from Ian Hawes still left him on the losing side, as for the first time this season County Men's Doubles champions Hawes and Steve Kendall were beaten.

Leading Positions:

Kettering League (Premier)

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Kettering Town 'A'	13	12	1	0	108
Rothborough 'A'	12	9	3	0	92
Wellingborough Town	12	9	1	2	92
Team Electric 'A'	12	9	1	2	88

Leading Averages:

Graeme McKim (Corby)	27–27=100%
Keith Nicoll (Rothborough 'A')	35–36=97.2%
Ian Hawes (Wellingborough)	33–36=91.7%
Steve West (Electric)	32–36=88.9%
Andy Edmonds (Town 'A')	34–39=87.2%
Chris Handshaw (Town 'A')	33–39=84.6%
Andy Trott (Town 'A')	31–39=79.5%
Steve Kendall (Wellingborough)	25–33=75.8%
Ken Nicoll (Rothborough 'A')	25–33=75.8%
Graham Ball (Electric)	26–36=72.2%

Pauline Long reports from ....

NORTHUMBERLAND

LIFE TIME BEST FOR THOMAS

With the Christmas and New Year holiday break only recently having been completed, there has been very little table tennis activity on which to report. The second half of the Northumberland League season commenced on Jan. 7, and only the junior County team were due to play a match that month – at home to Cleveland on Jan. 26.

Unfortunately news of Thomas Blackman's tremendous performance in the Beneficial Trust English Junior Closed at Hinckley on Dec. 15/16 failed to reach me in time for the January issue deadline, but there is no doubt that to reach the semi-final unseeded was easily a lifetime best for the blond left-hander. He disposed of the ranked Paul Savins of Berkshire for the third time this season in the last 16, and this put him into the quarters to face the England No. 4, Adrian Dixon. No one really expected the unseeded player to cause an upset in this match, but Blackman had other ideas as he pulled off a tremendous victory. This put him into the semis against fellow non-seed Bradley Billington who had earlier caused an even bigger sensation by defeating the No. 1 seed, Andrew Syed.

At this stage, nerves seemed to take control of both players, and although Blackman got off to a good start, he eventually succumbed in straight games, and had to be content with a bronze medal. Nevertheless, our No. 1 junior can be justifiably proud of a truly remarkable performance.

Clare Mouzon, unfortunately, had a disappointing tournament, but did manage to reach the semi-final of the girls' doubles. However, both juniors have played their part in giving encouragement to County officials for the future of table tennis in the area. Both players qualified for the National ranking tournament and no doubt they will both be looking forward to achieving a high National ranking.

Blackman's recent run of good performances is reflected in his rise up the men's County ranking list. He is now ranked at No. 4, with only Chu Van Que, Peter McQueen and Neil McMaster ahead of him. The only other new name in this list – and I am not certain that "new" is the right word in this particular instance – is the welcome return at No. 15 of veteran Pat Tindale (Revac), who has earned this position by virtue of good Premier Division League performances for his club. Tindale only recently returned to competitive table tennis after a long spell out of the game, and the hard bat expert has evidently lost little of his ability. Clare Mouzon, Caron Buglass and Christine Burke are still the top three in the women's list, and new names in this list are Daphne Russell (7), Susan Harrison (9) and Vicki Landles (10).

There is also little change in the boys' list, with Blackman obviously still leading the way at the top, but John Morton (11), J. Hope (13) and M. Christie (14) have entered the rankings for the first time. The situation regarding the girls remains critical, with only three players – Clare Mouzon, Denise Wilkinson and Elaine Hopper – included in the ranking list, and all three will be over age next season. The first cadet boys' list of the season has been issued, and this is as follows:

CADET BOYS

1. Darren Shaw
2. Michael Curry
3. Simon Douglas
4. M. Armstrong
5. M. Richardson
6. L. Walker
7. S. McDermott
8. N. Courtney
9. M. Douglas
10. A. Zarraga
11. S. Coverdale
12. C. Young

The Northumberland League representative sides have been involved in early rounds of the National Knock-Out Team Competitions. Wins were recorded in the Wilmott Cup v Sunderland (6-3), and – notably – in the Carter Cup v Ormesby (5-2), but the women's Rose Bowl team lost 1-5 to Sunderland.

Byker gained a valuable point in the Halex National League when they came away from Sincil Lincoln with a 4-4 draw. Competition is tough in Div. 2 (North), with only two points separating the third-placed team from Byker, who are currently third from bottom, and with Lincoln only one point behind, this result could have an important bearing on the final positions. The second team, however, are having a disastrous season, and their latest defeat by 3-5 at the hands of Ormesby III leaves them languishing at the foot of Div. 3 (North) without a point to their name.

The Northumberland League season only recommenced on Jan. 7 after the Christmas and New Year break, but the League tables up to the end of the season's first half show Tyne Dock as runaway Premier Division leaders with a 100% record from 14 matches. North Shields Y.M.C.A. 'A', however, have lost only two matches, and are lying in second place with two games in hand. The season's first half leaders and second-placed teams in other Divisions are as follows:–

	Leaders	Second Place
Div. 1	Wansbeck	Byker C.C. 'D'
Div. 2A	Boldon C.A.	North Shields E.E.
Div. 2B	Ashington Y.M.C.A. 'A'	Electrics 'C'
Div. 3A	Dunston Hill 'B'	Byker C.C. 'G'
Div. 3B	Shanklea 'A'	Woodlands Park O.B.
Div. 4	Shanklea 'B'	John Boste Y.C.

Brian Hamilton reports from....

OXFORDSHIRE

ARTHUR BACK ON TOP

The pack of players at the top of the county rankings were shuffled somewhat recently, with Arthur Chilvers getting the No. 1 spot back, which he lost to Clive Morris at the start of the current season.

Arthur moves up from 3 to 1 and Clive drops to No. 2, after Arthur defeated Clive in the league and again in the final of the District Championships. Norman Swift drops from 2 to 4, being overtaken by both Arthur and Neil Harris, who goes up to 3. First time appearance at No. 5 for Nat Richardson, who is in his first season in Oxford after moving from Northampton and he is already making his mark for the Vikings club. Veteran Brian Varnham is showing a surge of form and has moved up from 13 to 8 and is now appearing on the Vets' computer rankings.

Men

1. Arthur Chilvers
2. Clive Morris
3. Neil Harris
4. Norman Swift
5. Nat Richardson
6. Peter Jones
7. Stan Hahn
8. Brian Varnham
9. Richard Knight
10. Richard Burton

Women

1. Mary Denbow
2. Steph Haddrell
3. Amanda Shufflebotham
4. Julie Woodward
5. Eleanor Harrison
6. Jackie Windle
7. Disa Wingent
8. Carol Pullen
9. Shirley Burton
10. Gillian Aston

The big disappointment for Oxford was the 5-4 defeat by Milton Keynes, in the Wilmott Cup, especially after Milton Keynes turned up with only two players. Les Wooding took the home side apart and was only really pushed a little by Clive Morris, who went down -14 in the third. Neil Harris gained Oxford's only win apart from the three sets conceded, when he beat Rob Harman 19 in the final game.

The County Veterans continue to show poor form, their latest defeat being against Essex II's and have not won since their opening match of the season, against Beds.

However, the Oxford City Vets 'B' team of John Paul, Len Pratt and Brian Allen, are currently on top of the Midland League Div 2 Vets' section and look set to take the title, providing they do not slip up in the final matches to be played in January.

In the Oxford and District League, Haddenham continue to dominate the 1st division and should now retain the title they won for the first time last year, providing the form of Karl Bushell, Norman Swift, Mark Curtis and John Paul does not tumble.

The Oxford and District league have, for the first time this season, introduced the one point per set system and after the first seven or eight matches, large gaps have appeared between teams from the top to bottom places in the tables. It can be said that certain teams are in the wrong division to start with, but this may not be entirely the case. However, it would be interesting to get the impressions from members of other leagues, who have used the system for a much longer period than Oxford.

One very sad piece of news for the County, is that of the proposed retirement of the No. 1 woman in the area, Mary Denbow. Mary has decided that this season is her last, mainly due to the fact that she does not enjoy the game any more, a similar feeling that brought about her brother Richard's premature retirement at the end of last year. Mary will be greatly missed by the area and players alike.

Denis George reports from....

SCOTLAND

ROYAL BANK TROPHY

The annual junior international matches with Northern Ireland for the ROYAL BANK TROPHY were held at the Bishopbriggs Sports Centre, Glasgow, on 23.11.84 and resulted in a first time win for our boys and our girls winning for the third time in a row. The Ulster youngsters were mainly new to the international scene, in consequence the greater experience of the Scots was the telling factor.

BOYS: SCOTLAND 7, NORTHERN IRELAND 1
David Low bt Michael Ferrin 17, 8;
Gordon Cummings bt Brian Rutledge 18, 18;
Gordon Waddell bt Peter Robinson 18, 14;
Ian Stokes lost to Andrew Dennison -12, 16, -18;
Cummings bt Ferrin 12, 16;
Low bt Rutledge 15, 10;
Stokes bt Robinson 15, -20, 14;
Waddell bt Dennison 17, 14.

GIRLS: SCOTLAND 8, NORTHERN IRELAND 0
Maureen Cusick bt Athena Gallagher 9,2;
Linda Hood bt Noreen O'Boyle 15, 6;
Sarah Hurry bt Grace Matthews 12, 6;
Patricia Calder bt Kirsteen Stafford 12, 25;
Hood bt Gallagher 8, 8;
Cusick bt O'Boyle 8, 14;
Calder bt Matthews 5, 16;
Hurry bt Stafford 16, 7.

WEST OF SCOTLAND 2-Star OPEN, Bellahouston S.C., Glasgow. 24.11.84.

John Broe, after his good form in the STIRLINGSHIRE OPEN earlier in the month, won his first title of the season with a 2-straight final win over David McIlroy, whilst Carole Dalrymple won her third with a similar win over Janet Smith. Surprise of the tournament was Jim Graham's defeat of Richard Yule in Round 3, achieved by fierce attacks interspersed with his more usual defensive play.

The young N. Ireland squad on their annual visit to Glasgow maintained their record of winning at least one WEST title each season with Peter Robinson taking the Boys' Singles. Sarah Hurry (Stirling) continued her success story with yet another double in the Junior and Cadet Girls' events.

MEN'S SINGLES
Semi-finals:
J. Broe bt J. Graham 17, -18, 19;
D. McIlroy bt M. Francis -16, 15, 18.
Final: BROE bt McIlroy 14, 18.
WOMEN'S SINGLES
Semi-finals:
C. Dalrymple bt V. Thomson 6, 9;
J. Smith bt P. Fleming 16, -17, 21.
Final: DALRYMPLE bt Smith 14, 14.
OPEN CLASS 2 SINGLES:
Final: GERRY CAMPBELL bt Andrew Dennison 14, 19.
BOYS' SINGLES:
Final: PETER ROBINSON bt Dennison 17, 17.
GIRLS' SINGLES:
Final: SARAH HURRY bt Linda Hood -19, 15, 15.
CADET BOYS' SINGLES:
Final: MARTIN SHIELDS bt Christopher Woess 12, 18.
CADET GIRLS' SINGLES:
Final: HURRY bt Lorraine Anderson 6, 12.
MEN'S DOUBLES:
Final: McILROY/B. WRIGHT bt C. Gerrard/J. Graham -17, 19, 18.
WOMEN'S DOUBLES:
Final: DALRYMPLE/L. JOHNSTON bt Thomson/Fleming -17, 14, 18.

JAPAN IN SCOTLAND – Masako Fukutome and Atsuko Wada with Dave Hannah and John Broe.
(Photo: B. D. George)

JAPAN IN SCOTLAND
Mr. Ogata (NPC), Hirohiko Ono and Yoshikazu Murakami.
(Photo: B. D. George)

MONKLAND 2-STAR OPEN
Men's Singles Winner DAVID HANNAH.
(Photo: B. D. George)

MONKLANDS 2-STAR OPEN
Women's Singles Winner Alison Gordon, presented with her cheque by tournament organiser Jim Graham.
(Photo: B. D. George)

NORTH OF SCOTLAND OPEN, Aberdeen, 2.12.84.

History repeated itself twice over at this year's NORTH when, for the second season in succession the Men's Singles crown went to a first time winner in West of Scotland's **Ian McLean.** Just twelve months ago Edinburgh's David Campbell similarly claimed his first ever senior singles title. The second repetition followed from the fact that McLean, as a junior, also won his first championship in Aberdeen. Sarah Hurry achieved a unique treble, winning the Women's Singles, the Girls' Singles and the Open Cadet Singles.

MEN'S SINGLES:
Semi-finals:
C. Gerrard bt I. Stokes 18, 11;
I. McLean bt J. Graham 13, 20.
Final:
McLEAN bt Calum Gerrard 17, 14.
WOMEN'S SINGLES:
Final Group; 1. SARAH HURRY, 2. Patricia Calder
VETERANS' SINGLES:
Final: JOHN LOW bt Jim Milne 18, 21.
BOYS' SINGLES:
Final: IAN STOKES bt David Low 18, 18.
GIRLS' SINGLES:
Final Group: HURRY, 2. Calder.
OPEN CADET SINGLES:
Final: HURRY bt Martin Shields 18, 20.
MEN'S DOUBLES:
Final: GRAHAM/GERRARD bt McLean/Stokes -16, 10, 18.

MONKLANDS 2-STAR OPEN, Coatbridge, 16.12.84.

Once again this popular tournament, sponsored by Monklands District Council, attracted a number of top players from England and the Swiss European League squad stopped over from their match on the previous evening in order to boost the quality of the entry.

David Hannah made up for his semi-final loss in the Stirlingshire Open earlier in the season by convincingly sweeping aside all opposition to retain the Men's Singles title, defeating Nigel Eckersley in the semi-final and Alan Cooke in the Final. Richard Yule having beaten Thomas Busin in the quarters, lost to Cooke in the semis.

Alison Gordon had no trouble in winning the Women's Singles from Beatrice Witte (SUI). The Swiss squad obtained some consolation for their lack of success in the singles by taking both doubles titles, T. Busin and S. Renold won the Men's and Beatrice Witte and B. Hirzel the women's.

MEN'S SINGLES:
Quarter-finals:
A. Cooke bt J. Broe 18, 13;
R. Yule bt T. Busin (SUI) 20, -14, 15;
N. Eckersley bt S. Renold (SUI) 17, 13;
D. Hannah bt D. McIlroy 15, 12.
Semi-finals:
Cooke bt Yule 15, 16;
Hannah bt Eckersley 18, 17.
Final:
HANNAH bt Cooke 18, 18.
WOMEN'S SINGLES:
Semi-finals:
A. Gordon bt B. Hirzel (SUI) 21, 14;
B. Witte (SUI) bt E. McIlroy 16, 15.
Final: GORDON bt Witte 14, 13.
CLASS 2 SINGLES:
Final: IAN STOKES bt David Thomas 14, 18.
OPEN JUNIOR SINGLES:
Final: STOKES bt Martin Shields
OPEN CADET SINGLES:
Final: CHRISTOPHER WOESS bt Shields.
MEN'S DOUBLES:
Final: BUSIN/RENOLD bt Hannah/K. Rodger 17, -20, 11.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES:
Final: HIRZEL/WITTE bt V. Thomson/P. Fleming 17, 19.

S.T.T.A. SENIOR CLASSIFICATION TOURNAMENT, Meadowbank, Edinburgh, 5.1.85.

Unfortunately Hannah had to withdraw with a leg strain thus denying Broe the chance to repeat his Stirling success. However the day long play in groups of eight provided much useful information on the current standard of the top Scottish players. Yule and Carole Dalrymple headed their respective first categories without loss.

Final Classification (Top Ten):
MEN:
1. Richard Yule
2. John Bore
3. David McIlroy
4. Anwar Majid
5. Graeme Docherty
6. Brian Wright
7. Ian McLean
8. Ian Stokes
9. Calum Gerrard
10. David Low

WOMEN:
1. Carole Dalrymple
2. Janet Smith
3. Diane Greig
4. Lynn Johnston
5. Eleanor McIlroy
6. Sarah Hurry
7. Valerie Thomson
8. Elizabeth Robb
9. Maureen Cusick
10. Lynne Davren

CLEVELAND 3-Star OPEN, Thornaby, 12/13.1.85.

The Scottish mens' team of Hannah and McIlroy provided the shock of the tournament by inflicting a first ever defeat on an England team 3-1 in the semi-finals of the team event with Hannah defeating both Graham Sandley and David Wells. The Scots were not disgraced by a 1-3 defeat by Japan in the Final, Hannah beating Hirohiko Ono 17 and 19. Earlier on they had defeated Ormesby II and Canada, both 3-1.

SCOTTISH AMICABLE CHALLENGE MATCHES

Immediately after the Cleveland Open the Japanese squad travelled north to play two matches against Scotland in Edinburgh and Glasgow. The visit was sponsored by the SCOTTISH AMICABLE Life Assurance Society to whom the Scottish TTA is most grateful for their interest and support. The match in Edinburgh was treated as the first event in the celebration of the Edinburgh & Lothians TT League's 50th Anniversary and many of their internationalists from the past were invited to attend including Ross Young, Alec Laidlaw and the famous ladies' duo of the 'fifties' Helen (Elliot) Hamilton and Helen (Houliston) Nicholl. The Japanese proved to be too strong and won the match 5-0.

The following evening at Bellahouston S.C., Glasgow, before the cameras of STV, the Scots put up a spirited performance to claw back a 0-2 deficit with Hannah beating Takehiro Inoue and Carole Dalrymple beating Masako Fukutome. With the scoreline at 2-all, Yule went down fighting to Ono in a set which produced some fantastic long range rallies and thunderous applause from a capacity audience.

SCOTLAND v JAPAN in Edinburgh, 14.1.85.
Broe lost to Inoue -19, -12;
Hannah lost to Ono -18, -17;
Dalrymple lost to Atsuko Wada -9, -19;
Hannah lost to Inoue -14, -13;
Broe lost to Ono -22, -5.

SCOTLAND v JAPAN in Glasgow, 15.1.85.
Yule lost to Inoue -18, -19;
Hannah lost to Ono -13, -16;
Dalrymple bt Masako Fukutome 19, 15;
Hannah bt Inoue -16, 18, 17;
Yule lost to Ono -12, -18.

WELSH OPEN, Cardiff, 16/19.1.85.

Scottish successes were confined to the team events where the men (Hannah and Broe) defeated Luxembourg 3-0 and the women (J. Smith and L. Johnston) beat Wales II 3-1 before losing to Sweden and Korea respectively.

NORWEGIAN TRAGEDY

All in Scotland were very shocked to learn of the tragic death of Tone Folkeson in Spain. She visited Scotland in 1981 and several of our players renewed acquaintance with her at a training camp in Luxembourg last summer.

Gerald Green reports from....

SHROPSHIRE

REMARKABLE FIGHTBACK

Steve Turner, playing his first match of the season in the No. 1 spot, masterminded a remarkable fightback by Grove of Market Drayton in their home match against Tibhar Larkhall in the premier division of the Halex National League.

Grove made a great start when Turner's splendid attitude saw him record a win over an unpredictable Richard Jermyn.

But matters turned rather sour for Grove when Alan Fletcher fell to David Dodd, Malcolm Green lost to Gary Spencer and Anwar Majid suffered at the hands of Joe Kennedy.

Grove trailed 3-1 and matters seemed to be heading towards an inevitable defeat.

Turner then met Dodd who won the first. But Turner was able to fight his way back to run out a winner.

Fletcher showed his determination to beat Kennedy and level the match score at 3-3.

In typical style, Green rose to the occasion and, playing above himself, recorded a win over Jermyn.

The amazing escape was finally completed as Majid fought back from an opening reverse against Spencer to win the second at 20 and trounce the Londoner in the third to end the match on a high note for Grove, who won 5-3.

THIRD WEST

John Ellis made a dream start to his career in the National League, when he won both his sets to help give Grove II their first win of the season.

The Market Drayton side beat Global, Plymouth 6-2.

The match started well for Drayton with Stan Deakin recovering from an opening deficit to beat Tony Sweet.

The scores were soon level as luckless Keith Sillitoe fell to Plymouth's Gary Wilson. Joe Deakin emulated his brother to give Grove the lead once again as he demolished Kevin Buddell.

The vital fourth set saw 15-year-old Ellis making his debut as a "supersub". He was deputising for the injured David Morris.

Young John rose to the occasion to give Michael Short a lesson in top spin play.

Grove were now 3-1 ahead and they had another win as Stan Deakin retained his form to beat Wilson.

Sillitoe, despite his usual spirited effort, fell to Short. Joe Deakin beat Sweet and this left Welshman Ellis to meet Buddell.

Ellis purred like a Rolls-Royce in overdrive to give a smooth performance which underlined his tremendous talent as Buddell was overwhelmed. Grove well deserved their 6-2 win.

SHROPSHIRE RANKINGS

The NMW computer ranking lists for Shropshire put Grove player Malcolm Green at the top of the men's section and clubmate Alison Gibson at the top of the women's division.

The top 10 players in each section are:

MEN: Malcolm Green (Grove), Paul Barnett (Grove), Keith Sillitoe (Grove), Anthony Harrison (Grove), Ian Baker (Shrew), David Morris (Grove), Justin Goodall (Grove), Darrell Corfield (Pont), Gerry Owen (Oswestry), Tim McGill (Grove).
BOYS: 1. Morris, 2. Goodall, 3. Corfield, 4. McGill, 5. David Williams (Grove), 6. Simon Cooper (Grove), 7. Robert Holding (Telford), 8. Nigel Holding (Telford), 9. Ian Garrett (Pont), 10. Matthew Jeffrey (Grove).
CADET BOYS: 1. Cooper, 2. David Morris (Grove), 3. Jeffrey, 4. Adrian Phillips (Pont), 5. Neil Martin (Grove, 6. Chris Day (Pont), 7. Paul Corfield (Pont), 8. Paul Brown (Grove), 9. Paul Ainsworth (Grove), 10. Peter Giles (Grove).
WOMEN: 1. Alison Gibson (Grove), 2. Alison Barker (Grove), 3. Julie Ballard (Grove), 4. Colette Soan (Grove), 5. Carol Wickstead (Grove), 6. Dawn Wickstead (Grove), 7. Cheryl Jones (Oswestry), 8. Audrey Barnett (Grove), 9. Victoria Boyd (Grove), 6. Nicola Thorneycroft (Grove), 7. Caroline Ashcroft (Grove), 8. Tara Hanley (Grove), 9. Johanna Dyke (Grove), 10. Louise Townsend (Grove).
CADET GIRLS: 1. Barnett, 2. Boyd, 3. Ashcroft, 4. Hanley, 5. Dyke (Grove), 6. Townsend, 7. Claire Marshall (Grove) 8. Anne-Marie Williamson (Grove), 9. Laura Talbot, (Grove), 10. Jane Roddy (Grove).

MIDLAND LEAGUE

The Telford side of D. Russell, M. Langford and W. Herbert lost 6-4 at home to Loughborough. Langford was in fine form to take two of his three.

Russell lost to M. Meredith -14, 17, -13;
Herbert lost to P. Bumpus -12, -12;
Langford bt D. Fox 17, 1J;
Herbert lost to Meredith -6, -15;
Russell/Langford lost to Meredith/Bumpus -17, -15;
Russell bt Fox 19, 15;
Langford bt Bumpus -19, 16, 14;
Herbert bt Fox 8, 18;
Langford lost to Meredith -13, 19, -18;
Russell lost to Bumpus -16, -12.

TELFORD LEAGUE (Div. I)

The season's halfway mark has been reached and it looks as though four teams in division one will be contesting the title.

All four have lost one match and the eventual outcome could be decided on sets.

Burnhill Tarmac A beat Glynwed 8-2. M. Langford was unbeaten for the Tarmac side. T. Jones beat Deakin 15 in the third, while G. White won the two sets for Glynwed.

Broseley A beat bottom team GPO B 8-2, M. Beaman winning his three for the Broseley side. R. Holding beat B. Edwards and A. Grainger beat N. Maycock.

Burnhill Tarmac B managed to grab a point at Glynwed thanks to S. Cullis and H. Hunt. Cullis won three and Hunt two.

Top team Shifnal A were held to a draw by Albrighton A so arch rivals Telford Development A take over the top spot.

P. Fisher was the mainstay for the Albrighton team as he won his three yet again, with D. Russell and R. Fettes each winning one.

Tel Dev A had an easier time at Burnhill Tarmac C winning 7-3 even though M. Jones was missing from the Telford side.

Burnhill Tarmac A hammered GPO A 8-2 thanks to the efforts of M. Langford and G. Rose who won three each and combined to win the doubles.

TOURNAMENTS

Grove player David Morris was in superb form in the English junior closed at Hinckley, when he reached the latter stages of the under-14 singles. The Drayton player recorded excellent wins over David Bevan, of Cornwall, and Robert Till, of Staffordshire, before losing to the eventual finalist, Michael O'Driscoll, of Yorkshire.

Claire Potts, of Grove, reached the final of the cadet girls' singles losing to her arch rival Andrea Holt in a high quality encounter.

The competition brought out the best in Claire as she upset the form book and the seedings to beat Cumbria's Debbie Soothill, with a tremendous display of attacking play to reach the semi-final of the girls' singles.

Tony Carey reports from . . . .

SOMERSET

SPRING IS ON ITS WAY

Apologies to all who missed my column in the January issue, but time and the post waits for no man as I discovered. Still, let's not worry about the past, let's look forward to the future of our County on the Senior and Junior scene. Putting the Seniors first for a change, things seem to be working out fine for them with barring any unforeseen slip-ups they should win their division. Their latest match on Dec. 15 against Glamorgan away was hard fought as we expected, but our team's new-found tenacity pulled them through 6-4. Well played all and keep that momentum going for your next match against Cornwall as they also breed tenacity and skilled players as we have found to our cost in the past.

Our latest lesson being learnt by our Juniors in their match held at Chard n Dec. 1, a match which we had to win to stand a resonable chance of promotion this season. All the signs looked good as our No. 1 boy Philip Payne and our No. 2 Murray Barter were still on a high cloud from their good display in the Regional Trials at Launceston against the same opponents, but I am afraid that their high clouds were hit by a Cornish thunderstorm with thunderbolts that shook the very foundations of Somerset hopes of the Juniors emulating the Seniors. Our pride was saved once again, as in the past, by our No. 1 and 2 girls Melonie Carey and Sarah Webb winning their singles and doubles to make the score look more respectable at 7-3 to Cornwall, Melonie beating Esmee Stevenson and Sarah beating Karen Brosneck. Well played Cornwall and good luck when you get promoted.

All is not gloom and doom though as the Senior squad is getting stronger under the generalship of Tony Russe. Also, with the addition of a second Senior team competing in the same division, there has been a good training ground for our top boys and girls to show their potential for the future and to develop their game to a higher standard which will be required to support the Senior first team in their quest for greater success. Without looking through rose coloured glasses I believe this season could be the springboard that we have been seeking. Our Juniors though will require some careful thinking about, mainly with regard to the format to be adopted for the rest of this season.

Having myself been in constant touch with the County Junior coaching set-up over the past four to five years and knowing out potential strength in this area in relation to our near neighbours and some distant, I feel that the time has come to see if our ducklings can swim in deep waters. This should serve as a two-fold purpose, the first giving experience and confidence to the survivors and secondly, providing adequate replacements for the inevitable number of players that find other pursuits when their Junior days are over and they find they are little fish in big ponds. There will be some I am sure who will make the transition at a smoother rate as they are competing at a higher level already. More strength to their elbows as long as they don't come across their bodies.

The subject of ex-Juniors brings me neatly into my next report, the Chilton Open Under-21 Tournament. This tournament shone as a beacon lighting the way into the future for players who on reaching the age of 17 find that after treading the weary path of Cadets and Junior tournaments suffering varying successes and disappointments on the gentle slope to their peak, discover overnight that this slope becomes a sheer rock face without a hand-hold or ledge in sight and a chill wind blowing down on them to cool their enthusiasm. Well lads and lasses the first toe-hold has been chipped out for you by the success of this tournament. I hope that all who took part have already spread the good word and that we will have more entries next time.

The conditions and timing throughout the day were very good as expected when run by the efficient Somerset contingent under the experienced hand of Pat Archdale as Referee. With a group system operating in both the mixed and the ladies' events, there were equal opportunities for individuals to shine, and for the much forgotten young ladies, this presented an ideal opportunity for them to display their skilful play against some of the best young men on a stage where they can be recognised. I know they compete very well in their local Leagues but without an audience to appreciate that they can play very well. This added to the entertainment for the spectators, although I doubt if the male players who lost to a lady would not quite see it that way; even some that won against a lady or young girl certainly knew they had been given a good game.

Now the pen is flowing, what other news is there. Well the car has done a few more miles, the longest being to the Halton Junior 2-Star at Runcorn. This proved a revelation compared with some tournaments we have attended over the years. It was the emphasis on the welfare of the players which impressed me most with the provision of five good quality practice tables in a separate room with a relaxed attitude to knocking-up on unoccupied tables in the main hall providing they did not interfere with matches. As some of my readers will know, the lack of adequate knocking-up has always been a sore point with me and I know that it is not always possible to provide such facilities at every venue. Some players can exist on a very minimum of knock-up time and play quite well, but others like top class athletes have to get their rhythm right to give of their best, which, after travelling considerable distances, is essential to justify their entry in the competition. Another good point about this tournament apart from the video screens in the refreshment rooms, was the good timing of events with a set lunch break.

Back to the competition again, some good matches at all levels with Somerset's lone representative Melonie reaching the semi-final before losing to Andrea Holt, the eventual winner.

Next big event was the English Junior Closed at Hinckley. On the first day our leading Cadets, Paul Smith, Joanna Webber, Tina Sadler and Claire Brazier were in action with varying successes, the major honours going to Paul who reached the 3rd round. On the Sunday it was the Juniors' turn to compete and the Somerset contingent were Melonie Carey, Sarah Webb, Philip Payne, Murray Barter and David Wooldridge. All had varying fortunes in their respective matches meeting very keen opposition, but nothing outstanding to report this time. Just a small plug here though for one of the good girls from our next-door-neighbours, Avon. I refer to Helen Perrott who reached the third round before going out in a tense three-game set with Juliet Houghton from Kent. Well played all who took part and with all this talent on display it is a credit to the English coaching system, and is an encouraging sign that the game's future is in good hands.

ENGLISH JUNIOR TRIALS AT COVENTRY, JANUARY 5/6, 1985

Once againt the cream of English Cadet and Junior talent assembled to do battle with the rewards for success being those much sought after, Computer points, which if gained can improve a player's position on the National Ranking List or strengthen their current position. Both results to my mind are important. The first (discounting any fluke results on the day, as we have seen in the past) can give confidence to the young player that their playing style is on the right lines and provide further motivation to achieve their goal. The second also is a confidence builder in the fact that they have not lost ground and that they also are on the right lines for the future, providing they are constantly seeking improvement. That said, back to the action.

Once again Somerset had a fair representation on both days. In the Cadets we had Paul Smith and Joanna Webber of Bridgwater, also Tina Sadler of Yeovil, gaining a well-earned invitation, and from the information that I received from this first day, they all played to their best abilities. Although they did not set the world alight they showed that they will get better as the season goes on and cause a few upsets.

The second day saw in action Somerset's top two girls and boys, Melonie Carey, Sarah Webb, Philip Payne and Murray Barter from Bridgwater. All the groups they played in were of a very strong standard as was to be expected. We therefore had no pretensions of glory, only a quiet confidence that if they all played to their potential on the day things could start to come right, and indeed it did for Melonie and Philip. The temperature outside may have been on the wintry side but it certainly was scorching on the tables inside. Giving the boys the first mention for a change and trying not to draw too many comparisons regarding styles of play. Barter played as well as I have seen him in the past, but as is well known, he can be unpredictable in his play, this I feel he could not afford to be with the class of players in his group. Still, all is not lost as he had vital experience for the future. Philip's play on the other hand was the best I have seen from him, he doesn't like losing; two of his most notable wins being against Richard Hayward and Paul Savins. He applied himself to his tasks well, coming out top of his group. My one constructive criticism must be that he doesn't hit enough of the loose balls; other than that, well played Philip.

Now to the girls. Sarah played to her potential but met very experienced opponents in her group with Helen Broomhead being the key figure and coming good. Last, but by no means least, I will mention Melonie. Well readers you know that I have extolled the virtues of her play in the past with her triumphs and disappointments with all the frustrations that go with them.

But this day it all faded into the past as she proceeded to open up the memory banks on all the past years of coaching and let her bat describe the patterns of play required for the various opponents in her group. It made a change just to offer a drink and a talk about the weather. She won her group outright without dropping a game and then had a nail-biting 3 game set with Lisa Robins only clinching it at "deuce" in the third. This led to a quarter final match with Andrea Holt of Lancashire, the No. 1 Cadet. They have battled together in the past but none matched this encounter which went to 3 games with Andrea making a great recovery to win 21-18. The end of a very long day for Melonie, with the consolation to ease the tiredness of a leap up the ranking list from 29 to 14 and with the best win of her career to date in her group against Jill Powis, England's No. 2 Junior.

Jack Chalkley reports from....

STAFFORDSHIRE

SENIOR CALL FOR RACHEL

Congratulations to Stafford's Rachel Roberts on being selected for the Welsh senior table tennis squad to play in the Welsh Open. She has already played three times for the Welsh junior team, but this is the first time she has been called up for senior duty. Amongst other Stafford names in the news is Bill Bridgeman, who is now playing regularly for Trades and Labour in the local league, helping them to maintain an unbeaten record at the top of Division 1. Bill's name is now going forward to the ranking committee at County level and hopefully he will join the band of committed players willing to turn out regularly for the County. In second place is the RAF team led by County-ranked Bob Murray, and it will be surprising if either of these teams are displaced from their current positions. I am sorry to report that Dave Roberts, Rachel's father, has been in hospital for an operation. Dave is a stalwart in junior coaching in Stafford and plays a major role in the Staffordshire Schools Association. We wish him a speedy recovery.

Congratulations also to recent winners of the Halex Proficiency Awards. Top Gold Awards went to Stephen Slater and Kirk Roberts of the Potteries and to Ian Hodgetts of Tamworth and Silver Awards went to Richard Clark, John Moston, Darren Keogh, Dean Ellis, Mark Gwilt, David Graham and Darren Stokes. The awards were won at the Lilleshall Weekend held in December. Coaching secretary Graham Povey reported on a successful weekend attended by 24 juniors and 10 coaches. October 19/20 next season has been mentioned as the date for the next Lilleshall Weekend.

Entry forms are now available for the County Closed and most league representatives have them. Closing date for entries is March 7th. Ring me on Stafford 822013 for information or further forms.

The projected date for the Hard Bat Tournament is May 11th. Walsall, Stone, Stafford, Potteries, Lichfield and Tamworth have agreed to take part and agreement is still awaited from Wolverhampton, Leek, West Bromwich and Cannock. Each league will enter six players – we need a full entry in order to make up the required groups – and the individual winner will be awarded the Turner Trophy and the Beattie Trophy will go to the league winning the most matches within the groups. The tournament will be held at the GEC St. Leonards Sports and Social Club, Stafford and will follow the same format as the very successful event staged by the Stafford league.

Staffordshire juniors performed creditably at the recent National Ranking Tournament in Coventry. Pride of place goes to Jill Powis who finished 2nd amongst the girls. Adrian Dixon maintained his form by gaining 4th place in the boys. Other positions were:– Richard Hayward 16th, Kevin Lawrence 22nd, Stephen Slater 45th, Angela Sanders 14th and Helen Lower 22nd. These positions mean a good deal more than the compilations of the computer ranking list, and our congratulations go to all of them.

Stafford 'A' and Potteries 'A' have started strongly in Div. 1 of the County League. With the league starting late in the season, only two matches have been played up to the time of writing. Stafford's wins have been against Walsall 'A' (6-4) and Leek 'A' (8-2) and Potteries gained their points at the expense of Leek (7-3) and West Bromwich 'A' (6-4). Wolverhampton 'A' have surprisingly dropped points by losing to West Bromwich 7-3. Wolverhampton 'B' is the only team with a 100% record in Div. 2, with wins over Lichfield 'A' (8-2) and Stafford 'B' (6-4), and this division looks as though it will be closely contested. On the other hand, Walsall 'B' are well ahead in Div. 3 with big wins over Tamworth 'A' (10-0) and Potteries Ladies (9-1). Wolverhampton 'D' is the only side to have won two matches in Div. 4, but in this smaller division Lichfield 'B' and Stafford Veterans also have 100% records after only one match – I can also report that the 'old men' of Stafford have won their second match having been a member of the team myself, so they may be a force to be reckoned with. (Having been a veteran for more years than I care to remember, it's ridiculous how young some of the vets. seem these days!). Stone are strongly placed in Div. 5 following a 10-0 thrashing of Lichfield 'D' and a convincing 9-1 win over West Bromwich 'B'.

Frank Hams reports from . . . .

SURREY

MIDDLESEX 3-STAR OPEN

At the Middlesex Open, Surrey's most successful players in terms of points gained on the computer, were Mike Hammond and Michele Hams. Mike made a big impact by beating 3 higher ranked players and these wins now take him to No. 40 in the latest list. Michele beat 2 higher ranked players and is now elevated to No. 24 in the women's list. Other Surrey players who gained points were Brian and Allen Garroway, Rue Bole and David Harding. Also competing were Mark Oakley, Glen Baker, Steve Holloway, Selwyn Walmsley, Graham Bateman and Melville Taylor but I haven't their results to hand.

I only heard one of Mike's sets and that was against Andrew Dodd. His characteristic sound accompaniment and fist waving were there for all to observe. The match officials didn't object, but when his opponent began to mimic him it appeared that he, at least, was being distracted. Anyway at table tennis, Mike won 2 straight, and in the mimicking game, Andrew looked like a punch drunk boxer.

In the women's groups Jane Barella found Sara Sandley in good form but this was the only set she lost. Deborah Simmonds tried hard but found 3 senior women too difficult.

JUNIOR ENGLISH RANKING TOURNAMENT

Cadets

Cheryl Bateman and Richard Jones were the pick of Surrey's cadets in this tournament, Cheryl winning her group, and only losing in the last eight, to the eventual winner, Andrea Holt. In the recent Surrey junior tournament Cheryl played very well and of the sets I watched was my "girl of the day". If she gets the confidence from these results and manages to keep her nerves under control, I'm sure she has a great future. What I have said about Cheryl applies equally to Richard (except that Matthew Pernett was my "boy of the day"). These results now rank Cheryl at No. 11 in the cadet list and Richard, who eventually lost to Bradley Billington, is also No. 11.

Pernett beat the winner of the group, but lost to Richard and on games count back finished 3rd, so didn't qualify for the remainder of the tournament and is now ranked at No. 21. The other boy who played was G. Connolly (75). Also in the list is J. Krzystniak (89), J. Hole (91).

Juniors

Lesley Popkiewicz must have been disappointed not to qualify for the last 16 from a seeded position in her group. She is now ranked at No. 16. Claire Brooks also failed to qualify and is now ranked at No. 24.

For some reason or another Deborah Simmonds (No. 41) was not invited to the tournament. Other players on the list are Cheryl Bateman (50) and Karen Wilde (70). In the boys' section Martin Lowe was the only one to qualify to play in the tournament. In his group he lost every set except the last when he beat Thomas Blackman, a highly-ranked boy. Martin is now No. 76. Other boys in the list are M. Pernett (34), R. Jones (5), Andrew Davies (63).

SOUTHERN (DIS) COMFORT

In the **Southern region veterans' tournament** Surrey had two semi-finalists in Gordon Chapman, who was beaten in the 3rd by Derek Schofield; and "Connie" Warren who beat Henry Buist in the 3rd. My heading for this article relates to the final where "Connie" was thoroughly uncomfortable against Derek losing 2 straight, although in the preceding sets he had looked completely at ease. The only other Surrey player to get through the groups was Graham Brown. He then lost in the first round. Brian Simmonds and myself couldn't even progress that far. "Connie" also played in the restricted singles (restricted to players ranked below 30) and beat A. Rowden in the final. So a very successful day for him despite his defeat against Derek. I would imagine that when a new ranking list is compiled he won't be able to play in a restricted event again.

It was good to see Graham at the tournament. I have heard that one or two veterans in Surrey are wondering why they haven't been considered for the County side. Well unless we see them at tournaments, getting experience, and letting me know they are interested by being there, it will be very difficult for them to break into the team. Winning games in league table tennis is much easier than winning at County level.

I have managed to persuade

Gordon to make his debut in the County veterans' team and hopefully this will enable us to climb away from the bottom of the table. Now that "Connie" is pinging more regularly perhaps he will also agree to play. Gordon is now the highest ranked veteran in Surrey, at No. 7 in the latest Lentec list. Other players in the list are F. Hams (44), Brian Simmonds (49) and John Garland (94).

GRAHAM SPICER TABLE TENNIS CLUB

The Graham Spicer Club at New Malden, is where some of Surrey's cadets come along for coaching by Peter Corner and Fred Garbett. It also has a full league programme particularly in the Thames Valley League. The smooth running of the fixture list and related matters is due to the efforts of Greta Linter the present club secretary.

On Friday Dec. 14 the club held a social evening where all players and parents were invited. During the evening a sponsored event against the Stiga Robot was held to raise funds for the club. Each participant had 50 shots to return to the robot and was sponsored for each good return. The highest sponsored player was Daniel Dewar who raised £43.40; Johnathon Spoczynski raised over £35. The overall total raised was nearly £200. Other events were for fun including a double snooker and darts competition. A successful and enjoyable way of raising funds. During the evening, a presentation of a carriage clock was made by John Mowat, Trustee and former secretary of the club, to Peter Corner for his outstanding services to the club which include coaching and being a past secretary over many years.

SPONSORSHIP

In the next issue I hope to report on the Surrey Senior Closed Tournament. We are indebted to Cornilleau for the loan of the tables but at present we are still waiting for other sponsorship. Even though as you read this the tournament has finished it's not too late to make a donation. This also applies to the South of England 3-Star tournament which is being held at Farnborough on the Surrey/Hampshire border March 2/3. Please speak to Norman Hooper on 01-397 9533 who can advise how to help.

John Woodford reports from....

SUSSEX

UNHAPPY GRAHAM

The ups and downs in the Lentec computer rankings still seem to be creating a great deal of interest and massive entries for the 3-star and some 2-star tournaments.

Several Sussex players have been travelling one way and then the other like a yo-yo. Sussex champion Stephen Moore shot up to an exalted 22nd spot in November and then came down to 32 on the December list.

Possibly the most consistent Sussex player at the moment is Phil Smith who has made steady progress in the right direction and is now No. 45.

Not so happy is Graham Gillett who has dropped 27 places to 113 after failing to get his entry accepted for the Middlesex Open. He said it was in 14 days before entries closed. The Middlesex organisers emphatically deny that allegation and say that about 35 entries were returned but only those which arrived in the last four days before closing. Maybe the postal services between Sussex and Middlesex are not what they should be.

The remedy is for players to get their entries in early. I am quite sure that early entries stand little chance of being rejected and I cannot see any way that this type of complaint by the Gillett family at Bexhill can be handled at the new Regional Development structure where I am told, the complaint is to be laid. Looks more like a Championship Committee matter. What I think is important is that organisers are careful that only the late entries are thrown out and retain envelopes with postmarks to settle arguments.

On the Sussex junior scene the Haywards Heath boys trio of Paul Elphick, Martin Packham and Patrick Street, all from the mid-Sussex town, further proof how a group of players playing and practicing regularly can improve each other's play:

Rachel Mackriell will create a record if she wins the all-Sussex championship at Worthing Leisure Centre on March 24. Then it will be five in a row and as she is now a Sussex resident with a teaching post at Bexhill, further records are possible, although Teresa Moore with an England women's ranking of No. 25 will have other ideas.

After a season with Dolphins when they were based near Brighton, John Green the big-hitter from Coventry is back in the National League, making a debut for Erreys Print in Div 3, South.

England selectors' chairman Peter Charters is an admirer of the Green technique and if John could get a few more of those explosive drives on the table he would be an even greater force than he is.

Laurie Selby reports from.....

WILTSHIRE

BRIAN'S DRAMATIC ROLE

What started off as an evening of chaos and confusion turned into triumph for the Wiltshire senior team.

And the hero was Swindon's Brian Powell who literally stepped into the team at the last minute and played a dramatic role in Wiltshire's 9-1 victory over Hampshire.

Remarkably it was Wiltshire's first win in the County Championships and they desperately needed the points in their battle against relegation.

But when one of the Wiltshire players failed to arrived – his notification of the match went astray in the post – the home side's chances looked slim.

Powell was phoned just as the match started and he turned up trumps with two brilliant victories in his singles.

Wiltshire had another stroke of fortune when Hampshire's top player had car trouble and Keith Donaldson, who was to be non-playing captain, found himself in the side.

Ray Hughes scored his first victory for Wiltshire and, backed up by solid performances from first team regulars Kevin Satchell, Claire Maisey and Janet Parker, Wiltshire came away with an amazing victory.

Scores:

Hughes lost to Graham Toole -18, -15;
Powell bt Donaldson 14, 17;
Satchell bt Nicki Sinanan 11, 8;
Maisey/Parker bt Jill Green/Barbara Clare 19, 21.
Satchell/Hughes bt Toole/Sinanan -17, 16, 13.
Hughes bt Donaldson 13, -21, 12;
Parker bt Clarke -18, 19, 17;
Satchell bt Toole 11, -19, 16; Maisey bt Green 11, 15; Powell bt Sinanan 10, 14.

Swindon girls kept the Wiltshire flag flying in the Berkshire inter-town competition at Reading.

They finished top of the table in the under 17 section without dropping a match.

The Swindon girls – Lorraine Cox, Susan Vowles and Jenny Neale – started off with a 4-2 win over Reading, followed up with a 6-0 victory over Maidenhead and made sure of top spot by defeating Newbury 5-1.

Jenny was in fine form and finished the tournament undefeated.

Swindon boys' team marched into the third round of the Carter Cup competition with a 7-2 victory over Plymouth.

In the end the visitors came away with a comfortable victory but they had their work cut out early on.

Swindon were pegged back to 2-2 but then scooped up all the remaining sets.

Paul Tuck was in fine form for Swindon and won all his sets in straight games.

Swindon meet the winners of the South Devon v Launceston match in the next round.

Scores: (Plymouth names first):-

Neil Crook lost to Ian Neate -13, -10;
Adrian Sainsbury bt Raymond Powell 14, -17, 19;
Sean Gaylard lost to Paul Tuck -9, -13.
Sainsbury bt Neate 20, 21;
Crook lost to Tuck -7, -11;
Gaylard lost to Powell -18, -19;
Sainsbury lost to Tuck -17, -18.
Gaylard lost to Neate 14, -15, -18;
Crook lost to Powell -17, -16.

But the Swindon girls' side, entertaining Reading, went down 3-5 in the Bromfield Trophy.

All Swindon's wins came from Jenny Neale who lost only one game in the match.

Scores: (Swindon names first):-

Lorraine Cox lost to Mary Allan -14, -17;
Jenny Neale bt Yvonne Underwood 4, 9;
Sue Vowles lost to Claire Plumridge -14, -10.
Neale bt Allan 15, 10;
Cox lost to Plumridge -10, -15;
Vowles lost to Underwood -17, -14.
Neale bt Plumridge -13, 12, 15;
Vowles lost to Allan 15, -10, -15.

Les D'Arcy reports from....

YORKSHIRE

NEW IMPETUS

Interest in playing at veteran level is increasing throughout the County. Strong teams from Sheffield, Dewsbury and York have given a new impetus to an ever growing movement. Several of the vets are reaching new heights of achievement and players like Geoff Brook, Terry Curran, Stewart Milnes and several others are quite capable of extending the best non-veterans in the County on their day. Mick Wadsworth came within two points of defeating Yorkshire men's Champion, Steve Sharpe in an exciting inter-league match, recently. The other players continue to register outstanding performances at almost every outing.

One reason for the increased popularity of veterans' table tennis is the prestige given to it by the I.T.T.F. in organising and promoting biennial World Veterans' Championships and more recently the formation of the Veterans' English T.T. Society which just recently celebrated its first birthday. Secretary, Mike Watts, Chairman, Derek Schofield; Treasurer, Bill Moran; President, Maurice Goldstein OBE., and P.O. Officer, Gerry Batt-Rawden must be very happy with how things are going, but no doubt, would welcome some new members from Yorkshire. (See details re joining in VETTS Section). I recently took part in two of the Society's events: the Midland Vets' Open in Coventry and the Southern Tournament in Brighton. Steve Nunn and Brook both played well in the former. Steve won a silver in the 60+

doubles and reached the quarters of the men's singles in the same age group. Geoff's best performance was to take Ron Etheridge, current English and World's 60+ Champion to 19 in the third before going down in the 40+ restricted singles. The weather and distance probably kept my Yorkshire colleagues away from Brighton, but an invitation from Ron Etheridge to join him in the doubles proved too strong a temptation for me. Stayed with Ron and his wife, Margaret, at their home in London on the Saturday evening and enjoyed their first class hospitality. Was pleased it wasn't trophy cleaning time. With over two hundred to polish it could have been quite a task! This didn't seem to worry Ron for he went on to collect two more gold medals -60 class singles and doubles to add to gold medals won at world, national and regional levels in the last seven months – a remarkable achievement and a remarkable man.

SPOTLIGHT ON WAKEFIELD

Shock results occur in every league from time to time. Relatively unknown players sometimes defeat a higher ranked player, but when a player struggling with the rest of his team mates at the bottom of a local league division defeats three of the top city squad in one evening then it is something special. Wakefield Champions, Youth 'A' one of the strongest league sides in the county must have not been concerned about the absence of Steve Sharpe for the match against lowly placed 'Avery' who had not gained a point at the half way stage. Phil Tomlinson, top of last season's Wakefield League averages and Trevor Watson 3rd, were joined by city team mate, Guy Rothery, 12th.

Suddenly, the cold winter evening became electrified as an inspired Geoff Berry swayed the scales in Avery's favour with some tremendous attacking play to win his three singles and the doubles with Jack White. There the magic ended. Youth 'A' took the remaining six sets to win the match, but what a night for Geoff Berry whose splendid performance has given encouragement to 'under-dogs' thrughout the area.

Three newcomers to the Wakefield area this season are making a big impact in the Wakefield League. The Pike Family who hail from Selby seem to be improving every week. Junior, Richard leads the next to the top division averages with father Robin in second place. Cadet Timothy Pike has now over 50% in the division below. In addition to being a qualified coach, Robin is a keen student of rubber technology. His knowledge is proving very useful to combination bat players in his team which look on course for promotion to the Premier Division.

In recent Yorkshire League matches Wakefield players were in devastating form. Undaunted at being a man short for their fixture against Huddersfield 2nd team, Trevor Watson and Phil Tomlinson made up the three sets deficit to win 6-4, with each taking three singles in the process. Wakefield's Veteran Champion, Keith Hurley joined the men's 2nd team, at short notice, and gave them a tremendous boost with three wins in the singles in a 7-3 win over Barnsley 2nds. Neil Cafferty (2) and doubles with Mick Wood (1) were also Wakefield scorers. Wakefield Vets. produced the same score line against Harrogate Vets. Graham Bailey won a remarkable set in this match. 3-12 down in the first game he came back to win 23-21; lost the 2nd, -12 then came back from 20-21 down to take the final game from a bewildered Vic Smith who had scored 21 in each game and still lost against the tenacious Bailey.

The Wakefield League have recently lost the services of their enthusiastic young Yorkshire League Match Secretary for the men's teams, Guy Rothery, who has now moved to London to further his career. One of the youngest coaches in the County, Guy also played regularly in Wakefield, Dewsbury and Leeds. Another young coach and promising inter league player, nineteen-year-old Neil Cafferty (Tel: 0924 272380) is the man who takes over from Guy.

Joanne Shaw who in addition to playing in Wakefield is now playing in the Super Division, Sheffield for the Public Works 1st Team with Chris Oldfield, Neil Simms and Cleve Judson. Having played for the same team I found it a very enjoyable experience and well organised by Chris's father John. The strong opposition in the Super and the coaching from Rowden Fullen at the Wakefield Alan Hydes Dunlop Centre seems to be paying off. Joanne collected two gold medals at the English Junior Beneficial Trust Closed, defeating Jill Powis in the Girls' final and then paired to take the doubles' title. "Keep up the good work Joanne!"

LEEDS LEAGUE

The current top three players in Division One of the Leeds League: Dave Indriks, Bob Shutt and Paul Sanderson are the same trio who topped the averages last season. Nigel Pennock and Alan Jefferey lead Div. 2 and are helping their team Waddingtons 'B' to prepare for the first division next season. Former Leeds Veterans' Champion, Don Kelly and team mate David Clarke head Div. 3 averages and help give Lawnswood Y.M.C.A. a four points lead as division leaders.

British Telecom's No. 1, Terry Caine, leads the Div. 4 "B" averages from Leeds Juniors/Cadets coach John Stallard.

Veteran Fred Heath is enjoying a successful time in Div. 5 "A". He is topping the list of averages with 95.83% having won 23 out of 24 sets.

His closest rivals are John Whitworth, David Walton, Trevor Hick and John Walker – all with averages of over 80%.

All three regular Bain Dawes players figure in the top 15 in Div. 5 "B" with their No. 1, John Dakin, so far undefeated.

Div. 6 "A" players Dave Noutch, Ian Sutcliffe and Mike Hodgson all show in the top ten. They do not figure higher than 80% but their performances have helped to put their Calverley team on top of the table.

Waddington's John Binks tops Div. 6 "B" followed by Brian Pine of Vickers Engineering.

The Systime No. 1 Ian Frazer, leads Div. 7 "A" averages with just over 90% and YEB's Geoff Thompson is second on 87%.

In this division, however, the two Polytechnic girls – Helen Frost (100%) and Karen Brown (83%) could well figure in the final top 10, providing they play enough of the remaining matches.

Another 100% player after the qualifying number of games is Adel Memorial Hall's David Watts, who has a magnificent 30 out of 30 and team-mate Keith Peers has lost only two – a record shared with Jack Metcalfe, of Rose Forgrove.

Div. 8 has the only other 100% man in Steve Anischenko, from Pudsey Dynamos, with Jack Burnett, Ian Moorhouse, Peter Abbott and Andrew Sutcliffe all turning in 80% plus.

YORKSHIRE LEAGUE
Sponsored by Morte for Sport
(LEADING POSITIONS)

MEN'S PREMIER	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Harrogate 1	3	3	0	0	23	6
Bradford 1	3	3	0	0	23	6
Sheffield 1	3	3	0	0	20	6

MEN'S DIV. ONE	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Leeds 1	3	3	0	0	24	6
Sheffield 2	3	2	1	0	19	5
Wakefield 1	3	2	0	1	17	4
Harrogate 2	3	2	0	1	16	4

MEN'S DIV. TWO	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Barnsley 1	3	3	0	0	21	6
Rotherham	3	2	1	0	19	5
Leeds 2	3	1	2	0	18	4
Halifax 1	3	2	0	1	17	4

MEN'S DIV. THREE	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Castleford/Pon	3	2	1	0	23	5
Leeds 3	2	2	0	0	16	4
York 3	2	1	1	0	12	3
Harrogate 3	3	1	1	1	16	3

MEN'S DIV. FOUR	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Hull 3	3	2	1	0	22	5
Northall 2	2	2	0	0	15	4
Halifax 2	3	2	0	1	19	4
Ryedale	2	1	1	0	14	3

WOMEN'S DIV.	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Bradford	4	4	0	0	38	8
Sheffield	3	3	0	0	28	6
Wakefield	3	3	0	0	27	6
Hull 1	3	3	0	0	22	6

VETS' DIV. ONE	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Huddersfield 1	3	3	0	0	22	6
York 1	3	3	0	0	21	6
Wakefield	3	2	0	1	20	4

VETS' DIV. TWO	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Castleford/Pon	3	3	0	0	22	6
Barnsley	2	2	0	0	16	4
York 2	3	2	0	1	21	4
Halifax 1	3	2	0	1	17	4

VETS' DIV. THREE	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Dewsbury	3	3	0	0	27	6
York 3	3	2	0	1	22	4
Sheffield	2	2	0	0	14	4

JUNIOR PREMIER	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Sheffield 1	4	4	0	0	28	8
Doncaster 1	4	3	0	1	28	6
Bradford 1	3	2	0	1	16	4
Doncaster 2	4	2	0	2	14	4

JUNIOR DIV. ONE	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Wakefield 2	3	3	0	0	20	6
Harrogate	4	3	0	1	19	6
Sheffield 2	3	2	0	1	15	4
Selby	3	2	0	1	15	4

CADETS' DIV. ONE	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Selby 1	3	3	0	0	22	6
Castleford/Pon	2	2	0	0	12	4
Selby 2	2	1	0	1	9	2

CADETS' DIV. TWO	P	W	D	L	ST	PT
Hull	2	2	0	0	14	4
Halifax	1	1	0	0	9	2
Barnsley	1	1	0	0	5	2

A.T.T.P.

(Association of Table Tennis Players)

Hon. President: Johnny Leach M.B.E.
Hon. Chairman: Barry Johnson (Tel. 05646 2978)
Hon. Treasurer: Jill Hammersley-Parker M.B.E.
Hon. Secretary: Colin Wilson (Tel. 0707 874751)
Co-ordinator: Derek Baddeley (Tel. 06845 3763)
Committee Members: David Barr, Karen Smith.

This Association has been formed by popular demand after careful discussion by the steering committee named above, and its main objectives are:–

1. To ensure that the interests of all members in organised table-tennis are safeguarded.
2. To establish improved communication with the E.T.T.A. on all matters affecting our members.
3. To create further opportunities for promoting and expanding the game of table-tennis by increased sponsorship, publicity and special events.

We trust that considered and sensible negotiation with the E.T.T.A. and other interested parties will prevent future occurrences of the unfortunate disputes and confrontations between players and officials which have marred the past two seasons.

At the same time, we ask our members to behave responsibly, to play to the spirit of the rules of the game, and to avoid actions which could cause trouble and dissent; any grievances being brought to the notice of your committee for consideration and possible action.

Heading the membership are the current English champions Desmond Douglas and Alison Gordon.

A.T.T.P. Membership Form

Name: .....

Address: .....

..... Tel:.....

Club: .....

League: .....

Signed: .....

£2.00 Membership fee to be enclosed.

Post to: Colin Wilson, Hon. Sec. A.T.T.P.,
25 Brookside Crescent,
CUFFLEY,
Herts.

You will be supplied with a Membership Card.

Pontesbury U-12 and U-14 Team Events

Without doubt, now one of the most popular events in the table tennis calender, is Pontesbury U-12 and U-14 team tournament for the Shropshire Star Shield, this year to be held on June 8/9. The U-12 event will be played on Saturday and the U-14 event on Sunday. The event, now five years old, last year attracted a maximum entry, with association teams from as far apart as Cleveland, Cornwall and Kent.

The success of the tournament is in its format. A maximum of 16 teams of 4 players, boys and/or girls, in each event being divided by known strength and location into 4 groups of 4. All play all, with group winners competing for positions 1 to 4, whilst 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, in each group compete for positions 5-8, 9-12 and 13-16.

Each match is played on 2 tables and consists of 8 singles. With each match scheduled for 1 hr 20 mins each player will play 10 times during the day which commences at 9.30 a.m. and ends at 5.30 p.m., and costs only £10 per team.

Accommodation in this most beautiful part of England is reasonably priced and quite plentiful. If your association would like to know more, then contact without delay, organiser John Morris at 2 School Bank, Pontesbury, Shrewsbury SY5 OPP. 'Phone:- 0743 790303 (B) or 0743 340 (H).

LANCASHIRE SENIOR 2-STAR OPEN

Confusion still exists as to the date of this season's Lancashire Senior 2-Star Open. It is to take place on Saturday, April 20/85 for the 30th occasion at British Aerospace Dynamics, Lostock, nr Bolton. Prize money is likely to reach a record £1,000 and application for entry forms should be made to Mr. G. R. Yates, 43 Knowsley Road, Bolton. BL1 6JH.

IN THE FIRING LINE

By Budimir Vojinovic, Novi Sad, Yugoslavia.

Personal Viewpoints

by Peter Charters,
Vice-Chairman, Selection/Coaching

I would like to make some personal views known, hopefully to instigate some constructive debate in the pages of Table Tennis News. Out of this discussion may come ideas for realistic improvements in our sport.

At the base of ETTA activity I would advocate the rise of the large clubs. The creation of at least one purpose built, minimum four-table venue, in each community area of the country would bring with it tremendous advantages to table tennis with few, if any, disadvantages.

At grass roots level, if the current 'push' in schools, with the help of the new Dunlop Skills Award Scheme, is successful then there is a need for a link between school and club. The vast majority of clubs as they are now structured have not the facility or the will to take in raw players straight from school.

I applaud leagues who have set up such centres of their own but I believe that clubs are better suited organisationally to this task. The leagues' primary role is to set up and run league and associated play for their members. The setting up of coaching activities would surely be easier within a large club unit. The National Coaches have had difficulty on occasions with communications at grass roots level because of the fragmented day by day relationship between league committees and their numerous small clubs.

Sponsorship would be easier to obtain by a club with a large membership and venue to offer. In some cases, even without these, National League clubs have shown what can be done in the way of sponsorship. Such clubs could afford to support their top players, both in the provision of facilities and finance.

The membership of these clubs would have an individual stake in its success. The club's success would be measured by the standard of its top players, by numbers of youngsters constantly being brought into the sport, by the numbers being kept, by the attraction of sponsorship and by the community and social services provided.

Such a club must be good for the standard of the table tennis played. The provision of good local practice and training facilities, seven days a week, sixteen hours a day with a quality practice partner at the other end of the table, is one of the sport's greatest problem in this country.

The top players in England have this very problem and many have to scrape around in an attempt to overcome it. I have seen some examples of clubs moving in this direction (Ellenborough and Ashford in the London area) and I would like to visit others. Those people who have been successful in setting up such clubs should let it be known in detail how it was done. We need many more.

EQUIPMENT

Enough on clubs, I could say more but I hope this is enough to start a debate on the subject. There most certainly is a need for debate on equipment. Is standardisation the answer?

The villain of the peace is spin, or to be more accurate the mixture of excessive spin, disguised spin and non-spin, the latter can be achieved with sleight of hand or with skilful use (some say no skill is needed) of certain types of rubber. This is perhaps an over simplification but it is basically the case. We all seem to want to see longer rallies. I doubt if we all want to see fifteen minutes pushing rallies. What seems to be most popular are the lengthy loop to loop rallies with both players well away from the table; the attacker versus chop defence/retrieve rally or the attacker versus top spin/lob defence rally. In each case at least one player is some distance from the table and the rallies are invariably longer.

We must be careful that changes in equipment and/or rules do not deprive us of certain players who provide visually popular table tennis; internationally Secretin and domestically Barr, two players whose rubber requirements differ considerably. It is a difficult problem but a simple solution is desirable. The two colour rule was simple and effective. The changes in the service rule, I would contend, were complicated and ineffective.

Some suggestions put i.e. the raising of the net, 'doubles' service for singles, increasing the size of the table, decreasing the thickness of the sponge rubber, standardisation etc., all have inherent weaknesses in obtaining the desired result. More suggestions please.

CLOTHING

Two areas for further discussion must be the up-dating of table tennis clothing – moderate-coloured stripes for example are not the distraction traditionally accepted – and the staging of finals at tournaments. So often I have witnessed the quarter-finals of an event along with many other spectators during the mid-afternoon only to find that come the early/middle evening staging of the finals the majority of the spectators have left – not the best situation to encourage sponsors.

I have heard it suggested that the singles should be played through leaving the doubles until after the finals of the singles. Alternatively Class 2 events could fill that gap, tournaments could be shorter or certain events such as doubles could be dropped. All these ideas would either create difficulties for, or opposition from certain quarters; but if the problem is discussed an acceptable solution may be found.

There is much about table tennis in England that is good but there is also concern about the real problems that we face. There is a great deal of knowledge among the silent majority in English table tennis and it is time that that knowledge was put forward in constructive and open debate.

John Woodford writes . . .

CLEARING UP the POINTS raised by the Secretary of the Eastbourne League, Derek Wilkinson, the man who suspended the town's top two players in Eastbourne during October.

1. No one is suggesting that it is an ideal situation when top players cannot appear regularly or even occasionally in the local league because of other commitments. Most leagues would, it is felt, not pick them for inter-town games and leave it at that.
2. As a staff journalist in Eastbourne and a national freelance, I am far too busy to "generate" wars. The presentation of the affair, content and size of headlines was not in my hands but in those of the sports editor and when the crunch came the Editor himself took over and some of my copy was re-written.
3. Months after the peace broke out in Eastbourne, I still have not yet met a player (apart from the four who made the decision) who agrees with the way it was handled, that is suspension without warning or chance to speak.
4. It is common knowledge in sport today that players subject to disciplinary action must be given a chance to defend themselves before sentence is passed.
5. Derek Wilkinson will never be more wrong in all of his life when he claims that his move against the Rowdens **would** have been supported by the majority.
6. Every single player and official I have spoken to in my travels found the Eastbourne suspensions laughable, totally out of keeping with "natural justice" in a democracy and a decision likely to make table tennis an even smaller sport than it is, including a former Eastbournian none other than Gordon Steggall, Chairman of the ETTA coaching administration.
7. Great efforts are now being made to repair the damage. Nothing can be done to restore the withdrawal of the men's 'A' team from the county inter-league event, a direct cause of the ban, but behind-the-scenes talks are now going on to restore the disarray amongst the executive committee before the summer AGM when it is possible that not all the officers will stand for re-election, another direct cause of the dispute.

Standardisation: Myth or Masochism?

John Prean looks at the Options

I cannot as yet be sure, but I think the National Council has given guarded approval to our delegates to the ITTF Congress to raise this subject. The meeting was held in a room in which it was hard to listen and to hear. Things had been so mismanaged by the hotel that a noisy drill somewhere above drowned what Councillors had to say and that is why my reports are hazy. It cost an estimated £1,250 to bring them all together, money not well spent on that occasion.

Graceful Figures...

Standardisation is like goodness and peace. We are ALL in favour of such laudable objectives. I am, sadly, old enough to remember those graceful figures in grey, long trousers playing beautiful, long strokes in rally after rally. Time has lent enchantment to those golden days, but at times it was sheer magic. Then, in 1952, the Japs started playing with sponge and in 1954 they swamped us. They were not playing the same game! Many associations fought a gallant (?) rearguard action, banning the new-fangled material in their own lands. It was not till 1959 that 'the great compromise' was reached, reducing the maximum thickness to 4mm. Standardisation had won. Or so we thought.

Those dreaded pimples...

Long before 1977, the year of the Birmingham World Championships, players began to use combination bats and again the cry for standardisation went out. It was heeded to some extent, first by reducing the length of the dreaded long pimples to 2mm, then by imposing different colours on the two sides of the blade.

I am mystified....

At this point my mystification begins. WHAT exactly are we trying to standardise? Are we trying to inflict yet further agonies on the 'funny bat' brigade? Or are we trying to get down at this late hour to some measures that will make sponge less fast, easier to return, so that **some** rallies last longer than a few seconds?

Bicycle Glue

Despite temptations to the contrary, I cannot see how 'Bike Glue' can be banned. This certainly, apart from ruining rubber very quickly, makes it faster and is now regarded as a 'must' in many celebrated hands, but I can see no way in which an umpire can tell it apart from 'normal' glue which merely sticks rubber to blade. We tried to do that with the many strange, hidden services now in use... but that is another story.

I only had Jonyer's (Hair) Style...

You CAN reduce the thickness of the sandwich to 1½mm or even 1 mm, but will the players of today want to play with this? Manufacturers will tell you that most of their sales are in the greater thickness. I was no Jonyer – even in my prime – except in hairstyle, but I insisted on the maximum thickness. It gave me more options and the chance to play more imaginatively.

Impudence.

I would regard it as quite unwarranted impudence if my governing body told me that from now on I had to play with something with which I did not enjoy playing. If you lose members every year, the last thing you want to do is to upset the few you have left. I have tried to make this point to our ETTA in many articles. Many years in business have taught me that there is no quicker way to ruin than to dictate to your customers. It is a mistake I have managed to avoid. It grieves me to see our ETTA falling into that trap.

A masochistic life style....

Piling further restrictions on the combination bat fraternity is now pointless. It takes a high degree of skill to use them successfully under the new rules. There will always be exceptional players, but I see the 'combi' mainly as a defensive weapon for players who enjoy a masochistic life style and play 'from the back of the hall', a beautiful, but often losing game.

We undoubtedly led Europe. Stan Lenton's firm made the best long pimple rubber and our players were years ahead in the use of these materials, but we threw away that lead. I therefore say 'Enough is enough'.

A higher Net after all?

If we all feel that the way to a more attractive sport lies in longer rallies, then there is only one answer: A HIGHER NET. It has been pointed out to me quite properly that millions of new nets would have to be bought all over the world, but this would still cost a lot less than new rubbers in new colours and thicknesses yet again. I advocate a limited experimental period during which we try a few different heights, play a few tournaments with these and then have another look at the situation.

The Ship is Burning – Let's rearrange the deck chairs...

To bowdlerise a famous phrase, when the ship is burning, you have to do something dramatic – like putting out the fire. Re-arranging the deck chairs is no longer enough. I don't think, in our terms, taking our members' bats away from them and making them play with something else is a very good idea, all things considered.

My own Government Health Warning

Table Tennis in England, less so in other countries, is now on the foundations of very thin ice. The ice may break one day and then the Sport will fall in and drown or freeze to death. We are not far from that happy fate and each wrong decision brings us nearer. There are now many other sports that can take our members away from us.

I am all in favour of change, but this time let's get it right. More bungling will harm the health of the sport and in time kill it.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS' TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

by David Lomas

By the time these notes appear in print (and providing that the current arctic weather abates and the Area Finals take place as planned) then the teams which have qualified for the Regional Finals stage of the Dunlop National School Team Championships will be known.

The Area Finals were due to take place during the weekend of Jan. 19/20. Looking through the list of schools involved it is apparent that there are no entries from Durham, East Sussex, Isle of Wight, Leicestershire, Northumberland and North Yorkshire.

However, there are maximum entries from West Yorkshire (six from Wakefield), Cumbria (six from Barrow-in-Furness), Lancashire, Derbyshire and Lincolnshire in the North Region.

In the Midlands and West Region the Shropshire total includes five entries from Market Drayton and maximums from Staffordshire and Cornwall.

Bedford Modern School provide all four boys' teams whilst all four girls' teams are from the Luton area in the Bedfordshire challenge. Suffolk and Essex County have a "full house" and Brampton Manor from the London Borough of Newham have four teams through.

Six of the eight titles at stake are being defended.

The Regional Finals are scheduled to take place on Sunday, Feb. 24 at Leeds (Moor Grange High School), Stroud (Stratford Park Leisure Centre) and Orpington (Walnuts Sports Centre), commencing at 10 a.m.

The Dunlop Skills Award Scheme has been launched (as readers of last month's issue of this magazine will know). Thanks are expressed to teacher Bryn Jones and pupils of Hillcross Middle School, Morden, for giving their support and taking part in the launch.

Arrangements are well in hand for the Dunlop English Schools' Individual Championships to be held at Mansfield Leisure Centre on Sunday, May 5th. County Schools Associations are reminded that they are due to notify the Competition Secretary – Paul Birch – by March 1st as to which events they will have entrants (county winners) in.

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Further information available from:
SUSAN DRUMMOND at the ETTA office.

All publications and course information is available from:

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21 Claremont, Hastings,
East Sussex TN34 1HF.

UNIVERSITIES' ATHLETIC UNION INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Mark Horsfall

The splendid Sports hall of Bath University was the venue for the 1984/85 U.A.U. Individual Championships, held over the weekend of Nov. 17/18, and the number of entries was well up on last season's figure, a heartening sign in these worrying times. 185 players competed in the 5 events from 26 universities and it was good to see the return of Lancaster, Salford, Manchester and Cardiff after a number of seasons without representation at this tournament.

Star of the show was Loughborough's Susan Blackburn who reached three finals winning the women's and mixed doubles and finishing runner-up in the women's singles to improve on her impressive haul at last season's championships.

The men's singles attracted 139 entries with defending champion Paul Rainford of York seeded behind Keele fresher Adrian Moore. For once the top 8 seeds were present and there were few surprises as the rounds progressed. Moore came through his expected battles with the 12th and 5th seeds, Colin Wilson of Leicester and Exeter's Stuart Richards, to a semi-final meeting with former British Universities' champion Neil Bailey of Sheffield, quarter-final victor over Swansea's Jeremy Hobbs.

In the other half of the draw Rainford was completely untroubled in reaching the semi-finals, his meeting in the last 8 with the classy and previously impressive Marc Labeille of Salford being disappointing in the case of the Frenchman's submission. The semi-final line-up was completed by that most consistent and dedicated of players Phil Aspinall of Sheffield whose dogged blocking game was too good for the 4th seed Alan Briscoe from Sussex.

At this stage both the Sheffield men made their exits as Moore outplayed Bailey and Rainford overcame the defence of county colleague Aspinall. Unlike so many finals the Moore – Rainford encounter was a thriller, as the holder belied the massive computer ranking difference to take the first game from the Keele man with controlled aggression. Moore then led for most of the 2nd game but became frantic in his efforts to win, going for the rash shots while Rainford mostly just kept the ball on the table. Surviving several game points it was Rainford who eventually showed the greater nerve to take the set 28-26 and retain his title.

In the women's singles British Universities' champion and No. 1 seed Sarah Sandley was a non-arrival leaving a rather bottom-heavy draw. The preliminary groups threw up no real surprises and the six seeds present proceeded comfortably to the quarters. Leicester's Julia Woodcock took advantage of Sandley's absence to reach the last four, there going under to the resilient Blackburn who had overcome local hope Pam Graham to reach the semis. In the lower half defending champion Lesley Tyler of Swansea despatched the Bristol dark horse Mary Heffernan whilst Jean Parker was going well in her first championships beating Loughborough's Jane Leonard for a place in the last four, where after two close games were shared, she ran away with the 3rd against Miss Tyler.

The final saw Parker reach her peak as she served well and attacked fiercely on both wings to take the first game against Blackburn, then hold off a strong challenge in the 2nd and showed the greater consistency to take the title 21-17.

In the men's doubles the seedings worked out perfectly to the final, where Salford newcomers Tanner and Labeille maintained the brilliant form they had shown throughout the event to devastate Sheffield's defending champions Bailey and Aspinall.

The women's doubles saw Loughborough's Blackburn and Leonard go one better than last season, winning easily against surprise finalists Heffernan and Sian Herbert of Bristol after a much closer dual with Parker and Alison Currie of Lancaster in the semis.

The mixed doubles looked a far more open affair than for many years with no university having players from both the men's and women's singles seeds and Susan Blackburn completed her trio of finals when, in partnership with the consistent Robert Liquorish the Loughborough pair took out Swansea's top-seeded Hobbs and Tyler.

Steve Bryant and Pam Graham of Bath excelled themselves to provide local interest in the finals removing the much-fancied John Roberts and Julia Woodcock of Leicester, but despite taking the 2nd game were forced to give second best to Liquorish and partner. The championships, possibly the last under the present U.A.U. structure, were superbly run by Bristol referee Tim Harris, ably assisted by June Watts, who ensured that play ran smoothly to schedule throughout the weekend.

Results:–

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
A. Moore (Keele) bt S. Richards (Exeter) 10,14;
N. Bailey (Sheff) bt J. Hobbs (Swansea) 10,18;
P. Aspinall (Sheff) bt A. Briscoe (Sussex) -18,14,16;
P. Rainford (York) bt M. Labeille (Salford) 16,13.
Semi-finals:
Moore bt Bailey 8,13;
Rainford bt Aspinall 18,-14,17.
Final: RAINFORD bt Moore 18,26.
Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
J. Woodcock (Leic) bt J. Cilaison (Soton) 11,7;
S. Blackburn (Lough) bt P. Graham (Bath) 15,12;
L. Tyler (Swansea) bt M. Heffernan (Bristol) 14,7;
J. Parker (Lancaster) bt J. Leonard (Lough) 11,16.
Semi-finals:
Blackburn bt Woodcock 17,16;
Parker bt Tyler 19,-20,8.
Final: PARKER bt Blackburn 15,17.
Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Aspinall/Bailey bt P. Cadman (Keele)/Moore 18,15;
Labeille/R. Tanner (Salford) bt J. Turner/J. Woolins (B'gham) 12, 6.
Final: LABEILLE/TANNER bt Aspinall/Bailey 12,13.
Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Blackburn/Leonard bt A. Currie (Lanc)/Parker 18, -14,12;
Heffernan/S. Herbert (Bris) bt K. Hitching (Swan)/Tyler -15,19,10.
Final: BLACKBURN/LEONARD bt Heffernan/Herbert 13,10.
Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:
R. Liquorish (Lough)/Blackburn bt Hobbs/Tyler -16,17,16;
S. Bryant (Bath)/Graham bt J. Roberts (Leic)/Woodcock 16,19.
Final: LIQUORISH/BLACKBURN bt Bryant/Graham 10,-18,14.

Alan Tops The Poll

ALAN COOKE has scooped the first ever "Derbyshire Times" Sports Personality of the Year Award. "Cookie", newly promoted to No. 2 in the Lentec computer rankings, topped the poll with a massive majority. In fact he received more nominations than all the other contenders put together.

Cricketer Geoff Miller was runner-up, with footballer Ernie Moss in third place. Nominations were also received for Moss's Chesterfield team-mate Bob Newton and darts ace John Lowe. But the name of Alan Cooke will be the first to be engraved on the new "Derbyshire Times" Sports Personality Trophy.

And "personality" proved to be the key word as many who voted for Cooke praised him for his sportsmanship, dedication and modesty. "He is a perfect ambassador for his sport" explained one of his fans, while another said he was an inspiration to the young people of Chesterfield.

Cooke first picked up a table tennis bat when Colin Deaton introduced the sport to Holmgate Primary School around ten years ago. He quickly won bronze, silver and gold awards and then joined Chesterfield Activity Centre where he received expert coaching from Derrick Marples. He first entered tournaments at the age of 13 and in his first year in serious competition he achieved fourth spot in the cadet ranking list.

LANCASHIRE LIFE

Congrats All Round

By Geo. R. Yates

Congratulations to Bolton's **Stephen Scowcroft** and **Andrea Holt** of Bury on their invitation by the ETTA's Selection Committee to participate in the individual events of the 8th Commonwealth Championships in the Isle of Man.

Nineteen such invitations have gone out but the expenses will be borne by the invitees unless, as in the case of Scowcroft, who is locally sponsored by Kirkby Central (Bolton) Ltd., the Vauxhall/Opel car dealers, financial help can be obtained.

But for that loss to Surrey in the first of the County Championships Premier Division weekends at Stone, Lancashire would have become champions for, on the second such weekend, at Wanstead, they recorded wins over Essex (5-4), Middlesex (5-4), Cambs (6-3) and Staffs (8-1). What a string of results!

Just four players represented the Red Rose county at Wanstead, namely Steven Turner of Preston, Scowcroft and Shaun Browne of Bolton and Jean Parker of Preston, and between them they won 24 out of the 36 sets contested.

Turner had just one loss in his eight singles – to Skylet Andrew of Essex – whilst Miss Parker, sister of England Trainer/Coach Donald, was undefeated beating Lisa Hayden, Sarah Sandley, Joanne Palmer and Fiona Elliot!

Scowcroft returned 5 wins, including victory over John Souter, whilst Browne equated at 4-4. Scowcroft and Miss Parker won 3 of their mixed doubles, Turner and Browne one of their 4 men's doubles.

Meantime, at Bamber Bridge, Lancashire's second senior team were 'whitewashed' by Warwickshire whose Carl, "The Major" Morgan, Phil Gunn, players' rep Barry Johnson, Karen Groves and Sandra Peakman gang-banged the Lancastrians. It proved an unhappy evening for Blackburn's Phil Blake and Graham Clarke as well as Oldham's Phil Aspinall, Amanda Goodwin and Carey Whithead.

But, earlier in the day, at the same Post Office Transport Dept venue, Lancashire's juniors excelled in seeing off Leicestershire 9-1, the one set to escape them being that lost by Andrew Eden to Paul Bumpus. Unbeaten were Sean Gibson, Lee Brown, Lynne Harnden and Nicola McGrath, the latter being unbeaten this season in singles with 5 successive victories to her credit.

County Championships – Senior Premier Division
Lancashire – "ALMOST BUT NOT QUITE"

by Stuart Sneyd

After what can only be described as one of the best team performances ever produced by Lancashire, the red rose county finished runners up to Middlesex – equal on points and separated only by sets average. In the final analysis, victory quite rightly belonged to Middlesex, but they were stopped firmly in their tracks going down 4-5, to the Lancastrians from Bolton and Preston, in their only defeat.

With Lancashire lying third after the Stone weekend, and equal on points with Berkshire and Surrey, there was everything to play for, but there were possible dangers ahead. With John Hilton, Don Parker and Joy Grundy all unavailable and the 2nd team match at Preston causing a conflict of fixtures, the selectors decided to stick with the line up at Stone, but this time without reserves. An injury, and we were almost certainly doomed. As it turned out, problems were few.

And so it was at Wanstead Sports Centre that Steve Turner, Steve Scowcroft, Shaun Browne and Jean Parker prepared for their first encounter against the host county, Essex. A see-saw affair was this, with Skylet Andrew showing his class and proving an irritating obstacle. At 4-all the outcome depended on Shaun Browne's battle with Dave Newman. As the Lancashire umpire representative, I happened to be in the control room at the time, exchanging a few "pleasantries", on the likely result, with Essex Referee, Valerie Roffe. Shaun went down 14 in the first and the lady had the advantage. In typical fashion, however, the Boltonian came back with a bang, winning the second to 7. By this time neither Val or myself could bear to watch. Shaun finally clinched it at 18 in the third, in what was described as probably the set of the session. I beat a hasty retreat – Referees can be nasty at times!

The second session had us scheduled to take on favourites Middlesex. Having just squeezed home against Essex we expected problems, but how wrong we were. Steve Turner's first set win over Colin Wilson set the scene but consecutive victories by John Souter and Dave Wells put Middlesex back in front. The Steve Scowcroft/Jean Parker combination made it 2-all, but Steve Turner and Shaun Browne failed to clinch the men's doubles. Jean levelled it, yet again, beating Sarah Sandley in three, but Colin Wilson's victory over Shaun Browne made it 4-3 to Middlesex, and the odds now seemed heavily stacked against Lancashire. Every set had so far gone to three and by this time the other matches had finished, which gave me the opportunity, for the first time, of joining the players. How satisfying it was to have a ringside seat to witness what followed. Steve Turner, working as hard as ever, took Dave Wells in two straight – surely it was too much to expect Steve Scowcroft to follow that and take the final set for victory. But follow it he did, and obviously inspired by Turner's win turned on a superb and almost clinical performance to leave a bemused John Souter nursing the wounds of a two straight loss. The sight of a blue coated and supposedly impartial official gyrating with ecstasy might have been too much for some people, but under those circumstances it would most certainly happen again. Needless to say, dinner at the Woodford Moat House went down like a dream.

Sunday morning saw us take on bottom of the table Cambridgeshire. Consecutive losses by Steve Scowcroft and Shaun Browne made it look as though the Middlesex encounter had taken too much of a toll but wins by Steve Turner and the Scowcroft/Jean Parker duo levelled it at 2-all. The men's doubles saw us go behind again but Jean Parker produced the goods against Joanne Palmer and from then on the adrenalin began to flow and with wins from Scowcroft, Turner and Browne, the final score line finished at 6-3 in favour of Lancashire.

We knew our final encounter against Staffordshire could have been a tricky affair. The potteries county lay just two points behind, and level with Yorkshire. It looked too as though the tykes might well finish with a better sets average. We were certainly under pressure, but so too were Middlesex – they had to beat Essex. The southerners weren't prepared to take any chances and Graham Sandley appeared for the first time. As it turned out we registered our heaviest victory, running out winners 8-1, the only loser being Shaun Browne who went down 2 straight to Adrian Dixon. At this point, however, the match had already been won and it looked as though the Bolton lad was only too glad to finally relax.

So there it was – runners-up – level on points with champions Middlesex and 2 points clear of Yorkshire. This was very much a team performance and not just on the table. After the Stone weekend, it was said that we lacked a focal point and someone to pull the show together. Don Parker had traditionally fulfilled the role admirably, but he was no longer available, and the selectors therefore decided to appoint Stan Clarke, from Liverpool, as non-playing captain. That decision couldn't have been bettered. From start to finish Stan provided quiet and, often, not so quiet, encouragement, bringing together these vastly different characters into one complementary outfit. The team spirit was absolutely superb and although, as an umpire, I was often quite remote, I was always a part of the Lancashire squad – and proud of it. Spare a thought too for team manager and county match secretary, Marjorie Riddle, whose efficiency in taking care of the administrative arrangements left others free to concentrate on the reason for being there – to win. WELL DONE LANCASHIRE.

FINAL AVERAGES	P	W	%
Steve Turner	14	9	64.3
Steve Scowcroft	14	8	57.1
Shaun Browne	14	7	50.0
Jean Parker	7	6	85.7
Turner/Browne	7	3	42.9
Scowcroft/Parker	7	5	71.4

Finally, on behalf of Lancashire County T.T.A., I would like to take the opportunity of thanking Essex County T.T.A. and the County Championships Committee for staging this superbly organised weekend. To Dick and Val Roffe, to Murray Corbin and to the many others involved – WELL DONE.

Midland League Report

by John Barber

In Men's Div. 1, Chesterfield having lost two matches, played a stronger team including Maurice and Bradley Billington, won against Wolverhampton "A", leaving Notts "A" as the only unbeaten team in this division.

Nuneaton took 9 from Burton in Div. 3. Burton's Junior team also went down 9-1 to Walsall in Div. 2 although four sets did go to the third. In Junior Div. 3 Birmingham "B" continue their habit of taking all 10 and look favourites for the title although Stafford may have other ideas. Walsall "B" went down 3-7 to both Stafford and Bromsgrove in two very competitive and keenly fought encounters.

In Div. 4 Rugby outclassed Nuneaton and their match with Stroud will probably decide the title. In Vets' Div. 1, there was an amazing encounter at Birmingham whose "A" team drew 5-5 with Notts "A". In a hard match which lasted six hours, six sets went to expedite! R. Bolton's three sets were involved in these as were A. Saunders' thus A. Sutton, B. Belcher and M. Wood all experienced 2 expedites for the home side.

Birmingham "B" were held to a draw by Telford. F. Norton's unusual style baffled the opposition and took 3 but Dave Hilliard was well below form. Leamington opened their winning account with a good result against 2nd placed Oxford, their best performance for years. In Div. 2, Oxford stretched their winning run to four.

RESULTS:-
Men's Div. 1
Chesterfield 6 Wolves "A" 4; Potteries 7 Chesterfield 3
Div. 3. Nuneaton 9 Burton 1
Junior Div. 2 – Burton 9 Walsall 1
Div. 3 B'gham "B" 10 Eastwood 0; Stafford 7 Walsall "B" 3; Bromsgrove "A" 7 Walsall "B" 3.
Div. 4. Nuneaton 0 Rugby 10,
Div. 5. Mansfield "B" 2 West Brom 8.
Vets' Div. 1. B'gham "A" 5 Notts "A" 5; B'gham "B" 5 Telford 5; Leamington 7 (J. Earles 3) Oxford 3; Walsall 3 Leicester 7; Leicester "B" 3 Notts "B" 7.
Div. 2. Oxford "B" 7 Stroud 3.
Women's Division. Notts 5 B'gham "B" 5.

LEADING POSITIONS

MEN

DIVISON 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Gloucester	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Wolves "A"	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Notts "A"	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Wolves "B"	3	1	1	1	17	23	4

DIVISION 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Coventry "A"	4	3	0	1	25	15	6
Notts "A"	4	2	2	0	24	16	6
Potteries "B"	4	3	0	1	23	17	6
Notts "B"	4	2	1	1	22	18	5

DIVISION 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Nuneaton	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Loughboro	5	2	1	2	25	25	5
Stafford	5	2	1	2	24	21	5
Derby	3	2	1	0	17	13	3

DIVISION 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Notts "C"	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Bath	5	4	0	1	38	12	8
Dudley	4	2	1	1	20	20	5

JUNIORS

DIVISION 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Notts "A"	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Coventry "A"	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Wolves	2	2	0	0	17	3	4

DIVISION 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Walsall "A"	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
B'gham "A"	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Pontesbury	3	2	0	1	18	12	4

DIVISION 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
B'gham "B"	2	2	0	0	20	0	4
Stafford	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Eastwood	3	2	0	1	14	16	4

DIVISION 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Stroud	4	4	0	0	39	1	8
Rugby	3	3	0	0	30	0	6
Leamington	2	1	0	1	9	11	2

DIVISION 5	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Kidderminster	3	3	0	0	29	1	6
Dudley	2	2	0	0	20	0	4
West Brom	2	1	0	1	8	12	2

WOMEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Wolves	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Bristol	3	2	0	1	20	10	4
Notts	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
B'gham "B"	4	1	1	2	9	11	3

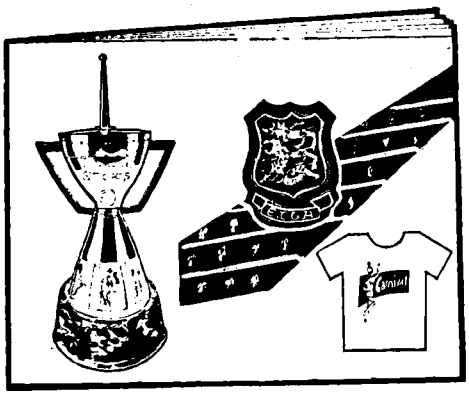
INTERMEDIATES

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Nuneaton	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Worcester	3	1	1	1	15	15	3
Hinckley	3	1	1	1	12	18	3

VETERANS

DIVISION 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Notts "A"	4	3	1	0	32	8	7
Oxford "A"	5	3	0	2	26	24	6
B'gham "A"	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Leamington	4	1	2	1	21	29	4

DIVISION 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
Oxford "B"	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Coventry "A"	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Stratford	3	3	0	0	19	11	6



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EUROPEAN POSTSCRIPT

EUROPE TOP 12

Poland's **Andrzej Grubba** and **Bettine Vriesekoop** of the Netherlands were the outright winners of the Europe Top 12 played in the Palau Municipal d'Esports, Barcelona, Spain over the period Feb 1/3, 1985. **Desmond Douglas,** England's sole representative, finished in 6th place.

Without doubt the Dutch girl, Bettine Vriesekoop, established herself as the "Queen of Europe" winning all her eleven sets with the loss of only two games – to Fliura Bulatova of the Soviet Union and, in a tremendous set, to Branka Batinic of Yugoslavia.

Grubba won nine of his eleven sets losing to Jindrich Pansky of Czechoslovakia and Erik Lindh of Sweden. Five players, including Douglas, finished up with 7 wins and four losses, those of Douglas being to Mikael Appelgren and Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden, Pansky and Grubba, the latter winning 18 in the fifth!

Final placings:–

MEN

		P	W	L	Pts
1	**Andrzej Grubba** (POL)	11	9	2	9
2	Jindrich Pansky (TCH)	11	7	4	7
3	Mikael Appelgren (SWE)	11	7	4	7
4	Jacques Secreyon (FRA)	11	7	4	7
5	Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE)	11	7	4	7
6	**Desmond Douglas** (ENG)	11	7	4	7
7	Dragutin Surbek (YUG)	11	5	6	5
8	Erik Lindh (SWE)	11	5	6	5
9	Andrei Mazunov (URS)	11	4	7	4
10	Zoran Kalinic (YUG)	11	3	8	3
11	Leszek Kucharski (YUG)	11	3	8	3
12	Ulf Bengtsson (SWE)	11	2	9	2

WOMEN

		P	W	L	Pts
1	**Bettine Vriesekoop** (HOL)	11	11	0	11
2	Zsuzsa Olah (HUN)	11	8	3	8
3	Marie Hrachova (TCH)	11	8	3	8
4	Olga Nemes (FRG)	11	8	3	8
5	Fliura Bulatova (URS)	11	6	5	6
6	Valentina Popova (URS)	11	5	6	5
7	Narine Antonian (URS)	11	5	6	5
8	Branka Batinic (YUG)	11	4	7	4
9	Gordana Perkucin (YUG)	11	3	8	3
10	Edit Urban (HUN)	11	3	8	3
11	Kirsten Krüger (FRG)	11	3	8	3
12	Gabriella Szabo (HUN)	11	2	9	2

A full report will appear in the March issue.

TOP 12, 1986

The next Europe Top 12 will take place in Södertälje, Sweden from Jan. 31 to Feb. 2, 1986.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

Scores in respect of Super Division matches played on Jan. 23 were:–

HUNGARY 6 FEDERAL GERMANY 1
Z. Kriston bt J. Rosskopf 8, 9;
Z. Harczi bt R. Wosik 15, -21, 19;
Z. Olah bt K. Nolten 9, 12;
Harczi/Kriston bt Rosskopf/Wosik -18, 19, 15;
Kriston/E. Urban bt Rosskopf/Nolten 17, 18;
Kriston bt Wosik 15, 12;
Harczi lost to Rosskopf -15, 9, -14.

SWEDEN 4 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 3
E. Lindh lost to J. Pansky -18, 14, -16;
M. Appelgren bt V. Broda 15, -19, 11;
M. Svensson lost to M. Hrachova -17, 19, -14;
Appelgren/U. Carlsson bt Broda/Pansky 15, 14;
Appelgren/Svensson lost to Pansky/Hrachova -7, -15;
Lindh bt Broda -22, 16, 12;
Appelgren bt Pansky 7, 19.

POLAND 3 NETHERLANDS 4
P. Molenda lost to R. Potton -10, -19;
A. Grubba bt H. van Spanje 15, 14;
E. Gracek lost to B. Vriesekoop -11, -8;
Grubba/Kucharski lost to R. and H. van Spanje 19, -17, -12;
Grubba/J. Szatko bt H.v. Spanje/Vriesekoop -19, 15, 17;
Molenda lost to H.v. Spange -12, -16;
Grubba br Potton 16, -15, 7.

WALES 2 BULGARIA 5 (Division 2)
N. Tyler bt L. Georgiev 6, 19;
N. Thomas lost to M. Lukov -13, -15;
L. Tyler lost to D. Guergueltcheva -19, -5;
Thomas/Tyler lost to Georgiev/Lukov 22, -12, -12;
Tyler/Tyler lost to Lukov/Guergueltcheva -11 -12;
Tyler lost to Lukov -20, -16;
Thomas bt Georgiev 14, 18.

BLAEUWE WERELT TROPHY

In front of 1,000 spectators in Apeldoorn, Sweden's **Ulf Carlsson** was the winner of the Blaeuwe Werelt Trophy with a final victory over Anne Vlieg of Holland (writes Bas den Breejen).

Carlsson and Federal Germany's Peter Engel were the two group winners with Vlieg and Patrick Birocheau of France the runners-up. But in the semi-finals Carlsson beat Birocheau and Engel went under to Vlieg. Scores:–

GROUP A

	Pts
Ulf Carlsson (SWE)	4
Anne Vlieg (HOL)	3
Paul Haldan (ROM)	2
Frank Hartmut (FRG)	1
Jaap van Spanje (HOL)	0

GROUP B

	Pts
Peter Engel (FRG)	4
Patrick Birocheau (FRA)	3
Bob Potton (HOL)	2
Ron van Spanje (HOL)	1
Hans den Boer (HOL)	0

Semi-finals:
Carlsson bt Birocheau 16, -17, 12;
Vlieg bt Engel 18, 19.

Final: CARLSSON bt Vlieg 6, 18.

Next year the introduction of a Youth version in addition to the Senior will extend the affair into two days.

EUROPEAN CLUB CUP OF CHAMPIONS

The finals of the European Club Cup of Champions are due to be played on April 13/85 with the draw being:–

Men
Vasutas, Budapest (HUN) v ASZ Gdansk (POL)
Women
Statisztika, Budapest (HUN) v Tolnai Voros Lobogo (HUN)

In the semi-finals Tolnai Voros Lobogo beat Vitkovica of Czechoslovakia 5-3 whilst Statisztika accounted for STK Mladost, Zagreb 5-1 in the women's section. ASZ Gdansk were denied their home fixture against Kremlin-Bicetre (FRA) with the latter conceding because of the French national championships. Desmond Douglas playing for Borussia Dusseldorf, against Vasutas in Budapest, beat both Bela Frank and Gabor Gergely but was beaten by Jozsef Nozicska the Hungarian team winning 5-3. Scores:–

B. Frank lost to D. Douglas -14, -16; bt R. Wosil -22, 15, 12;
G. Gergely lost to Douglas -18, -20; bt C. Borsos -21, 16, 6; bt Wosik -19, 17, 19.
J. Nozicska bt Douglas 14, -15, 18; bt Borsos 12, 12; lost to Wosik -18, 16, -18.

WOMEN'S GRAND PRIX

Following the Europe Top 12 in Barcelona the leading positions in the Women's Grand Prix are:–

		Pts
1	Bettine Vriesekoop (HOL)	325
2	Zsuzsa Olah (HUN)	245
3	Olga Nemes (FRG)	230
4	Maria Hrachova (TCH)	225
5	Valentina Popova (URS)	160
6	Branka Batinic (YUG)	140
7	Fliura Bulatova (URS)	100
8	Narine Antonian (URS)	80
9	Gordana Perkucin (YUG)	75
=	Edit Urban (HUN)	75
11	Sonja Grefberg (FIN)	65
=	Gabriella Szabo (HUN)	65

The final tournament will take place in Breda, Holland on May 19/85.

IRISH AFFAIRS

TSB MUNSTER OPEN

by Tony Martin

Both **Colum Slevin** and **Anne Leonard** returned home from Federal Germany to participate in the TSB Munster Open at Cork and stamped their authority on their respective singles events.

Slevin, who is a much improved player, showed his superiority beating A. Walsh in the semis and Mervyn Kelly in a one-sided final. Kelly accounted for his clubmate Hilton Meneally in the other semi.

In the women's event Anne Leonard was a comfortable winner beating Nora McEvoy in the final. The only real upset in the whole tournament was the defeat of Colum and Anne in the mixed final by Kelly and Caroline Leonard. This was their first defeat by an Irish partnership.

Results:–

M.S: s-f's:
C. Slevin bt A. Walsh 13, 8;
M. Kelly bt H. Meneally 18, 19.
Final: SLEVIN bt Kelly 9, 7.
W.S: s-f's:
A. Leonard bt A. Kelly 15, 12;
N. McEvoy bt H. Walsh -18, 18, 18.
Final: LEONARD bt McEvoy 10, 14.
MD: KELLY/SLEVIN bt J. Dill/Meneally 8, 8.
WD: LEONARD/McEVOY bt C. Leonard/E. McManus 15, 19.
ZD: KELLY/C. LEONARD bt Slevin/A. Leonard -20, 18, 17.
BS: A. DENNISON bt A. Redmond 16, 18.
GS: McMANUS bt L. Cullen 3, 15.

IRISH SENIOR RANKINGS

Men
1 Colum Slevin
2 Mervyn Kelly
3 Tom Heasley
4 Derek Weir
5 Hilton Meneally
6 Aidan Walsh
7 Jimmy Hamill
8 Kevin Keane
9 Jimmy Robinson
10 Tommy Caffrey
11 Brian Larrigan
12 Jim Dill

Women
1 Anne Leonard
2 Liz Cheevers
3 Jennifer Reid
4 Mary McMullen
5 Nora McEvoy
6 Mary Sheehan
= Caroline Leonard
8 Kathleen Copeland
9 Anna Kelly
10 Helen Walsh
11 A. M. Reilly
12 Lorraine Cullen
13 Ellen McManus

JUNIORS

Boys
1 A. Dennison
2 P. Robinson
3 B. O'Gorman
4 B. Marchall
5 R. Grist

Girls
1 L. Cullen
2 O. Stevenson
3 K. Stafford
4 C. Anderson
5 J. O'Connor

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AFFILIATION FEE UNIT FOR 1985/86

In accordance with rule 7.6, I write to inform you that the amount of the fee unit calculated under Rule 7.4 for 1985/86 season will be £1.58, unless there is a change of the relevant Rule.

The formula used for this calculation is:

$$\frac{150 \times \text{November 1984 R.P.I.}}{\text{November 1983 R.P.I.}}$$

This becomes:

$$\frac{150 \times 358.80}{341.90} = 157.41\text{p}$$

This is rounded up to the next even number of pence to be come 158p.

The Association's Auditors have submitted a certificate which reads as follows:

"We certify that the Fee Unit for the season 1985/86 is to be £1.58 and that the Retail Price Indices used to calculate this figure are as follows:

November 1983: 341.90
November 1984: 358.80

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CENTENARY CELEBRATION

by David Kinder

On May 1st, 1985 England have agreed to play in a friendly international match against the Netherlands at the George Lawton Centre, Mossley. The event is being staged to help the town of Mossley celebrate its centenary as a Borough.

As is known the Tameside ATC is based at the George Lawton Centre, and because of this, we were approached by the Mossley Centenary Festival Committee to put on an exhibition. England Trainer/Coach, Donald Parker, suggested such a match which was greeted with great enthusiasm by the Festival Committee who have agreed to fund the match.

On the Tameside ATC front, the Tameside MBC have provided members of the squad with tracksuits and T-shirts. After the Junior and Cadet ranking trials at Coventry the following ATC members are now nationally ranked:–

Boys: Jonathan Taylor, aged 12 No. 19 cadet; Wayne Renton, aged 13, No. 22 cadet; Mike Parker, aged 13, No. 43 cadet.
Girls: Barbara Smallwood, aged 12, No. 23 cadet; Kristina Cox, aged 14, No. 34 girl.

Tunbridge Wells & District Table Tennis League
present the:

GRIEVESON, GRANT TUNBRIDGE WELLS JUNIOR OPEN TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS (TWO STAR)

(Promoted by Tunbridge Wells T.T.L. & approved by K.C.T.T.A. & E.T.T.A.)

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COMMENCING 09.00 both days

Organising Committee:

Referee: C. Wright (N.R.)

Assistant Referee: L. C. Pilditch (N.R.)

Organiser: J. Butler, 108 Stephens Road, Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN4 9QA
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ENTRIES CLOSE: TUESDAY 19th MARCH 1985

Draw: Friday 22nd March 1985 at The Education Office, Grove Hill Road, Tunbridge Wells, Commencing 6.30pm

DRASTIC ACTION NEEDED

I read "Any more for the Titanic" by Dick Hopkins with considerable interest and I could not agree more with his statement "The public and the players want rallies". I learned my game from Jack Carrington in the early 50's and it seems to me that the rot began sometime about then.

Through over 30 years and 8 leagues of play at home and abroad it has been truly awful to watch the steady decline (with the occasional slight upsurge) in players, teams, leagues, spectators and, more recently, TV coverage. However, I do not agree with Mr. Hopkins' suggested remedy because he is considering the symptons not the cause – the bat and its changes over the past 30 years.

I have heard it said so often that you cannot turn the clock back but I'm not sure that is so in this case. Firstly it has to be accepted by the law-makers that the bat is the cause, then I think changes towards standardisation should be made in the appropriate law. After all it is not all that uncommon for legislation of any kind to bring the situation back to where it once was.

When Dennis Lillee, the Australian cricketer, walked out with a metal bat in Australia the cricket authorities quickly stepped in to prevent him using it in the best interests of the game, not because the law said the bat must be made of any particular substance.

I feel that some quite drastic action is needed now before it is too late for our sport to recover in this country. During the past two decades all kinds of new and exciting sporting activities have been introduced to the public so is it any wonder that so few youngsters take up, and so many not so young give up our increasingly unattractive sport?

On a personal note, two weeks ago in a league match I met my first combination bat which produced a most one-sided game. This week I enjoyed playing and others watching one of those now very rare games when I was able to attack throughout and my opponent to return from distant parts both of us using some very old fashioned equipment. All three games went to the limit and rallies of 20+ were commonplace. All present agreed it was well worth watching – a poor men's version of Vana and Bergmann perhaps.

ROBBIE ROBINSON,
Chairman, Queen Elizabeth Community College TTC playing in Exeter & Dist. TTL (now reduced to 6 divisions)!!
'Belair',
Weston Road,
Crediton, Devon.

STIFLE NOT ERASE

Re your letter in TT News (Jan. '85) "Any more for the Titanic", I would suggest that what Mr. Hopkins advocates would end up a real Mary Rose!

I would pose the queries – is the serve of a player not a part of the skill of this great game and must we have to serve to the right hand court of our opposing player encouraging only a blistering forehand return and therefore encouraging a "Two ball rally"?

I am only a player in one of the Bolton League's lower divisions who does on occasions (i.e. cup matches) have to play first division players, some of whom are of county standard. The mainstay of my game against players of this calibre is to use whatever guile and spin I can on my serve in order to put a player of this quality under whatever pressure to return the ball, and this often means using spin to both forehand and **backhand**. Is Mr. Hopkins therefore advocating that this weapon in my, and many players like myself, armoury should be banned?

In my division of the Bolton League I find very few players who struggle to return my serve and the "Third ball rally" is really quite rare. If a player is using spin in service he is obviously spinning the ball to be returned to his own strong point. Is it not therefore the object of the receiver to try to outsmart the server with his own return?

I suggest that if you take away that piece of a server's armoury you also take away the need of the receiver to "think" too hard about the return. On Mr. Hopkin's second point of raising the net, once again I feel that a lot of the grass roots players would still return the ball into the net, probably more so. With respect, Mr. Hopkins, the "Two quick and easy changes" you suggest would not erase the "third ball rally"; it would merely serve to stifle a great part of our game – the service.

JOHN HYLAND
44 Regent Street,
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WILL WE SEE HIS LIKE AGAIN?

I set out for Cardiff on Friday, Jan. 18, on a very cold and wintry day, unbeknowing that Stellan Bengtsson would be among the competitors.

What a pleasure it was to see him playing in the U.K. again at his near brilliant best. I am convinced that everyone in the hall who witnessed his set against Andrzej Grubba were enthralled not only with his spectacular play, but by his sheer determination and exciting attacking play. On this occasion he lost, but in defeat he is a joy to watch.

I have been an avid admirer of him, on seeing him soon after he won the World men's singles title in Nagoya, Japan in 1971, at the age of 18. Two years later, he sacrificed his own chances of retaining the title, winning the Swaythling Cup for Sweden off his own back in Sarajevo in 1973.

When I saw him in the Worlds at Birmingham in 1977, in the quarter-final of the men's singles against the eventual winner M. Kohno of Japan, he was leading by two games to one. The crowd were chanting his name and going wild and he amassed numerous fans throughout the fortnight.

The Swedes had the foresight in the 50's to employ Ogimura, the Japanese world champion, and in five years he produced a European champion in Alser and this led to Stellan Bengtsson being a world champion.

I realise the problem is financial and also that Stellan might not be available, especially now that he is a proud father of twins, but I am convinced that young enthusiastic players would respect a player of this quality.

In closing, I am also an admirer of Grubba, Secretin and Jonyer and, dare I say it, I have fallen for Olga Nemes, who could be the women's champion by 1987. Past heroes of mine were Ivan Andreadis and England's Johnny Leach.

LEN F. ROBERTS
80 Greenway,
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NOT AT MY AGE!

I received an entry form from Helsinki for the Veterans' World Championships which took place last June, but I was unable to enter owing to the two colour bat rule which read "According to ITTF Rule 4.2.1.2.2. the two surfaces of the racket blade shall be of clearly different colours, whether or not both sides are used for striking the ball."

I have two bats – a Barna hard and a Wadsworth anti-spin same colour both sides, and I don't intend buying a two colour bat at my age (77). If this rule is made compulsory for local leagues I shall give up competitive play and ETTA membership. Mr. John Prean in his article in December's T.T. News agrees when he says, "I can think of nothing more likely to lose us members."

K. WOODARD
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FULL STEAM AHEAD FOR THE TITANIC

Reading Table Tennis News frightens me to death. Not my death but that of a premier world sport called Table Tennis. However, from the T.T. News comes only soothing messages intended one assumes, to allay the fears of the fore-doomed participants in the coming Titanic disaster.

To be sure there is one discordant note – that struck by a stowaway named John Prean. This fellow, among his "flamboyant offerings" says "The long decline in membership must be reversed or there will be no sport of Table Tennis, just a few hobby gatherings".

Fortunately for the nervous, reassuring official bulletins are issued from the Bridge. "Things are not as gloomy as John writes" says Peter Charters. Thank goodness for that! I was getting worried! "The search for a new sponsor for the English Closed continues" writes Aubrey Drapkin. So there is still hope then? Maybe somewhere, in some dark recess, a reticent sponsor awaits discovery. And finally the Captain (Chairman) himself assures us that the "coverage of sport by the television channels is a topical subject". There you are! It's only a matter of discussion and the TV channels will again by lobbying their largesse our way.

Therefore why am I a humble passenger, listening to the castigated stowaway and reaching for my life-jacket? Because in all the January issue of T.T. News there is not the tiniest hint that the root cause of our sport's decline is under serious discussion. In case anyone does not remember, the root cause, indeed the only cause, is the first ball serve followed, if returned by the third ball kill.

That is why TV does not want to know us. That is why spectators are deserting us. That is why players are leaving for other sports. And that, cumulatively, is why sponsors for big events are getting harder to find than choppers in the top ten.

Consequently, I agree absolutely with those (notably that castaway fellow John Prean) who argue strongly for changes which will lead to longer rallies. To state the obvious, it is only longer rallies which can give the colourful tapestry of play designed to attract spectators, players, TV channels and, thus, sponsors.

As I have written begore my own solutions would be:
1) A higher net restoring the balance between attacker and defender and 2) A restricted serve to the right-hand court restoring players' ability to make safe returns of service.

Of course there may be other suggested solutions worth considering; such as a larger ball, which would reduce velocity – and incidentally be more easily seen on Television. But something must be done and done quickly. Where's my life-jacket, I can smell the ice-bergs.

DICK HOPKINS
12 Woodside Grove,
Henbury, Bristol BS10 7RF

ONLY SURE WAY

Murray Corbin echoes in one paragraph (County Championships, Jan. '85) something of what I have intended saying for a long time but have never got round to it. He is of course right. We, the players, coaches and officials are the ETTA. It is up to us to properly organise, present and promote the game at our own level.

We cannot for ever moan and criticise about the powers that be. We cannot wait until some charismatic super star hits the England scene, until bicycle glue is banned, rubber standardised, the service rule modified, the net raised, until communication, decision-making and management from top officialdom is exemplary. These things might help but they may never happen and the time for action is now!

Of course there is scope for change and improvement regarding the promotion, regulation and organisation of table tennis but it is still a great game, and, at its best, a joy to watch. So, I repeat, let us the rank and file work hard to interest and enthuse recruits and supporters to our game. It will be frustrating and take a lot of effort and time, but as things stand it is the only sure way.

Finally, I must admit to a prejudice (but no more a prejudice than to talk of 'third ball bashers', as John Prean does!). I am glad that 'twiddling' is no longer effective. I felt it damaged the game. The task of selling table tennis will now be that much easier.

KEN MUHIR
23 York Road,
Stony Stratford
Milton Keynes. MK11 1BJ

LENTEC COMPUTER RANKINGS JUNIORS/CADETS

UP, UP AND AWAY

Although **Carl Prean** and **Joanne Shaw** retain their No. 1 positions in the latest up-dated Lentec computer rankings, issued in January, four cadet players have made significant strides in the junior category.

Bradley Billington, son of Maurice of Derbyshire fame, has rocketed from No. 23 to No. 6 whilst equally impressive is the rise of Northumberland's Thomas Blackman, from No. 31 to No. 10. Well done, Geordie lad!

Lancashire's Andrea Holt, the pride of Ramsbottom, apart from topping the cadet girls' list – up from No. 3 – has also ascended in the U-17 girls' list from No. 9 to No. 3 closely followed at Nos. 4 and 5 by Claire Potts of Chester – from No. 11 – and Kerry Hall, daughter of Eric also of Derbyshire fame – from No. 28! Neasden's Lesley Souter is also to be congratulated on her rise in the U-17 category, from No. 27 to No. 11. Not forgetting young Julie Billington – let's keep it in the family – up from No. 25 to No. 12 whilst still a cadet!

Revised rankings and points (previous positions in brackets):–

BOYS	Pts
1 **Carl Pran** (IOW) (1)	1010
2 Andrew Syed (Bk) (2)	652
3 Jimmy Stokes (Bk) (3)	466
4 Adrian Dixon (St) (5)	459
5 Matthew Syed (Bk) (7)	413
6 Bradley Billington (Dy) (23)	366
7 Andrew Cunningham (K) (4)	363
8 Mark Randle (Wa) (10)	304
9 Clive Guest (Y) (9)	296
10 Thomas Blackman (Nd) (31)	283
11 Rodney Thomas (Do) (15)	273
12 Paul Amos (K) (13)	266
13 Michael O'Driscoll (Y) (17)	261
14 Murray Jukes (Wo) (6)	240
15 Richard Hayward (St) (12)	193
16 Sean Gibson (La) (16)	183
17 Nicholas Newton (Y) (20)	180
18 Jonathon Goode (Mi) (21)	173
19 Graham Kemp (Bk) (26)	168
20 Paul Savins (Bk) (14)	167
21 Paul Elphick (Sx) (19)	159
22 Kevin Lawrence (St) (–)	158
23 Phillip Szekeres (Mi) (24)	151
24 John Bult (Y) (22)	138
25 Andrew Henry (Dy) (41)	135
26 Tony West (E) (40)	129
27 Bernard O'Grady (K) (36)	126
28 Neil Pickard (Nk) (25)	124
29 Matthew Connell (Y) (–)	124
30 Phillip Payne (So) (32)	121
31 Paul Bumpus (Le) (29)	116
32 Andrew Taylor (Ch) (–)	108
33 Matthew Pernet (Sy) (–)	106
34 Chris Oldfield (Y) (–)	106
35 C. Pertez (Mi) (–)	104
36 Lee Brown (La) (–)	99
37 Bernard Lazarus (E) (37)	93
38 Paul Gooding (Sk) (38)	93
39 David Fewsdale (Cv) (–)	92
40 Darren Smith (Wa) (–)	88
41 Kark Ball (K) (33)	86
42 Bernard Wentworth (Ch) (–)	82
43 James Griffiths (E) (–)	81
44 S. Slater (St) (–)	80
45 Alaric Bassano (Y) (–)	79
46 Stuart Craggs (Cv) (18)	77
47 Andrew Ball (Y) (–)	77
48 Peter Curry (Nd) (28)	73
49 Gavin West (Dy) (–)	72
50 David Thomas (Wa) (–)	71
51 Andrew Eden (La) (–)	71
52 Greg Barden (K) (39)	70
53 Michael Rutherford (K) (30)	65
54 Simon Jones (Ch) (–)	65
55 Adrian Bolton (Ng) (27)	61
56 Peter Harris (He) (–)	59
57 Richard Jones (Sy) (–)	57
58 Tim McGill (Sp) (–)	56
59 Paul Ward (La) (–)	56
60 Murray Barter (So)	55

GIRLS	Pts
1 **Joanne Shaw** (Y) (1)	553
2 Jill Powis (St) (2)	325
3 Andrew Holt (La) (9)	310
4 Claire Potts (Ch) (11)	307
5 Kerry Hall (Dy) (28)	286
6 Juliet Houghton (K) (4)	280
7 Claire Mouzon (Nd) (5)	256
8 Louise Davis (Wo) (10)	221
9 Debbie Soothill (Cu) (3)	216
10 Lisa Hayden (E) (8)	206
11 Lesley Souter (Mi) (27)	200
12 Julie Billington (Dy) (25)	171
13 Sarah Hammond (Ha) (19)	158
14 Melonie Carey (So) (29)	148
15 Angela Sanders (St) (6)	142
16 Lesley Popkiewicz (Sy) (7)	128
17 Alison Boxall (He) (15)	128
18 Tanya Holland (E) (13)	126
19 Rachel Knight (Mi) (12)	119
20 Lisa Robins (Bd) (16)	116
21 Helen Perrott (Av) (17)	114
22 Helen Lower (St) (–)	97
23 Michelle Cohen (Av) (34)	92
24 Claire Brooks (Sy) (24)	86
25 Ruth Bray (Y) (–)	86
26 Sarah Webb (So) (14)	83
27 Louise Forster (Le) (18)	82
28 Alison Evans (Y) (20)	76
29 Helen Broomhead (Y) (–)	61
30 Jane Roberts (Y) (32)	59
31 Hazel Kavanagh (Y) (–)	57
32 Katrine Baker (Mi) (–)	55
33 Amanda Shufflebotham (Ox) (22)	54
34 Kristina Cox (La) (30)	53
35 Esme Stevenson (Co) (–)	50
36 Kathryn Bray (Y) (23)	49
37 Susan Butler (Dv) (21)	47
38 Caroline Dada (Y) (–)	44
39 Julie Clegg (La) (–)	43
40 Linda Thompson (Li) (–)	41

CADET BOYS	Pts
1 **Matthew Syed** (Bk) (1)	815
2 Michael O'Driscoll (Y) (3)	541
3 Bradley Billington (Dy) (2)	539
4 Chris Oldfield (Y) (5)	348
5 Neil Pickard (Nk) (6)	254
6 Damian Holland (E) (8)	224
7 Andrew Houghton (K) (7)	219
8 Dale Saunders (Gs) (9)	191
9 Neil Sims (Y) (10)	174
10 Phillip Szekeres (Mi) (–)	173
11 Richard Jones (Sy) (–)	158
12 David Morris (Sp) (18)	157
13 Michael Rutherford (K) (4)	152
14 Stuart Miller (Cv) (15)	149
15 Nicky Ryder (Y) (12)	130
16 Adrian Thorpe (St) (22)	129
17 Leigh Jeffries (Wa) (24)	125
18 Andrew Whiteley (Y) (23)	118
19 Jonathon Taylor (Ch) (–)	105
20 Mark Ward (Y) (20)	102
21 Matthews Pernet (Sy) (11)	97
22 Wayne Renton (La) (–)	94
23 Jason Swaine (Y) (–)	91
24 Andrew Eden (La) (16)	90
25 Gary Knights (Dy) (14)	86
26 Will Hollingsworth (Dy) (–)	77
27 Simon Cooper (Sp) (17)	76
28 John Collins (Ca) (25)	72
29 Andrew McKeown (Cv) (21)	66
30 Paul Smith (So) (–)	60
31 Mark Bawden (Bd) (–)	59
32 James Nicholson (Cv) (–)	54
33 S. Greenvrook (Sy) (–)	52
34 Brian Mileham (K) (26)	51
35 Robert Till (St) (–)	50
36 Robert Yong (Ng) (13)	47
37 Darren Shaw (Nd) (–)	47
38 Mark Mulley (Dv) (–)	46
39 Ian Humes (Cv) (–)	40
40 Michael Roughley (Du) (19)	37
41 Kevin Sangster (Y) (–)	37

CADET GIRLS	Pts
1 **Andrea Holt** (La) (3)	674
2 Claire Potts (Ch) (1)	574
3 Kerry Hall (Dy) (2)	452
4 Julie Billington (Dy) (4)	262
5 Jane Wright (Dv) (10)	179
6 Debbie Toole (Y) (5)	171
7 Tracy Scott-Pawson (Do) (7)	163
8 Julie Forster (Le) (8)	147
9 Julie Norman (Bk) (6)	128
10 Nicola McGrath (La) (–)	128
11 Cheryl Bateman (Sy) (13)	117
12 Caroline Buckley (Bd) (–)	98
13 Ellen Meddings (Y) (15)	94
14 Anne Pashley (Cv) (16)	91
15 Susanne Lawton (Cv) (–)	88
16 Helen Potts (Ch) (14)	71
17 Kate Gower (E) (–)	70
18 Julie Brion (Bk) (9)	69
19 Victoria Boyd (Sp) (–)	57
20 Janine Harrison (Y) (12)	50
21 Nicola Jones (Wo) (–)	47
22 Audrey Barnett (St) (–)	44
23 Barbara Smallwood (La) (–)	36
24 Elizabeth Bryant (Le) (–)	33
25 Lisa Coulson (Bk) (–)	33
26 Tracy Hooker (Bk) (–)	30
27 Elizabeth Connell (Y) (–)	29
28 Judith Grant (Du) (11)	29
29 Denny Corden (Dy) (–)	28
30 Julie Clegg (La) (–)	27
31 Rachel Skinner (Mi) (–)	26
32 Sarah Kettle (Av) (–)	22

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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