



# TABLE TENNIS NEWS

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ENGLISH TABLE  
TENNIS ASSOCIATION

No. 148

January, 1985

Price 60p



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# ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

By The Editor

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## A SLICE FOR ALL

There is little doubt that when John Prean draws his gun bullets are meant to be fired. And what's more they fly in all directions.

Granted some of the targets are legitimate but not all. John, often in defence of his talented son, is apt to bring out weaponry of sufficient calibre to blast holes into anyone regardless.

When pointed in the direction from whence he has little sighting matters, if not kept in check, can go somewhat awry and when it comes to questions of sponsorship blank cartridges could well be of better use.

Biting the hand that feeds is not to be advocated but the reduction of prize money in respect of the English Senior Closed is deserving of further comment;

Without sponsorship and TV the show must still go on and the financial gap created has to be bridged by the ETIA. And yet, by inference, the ETIA is being chastised for its meanness when - let it not be overlooked - increased affiliation fees are being put to a much wider use and going down to grass root levels with particular emphasis on junior activity and coaching.

A cake can be cut in many different ways but there must be a slice for all.

## ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

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### SWEDEN DOWNED IN LODZ

Sweden's unblemished record was spoilt in dramatic fashion in Lodz on Dec. 12 when Andrzej Grubba, in beating Erik Lindh 23, -14, 21 in the final set, got Poland home 4-3 in the Super Division of the European League.

The Poles got off to a great start when, in the opening set Leszek Kucharski beat Lindh and Grubba followed up with an equally convincing win over Mikael Appelgren.

Sweden pulled one back when Marie Lindblad beat Jolanta Szatko only for the Poles to re-establish a 2-set lead with Grubba and Kucharski taking the men's doubles against Lindh and Jorgen Persson.

But the Scandinavians were not to be dismissed lightly as victories for Lindh/Lindblad, in the mixed, and a singles success for Appelgren over Kucharski brought the match score level and the stage was set for that dramatic climax which brought the house down. Scores:-

L. Kucharski bt E. Lindh 18, 16;  
A. Grubba bt M. Appelgren 9, 16;  
J. Szatko lost to M. Lindblad -20, 19, -13;  
Grubba/Kucharski bt Undh/J. Persson 16, -16, 19;  
Grubba/Sztko lost to Lindh/Lindblad 13, -15, -16;  
Kucharski lost to Appelgren 9, -19, -15;  
Grubbs bt Lindh 23, -14, 21.

As in Stockhoim, against Sweden, England again fired on only one cylinder when opposed by Czechoslovakia, the defending champions, at Ipswich where Desmond Douglas took over Carl Prean's role in winning two (as written up elsewhere by Mike Watts).

But, over in Gunzburg, Federal Germany brought off their third win of the season in beating Yugoslavia 5-2 to share second position with Sweden, the top spot being occupied by the Czechs who are still unbeaten.

Georg Böhm figured in four of

the Federal German wins the other being supplied by the veteran Wilfried Lieck who, in the final set, beat Ilija Lupulescu so many years his junior.

### Scores:-

G. Böhm bt I. Lupulescu 17, 17;  
W. Lieck lost to S. Kovac -18, -19;  
S. Wenzel lost to B. Batinic 17, -18, -16;  
Sohm/T. Rosskopf bt Kovac/Lupulescu 12, 19;  
Sohm/Wenzel bt Lupulescu/Satinic 17, 12;  
Böhm bt Kovac 19, 17;  
Lieck bt Lupulescu -13, 13, 17.

Still searching for their first win the Netherlands were beaten

5-2 in Kaposvar by Hungary whose Tibor Klanipar was beaten by Henk van Spanje who, with Mirjam Kloppenburg, also annexed the mixed doubles.

### Scores:-

T. Klampar bt R. v. Spanje 16, 12;  
Z. Kriston bt H. v. Spanje -12, 8, 17;  
C. Satorli bt M. Kloppenburg 15, 15;  
Klampar/Kriston bt H. v. Spanje/A. Vlieg -18, 0, 7;  
J. Takacs/K. Nagy lost to H. v. Spanje/Kloppen-  
burg 18, -19, -20;  
Klampar lost to H. v. Spanje -19, -18;  
Kriston bt R. v. Spanje 19, 12.

### SUPER DIVISION

|                 | P | W | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-----------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| CZECHOSLOVAKIA  | 4 | 3 | 1 | 17 | 11 | 4   |
| Federal Germany | 4 | 3 | 1 | 18 | 10 | 3   |
| Sweden          | 4 | 3 | 1 | 18 | 10 | 3   |
| Hungary         | 4 | 2 | 2 | 15 | 13 | 2   |
| Poland          | 4 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 14 | 2   |
| Yugoslavia      | 4 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 14 | 1   |
| England         | 4 | 1 | 3 | 12 | 16 | 1   |
| Netherlands     | 4 | 0 | 4 | 4  | 24 | 0   |

### 23rd JANUARY FIXTURES

Sweden v Czechoslovakia (Vimmerby)  
Yugoslavia v England  
Hungary v Federal Germany (Kecskemet)  
Poland v Netherlands (Siedlce)

### DIVISION 1

Faltering only when Bruno Parietti lost to the European cadet champion, Jean-Michel Saive, France maintained their winning ways with a 6-1 victory over Belgium in Mondeville on Dec. 15, no set going to a third game.

### Scores:-

P. Reverse bt D. Leroy 8, 14;  
B. Parietti lost to J.-M. Saive -17, -23;  
N. Daviaud bt K. Bogaerts 16, 18;  
F. Farout/Reverse bt M. Lambot/Saive 17, 18;  
Reverse/Daviaud bt Saive/K. Van Camp 14, 14;  
Reverse bt Saive 13, 17;  
Parietti bt Leroy 12, 16.

Denmark, emerging as the foremost challengers, had a 5-2 win over Spain in Skive where Claus Pedersen lost to Roberto Casares and Lars Hauth and Kim Kartholm lost their doubles to Casares and Ismael Caymel.

### Scores:-

L. Hauth bt I. Caymel 18, 20;  
C. Pedersen lost to R. Casares -16, -18;  
C. Polk bt M. Sanahuja 11, 9;  
R. Hauth/K. Kartholm lost to Casales/Caymel 13, -13, -13;  
Kartholm/Polk bt Casales/Sanahuja 17, -19, 11;  
Hauth bt Casares 18, 19;  
Pedersen bt Caymel 5, 13.

### DIVISION 1

|            | P | W | L | F  | A  | Pta |
|------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| FRANCE     | 4 | 4 | 0 | 22 | 6  | 4   |
| Denmark    | 5 | 4 | 1 | 22 | 13 | 4   |
| Finland    | 5 | 3 | 2 | 23 | 12 | 3   |
| Italy      | 4 | 3 | 1 | 16 | 12 | 3   |
| Norway     | 4 | 3 | 1 | 16 | 12 | 3   |
| Belgium    | 5 | 3 | 2 | 18 | 17 | 3   |
| Luxembourg | 4 | 0 | 4 | 7  | 21 | 0   |
| Austria    | 5 | 0 | 5 | 10 | 25 | 0   |
| Spain      | 4 | 0 | 4 | 6  | 22 | 0   |

### JANUARY FIXTURES

9 France v Denmark (Dunkerque)  
11 Italy v Luxembourg (Rome)  
12 Spain v Norway  
13 Finland v Belgium (Kerava)

Italy, coming up on the rails after their opening defeat at the hands of Belgium, brought off their third successive victory but only by a 4-3 margin away to Austria in Sitzenberg-Reidling on Dec. 12.

### Scores:-

E. Amplatz lost to G. Sisi 13, -13, -6;  
O. Palmi bt M. Costantini 14, -15, 16;  
8. Wilsche lost to A. Busnardo -15, -16;  
Amplatz/P. Eckel bt Bisi/Costantini -15, 15, 3;  
Palmi/Wilsche lost to Bisi/M. Cergol -22, 7, -13;  
Amplatz lost to Costantini -18, -21;  
Palmi bt Bisi 20, -11, 17.

luxembourg, still in pursuit of their first win, went down for the fourth time when beaten 6-1 at home in Gravenmacher by Finland whose only loss was in the men's doubles when Andre Hartmann and Yves Maas beat Jukka Ikonen and Jarmo Jokinen.

### Scores:-

A. Hartmann lost to J. Jokinen -18, -10;  
V. Maas lost to J. Ikonen 15, -17, -15;  
C. Risch lost to S. Grefberg -8, -16;  
Hartmann/Maas bt Ikonen/Jokinen 9, -19, 19;  
Maas/Risch lost to Jokinen/Grefberg 17, -14, -13;  
Hartmann lost to Ikonen 16, -21, -13;  
Maas lost to Jokinen -18, -17.

# International News

## DIVISION 2

At Bridge of Allan, Stirling, Scotland put up a sterling performance in beating Switzerland 5-2 in the denuded Second Division in which, to date, only four matches have been played. Taking time off from his Bundesliga commitments David Hannah returned to the land of the heather to inflict wounds on Thomas Busin and Stefan Renold and brought off a third win when partnered by Carole Dalrymple in the mixed.

## Scores:-

R. Yule bt S. Aeneid 14, 17;  
D. Hannah bt T. Busin 15, 15;  
C. Dalrymple lost to B. Witte ., 8, -18;  
J. Brae/Hannah lost to Busio/Renold-10, 18, -20;  
Hannah/Dalrymple bt Renold/B. Hirzel 12, -19, 18;  
Yule bt Busin 16, 18;  
Hannah bt Renold 17, 10.

## EURO-ASIA TOURNAMENT

Scheduled to take place in Hong Kong over the period Jan. 4/7, 1985 the Euro-Asia tournament has had to be cancelled because visas were not forthcoming in respect of players

from Europe's Eastern bloc countries and for those of Democratic People's Republic of Korea. It is still hoped that the tournament will take place sometime after the Gothenburg World Championships.

Women  
Statistika v Mladost Zagreb  
Vitikovita v Tolnai Voros Lobogo

Scores in STK Mladost's favour in Zagreb were:-  
A. Fazlic bt M. Sainsbury 19, 19;  
D. Fabri bt A. Gordon -14, 18, 12;  
B. Salinic bt K. Witt 18, 17;  
Fazlic bt Gordon 19, -15, 20;  
Salinic bt Sainsbury 18, 12.

## EUROPE CLUB CUP OF CHAMPIONS

Quarter-final results in the Europe Club Cup of Champions were:-

Mon  
TIC Simex Julich (FRG) 3 ASZ Gdansk (POL) 5  
Kremlin-Bicetre (FRA) 5 TTC Raiffeisen Langenlois fAU 4  
Vasutas Budapest (HUN) 5 STK "Vojvodina" Novi Sad (YUG) 1  
Borussia Dusseldorf (FRG) 5 Vitkovica, Prague (TCH) 1  
Women  
Statistika Budapest (HUN) 5 Torenstad NV Zutphen (HOI) 2  
STK Mladost Zagreb (YUG) 5 Omega, Roding 0  
Vitikovica, Prague (TCH) w.o. CIT Corenne (BEL) scr  
Tolnai Voros tobago (HUN) 5 ATUS Judenburg-Sparkasse (AUT) 0

## SPORT PROMOTION WOMEN'S GRAND PRIX

Subsequent to the Dutch, Italian, Yugoslav and French Open championships the leading positions in the Sport Promotion Women's Grand Prix are:-

|                        | Pt. |
|------------------------|-----|
| B. Vriesskoop (HOI)    | 175 |
| M. Hrachova (TCH)      | 125 |
| Z. Olah (HUN)          | 125 |
| B. Salinic (YUG)       | 100 |
| V. PapaYa (IURS)       | 100 |
| M. Lindblad (SWE)      | 60  |
| O. Nemes (FRG)         | 50  |
| G. Perkucin (YUG)      | 45  |
| G. Szabo (HUN)         | 45  |
| E. Urban (HUN)         | 45  |
| M. Alboiu (ROM)        | 30  |
| N. Antonian (IURS)     | 30  |
| F. Bulatova (URS)      | 30  |
| D. Guerguelchev8 (BUI) | 30  |
| A. Pelikanov8 (TCH)    | 30  |
| A. Zaxharian (URS)     | 30  |

## DIVISION 2

|             | P | W | L | F | A  | Pts |
|-------------|---|---|---|---|----|-----|
| BULGARIA    | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 1  | 1   |
| WALES       | 1 | 1 | 0 | 6 | 1  | 1   |
| Greece      | 1 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 2  | 1   |
| Scotland    | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 7  | 1   |
| Scotland    | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7 | 7  | 1   |
| Switzerland | 3 | 0 | 3 | 4 | 17 | 0   |

## JANUARY FIXTURES

Wales v Bulgaria  
Greece v Switzerland



Yugoslavia's "Man-o-War", Dragutin Surbek, still good enough to hold 7th position in the European revised rankings.

Photo by Don Morley, Reigate, Surrey



Andrei Mazunov. Russia's European Youth champion and holding his 12th position in the European men's list.

Photo by courtesy of Leonid Makarov. Moscow.



Brigitte Thiriet of France who always has her head down.

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



Tibor Klampar of Hungary. beaten by Henk van Spanje of Holland in the European League but up from No. 14 to No. 9 in the revised European rankings.

Photo by Norbert Rzepka. Delmenhorst. Federal Germany



Anita Zakharian of the Soviet Union. up one position in the revised European rankings. from No. 15 to No. 14.

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



# 30th FRENCH OPEN

## "FULL HOUSE" FOR CHINA - SILVER FOR DES

by Geo. R. Yates

World class players abounded in the 30th French Open Championships, played in Rennes over the period Nov. 30/Dec. 2, which provided a veritable harvest of titles for players from the People's Republic of China.

All seven at stake went into Chinese hands with the high serving Fan Chang Mao winning the men's singles, Geng Iijuan the women's, Wang Huiyuan and Chen Longcan the men's doubles, world champion Cao Yanhua and Geng Iijuan the women's and Teng Yi (of Brighton fame) and Geng Ujuan the mixed. All these in addition to the two team titles.

But there were success stories for the **Europeans** as well with Holland's Bettine Vriesekoop reaching the final of the women's singles, after disposing of Cau Yanhua in the semis (1), and our own Desmond Douglas, with Poland's Andrzej Grubba, overcoming such opposition as Mikael Appelgren and Jorgen Persson of Sweden, China's Wang Huiyuan and Fan Chang Mao and, in the semis, Jacques Secretin and Patrick Birocheau of France.

And what of the feat of Czechoslovakia's Milan Grman, just out of the cadet category, beating Secretin-15, 20, 16 and 19 in the first round of the men's singles and, as an encore, disposing of Federal Germany's Peter Stellwag before falling to former world champion Stellan Bengtsson of Sweden.

Douglas, in the singles, had wins over Tom Johansen of Norway and Thierry Miller of Switzerland before succumbing "over five fluctuating games" to the eventual winner Fan Chang Mao. Graham Sandley, our only other man, fared badly in the draw having the No. 3 seed Appelgren to contend with and losing -9, -12 and -15 in the first round.

Alison Gordon and Karen Witt were our female representatives in Rennes the former distinguishing herself by eliminating Hungary's Edit Urban (11, -21, -15, 16, 18) in Round 1 **but**, thereafter, losing to Marie Hraahova of Czechoslovakia. Karen, on the other hand, went out at the first time of asking losing to Zsuzsa Olah -14, -22, -10.

Apart from Douglas in the men's doubles, Sandley, paired with former English international Bob Potton, now wearing the

orange colours of the Netherlands, had a good win over Christian Martin of France and Bela Mesaros of Yugoslavia (-18, 19 and 12) losing in the 2nd round to Jan-Ove Waldner and Erik Lindh of Sweden.

Alison and Karen, in the counterpart women's event, took an early departure when beaten in the first round by the Federal Germans Olga Nemes and Anke Olschewski but, in the mixed Des and Alison had a fine win over Kim Wan and Kim Jung Mi of South Korea before bowing the knee to Dragutin Surbek and Branka Batinic of Yugoslavia, the latter, in the singles, losing to Sonja Grefberg of Finland!

Reverting back to the team events it would appear that the Poles have it in for Desmond in particular, but this time it was Leszek Kucharski who saw off the English champion and combined with Grubba to win the mixed after the latter had beaten Sandley who, in the opening match against Belgium, had lost to the European cadet champion, Jean-Michel Saive.

Our **women**, having been at pains to dispose of Finland whose Sonja Grefberg won ~~two~~ failed, to capitalise on Alison's opening win against Branka Batinic, winner of her national open in Ljubljana.

Apart from bronze in the women's team event, and bronze again in the men's doubles, the host nation had little to cheer about with not one of their **men** reaching the last 16 in the singles. Secretin had that surprise loss to young Grman, Birocheau fell to Jonas Berner of Sweden, Martin to Surbek, Renvise to Miller and Parietti to Zsolt Kriston of Hungary. The only real spark was provided by Pierre Campagnolle who had an opening round win over Ilija Lupulescu of Yugoslavia.

The last words should be ones of congratulations to the Chinese in winning seven titles out of seven - the gap is still very much there. And what is more, they are coming to the Welsh Open!

### Results:-

#### MEN'S TEAM

Round 1  
Netherlands 3 Finland 2  
Italy 3 Luxembourg 0  
Belgium 3 Switzerland 1  
Norway 3 Israel 2  
Round 2  
China 3 Netherlands 0  
Czechoslovakia 3 U.S.A. 1  
Yugoslavia 3 France II 0  
Hungary 3 Italy 1



Fan Chang Mao. China's winner of the men's singles title in Rennes, Photo by Don Morley, Reigate, Surrey



Teng Yi, beaten by his compatriot, Wang Huijuan, in the semis of the men's singles. Photo by Stan Hilton, Billingham, Cleveland

## England 3 Belgium 1

O. Douglas bt O. Leroy 2-0;  
G. Sandley lost to J.-M. Saive 0-2;  
Douglas/Sandley bt Leroy/Saive 2-0;  
Douglas bt Saive 2-0.  
Poland 3 South Korea 1  
France 1 3 Federal Germany 0  
Sweden 3 Norway 1  
Quarter-finals:  
China 3 Czechoslovakia 0  
Yugoslavia 3 Hungary 0  
Poland 3 England 0  
L. Kucharski bt Douglas 2-0;  
A. Grubba bt Sandley 2-0;  
Grubba/Kucharski bt Douglas/Sandley 2-0.  
Sweden 3 France 1 0

### Semi-finals:

China 3 Yugoslavia 2  
Wang Huiyuan lost to D. Surbek 1-2;  
Chen Longcan bt I. Lupulescu 2-0;  
Chen Longcan/Wang Huiyuan bt Lupulescu/Surbek 2-0;  
Chen Longcan lost to Surbek 1-2;  
Wang Huiyuan bt Lupulescu 2-1.  
Sweden 3 Poland 0  
E. Lindh bt Kucharski 2-0;  
M. Appelgren bt Grubbs 2-1;  
Appelgren/U. Carlsson bt S. Oryszel/Kucharski 2-1.

### Fin.1:

CHINA 3 Sweden 0  
Chen Longcan bt Appelgren 2-0;  
Wang Huiyuan bt Lindh 2-1;  
Chen/Wang bt Appelgren/Lindh 2-0.

## WOMEN'S TEAM

Round 1  
Poland 3 France 0  
Belgium 3 Israel 0  
Norway 3 Italy 1  
Round 2  
China 3 Poland 0  
Sweden w.o. Luxembourg scr  
Yugoslavia 3 Federal Germany 2  
England 3 Finland 2

K. Witt bt Komulainen 2-0;  
A. Gordon lost to S. Grefberg 0-2;  
Gordon/Witt bt Grefberg/Komulainen 2-0;  
Witt lost to Grefberg 1-2;  
Gordon bt Komulainen 2-0.  
Czechoslovakia 3 Belgium 0  
France 1 3 Netherlands 2  
Hungary 3 Switzerland 0  
South Korea 3 Norway 0

### Qu. rter-finals:

China 3 Sweden 0  
Yugoslavia 3 England 1  
B. Batinic lost to Gordon 1-2;  
G. Perkucin bt Witt 2-0;  
Batinic/Perkucin bt Gordon/Witt 2-0;  
Batinic bt Witt 2-0.  
France 1 3 Czechoslovakia 0  
South Korea 3 Hungary 0

### Semi-finals:

China 3 Yugoslavia 1  
He Zhili bt Batinic 2-0;  
Geng Lihuan bt Perkucin 2-1;  
Cao Yanhua/Geng Lihuan lost to Batinic/Perkucin 0-2;  
Geng Lihuan bt Batinic 2-0.  
South Korea 3 France 1 1  
Kim Jung Mi bt N. Daviaud 2-0;  
Lee 500 Ja lost to B. Thiriet 1-2;  
Kim Jung Mi/Kim Soak Hee bt Daviaud/Thiriet 2-1;  
Kim Jung Mi bt Thiriet 2-1.

### Fin.1:

CHINA 3 South Korea 1  
Cao Yanhua bt Kim Jung Mi 2-0;  
Geng Lijuan bt Lee Sao Ja 2-0;  
Cao Yanhua/Geng Lijuan lost to Kim Jung Mi/Kim Soak Hee 0-2;  
Geng Lijuan bt Kim Jung Mi 2-1.

### Men's Singles: Round 3:

J.-O. Waldner (SWE) bt Z. Kriston (HUN) 15. 14. 14.  
14;  
Fan Chang Mao (CHN) bt D. Douglas (ENG) g. 1g. -19. -19. 18;  
E. Lindh (SWE) bt. Chen Longcan (CHN) 20. 14. -8. -14. 19;

J. Berner (SWE) bt Lee Kyung Chul (KOR) 13.21. -15. 19;  
Teng Yi (CHN) bt M. Appelgren (SWE) 17. -15. -15. 16. 17;  
S. Bengtsson (SWE) bt M. Grman (TCH) -16. 13. 18. 22;  
L. Kucharski (POL) bt D. Surbek (YUG) 8. 10. -17. 16;  
Wang Huiyuan (CHN) bt Kim Wan (KOR) 9. 16. 15.

### Qu. rter-finals:

Fan Chang Mao bt Waldner 17. -17. 17. -18. 19;  
Lindh bt Berner 9. 13. 13;  
Teng Yi bt Bengtsson 16. 14. 14;  
Wang Huiyuan bt Kucharski 20. 19. 15.

### Semi-finals:

Fan Chang Mao bt Lindh -13. 17. 16. 12;  
Wang Huiyuan bt Teng Yi 11. 13. 14.

### Final:

FAN CHANG MAO bt Wang Huiyuan 17. 7. -21. 12.

### Women's Singl. . . : Round 2:

Cao Yanhua (CHN) bt S. Wenzel (FRG) -17. 6. 11. 11;  
M. Lindblad (SWE) bt G. Perkucin (YUG) 15. -18. 18. 16;  
Z. Olah (HUN) bt Lee 500 Ja (KOR) 19. 15. 13;  
B. Vriesekoop (HOL) bt E. Ferenczi (FRG) 11.8. 14;  
Geng Lijuan (CHN) bt J. Szatko (POL) 6. 10. 9;  
Kim Soak Hee (KOR) bt 8. Abgrall (FRA) 17. 15. 18;  
He Zhili (CHN) bt S. Grefberg (FIN) 14. 15. 14;  
M. Hrachova (TCH) bt A. Gordon (ENG) 13. 15. 12.

### Quarter-finals:

Cao Yanhua bt Lindblad 9. 11. 7;  
Vriesekoop bt Olah -16. 12. 8. 19;  
Geng Lijuan bt Kim Sook Hee 15. 14. 10;  
Hrachova bt He Zhili -26. 12. -16. 11. 12.

### Semi-finals:

Vriesekoop bt Cao Yanhua -10. 18. 18. 18;  
Geng Lijuan bt Hrachova 16. 13. 15.

### Final:

GENG L1JUAN bt Vriesekoop 14. 14. 15.

### Men's Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Kim Ki Taek/Kim Wan (KOR) bt Lindh/Waldner 15. -20. 16;

Chen Longcan/Wang Huiyuan bt Kriston/S. Varga (HUN) 19. 9;  
Douglas/A. Grubba (POL) bt Fan Chang Mao/Teng Yi 17. 12;  
P. Birocheau/J. Secretin (FRA) bt Kown Oh Taek/Oh Byung-Man (KOR) 13. 14.  
Semi-final:  
Chen Longcan/Wang Huiyuan bt Kim Ki Taek/Kim Wan 15. 17;  
Douglas/Grubba bt Birocheau/Secretin 19. 15.  
Final:  
CHEN LONGCAN/WANG HUIYUAN bt Douglas/Grubba 20. 16.

### Women's Doubles: Quarter-finals:

Cao Yanhua/Geng Lijuan bt B. Batinic (YUG)/Perkucin 10. 9;  
He Zhili/Olah bt Kim Yang Mi/Kim Sook Hee (KOR) -8. 15. 18;  
G. Zsabo/E. Urban (HUN) bt Ferenczi/Wenzel 9. 17;  
O. Nemes/A. Olschewski (FRG) bt K. Björk/A. Låth (SWE) 14. -18. 7.  
Semi-final:  
Cao Yanhua/Geng Lijuan bt He Zhili/Olah 18. 8;  
Szabo/Urban bt Nemes/Olschewski 12. 15.  
Final:  
CAD YANHUA/GENG L1JUAN bt Szabo/Urban 16. 10.

### Mixed Double: Quarter-finals:

Fan Chang Mao/He Zhili bt Grubba/Vriesekoop 18. 11;  
Teng Yi/Geng Lijuan bt Grman/R. Kasalova (TCH) 15. -19. 15;  
Surbek/Batinic bt Douglas/Gordon 16. 19;  
Wang Huiyuan/Cao Yanhua bt J. Pansky (TCH)/Hrachova -14. 13. 20.  
Semi-final:  
Teng Yi/Geng Lijuan bt Fan Chang Mao/He Zhili 19. -20. 17;  
Surbek/Batinic bt Wang Huiyuan/Cao Yanhua -21. 17. 19.  
Final:  
TENG YI/GENG L1JUAN bt Surbek/Batinic 16. 19.



Bettine Vriesekoop of the Netherlands, conqueror of world champion Cao Yanhua. but the beaten finalist in the women's singles.

# EUROPEAN LEAGUE

## BALANCED PERFORMANCE FROM CZECHS

By Mike Watts

The *Com Exchange* at Ipswich was the venue for the latest European League match against the reigning champions Czechoslovakia. Just over three years ago many will remember the last match at this venue when a win by England would have clinched the title but it was the Hungarians who triumphed 4-3. So it was again, with victory to Czechoslovakia by 5-2 and, whilst England had the star of the evening in Desmond Douglas, it, was the balanced performance of the Czechs that tipped the scales.

There was virtually a full house of 600 spectators on Dec. 12/84 with the overall match sponsor, Midland Bank, much in evidence.

The opening singles brought Desmond against Vladimar Broda the left-handed twin who had played so well at Brighton almost twelve months earlier when he lead Des 2-0 in the final of the men's singles of the English Open. The game opened quietly with both players making many mistakes but it was Des who moved quicker into his stride to lead 10-4. Despite Broda using high thrown services to good effect, Des continued to block all Broda's power and emerged victorious. In the second Des quickly established a 7-1 lead but Broda began to trouble him with quick third ball attack from his deceptive service and to 13-17 and 16-19. At this point Broda threw caution to the wind as he served powerfully and followed up with kills to pull back to 18-19. However Broda lost his nerve, served two short serves which Des dealt with comfortably to take game and set.

Next into the arena came Carl Preat. Opposing him was Jindrich Pansky the Czech No. 1 and European No.9. The first game fluctuated with Carl 3-1 up then 12-6 down but Carl using his long pimples to good effect hauled himself back to 15-all. Pansky went 17-15 up but Carl clawed his way back to lead 18-17 and clinched the first game 21-18.

In the second Carl led 7-5 but was quickly hauled back to 7-7.

From then on the pressure was relentless as Pansky brought Carl close in then left him flat-footed with kills wide down his forehand and the second game was surrendered 21-9. Pansky continued to dominate the exchanges in the third leading 7-3 and 10-5 at the change. At 14-7 there was a tremendous long rally with Pansky forced back onto the "boards" but still Carl could not win the points as Pansky forged relentlessly on to win and equate the score.

Alison Gordon then emerged to take on the current European No. 2 Maria Hrachova and the Czechs considered this tie to be a "banker". Alison had other ideas and all through the first game she remained in contention. Whilst Hrachova attacked hard Alison matched her but as the game wore on, Hrachova tightened considerably leaving Alison to try and force the pace which was fatal. The first game went to Hrachova but in the second Alison again hung on and at 9-all gained an edge to put her ahead for the first time. The success was shortlived as Hrachova moved steadily gaining to 17-13 and 19-16. At this stage with Alison serving it was obviously all or nothing. The first two serves were quickly despatched to bring Alison back to 18-19 but then two errors finished the tie which Hrachova took to put the Czech's 2-1 up.

Donald Parker now knew that the two doubles were crucial if England were to win and the Czech captain, Vladimír Miko, was equally aware that the final result depended on them.

The Men's saw the Netherlands Open winners Des and Carl against Broda and Pansky. Broda was the first to experience Carl's "pimples" but he seemed to have no problems as the Czech's raced through the first game with Broda particularly dominant. The second started just as disastrously for England with Pansky getting two "nets" in the first three points. However the English pair rallied to lead 6-4 with Des particularly sharp at picking off loose balls, but this was the last chance for

England as the Czech's containing Des and picking off Carl, raced into a 20-15 lead. A short respite saw the score creep back to 20-18 before a screaming backhand from Broda despatched well wide of Carl's forehand dealt with the final blow to give the Czech's a 3-1 lead.

Desmond partnered Alison against Pansky and Hrachova in the Mixed. This tie produced some remarkable rallies particularly by both men. The English "pair" took an early 8-5 lead but the Czechs levelled at 11-all and then led 14-11. The lead remained at three to 16-19 at which Des served to Hrachova. During the next three points, Pansky had two opportunities to clinch winners but uncharacteristically missed to bring the game level at 19-all. A fourth point won by England with another mistake by Pansky made the score 20-19 before Pansky killed one to make it 20-all. The Czechs then went one up followed by a Douglas "blockbuster" to level once more. A Pansky kill was then turned into an English winner with an unbelievable return from Des but the Czechs again countered to 22-all. A repeat counterhit from Des off another Pansky screamer had the crowd roaring but back came the Czechs to 23-all.

Des then netted an easy return before, for the third time, turning a Pansky kill into an English winner 24-all. Pansky then failed to put away a sitter and Des brought a further huge roar from the crowd with a fifth unstoppable kill from a Pansky loop drive. Game to Des and Alison. The English pair determined to force the pace quickly dominated the early exchanges in the second and at one stage led 6-1 but at 6-4 Umpire Brian Rowlen (Essex) gave England a point which both Des and Alison admitted was an edge. This seemed to inspire the Czech pair who levelled at 9-all. Whilst the points then remained fairly equal it was the English pair who were now making the errors and, in particular Alison seemed to pull a number of her shots probably misjudging the weight of Pansky's returns. Anyhow the game was lost at 17. A good start was necessary in the third but although Des continued to kill with expert precision the change round came with only a one point lead at 10-9. The next point was lost and Pansky then

served to Alison to give the Czechs a 14-11 lead. Encouraged by this and the shouts from Coach Miko the Czech pair then played probably their best to run out winners to give the Czechs a winning 4-1 lead.

Des returned to play Pansky, a player once placed above him in the European Rankings. Des was unstoppable and produced what was probably one of his finest displays in an England shirt. He literally destroyed Pansky 5 in the first and had the crowd roaring once again in the second when at 2-1 up both he and Pansky covered the whole court in one magnificent rally that brought the place down. Des moved smoothly to 18-12 and when he won the next point with another unstoppable kill the look on Pansky's face said it all - sheer desperation. The game was finally won 21-15 to reduce the deficit to 4-2. The final set of the evening saw Carl take on Broda. The Czech took an early lead but was caught and Carl led 17-15 playing intelligently and tight. Broda however remained calm and exploiting the lack of pace from Carl's "pimples" was able to move him around enough to provide the opportunities for winners. The second game took on a similar pattern with Broda holding a slight lead throughout without being comfortable. With Carl serving at 17-13 down he quickly followed up well to cut the lead to 17-15 before Broda gained two unplayable nets to leave Carl with an almost impossible task. However he briefly rallied to 20-17 before Broda finally administered the "coup de grace".

The final result of 5-2 to Czechoslovakia did not give full justice to the England performance although it must be said that overall the Czechs looked worthy Champions and with strength in 'depth' must be favourites to retain their title.

The match was expertly organised by the Ipswich and District League and Joyce Love the Organising Secretary can be well pleased with their efforts.

Sponsors Midland Bank appeared happy with their involvement and everything ran smoothly and efficiently.

RESULTS:  
D. Douglas bt V. Broda 7, 18;  
C. Preat lost to J. Pansky 18, -9, -12;  
Miss A. Gordon lost to Miss M. Hrachova -15, -18;  
Douglas/Preat lost to Pansky/Broda -15, -18;  
Douglas/Gordon lost to Pansky/Hrachova 24, -17, -14;  
D. Douglas bt J. Pansky 5, 15;  
C. Preat lost to V. Broda -18, -17.

### FRONT PAGE COVER

Andrzej Grubba, Poland's foremost standard bearer both in the European League and International Championships.

Photo by courtesy of Tees Sport, Middlesbrough.

# 8th Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship

## 8th Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship 1985

Douglas. Isle of Man - 17th-23rd March

MAJOR CHAMPIONSHIPS FOR THE ISLE OF MAN

In March 1985 T.T. will take on a new meaning in the Isle of Man when the 8th Commonwealth Championships will be held at the Palace Lido, Douglas.

This major championship which is being organised by the 10M TTA, under the auspices of the ETTA, is one of the highlights of the Year of Sport being promoted by the Isle of Man Government. It is this Government support which has enabled probably the smallest Table Tennis Association in the Commonwealth to capture this prestigious event. With only 12 clubs and less than 400 players, the Island Association will not only be playing hosts to countries with tens of thousands of players but also entering all events. Already, the current champions, Hong Kong, together with Australia, New Zealand, Malaysia, Pakistan and Zimbabwe have indicated that they intend to send teams as have England, Scotland, Ireland and Wales and it is confidently expected to receive entries from India, Nigeria, Canada, Jersey, Guernsey and Cyprus. However, invitations have also gone to Singapore, Kenya, Malta, Ghana, Mauritius, The Gambia, Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad, Papua New Guinea and Bangladesh.

It is clear that England team captain Donald Parker is looking to win these championships and regain some of the pride lost in

Moscow in the European Championships. He is already planning a training camp in the Isle of Man before the event to launch his challenge to Hong Kong for the title. Meanwhile the Isle of Man squad are already practising hard in church halls and schools in their quest to beat at least one country in this, their first, International Event.

The main sponsor of this £70,000 Event is the Year of Sport Committee of the Isle of Man Government with Butterfly (U.K.) Ltd., providing substantial backing to the tournament and with help from many of the Island's banks and commercial interests, the Isle of Man TTA expects to produce the most important and successful event for many years in the U.K.

Journalists and media cover will be most welcome and special reduced accommodation rates have been negotiated with the Palace Hotel (the Championship Headquarters). For further details please contact the Organising Director, Gordon Baker, The Lodge, Ballasalla, Isle of Man (phone 0624-823275).

Provisional Schedule of Events (subject to change depending on the number of entries).

Sat. Mar. 16:  
Teams assemble in the Isle of Man.

Sun. Mar. 17:  
Team events commence in the morning. Opening Ceremony in

the evening.

Mon. Mar. 18:

Tues. Mar. 19:

Team events continue.

Wed. Mar. 20:

Free Day. (Qualifying Competition for Individual Events). Team Finals in the evening.

Thurs. Mar. 21:

Individual Events commence BGM of the CTTA at 11.00 followed by luncheon for CTTA Management Committee and Delegates.

Fri. Mar. 22:

Individual Events continue.

Sat. Mar. 23:

Individual Events - Semi-finals in the morning. Consolation events in the afternoon. Individual Finals, Closing Ceremony and Farewell Party in the evening.

### BROTHER & SISTER IN AUSTRALIAN TEAM

By Len Haycraft

The National Selectors have announced the following teams to represent Australia:-

#### MEN

Tommy Danielsson (Vic)  
Bob Tuckett (Vic)  
Gary Haberl (NSW)  
Glenn Tepper (Vic)  
Junior - Ian Irving (Old)  
Captain - J. H. Lee (NSW)

#### WOMEN

Miss Nadia Bisiach (Vic)  
Mrs. M. H. No  
Miss S. Munday

Junior - Miss J. Tepper

Manager - A. Tabone (Vic)

Captain - Mr. N. Harwood (Tas)

The ATTA Council directed the selectors to include a Junior player in both teams - in the event the players selected are the Australian Under-21 Champions.

Past Australian Champions - Paul Pinkewich (NSW) and Mrs. Denise Horder (Tas) were not available.

Arrangements are in hand for the teams to participate in a one week training camp prior to departure at the Australian Institute of Sport in Canberra.

Tommy Danielsson formerly of Sweden and Mrs. M. H. No of South Korea have now completed the 2 year residential qualification required by the International body, and will represent Australia for the first time in these championships.

## SHADES OF SUMMER

High jinks and hard work are depicted here in the persons of Carl Morgan and Karen Witt at a training camp last summer which also exercised the prowess of photographer Stephen Line of Shoreham-by-Sea, West Sussex.



## Moscow Post Mortem

John Prean concludes his inquest  
on the European Championships

My first article reviewed the event, my second tried to understand the English debacle as we sank from a Bronze position in the World to 12th and relegation in the European in less than a year. It was a humiliation, the like of which I cannot recall in Table Tennis history. I would like to think that a great deal of discussion followed by a new 'learning process' took place. Perhaps it did behind closed doors where so much ETIA business is now conducted. If so, it was yet another mistake. It was a subject that cried out for open debate and a long, constructive inquest. Afraid?

Nothing happened. It was as if the architects of the failure were afraid or even worse: They may have felt they had nothing to learn. We shall never know. There was a debate in the National Council and Peter Charters felt that the English system was alright as the girls had done quite well in Moscow. (They too had dropped 3 places in European terms). It was a comforting thought with which I cannot agree. In terms of producing great international players the English system is not alright. It is a disaster area. Before exploring that field, let me say that I was impressed by the response of the National Council which was statesmanlike and completely admirable. Our leaders were instructed to make the National Team a No. 1 priority.

The Dunkirk Spirit Throw Away Your Rubber Stamps..... That is the best way of getting out of a mess. The N.C.'s task is not yet over. Now they must see to it that their wish is translated into action. They have the power to do so. Let them throwaway their rubber stamps and act as what they are: The supreme Parliament of English Table Tennis.

### Team Spirit

Table Tennis is not a natural team game except at the grass roots of the Jocalleagues. At the top England players are in fierce competition almost every weekend for recognition, England caps, tournament victories and prize money. To mould them into a team for the odd long weekend when there is a foreign Open or for a week or two at the end of the season is a Herculean task. After all, every time your rival loses, it brings you nearer an England place. To support each

other under those circumstances requires not only exceptional leadership, but players who are remarkable human beings. There have been and still are such players, but they never got the credit they deserved which is all WE can give them. In my book THEY are the real victors and their victory is greater than any on the table.

Throwaway your ranking lists... My advice to our Selectors therefore is to throwaway their ranking lists which further tear the players apart in the TEAM sense. If they cannot overcome the urge to grade human beings like cattle, then at least let them be swayed by meaningful events and very few of these each season. The current merry-go-around of awarding points to just about everything is ludicrous and the system of ignoring defeats has only one purpose: To encourage players to play in everything instead of staying home for some week-ends practising their skills and resting. A rat-race I have often called it and that is what it is. I do not blame the famous Lentec Computer which provides a real service. I criticise the garbage that is fed into it and what the system does to the players and to national aspirations (viz Moscow).

### Victor and The Twins Travelled by Train....

I have written about inept travel arrangements which sent our players to the table weary, jet-lagged and doomed to defeat, of one day's rest between a 20 hour plane journey and the first match, of juniors and cadets (who are, after all, children) arriving at midnight and expected to play their first match at 8 the next morning. I have to conclude that the people who arrange things in this way either do not care or are incompetent to an inexcusable degree. It is still argued that Victor Barna and the Rowe Twins played supremely well despite even harder schedules in an age when air travel was rare and train journeys were long. It is overlooked that our competitors too were amateurs in those days and the incomparable Victor was in fact more professional than his rivals. If all players of all nations are jet-lagged, it is an even contest. If our players arrive in this condition and the opposition does not, there can only be one result.

### Amateur Administrators

Most of us are volunteers and we are not in Table Tennis to submit to the rigidities of most working lives. Unfortunately inefficiency has become a way of life. The bungler often becomes an object of affection and he can always claim that he did nothing or did things badly because he wanted to save us all money. That may be the alibi for the fiasco in Moscow which started with the travel arrangements which might have been suitable for a work's glee club on an annual alcoholic outing, but not for modern sport. If we are the only ones that suffer for our own inefficiency, we have only ourselves to blame, but when the victims are sportsmen who have trained and lived all year for these big moments, then my usually angelic tolerance deserts me and I do call for a change in attitude and perhaps personnel.

I noted some improvements recently, though the arrangements for the Italian Open were again a disgrace and the ones for the Yugollav not much better. The ones for the Dutch were excellent and a model of what should and could be done. It was no coincidence that we returned with our first Gold medal for a very long time from this event.

### Respect

I have spent over 30 years in Industry which includes labour relations. Never have I found a group of people so badly treated as are the top English players. It is no quirk of fate that so many of our top players have been in almost continuous conflict with the Administration from Bergmann to Barnes, from Neale to Trevor Taylor and being now much nearer that scene I can see how justified the players were in their unhappiness with our system. Many did not bother to argue, but retired, long before their time, whilst still young. It is a sad business.

My blood continues to boil when I recall the pittance offered to the England players after their successes in Tokyo and how one young player got absolutely nothing, how there is never enough equipment around, how the players had to spend their own money in Tokyo to supplement their food. (The soft drink ration of one glass of coke per day was stopped on the second day).

As usual, the cry of prudent house-keeping will go out, of money saved for the good of all of us. I am afraid I cannot agree. The money was there. It was just spent on something else. The seeds of Moscow were sown in the fertile soil of meanness and small-mindedness. That is where it all started and that is where it must all end.

### Are things getting better?

I go on to happier subjects. It gives me no pleasure to list the blunders large and small. How much nicer it would be to pretend that all was well, that the Sport we love was flourishing and growing.

Things ARE getting better, but only slowly. Our players are showing that they can win abroad. Examples: Sandley (Kucharski, Mazunov), I (Anderson, Drysel), Wells (Drysel, Constantini), Prean (U. Bengtsson, Waldner) and, of course, Douglas as good as ever. There was an excellent win in the European Super-League against Poland (5-2), the match against Hungary (3-4) was lost by a hair's width and even Europe's strongest nation (Sweden) was given a shock by an English 'B' Team (3 very close sets in addition to the two that were won). Only small improvement was needed to gain maximum points. The choice of Don Parker was a very happy one. As a player he never got the credit he deserved. As a team captain and coach I hope he will and he can look forward to a remarkable career. I hope that our powers-that-be get behind him and that the National Council sees to it that they do. If so, there is much to look forward to and quite soon there will be considerable success.

We, the membership, have voted the ETIA very large extra funds. We now want to see a strong National Team and a major publicity effort that will widen interest in the Sport and get new member into our club-rooms once again. The long decline in membership must be reversed or there will be NO sport of Table Tennis, just a few hobby gatherings. It's later than you think. We are lucky that the new cash injection has given us a second chance. The leadership faces a heavy responsibility to repay the membership for this gesture. Failure will not be easily forgiven. It is not only the future of a few officials that is at stake. It is the future of the Sport itself.

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COMMENT ON JOHN PREAN'S ARTICLE FROM PETER CHARTERS. ETTA VICE-CHAIRMAN FOR SELECTION AND COACHING.

As I have written before, to comment in detail on merely one paragraph of one of John Prean's more flamboyant offerings would require an article of such length that the reader would have 'turned off long before its conclusion. To compete with such

readable phraseology as humiliation, disaster, rat-race, garbage etc. would require equally expressive and immoderate language. Exaggerated and extreme comment make for more popular reading as evidenced by the comparison between the daily sales of certain national newspapers. However, I prefer moderation to exaggeration in language in the same way as I prefer positive to negative action and constructive to destructive debate.

There was debate, there were inquests into the failure of the England men's team to hold their place in the European top flight. The primary object of the debate was to find the reasons for the slide from a bronze medal in the world championships in Tokyo to relegation in the European championships in Moscow; within 12 months. What had changed in this short intervening period? The English system to which John refers existed before Tokyo as did the computer ranking. As discussed at the national council meeting that John mentions and as most people know, the biggest difference between Tokyo and Moscow was the introduction of the 'two colour' rule. This rule was designed to disadvantage combination bat players. The world's team in Tokyo was basically Desmond Douglas and two winning combination bat players. There is no doubt that of the top table tennis nations not one suffered more than England by this rule change.

Travel arrangements to Moscow have never been given as a reason for the men's team result. No complaints were received from the players about this and people who went to Moscow are surprised that this has now been raised. The team arrived two days before the start of the event, a principle established in recent years from times when they used to travel to these major events the day before its commencement. I agree with much of what John says about travel before international competition and preparation in general. However, he quotes the recent Italian and Dutch Opens which I agree were contrasting in the pre-event travel conditions. The arrangements for the Italian turned out badly but the results were relatively as good as those attained at the Dutch. Nevertheless, preparation should always be the best possible whilst remaining cost effective. Travel arrangements for the major event of the year - World or European championships - will continue to be regarded higher on a priority list than the preceding events.

Moscow was not 'humiliating'. Disappointing, yes, for the players and for the supporters of English

success. Let's be positive; we had a young team, a team on which to build for the future. I am assuming the event to which John refers where 'one day's rest only was given after a 20-hour plane journey' was the European Youth Championships in Topalcany. It's an example of John's ability in writing to make things sound worse than reality. A 20-hour plane journey would take someone to the other side of the world. Topalcany is in Czechoslovakia. My information is that the team arrived in their hotel shortly past midnight, slept on well into the following morning, practiced during the rest of the day, early to bed to be up the following morning for the first round of the team event. This would be a period of approximately 32 hours between arrival and play, not as one might assume from John's statements, 8 hours. His statement is not inaccurate, just misleading. Maybe 32 hours is still not quite good enough but it is not bad as John implies.

Life for England's top players has been and is continuing to improve. John quotes Denis Neale but recent comments by Denis in T.T. News confirm his opinion that things have improved. Things are not as gloomy as John writes. The players do not reap large financial rewards from Table Tennis in England and they do deserve more. However, is it up to the ETTA coffers to provide more? Certainly the fee increase to which John refers was not intended to be spent on the handful of top players. Promises were made for the expenditure of this finance; the promises are being kept. In most other western countries, top table tennis players receive their money from clubs, sponsorships etc. not from the national association. The effort should be in creating the framework for this to happen rather than payout more of the members' affiliation fee.

At the now famous national council meeting (at which neither John nor Erica, his national councillor wife were in attendance) it was in response to an address given by myself and Don Parker that the council gave a priority backing to the future success of the England team. The address consisted of a Post-Moscow enquiry and a look to the future. I did not say that all was fine; that our system was perfect. The reference to the ladies' team (forecast by some as doomed in Tokyo and Moscow without the services of Jill Parker) was made in a general point that although complacency was not the order of the day, neither was panic. There is a lot of good in our system, but there is always room for improvement. In a subsequent national council meeting

I expressed my admiration for the Swedish organisation of Table Tennis. But a fundamental difference is the Swedish national and local governmental attitude to sport and leisure. The source of their success in sport is in the provision of facilities at all levels. Lack of suitable venues in sufficient quantities in this country leaves us handicapped - another problem requiring attention. In spite of differences, we should still be prepared to incorporate facets of other systems into our own where improvements are needed.

I cannot agree with John about the computer ranking. It has been, in my opinion, a very important innovation in English Table Tennis. The 'Lentec' ranking list has stimulated great interest at all levels. The selection committee cannot be accused of self-satisfaction over it either, having made adjustments and improvements where necessary. As written in the last issue of T.T. News, after Moscow it was thought that the system may have encouraged our international players to over-compete during the season. Some adjustments were to give those players playing and winning for England an even clearer advantage at the top end of the computer ranking system. The attitude between the players that John describes would exist under any form of ranking; unless he is suggesting that we have no ranking lists at all. Even then, players would still be in opposition for selection.

More money is being spent on the England team. The cost of two extra training camps plus much-needed lightweight video is being funded from outside the ETTA affiliation fees. Again, I do not wish to give the reader the impression that I con-

test all the points' that John raises. He has considerable energy, he should use it to build rather than destroy. He must come to accept that there are other points of view and that there is a lot of energy in table tennis circles even amongst those about whom he is so scathing. The total failure of so many ETTA committees to hold the same opinions as John, immediately puts them in the category of bunglers, incompetents etc. Of course mistakes are made, there is not one of us who on reflection would not have done at least one thing different. If we are wise, we learn from our mistakes and where possible, avoid the same mistake in the future.

I am concerned that the indiscriminate 'knocking' of a system, a system that has had its successes, can demotivate and destroy confidence in the members of that system; players and officials alike. If not carefully and constructively done such criticism can achieve the opposite of the desired effect. It can provide some individuals with the excuses that they are looking for - to blame others or the inadequacies of a system for their failures. English Table Tennis requires strong people; players, officials, coaches and parents with a positive attitude. The time is right for improvements but the wild striking out at so much that exists is not the way.

In Moscow we had a young and relatively inexperienced team. In support of D.D. we have predominately a young squad of players led by a young and energetic trainer. Let us all get behind them in a constructive manner, in a way that will boost morale, confidence and positive thinking.

## Defeat for Des in Copenhagen

by Peter Fredberg

Andrzej Grubba, the flying Pole, turned out to be a popular champion in the 5th Pondus Cup event in Copenhagen last month. 2,300 enthusiastic spectators and 2 million televisioners watched a supremely fit Grubba, in the pink of condition, beat Erik Lindh of Sweden in the final.

In his semi Grubb beat the previous Pondus Cup winner, England's Desmond Douglas, whilst eliminated from the two groups were Jacques Secretin of France, Jan-Ove Waldner of Sweden as well as the two Danish players Claus Pedersen and Jan Harkamp.

"Never have I experienced such an enthusiasm and warmth" said Grubba playing for the first time in Denmark, captured all Danish hearts. The Pondus Cup is one of the most

popular tournaments in Europe, earlier winners having been Dragutin Surbek of Yugoslavia, Ulf Carlsson of Sweden, Secretin and Douglas.

Results:-

Round 1  
Group A: Grubba bt Pedersen 18. 12; Surbek bt Waldner 19. 18.  
Group B: Douglas bt Lindh -20. 13. 17; Secretin bt Harkamp 12. 17.  
Round 2  
Group A: Surbek bt Pedersen 16. 15; Grubba bt Waldner 20. 8.  
Group B: Lindh bt Harkamp 18. 16; Douglas bt Secretin 13. 21.  
Round 3  
Group A: Waldner bt Pedersen -1 7. 12.21; Surbek bt Grubba 15. 16.  
Group B: Douglas bt Harkamp 19. 14; Lindh bt Secretin 16. 21.

### GROUP PLACINGS

|            |            |
|------------|------------|
| Group A    | Group B    |
| 1 Surbek   | 1 Douglas  |
| 2 Grubba   | 2 Lindh    |
| 3 Waldner  | 3 Secretin |
| 4 Pedersen | 4 Harkamp  |

Semi-finals:

Lindh bt Surbek 22. 14; Grubbs bt Douglas 15. 15.

Final:

GRUBBA bt Lindh, 19. -18. 11.

## CLEVELAND JUNIOR INTERNATIONAL FRENCH DOMINATE AT ESTON

By Alan Ransome

France took the lion's share of honours in the 7-Nation Ladbroke Dragonara Cleveland Junior International championships at Eston Leisure Centre over the weekend of Nov. 24/25, 1984. These championships, the first of its kind in the United Kingdom, attracted entries from Holland, Belgium, France, England, Scotland, Wales and the Isle of Man, with a record entry from the home junior tournament players.

Regis Rossingnol of France won the boys' singles. His toughest match en route to the title was the quarterfinal against 13-year-old Matthew Syed, who took him to 17 in the third.

Jimmy Stokes put up a good fight against Rossingnol in the semis, going down -23, -18, but in the final, against unseeded Adrian Dixon, Rossingnol won comfortably.

Dixon did well to reach the final in beating England No. 1 junior Andrew Syed in the quarters. Other good performances came from Mark Randle of Warwickshire who defeated Didier Mammessin of France in the 4th round at 19 in the third and then went on to play Dixon in the semi-finals.

Rossingnol was also the star in France's 3-1 win over England in the boys' team event final. The French No. 1 beat Stokes and Andrew Syed in straight games and combined with Mommessin to win the doubles.

Gerdie Keen, the No.3 seed from the Netherlands, was a comfortable winner of the girls' singles, beating England's Andrea Holt in the final.

Keen also accounted for England's No.1 Joanne Shaw who she dismissed 21-8, 23-21, to reach the final. Unseeded Andrea Holt had a magnificent run. She beat Jill Powis and Emmanuelle Coubat of France in straight games. She then met another giant killer, Clare Mouzon of Northumberland, who had beaten Holland's Marian Vergeagh. The battle of the giant killers proved to be a comfortable victory for the Lancashire girl.

France completed the double in the team event when their girls' team beat England 3-1 in the final. England's only victory in the final came from Joanne Shaw against Martin Gouache,

With a style totally unique in Cadet table tennis today Matthew Syed was the winner of the Cadet boys' singles, defeating Yorkshire's talented Michael O'Driscoll in the final. The first game was close but with that under his belt Syed ran out a comfortable winner in the second.

O'Driscoll did well to reach the final in beating Bradley Billington in straight games in the previous round. In the Cadet girls' singles Andrea Holt won the title without any trouble despite late entries from 2 Belgium Internationals. Miss Holt beat Elke Billen and then scored a straight games victory over her old rival Claire Potts. ~~it did well to reach the final defeating Billen in straight games but proving on the day to be no match for Miss Holt.~~

The International concept of the junior tournament proved to

be very successful. Both the foreign and English participants seemed to like the general format, whilst all important sponsors Ladbroke and Cleveland County Council, were delighted with their weekend and are hoping to combine to promote a similar tournament in co-operation with the Cleveland County Table Tennis Association next year.

### Results:-

Boys' Singles: **Semi-final:**  
R. Rossingnol (FRA) ht J. Stokes (ENG) 21 . 18;  
A. Dixon (St) ht M. Randle (Wa) 12. 11 .  
Final: ROSSIGNOL ht Dixon 12. 14.  
Girls' Single.: Final:  
G. KEEN (HOL) bt A. Holt (la) 15. 17.  
Boys' Double.: Final:  
STOKES/A. SYED (ENG) bt F. Route/P. Roeland (Hal) 15. 14.

Girls' Doubles: Final:  
J. HOUGHTON/J. SHAW (ENG) bt J. Powis (St)/D. Soothill (Cu) 17. -19.18.  
**Cadet Boys' Single:- Final:**  
M. SYED (8k) bt M. O'Driscoll (V) 20, 9,  
Cadet Girls' Single:- Final:  
**HOLT** 10-8, 8-6  
**Cadet Boys' Double.: Final:**  
D. HOLLAND (E)/O'DRISCOLL bt C. Oldfield/N. Simms (V) 12. -20, 17.  
**Cadet Girls' Double.: Final:**  
~~J. Shaw/M. Gouache (FRA) ht M. Vergeagh/C. Potts (Ch)~~  
17. 17.  
U-11 Boys' Single.: Final:  
B. MILEHAM (W) ht B. Knights (Dg) 12. 13.  
U-11 Girls' Single:- Final:  
B. MEDDING (V) bt H. Potts (Ch) -18; 16. 11.  
Boys' Team Event: Final:  
FRANCE bt England 3-1.  
Girls' Team Event: Final:  
FRANCE bt England 3-1.  
Cadet Boys' Team Event: Final:  
SOUTH YORKSHIRE bt Nu life Sheffield 3-1  
Cadet Girls' Team Event: Final:  
**GROVE, MARKET DRAYTON** 3-1



Regis Rossingnol with Cleveland's Leisure and Arts Officer Mr. Alan Alden,



ETTA Chairman Tom Blunn congratulates Cadet Girls' Singles winner and Junior finalist Andrea Holt,



Ladbroke's local manager Mr. Keith Radcliffe with the French team event champions – Regis Rossingnol Didier Mommessin,

Photos by Hilton Reprographics. Billingham. Cleveland,



# IRISH AFFAIRS

## GALWAY WIN FOR WEIR

By Tony Martin

Derek Weir, a 35-years-old Belfast schoolteacher and without a major win this season, was the surprise winner of the men's singles title in the Irish Closed Championships played in Galway on Dec, 8,

Weir handed out a lesson to some promising students of the game when he edged out Mervyn Kelly in an exciting final. Seeded No. 3 in the absence of some top players Weir overcame Hilton Meneely in the quarters and Kevin Keane in the semi-final. Keane showed glimpses of his former self as he went down fighting,

In the women's singles, former international Liz Cheevers retained her crown displaying

much of her old form in beating Jennifer Reid in a well contested final.

### Results:-

MS: a-fa:  
 M. Kelly bt T. Heasley 17. -18. 20;  
 D. Weir bt K. Keane 20. -16. 17.  
 Final: WEIR bt Kelly 15. 20.  
 WS: s-fs:  
 J. Reid bt M. McMullen 17. -23. 20;  
 L. Cheevers bt C. Leonard 1.7.15.  
 Final: CHEEVERS bt Reid 20. 10. 14.  
 MD: J. DiIVH. Meneely bt Heasley/Weir 10. -16. 15.  
 WD: N. McEvoy/McMullen bt Leonard/Reid 18. -18. 18.  
 XO: Weir/Cheevers bt Heasley/Reid 15. 17.

Both our NO.1 players, Colum Slevin and Anne Leonard, now playing and living in Germany were unavailable for the championships. But the Irish teams for the Welsh Open in Cardiff are:- Men: Colum Slevin and Mervyn

Kelly. Women: Anne Leonard and Nora McEvoy. The N.P.C. will be Pat O'Brien.

### LEINSTER OPEN

The unseeded 21 -years-old Ulsterman Hilton Meneely, won the Leinster Open men's singles title impressively beating four Irish-ranked players in Brian Larrigan, Derek Weir, Tom Heasley and Mervyn Kelly.

In the semis he accounted for No. 2 ranked Heasley and then Kelly another surprise finalist. Kelly also scored notable wins over Jimmy Robinson and Jimmy Hamill.

In the women's event Anne Leonard showed her superiority by coming through comfortably. She accounted for two Ulster players in the closing stages beating Nora McEvoy in the semis and, in the final, Liz Cheevers. The latter showed she is in the

running for Ulster's No. 1 spot by beating both Mary McMullen and Jennifer Reid.

The only real upset in this event was the defeat of Caroline Leonard, the No. 4 seed, by unseeded Lorraine Cullen, Leinster's No. 2 junior. Anne Leonard made it a hat-trick of successes with the two doubles events.

### Results:-

MS: s-fs:  
 H. Meneely bt T. Heasley 21. 15;  
 M. Kelly bt J. Hamill 18. 21.  
 Final: MENEELY bt Kelly 18. 17.  
 WS: s-fs:  
 A. Leonard bt N. McEvoy 14. 15;  
 L. Cheevers bt J. Reid 10. -10.17.  
 Final: LEONARD bt Cheevers 15, 17.  
 MD:  
 KeUy/J. Robinson bt J. DiIVMeneely 15. 19.  
 WD:  
 A. Leonard/E. McManus bt C. Leonard/Reid 16. -16. 18.  
 XO:  
 Meneely/A. Leonard bt D. Weir/ Cheevers 18. 10.  
 U-21 MS:  
 N. Bourke bt E. Kearney 17. 21.  
 U-21 WS:  
 McEvoy bt A. M. Reilly 19. 19.

### REVISED EUROPEAN RANKINGS

Little change has been effected in the revised European Ranking Lists issued subsequent to the FrenchOpen in Rennes but, from England's point of view, it is good to have Carl Prean back in the Top 30 at No. 27. Desmond Douglas, in view of his splendid record in European League matches, has been advanced two places, from No. 10 to No. 8.

Also advanced, in the women's list, is English champion, Alison Gordon, from No. 23 to No. 20 but Karen Witt goes down from No. 17 to No. 22 and Joy Grundy from No. 24 to No. 29. Newcomers in the women's list are Federal Germany's Olga Nemes and Anka Olschewski, at Nos. 12 and 28, displacing Inna Kovalenko and Iolanta Daniliavitchute of the Soviet Union.

Apart from Prean, two other newcomers to the men's list are Jorgen Persson, at No. 16 (!), and Henk van Spanje, at No. 30, from Sweden and the Netherlands respectively. Out go Milan Orlovski (TCH) (19). Istvan Jonyer (HUN) (20) and Ralf Wosik (FRG) (29), the former two not now resident in their own countries. Revised rankings (previous position in brackets) are:-

- MEN
- 1 Ulf Bengtsson (SWE) (1)
  - 2 Andrzej Grubba (POL) (2)
  - 3 Jan-ave Waldner (SWE) (3)
  - 4 Mikael Appelgren (SWE) (4)
  - 5 Erk L.nth (SWE) (6)
  - 6 Jacques Secretin (FRA) (5)
  - 7 Dragutin Surbek (YUG) (7)
  - 8 Desmond Douglas (ENG) (10)
  - 9 Tibor Klampar (HUN) (14)
  - 10 Zoran Kalinic (YUG) (8)
  - 11 Jindrich Pansky (TCH) (9)
  - 12 **Andrei Mazunov** (URS) (12)
  - 13 Leszek Kucharski (POL) (15)
  - 14 Zsolt Kristan (HUN) (13)
  - 15 Patrick Birocheau (FAA) (11)
  - 16 Jorgen Persson (SWE) (-)
  - 17 Ulf Carlsson (SWE) (16)
  - 18 Georg Böhm (FRG) (22)
  - 19 Vladim.r Broda (TCH) (18)
  - 20 Miroslav Broda (TCH) (21)
  - 21 Igor Solopov (URS) (25)

- 22 Josef Dvoracek (TCH) (17)
- 23 Patrick Renverse (FRA) (24)
- 24 Bela Mesaros (YUG) (27)
- 25 Stefan Dryszel (POL) (26)
- 26 Jonny Akesson (SWE) (28)
- 27 Carl Proon (ENG) (H)
- 28 **Wilfried Leck** (FRG) (30)
- 29 Gabor Gergely (HUN) (23)
- 30 Henk van Spanje (HOL) (1-)

- WOMEN
- 1 Valentina Popava (UAS) (1)
  - 2 Marie Hrachova (TCH) (2)
  - 3 Flaura Bulatova (URS) (3)
  - 4 Bettine Vriesekoop (Hal) (5)
  - 5 Branka **Batinic** (YUG) (7)
  - 6 Zsuzsa Olah (HUN) (16)
  - 7 Gabrielle Szabo (HUN) (4)
  - 8 Marje **Lindblad** (ISWE) (19)
  - 9 Narine Antonian (URS) (8)
  - 10 Gordana Perkucin (YUG) (12)
  - 11 Edit Urban (HUN) (10)
  - 12 Olga **Nemes** (FRG) (H)
  - 13 Marie Alboiu (ROM) (13)
  - 14 Kirsten **Kruger** (FRG) (11)
  - 15 Anita Zakharian (URS) (15)
  - 16 Susanne Wenzel (FAG) (16)
  - 17 Mirjam Kloppenburg (HOI) (14)
  - 18 Brigitte Thiriet (FRA) (18)
  - 19 Dana Guerguelcheva (BUII) (22)
  - 20 Alison **Gordon** (ENG) (23)
  - 21 Sonja Grefberg (FIN) (20)
  - 22 Koran Witt (ENG) (17)
  - 23 Jolanta Szatko (POL) (19)
  - 24 Alive Pelikanova (TCH) (27)
  - 25 Nadine Daviaud (FRA) (26)
  - 26 Eva Malmberg (FIN) (25)
  - 27 Menni Weizades (SWE) (21)
  - 28 Anka Olschewski (FRG) (-)
  - 29 Joy Grundy (ENG) (24)
  - 30 Barbara Lippens (BEI) (29)

Invitees to Barcelona for the Europe Senior Top 12 (Feb. 1/3) are to be noted over the line.

### MINI WAY TO START TABLE TENNIS

By Malcolm Haultley  
 Bradford Telegraph and Argus

Since several of the world's leading players began before they were ten years old, Bradford coach Hans Soova last year initiated classes for the under 10s at Eccleshill Sports Centre and Nab Wood.

He had two dozen youngsters learning the game and recently at Eccleshill the best eight took part in their first competition. They play onfull.size boards which have been reduced in height by six inches.

Soova says: "Children learn to ride on ponies, swimmers have shallow end, skiers have nursery slopes but nothing was organised for the very young at table tennis.

"On these tables small children can play a game and those of eight or nine can play with a proper stance. They are playing alongside inter-city and even county players at practice so they can see the standards they must aim for.

"But the most important thing is to get co-ordination between

bat and ball; then comes interest in the game and the will to win. This is one of two lifelines for table tennis. The other extreme is the National League where the best compete"

Posing in front of the camera and Hans Soova are, from left to right:- Mark Sharp (aged 9), Jonathan Wilby (5), Dale Gil-martin (6), Gareth Wilson (10), Lee Fletcher (9), Anthony Gil-martin (8), Beth Subris (8) and Sally Haygarth (7). Anthony Gil-martin and Sally Haygarth were the ultimate winners.

Commenting further Hans Soova writes "It was a joy to see the happiness and delight on the faces of the very young players at the end of the day. There was an air of satisfaction and achievement by all. Parents, coaches who helped me in the low table or mini competition and coaching,

"We must not lose any more of the very young and small to other sports. Let's offer table tennis to them as their first sport on low tables. It is nice to see the small in correct ready stance at low tables playing flowing strokes without having to reach up.

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## And There's More

Says... Tom Blunn, ET TA Chairman

The General Secretary, Albert Shipley, and I recently spent three days at the Annual Conference of the Central Council of Physical Recreation of which the ET TA is a member. The CCPR is a government-sponsored body embracing the governing bodies of over 100 sports. The sports are not all amateur and include the major sports of football, cricket and golf. The objects of the CCPR are generally to consider the interests of members and to speak when

The Annual Conference considers many aspects of sport administration and so far it has been possible to cover a variety of subjects without much repetition. It is at a conference of this nature that one realises the full depth of problems facing sports administrations at the present time. For our part the administration of table tennis

goes far beyond booking air tickets for the few players who are fortunate enough and have developed the skills to be chosen for a national team. Even such a simple task brings in many aspects of the law - the contract with the travel agent, the arranging of credit, the insurance of the players and their baggage and the responsibility to parents for the underage players.

The legal and taxation problems have always caused great concern for most sports and whilst we certainly gained further knowledge to assist the ET TA, we were also able to pass on to others the benefit of our experiences. At the same time we were satisfied that we were more enlightened than many other governing bodies.

A new topic was the introduction into this country of cable television. This could revolutionise sponsorship arrangement and will have to be handled very delicately if sport is to gain maximum benefit. The ET TA is currently negotiating and future prospects are encouraging, though the cable companies do not have the financial resources to pay fees - at present they are

sellers rather than buyers.

The coverage of sport by the current television channels is also a topical subject. The tendency to concentrate more coverage of the established mass sports and the introduction of off-beat sports from America was a cause of great concern to the delegates.

Every sport considers it has the right to some television coverage and this should be borne in mind by those of our own members who consistently call for more television and more sponsorship. We are competing in a crowded market with fewer goods available. It is well to recall that table tennis was the first of the 'minor' sports to approach Channel 4, only to be told that the orthodox image of the game was not what they wanted.

Table Tennis was also the first sport to take advantage of the services of a sponsorship advisory service set up by the Sports Council and we did obtain a very good sponsorship from this source. Delegates indicated their own experiences in both these areas and we soon realised we were not alone with our problems though again we

seemed to be doing better than most. But that does not mean we accept the position, we must strive for better things.

The recent Olympic Games were still very topical and we learned a lot about what to expect in 1988, when table tennis becomes a full member sport. The representation on international bodies is causing great concern as U.K. representation is being eroded at a very fast rate.

Table tennis was mentioned as a sport which still had U.K. officers, with Roy Evans as President of the ITTF and George Yates as Hon. Sec. of the ETTU. We also gained a mention by the recognition of the part played by table tennis in bringing about the emergence of China into the international scene and the ultimate visit of President Nixon to Peking in 1972.

So we came away somewhat satisfied, much the wiser, and with the conviction that there is a lot more to the organisation of the game than is generally realised by our members. Fortunately, we have dedicated people and a very efficient professional staff to cope with all the hidden problems.

## Treasurer's Report

by Aubrey Drapkin

At this time last year I was asking the membership to support a proposal to increase the fees. As you are all aware this proposal was carried by a large majority at the Annual General Meeting and I gave a promise that the proposed benefits to leagues would be put into operation as soon as possible.

The 'free' visits to leagues by the National Coaches is now under way and some leagues have already benefited from them. If you were not aware that this scheme had started please contact the office at Hastings or the National Coach for your area for full details.

The fund for juniors and the fund for the training of local officials have both been set up. Full details are available from the office, as are application forms for the assistance of Juniors. The first attempt at the training

programme will be held in the North West in April.

I have agreed terms for the publication of a Year Book. This should be available in the near future and will be distributed throughout the country. Each league will receive sufficient copies to enable them to give one to every club. I must ask league secretaries for their help in this direction to ensure that the copies reach their ultimate destination.

The reduction in the price of the magazine will be looked at with a view to giving members an opportunity to purchase on more favourable terms than non members. This will be brought into operation for next season.

One of the arguments for increasing the fees was that other sources of finance were of a non guaranteed nature. This has now been clearly demonstrated by the loss of sponsorship for the

English Closed coupled with the loss of television for the same event. The Closed will continue to take place but at our own cost this year and regrettably the prize fund has had to be reduced. The search for a new sponsor for next season continues.

On the subject of sponsorship I would like to correct an impression quite wrongly held by many people that the sums they see quoted in the press are the amounts actually received by the Association. I can understand that this is a natural conclusion to arrive at but it is far from true. The figures often relate to the value placed on the deal by the sponsor and the cash sum received is much less.

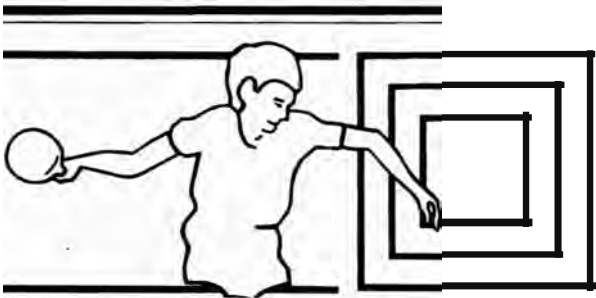
I would like to mention a taxation point that could be of interest to those leagues, counties or clubs who have surplus cash on deposit with a Building Society or a bank - and receive interest on which they are subsequently taxed by the Inland Revenue.

Building Society interest is received after the deduction of income tax by the society but subsequently attracts corporation tax at a later date. The actual

liability to corporation tax is calculated by adding back the income tax deducted at source by the society and then calculating corporation tax at the appropriate rate on the higher amount. From this figure is deducted the income tax originally deducted from the interest received from the society, to give a final liability to corporation tax for the year, as follows:

|   |                |
|---|----------------|
| Example for year  |                |
| 1983/84   | £              |
| Interest received from Building Society                   | say 100.00     |
| Add back, income tax already deducted by Building Society | 42.85          |
| Gross amount of interest deemed to have been received     | <u>£142.85</u> |
| Corporation tax thereon for 1983/84 at 38%                | 54.28          |
| Less, income tax already paid by deduction, as above      | 42.85          |
| Corporation tax payable by the league, etc for 1983/84    | <u>£11.43</u>  |

Continued on page 51 .



# Beneficial Trust Junior Grand Prix

## Berkshire Players to the Fore

By George R. Yates

The capture of the boys' singles title by Jimmy Stokes; the retention of the cadet boys' singles title by Matthew Syed; success for Stokes and Andrew Syed in the boys' doubles and a half share of the mixed by the latter speaks volumes Berkshire's strength in the Beneficial Trust English Junior Closed played at the Hinckley Leisure Centre over the weekend of Dec. 15/16, 1984.

In the other events Yorkshire's Joanne Shaw did well to win the girls' singles title as did Lancashire's Andrea Holt in sweeping to success in the cadet girls' singles. Joanne, like Stokes, picked up a second winners medal when partnered by Jill Powis of Staffordshire in the girls' doubles whilst Cumbria's Debbie Soothill got into the act with the elder Syed in the mixed.

Andrew Syed was the top seed in the boys' singles, as well as being the defending champion but, on the day, was forced to play second fiddle to **10-year-old Billington** who was able to beat Thomas Blackman of Northumberland in the semis.

The 14-year-old Chesterfield cadet began his final assault in convincing style by taking the first game on 16-year-old Jimmy at 16 but thereafter it was the Reading boy who took over the controls to the tune of 8 and 8!

Joanne Shaw, the top seed in the counterpart girls' event, went desperately close to defeat at the hands of Jill Powis in a final which saw the Staffs girl 20-14 up in the third and deciding game only to let her considerable advantage melt away.

No less than three cadets reached the quarter-final stage of the girls' singles, all in the top half of the draw. **with Kerry Holt, losing to the eventual winner and Claire Potts beating Julie Billington,** the Cheshire girl having disposed of Debbie Soothill, the No. 3 seed,

In the cadet girls' singles all

four seeds reached their intended semi-final targets the upset being the final success of **Miss Holt** who, in the semis, disposed of **Miss Billington 7-6 and 16-11** in the final. Miss Potts 10 and 16!

Again in the cadet boys' singles it was the four top seeds who dominated with Matthew Syed beating No.4 seed Chris Oldfield and No. 3 seed, Michael O'Driscoll accounting for the No. 2 seed **Billington with top seed**, Syed, beating off the challenge of O'Driscoll in the final.

In the boys' doubles top seeds, Stokes and Andy Syed justified their position with a final victory over the defending champions Adrian Dixon and Murray Jukes but all credit to the Kent/Essex combine of Bernard O'Grady and James Griffiths and **10-year-old Billington**, paired with Lancashire's Sean Gibson in reaching the semis.

Again, in the girls' doubles, it was victory for the top seeds. Joanne and Jill but ousted in the first round were No. 2 seeds Juliet Houghton and Debbie Soothill by the beaten finalists Tina Holland and Amanda Shufflebotham.

But the Cumbrian lass, seeded No. 2 with Andy Syed in the mixed, tasted success with a final victory over Dixon and Miss Houghton after top seeds, Stokes and Joanne Shaw had been toppled by O'Driscoll and **Billington**.

As the first of this season's tournaments in the Beneficial Trust Junior Grand Prix, Hinckley must go down as a complete success with Desmond Douglas making the journey from Birmingham to take part in the prize presentations.

### BENEFICIAL TRUST ENGLISH JUNIOR CLOSED

Boys' **Singl**... Round 4:  
 A. Syed (8k) bt P. Elphick (Sx) 10, 18;  
 i'... 'ukes (Wol 19, 15);  
 T. Blackman (Nd) bt K. Lawrence (St) 18, 17;  
 A. Dixon (St) bt N. Newton (V) 13, 14;  
 R. Thomas (Do) bt A. Cunningham (K) 16, 15;  
 C. Guest (V) bt M. O.O.;scoll (V) 19, 18, 19;  
 M. Syed (8kl) bt R. Hayward (S.) 17, 14;  
 J. Stokes (8kl) bt P. Amos (K) 19, 13, 16.  
**Quarter-finals:**  
 ... bt Syed 19... 1, 18;  
 Blackman bt Dixon 16, 20;  
 Guest bt Thomas 10, 12, 15;  
 Stokes bt Syed 18, 21.  
**Semi-fin. I.:**  
 ... bt Blackman 16, 13;  
 Stokes bt Guest 16, 11.  
**Final:** STOKES 1... Billington 16, 8, 8-  
**Girl. Singl... Round 3:**  
 J. Shaw (V) bt S. Webb (Spl) 18, 13;  
 ... Sout., (M) 14, 16, 9;



Desmond Douglas lines up with (l to r):- Jimmy Stokes, **10**, Thomas Blackman and Clive Guest together with Nigel Norris. Beneficial Trust Regional Manager.



Boys' singles winner Jimmy Stokes beautifully escorted.



Boys' doubles winners Andrew Syed and Jimmy Stokes flanked by ETTA Hon. Treasurer, Aubrey Drapkin, and Peter Charters, Vice-Chairman (Selection and Coaching).



ETTA President, Maurice Goldstein OBE, with (l to r):- Joanne Shaw, Jill Powis, Juliet Houghton and the diminutive Claire Potts with Nigel Norris of Beneficial Trust extreme right.

# Beneficial Trust

**Final:** R. Knight (M) 20, 16;  
 C. Potts (Ch) bt D. Soothill (Cul) 10, 15;  
 J. Houghton (K) bt H. Perrott (Av) -20, 16, 13;  
 L. Hayden (E) bt A. Boxall (H) 6, 12;  
 L. Davis (W) bt C. Mouzon (Nd) 14, -15, 12;  
 J. Powis (St) bt M. Cohen (Av) 8, 11.  
**Quart...** fin. f.:  
**Semi-finals:**  
 Houghton bt Hayden -19, 19, 14;  
 Powis bt Davis 14, 11.  
**Semi-finals:**  
 Shaw bt Potts 13, -18, 11;  
 Powis bt Houghton 17, -7, 15.  
**Final:** SHAW bt Powis 17, -7, 15.  
**Cadet Boy's Singles:** Round 4:  
 M. Syed bt S. Miller (Cv) 13, 16;  
 A. Houghton (K) bt W. Renton (La) 14, 18;  
 N. Pickard (Ink) bt M. Pernet (Sy) 15, 13;  
 C. Oldfield (Y) bt A. Thorp (St) 15, 15;  
 O'Oriscoll bt D. Morris (Sp) 11, 14;  
 P. Szekeres (M) bt D. Saunders (Gs) 17, -18, 20;

D. Holland (E) bt J. Swaine (Y) 14, 11;  
 ...  
**Quarter-final:**  
 Syed bt Houghton 16, 13;  
 Oldfield bt Pickard 20, -17, 14;  
 O'Oriscoll bt Szekeres 18, 10;  
**Semi-final:**  
 Syed bt Oldfield 9, 10;  
**O'Oriscoll bt Billington 10, 10.**  
**Final:** M. SYEO bt O'Oriscoll -15, 11, 15.  
**Cadet Girl's Singl...:** Round 3:  
 Potts bt E. Meddings (Y) 15, 9;  
 J. Norman (B) bt E. Connelly (Y) 12, 15;  
 ...  
 A. Holt (La) bt H. Potts (Ch) 5, 8;  
 J. Wright (Dv) bt V. Boyd (Sp) 13, 9;  
**T. Scott Pawson (D) bt N. McGrath (La) 17, 17;**  
 ...  
**Quarter-finals:**  
 Potts bt Norman 10, 5;

...  
 Holt bt Wright 18, 6;  
**Scott Pawson 16, 7.**  
**Semi-final:**  
 Potts bt ...  
**Holt bt ...**  
**Final:** HOLT bt Potts 10, 16.  
**Boys' Doubt...:** Quarter-finals:  
 Siokes/A. Syed bt L. Brown (La)/Holland 10, 11;  
 J. Griffiths (E)/8. O'Grady (K) bt P. Savins (Sk)/  
 ...  
**Semi-finals:**  
 Siokes/Syed bt Griffiths/O'Grady 13, 23;  
 Dixon/Jukes bt ... 19, -16, 14.  
**Final:** STOKES/A. SYED bt Dixon/Jukes 17, 15.  
**Girls' Doubt...:** Quarter-finals:  
 Powis/Shaw bt Meddings/O. Toole (V) 12, 12;  
 S. Hammond (Ha)/Souler bt H. Broomhead/C.  
 Dada (V) 9, 19;

Boxall/Mouzon bt K. Cox (La)/H. Lower (St) 13, 16;  
 T. Holland (E)/A. Shufflebolham (Ox) bt H. Wright (Dv)/Wright 7, 6.  
**Semi-finals:**  
 Powis/Shaw bt Hammond/Souler 16, 16;  
 Holland/Shufflebolham bt Boxall/ Mouzon 7, 21, 17.  
**Final:** POWIS/SHAW bt Holland/Shufflebolham 19, 17.  
**Mixed**  
**O'Oriscoll bt ...** Siokes/Shaw 19, 17;  
 Dixon/ Houghton bt Jukes/Davis 17, 17;  
 M. Syed/Holt bt Szekeres/Boxall-15, 15, 13;  
 A. Syedi/Soolhill bt D. Fewsdale/S. Richmond (Cv) 19, 15.  
**Semi-finals:**  
 Dixon/Houghton bt O'Oriscoll/Holt 13, 20, 19;  
 Syed/Soolhill bt Syed/Holt 13, -9, 17.  
**Final:** A. SYED/SOOTHILL bt Dixon/Houghton -16, 13, 18.

## THE WINNERS

Photographic coverage by R. K. M., Photography, Trinity Galleries, Hinckley, Leics,



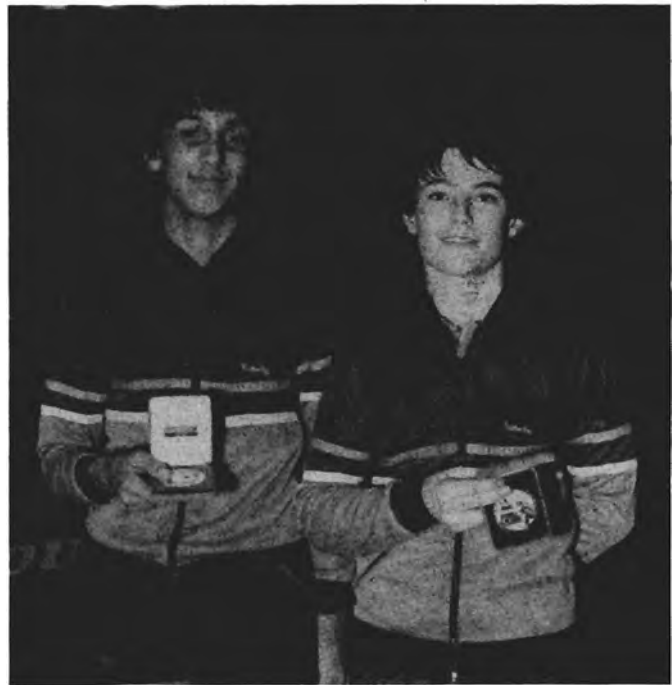
Joanne Shaw - Girls' Singles



Andrea Holt - Cadet Girls' Singles, with proud father,



Matthew Syed - Cadet Boys' Singles  
16



Andrew Syed and Jimmy Stokes - Boys' Doubles winners.



# Counties Round-up

with Surrey. in second. may be forced to spend at least one more season in the third division.

In the CAMBRIDGESHIRE/KENT draw. Referee GEOFF WATERS reported that this was a "real thriller", particularly after Cambs led 3-0 and 4-1. Their Alison Edge experienced her first defeat at the hands of JILL FARTHING. but HILARY FINCH remained unbeaten after her demolition of Helen Sewell of Kent. This was enthralling stuff in an almost four hour matathon". The men for Cambs were PETER HOLLIDAY, JULIAN WHEEL and MARTYN LIVERMORE, while those for Kent were RAY TILLING, JEFF CHAPMAN and GARRY ZABROCKL CAMBRIDGESHIRE, in fourth, may reflect and wonder if they should not have grabbed both points from this weaker-than-usual Kent side.

Wow! NORFOLK 1st pulled out all of the stops against SUFFOLK 2nd at the Norman Centre. Norwich. The home-steaders - Wendy Hogg. Judy Dixon. Richard and Martin Stevenson and the promising Trevor Bunn. simply wiped the table with Sue Butcher, Kathy Brierly. Terry Dowsett, Paul Gooding and Nigel Hodder. The Referee was S. HONOR. BOTIOM 4: Norfolk 1st; Sussex 2nd; Norfolk 2nd; Suffolk 2nd. JUNIORS 2A: Warwickshire 3 LancaShire 7; Leicestershire 2 Northumberland 8; Staffordshire 2nd 0 Yorkshire 2nd 10; Cleveland 6 Cheshire 4.

NORTHUMBERLAND travelled down to Knighton Park TIC to take on Tracey Clark, Gail Chapman, Paul Bumpus, Richard Grimley and Ian Brown of LEICESTERSHIRE. The visitors seemed in a mean mood and only dropped two sets, when Keith Patterson and Elaine Hopper, in their singles, lost to Paul Bumpus and Gail Chapman. respectively. Northumberland were also made up of CLAIRE MOUZON. THOMAS BLACKMAN and PETER CURRY. The Referee was RONALD EMERTON. The highlight of the afternoon for Leicestershire, may have been the presentation of County Badges to Richard, Ian and Gail, who also accomplished her first County win. Well done, Gail. I will be watching and waiting for your results in the future.

DEREK SHERRATT informs me that in the STAFFS 2nd/YORKS 2nd encounter, his home Team proved no match for a very competent Yorkshire side. Staffordshire had ADRIAN THORPE, JANE WINTER and LOUISE SHERRATI making their debut, but even the experienced campaigners like Steve Slater and Ian Miller found the going rough and tough. Derek is adamant that it will take an ex-

ceptionally talented team to stop the combination of DEBBIE TOOLE, CAROLINE DADA, the skilful CHRIS OLDFIELD. ALARIC BASSANO and TONY MILLER. He also wants to thank the L1CHFIELD LEAGUE for providing a superb venue. and also BRIAN WATKINS, the Organiser and Match Referee, who did a splendid job, Thank You, Derek. for the feedback.

TOP 4: Yorkshire 2nd; Northumberland; Lancashire; Warwickshire.

JUNIORS 2B: Hertfordshire 4 Middlesex 2nd 6; Devon 10 Dorset 0; Sussex 6 Essex 2nd 4; Northamptonshire 6 Hertfordshire 4; Wiltshire 4 Middlesex 2nd 6.

The keep off the bottom clash between DEVON and DORSET, finished with Devon taking all ten sets. This division must also be pretty tough because neither of these squads has a poor lineup. I was therefore surprised to find that Dorset, with Tracey Scott-Pawson and Jason Hegarty, could neither play a successful part. in this instance. The Match Referee at Plymouth was FRANCES JARVIS. whom I have not yet met...I think.

Showstoppers SUSSEX struggled to beat ESSEX, now in fifth. It was not until the very last set when burly, bespectacled and brave PATRICK STREET clinched it for Sussex by thrashing Garry Killington -the Essex No. 2. Similarly, NORTHAMPTONSHIRE made it at the end against Hertfordshire when RAYMOND JACOBS crept home in the third, much to the disappointment of Derek Rogers. MIDDLESEX had a close call on facing WILTSHIRE. This time, in the ninth, KATRINA BAKER beautifully and conscientiously kept ahead of the industrious Jenny Neale. With the score at 6-3 in favour of Middlesex, Jenny's teammate IAN NEATE brought a little respectability to Wiltshire, by sending back Seni Emmanuel to the bench with 19 and 17. BRIAN FREEMAN was the Match Official for this one at Swindon.

TOP 4: SUSSEX; Wiltshire; Middlesex; Northamptonshire.

JUNIORS 3A: Nottinghamshire 10 Huntingdonshire 0; Cheshire 2nd 2 Lincolnshire 8;

**DEREK SHERRATT** informs me that in the STAFFS 2nd/YORKS 2nd encounter, his home Team proved no match for a very competent Yorkshire side. Staffordshire had ADRIAN THORPE, JANE WINTER and LOUISE SHERRATI making their debut, but even the experienced campaigners like Steve Slater and Ian Miller found the going rough and tough. Derek is adamant that it will take an ex-

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TOP 4: LINCOLNSHIRE; Nottinghamshire; Cumbria; Cheshire 2nd.

JUNIORS 3B: Gloucestershire 3 Bedfordshire 7; Gwent 4 Glamorgan 6; Worcestershire 6 Warwickshire 2nd 4.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE suffered another setback against a good BEDFORDSHIRE unit comprising of JOYCE MITCHELL, CAROLINE BUCKLEY, PETER EDWARDS, GAVIN BLACK and NICK APPS. Gloucestershire's three successes were from ANTHONY WILSON, LAURENCE SYMONDS and DALE SAUNDERS., Suzanne Webley and Jenny Egan tried very hard. but were unable to contribute for Gloucestershire in either the singles or the doubles, The Referee at the Central Electricity Generating Board was the illustrious ALAN GILES.

TOP 4: GLAMORGAN; Worcestershire; Bedfordshire; Gloucestershire J.

JUNIORS 3C: Surrey 2nd 9 Hampshire 1; Cornwall 10 Berkshire 2nd 0; Cornwall 2nd 2 Berkshire 2nd 8; Somerset 9 Avon 1; Somerset 3 Cornwall 1st 7; Avon 3 Surrey 2nd 7; Cornwall 2nd 5 Wiltshire 2nd 5; Avon 5 Cornwall 1st 5; Berkshire 2nd 6 Hampshire 4.

PETER CORNER would have been pleased to see how well his young Team handled the promising HAMPSHIRE side of Laura Savaker, Liza Rice, Paul Laurence, Paul Whyton and Jason White. I noticed that PAUL LAURENCE took the very first set but after that it was plain sailing for Surrey. Well done KAREN WILDE, CHERYL BATEMAN, MATIHEW PERNET - who is looking good. and SIMON 'Slim' HURLEY. The Referee was JOHN HAMMOND, who was well assisted by TERRY CARPENTER. John is becoming a very good umpire. Perhaps he could get cracking and call those 'faults' where appropriate, much earlier rather than waiting until he is warmed up when the game reaches 19-19. John stands heads and shoulders above many of his Associates who do not seem to get warm or appear interested in doing so. Terry is coming on nicely too.

TOP 4: CORNWALL 1st; Surrey 2nd; Somerset; Berkshire 2nd,

JUNIORS 3D: Norfolk 2nd 0 Kent 2nd 10; Suffolk 8 Cambridgeshire 1st 2; Hertfordshire 2nd 5 Cambridgeshire 2nd 5; Essex 3rd 6 Norfolk 1st 4; Cambridgeshire 1st 10 Cambridgeshire 2nd 0; Norfolk 1st 7 Norfolk 2nd 3; Kent 2nd 2 Suffolk 8; Cambridgeshire 2nd 0 Essex 3rd 10; Norfolk 1st 4 Suffolk 6; Kent 2nd 6 Cambridgeshire 1st 4;

Hertfordshire 2nd 8 Norfolk 2nd 2; Hertfordshire 2nd 1 Suffolk

1st 9; Cambridgeshire 2nd 2 Kent 2nd 8; Essex 3rd 9 Norfolk 2nd 1; Cambridgeshire 1st 9 Hertfordshire 2nd 1; Kent 2nd 7 Norfolk 1st 3; Norfolk 2nd 1 Cambridgeshire 2nd 9; Suffolk 1st 5 Essex 3rd 5; Essex 3rd 3 Cambridgeshire 1st 7; Hertfordshire 2nd 2 Norfolk 1st 8.

TOP 4: ESSEX 3rd; SUFFOLK; Kent 2nd; Cambridgeshire 1st. VETERANS PREMIER: Hertfordshire 1st 1 Essex 1st 8; Kent 3 Middlesex 6; Nottinghamshire 8 Huntingdonshire 1; Cheshire 3 Lincolnshire 6.

LINCOLNSHIRE defeating CHESHIRE is no mean feat, so well done CONNIE MORAN, MATI SHEADER, BRIAN ALLISON and BRIAN EDLINGTON! Top Team ESSEX cruised a bit at HERTFORDSHIRE. In spite of three sets going to three, the average game finished at 21-11. MIDDLESEX found some resistance from KENT, but Kathy, Babs, Don and Norman, finally came through 6-3. NOTTINGHAMSHIRE just failed to take all nine at HUNTINGDONSHIRE. In the sixth set, Ms D. Wakefield made light work of Pat Hammond, to avoid the whitewash. TOP 4: ESSEX; Cheshire; Lincolnshire; Kent.

VETERANS 2A: Buckinghamshire 6 Hertfordshire 2nd 3; Leicestershire 5 Worcestershire 4; Bedfordshire 0 Cheshire 2nd 9; Oxfordshire 3 Essex 2nd 6.

LEICESTERSHIRE WORCESTERSHIRE dust-up lasted just over four hours. The last six sets went to three - the main one. the Mixed Doubles, saw Worcestershire leading 18-12 in the third. Would you believe that Leicestershire bounced back to take the last nine points? Wow! Fantastic stuff! Water is coming from my eyes - for the Worcestershire pair. Thank you Referee HARRY WARD. BEDFORDSHIRE took a hiding from CHESHIRE. TOP 4: BUCKINGHAMSHIRE; Cheshire; Leicestershire; Hertfordshire.

VETERANS 2B: Middlesex 2nd 6 Dorset 3; Wiltshire 0 Surrey 9; Berkshire 4 Sussex 5; Hampshire 6 Avon 3.

SUSSEX lead with four wins in as many outings. However, on this visit to BERKSHIRE. it was only in the last set when this record was held intact by the defensive skills of the wily GERRY BAT-RAWDEN who gave a sound 17 and 16 performance against the experienced Brian Halliday. ROBIN LOCKWOOD was in charge here at Ibis Sports Club. Reading.

Umpires RAY YATES/REG GLOVER witnessed a fine 6-3 performance from their HAMPSHIRE unit when facing AVON,

# Counties Round-up

while SURREY were going full guns at Salisbury against WILTSHIRE.

TOP 4: SUSSEX; Middlesex 2nd; Hampshire; Dorset.

VETERANS 3A: Cheshire 3rd 8 Northamptonshire 1.

TOP 4: ESSEX 3rd; Northamptonshire; Yorkshire; Cheshire 3rd.

VETERANS 3B: Berkshire 2nd 9 Wiltshire 2nd 0; Kent 2nd 5 Hampshire 2nd 4; Hertfordshire 3rd 6 Sussex 3rd 3; Dorset 2nd 1 Berkshire 2nd 8; Sussex 2nd 6 Wiltshire 2nd 3.

Referee BERT FRETWELL was pleased to see SUSSEX remain unbeaten after entertaining WILTSHIRE 2nd at the BACS Club. Hove. After carrying Basil Thompson in the Mixed. SYLVIA MORSE for Wiltshire excelled in taking Pat Pearce of Sussex in the third. similar to Basil over Mike Watts. Hello Hilda! This is yet another very competitive division. Can Sussex hang on to Berkshire?

TOP 4: BERKSHIRE 2nd; Sussex 2nd; Hertfordshire 3rd; Kent 2nd.

## DIVISION 3D

|                    | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Middlesex 2nd      | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 38 | 12 | 10  |
| Surrey 2nd         | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 31 | 19 | 8   |
| Kent 2nd           | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 31 | 19 | 7   |
| Essex 3rd          | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 25 | 25 | 6   |
| Cambridgeshire 2nd | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 21 | 19 | 5   |
| Norfolk 1st        | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 19 | 21 | 2   |
| Sussex 2nd         | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 18 | 22 | 2   |
| Norfolk 2nd        | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 12 | 28 | 0   |
| Suffolk 2nd        | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 5  | 35 | 0   |

## JUNIORS

### PREMIER DIVISION

|               | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Kent          | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 28 | 12 | 8   |
| Derbyshire    | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 24 | 16 | 6   |
| Yorkshire     | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 23 | 17 | 5   |
| Staffordshire | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 21 | 19 | 4   |
| Essex         | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 20 | 20 | 4   |
| Middlesex     | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 20 | 20 | 4   |
| Berkshire     | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 26 | 1   |
| Surrey        | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 10 | 30 | 0   |

Tables include matches played to 1st December.

## SENIORS

### PREMIER DIVISION

|                | 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   |

### DIVISION 2A

|                   | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Warwickshire      | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 29 | 11 | 7   |
| Leicestershire    | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 28 | 12 | 7   |
| Yorkshire 2nd     | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 17 | 6   |
| Cheshire          | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 23 | 17 | 4   |
| Lancashire 2nd    | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 20 | 20 | 4   |
| Buckinghamshire   | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 18 | 22 | 4   |
| Suffolk           | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 13 | 27 | 0   |
| Staffordshire 2nd | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 6  | 34 | 0   |

### DIVISION 28

|                 | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Sussex          | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 28 | 12 | 7   |
| Devonshire      | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 28 | 12 | 6   |
| Kent            | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 28 | 12 | 6   |
| Dorset          | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 22 | 18 | 5   |
| Essex 2nd       | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 15 | 25 | 4   |
| Hampshire       | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 13 | 17 | 2   |
| Wiltshire       | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 9  | 21 | 0   |
| Gloucestershire | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 7  | 33 | 0   |

### DIVISION 3A

|                      | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Derbyshire           | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 28 | 11 | 5   |
| Durham               | 5 | 2 | 1 | 2 | 30 | 20 | 4   |
| Clwyd                | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 18 | 12 | 4   |
| Nottinghamshire      | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 21 | 19 | 4   |
| Lincolnshire         | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 15 | 15 | 3   |
| Northumberland       | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 13 | 17 | 3   |
| Cheshire 2nd         | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 9  | 21 | 2   |
| Northamptonshire 2nd | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5  | 25 | 0   |

### DIVISION 38

|               | P | W | D | F | L  | A  | Pts |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Glamorgan     | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 19 | 11 | 5   |
| Somerset 1st  | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 19 | 11 | 5   |
| Avon 1st      | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 18 | 12 | 3   |
| Cornwall      | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 14 | 3   |
| Isle of Wight | 4 | 0 | 3 | 1 | 17 | 23 | 3   |
| Dorset 2nd    | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 25 | 3   |
| Somerset 2nd  | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 16 | 2   |
| Wiltshire 2nd | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 12 | 18 | 2   |

### DIVISION 3C

|                      | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|----------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Worcestershire 1st   | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 36 | 14 | 9   |
| Huntingdonshire      | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 24 | 16 | 7   |
| Berkshire 2nd        | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 27 | 13 | 6   |
| Oxfordshire          | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 24 | 16 | 5   |
| Hertfordshire        | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 23 | 27 | 4   |
| Avon 2nd             | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 21 | 19 | 3   |
| Bedfordshire         | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 13 | 27 | 2   |
| Northamptonshire 1st | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 29 | 1   |
| Worcestershire 2nd   | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 29 | 1   |

### DIVISION 2A

|                   | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Yorkshire 2nd     | 4 | 3 | 1 | 0 | 30 | 10 | 7   |
| Northumberland    | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 24 | 16 | 6   |
| Lancashire        | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 22 | 18 | 5   |
| Warwickshire      | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 22 | 18 | 4   |
| Cleveland         | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 14 | 16 | 4   |
| Cheshire          | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 16 | 24 | 2   |
| Staffordshire 2nd | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 11 | 19 | 2   |
| Leicestershire    | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 11 | 29 | 0   |

### DIVISION 28

|                  | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Sussex           | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 11 | 6   |
| Wiltshire        | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 24 | 16 | 5   |
| Middlesex 2nd    | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 16 | 24 | 4   |
| Northamptonshire | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 11 | 9  | 3   |
| Essex 2nd        | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 22 | 18 | 3   |
| Hertfordshire    | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 19 | 21 | 3   |
| Devonshire       | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 17 | 13 | 2   |
| Dorset           | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 12 | 28 | 2   |

### DIVISION 3A

|                 | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Lincolnshire    | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 25 | 5  | 6   |
| Nottinghamshire | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 23 | 7  | 6   |
| Cumbria         | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 20 | 20 | 4   |
| Cheshire 2nd    | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 18 | 22 | 4   |

|                 |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
|-----------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| Cleveland 2nd   | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 9  | 21 | 2 |
| Huntingdonshire | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 11 | 29 | 0 |

### DIVISION 38

|                  | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Glamorgan        | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 21 | 9  | 6   |
| Worcestershire   | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 12 | 6   |
| Bedfordshire     | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 20 | 10 | 4   |
| Gloucestershire  | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 18 | 22 | 3   |
| Gwent            | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 20 | 20 | 2   |
| Warwickshire 2nd | 2 | 0 | 1 | 1 | 9  | 11 | 1   |
| Oxfordshire      | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4  | 26 | 0   |

### DIVISION 3C

|               | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Cornwall 1st  | 5 | 5 | 0 | 0 | 41 | 9  | 10  |
| Surrey 2nd    | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 31 | 19 | 7   |
| Somerset      | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 28 | 12 | 6   |
| Berkshire 2nd | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 25 | 25 | 6   |
| Avon          | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 10 | 20 | 2   |
| Cornwall 2nd  | 4 | 0 | 2 | 2 | 13 | 27 | 2   |
| Wiltshire 2nd | 4 | 0 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 29 | 1   |
| Hampshire     | 4 | 0 | 0 | 4 | 11 | 29 | 0   |

## DIVISION 3D

|                     | P | W | O | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|---------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Essex 3rd           | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 42 | 18 | 9   |
| Suffolk             | 5 | 4 | 1 | 0 | 36 | 14 | 9   |
| Kent 2nd            | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 33 | 17 | 8   |
| Cambridgeshire. 1st | 5 | 3 | 0 | 2 | 32 | 18 | 6   |
| Norfolk 1st         | 5 | 2 | 0 | 3 | 27 | 23 | 4   |
| Hertfordshire 2nd   | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 18 | 42 | 3   |
| Cambridgeshire 2nd  | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 34 | 3   |
| Norfolk 2nd         | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 6  | 44 | 0   |

## VETERANS

### PREMIER DIVISION

|                 | P | W | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-----------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Essex           | 4 | 4 | 0 | 28 | 8  | 8   |
| Cheshire        | 4 | 3 | 1 | 28 | 8  | 6   |
| Lincolnshire    | 4 | 3 | 1 | 23 | 13 | 6   |
| Kent            | 4 | 2 | 2 | 20 | 16 | 4   |
| Middlesex       | 4 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 22 | 4   |
| Nottinghamshire | 4 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 22 | 2   |
| Hertfordshire   | 4 | 1 | 3 | 11 | 25 | 2   |
| Huntingdonshire | 4 | 0 | 4 | 6  | 30 | 0   |

### DIVISION 2A

|                   | P | W | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Buckinghamshire   | 4 | 4 | 0 | 21 | 15 | 8   |
| Cheshire 2nd      | 4 | 3 | 1 | 27 | 9  | 6   |
| Leicestershire    | 4 | 3 | 1 | 26 | 10 | 6   |
| Hertfordshire 2nd | 4 | 2 | 2 | 14 | 22 | 4   |
| Worcestershire    | 3 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 12 | 2   |
| Essex 2nd         | 3 | 1 | 2 | 13 | 14 | 2   |
| Oxfordshire       | 4 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 23 | 2   |
| Bedfordshire      | 4 | 0 | 4 | 6  | 30 | 0   |

### DIVISION 28

|               | P | W | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|---------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Sussex        | 4 | 4 | 0 | 21 | 15 | 8   |
| Middlesex 2nd | 4 | 3 | 1 | 22 | 14 | 6   |
| Hampshire     | 3 | 2 | 1 | 17 | 10 | 4   |
| Dorset        | 4 | 2 | 2 | 18 | 18 | 4   |
| Berkshire     | 3 | 1 | 2 | 15 | 12 | 2   |
| Surrey        | 4 | 1 | 3 | 19 | 17 | 2   |
| Avon          | 3 | 1 | 2 | 12 | 15 | 2   |
| Wiltshire     | 3 | 0 | 3 | 2  | 25 | 0   |

### DIVISION 3A

|                     | P | W | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|---------------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Essex 3rd           | 2 | 2 | 0 | 13 | 5  | 4   |
| Northamptonshire    | 2 | 1 | 1 | 7  | 11 | 2   |
| Yorkshire           | 2 | 1 | 1 | 12 | 6  | 2   |
| Cheshire 3rd        | 2 | 1 | 1 | 8  | 10 | 2   |
| Huntingdonshire 2nd | 2 | 0 | 2 | 5  | 13 | 0   |

### DIVISION 38

|                   | P | W | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-------------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Berkshire 2nd     | 4 | 4 | 0 | 28 | 8  | 8   |
| Sussex 2nd        | 4 | 4 | 0 | 24 | 12 | 8   |
| Hertfordshire 3rd | 4 | 3 | 1 | 20 | 16 | 6   |
| Kent 2nd          | 4 | 2 | 2 | 22 | 14 | 4   |
| Hampshire 2nd     | 4 | 2 | 2 | 21 | 15 | 4   |
| Sussex 3rd        | 4 | 1 | 3 | 14 | 22 | 2   |
| Dorset 2nd        | 4 | 0 | 4 | 8  | 28 | 0   |
| Wiltshire 2nd     | 4 | 0 | 4 | 7  | 29 | 0   |

Dear Mr. Yates,

Since taking employment as a Residential Social Worker at Burnthwaite Children's Home, I am afraid I cannot always be available to play table tennis for Horwich RMI.

I am in the process of getting together some Table Tennis equipment for use at the home and I was wondering if you could give me any assistance in the provision of equipment which may come to your knowledge in

the event of club's discarding old equipment when acquiring new.

I would be very grateful for any assistance you may be able to offer to help me in introducing the children to the sport of Table Tennis.

Yours sincerely,

D. Collier

Burnthwaite Children's Home,  
Old Mall Lane  
Lostock,  
Bolton.

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Mary Williams reports from...

## BEDFORDSHIRE ONE UP, ONE DOWN

The senior County team met visitors Worcestershire at the Luton Regional Sports Centre. The men took one set each and the ladies won their doubles but unfortunately we lost 4-6. Scores:-

Ian Doughty lost to Murray Jukes 15. -10. -12;  
Andy Conquest lost to Trevor Washington -16, -12;  
David Sharp bt Steve Dunning 16. 22;  
Julie Dimmock/Dawn Campbell bt Louise Davis/Sandra Roden 16, -23, 17;  
Sharp/Doughty lost to Jukes/Washington -19,8, -20;  
Doughty bt Washington -18. 11,21;  
Campbell lost to Roden -9. -9;  
Sharpe lost to Jukes -17, -18;  
Dimmock lost to Davis 15, -19, -20;  
Conquest bt Dunning 14. 18.

On the other hand the juniors had a fine 7-3 win over Gloucestershire. Scores:-

L Symonds lost to P. Edwards -15, -11;  
A. Wilson bt N. Apps 17, 15;  
D. Saunders lost to G. Black -18, -13;  
S. Webley/J. Egan lost to J. Mitchell/C. Buckley -15, -12;  
Symonds/Saunders lost to Edwards/Black -12, -5;  
Symonds bt Apps 19, -11, 14;  
Egan lost to Buckley -11, -8;  
Saunders bt Edwards -12, 14, 13;  
Webley lost to Mitchell -19, -19;  
Wilson lost to Black -9, -15.

The Beds. Schools' team championships again proved popular, with over 30 teams competing. With each event being run on a group basis, the 16 tables were in constant use over 6 hours of play.

The teams who reached last year's English Schools' National Finals were again in evidence and it is hoped that Putteridge (U16 girls), Stopsley (U13 girls), RaTridge (U11 girls) and Bedford Modern Boys will be as successful this year.

### Winners:-

|          | Boys           | Girls            |
|----------|----------------|------------------|
| Under-11 | Bedford Modern | Ramridge         |
| Under-13 | Bedford Modern | Stopsley         |
| Under-16 | Bedford Modern | Putteridge       |
| Under-19 | Bedford Modern | Luton Sixth Form |

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

AHW Pioneers had their first home win this season at the Pioneer Boys' Club, Dunstable, against Erreys Print '84.

Les Wooding for AHW took the first set then the next three went to the opposition. However, after the interval each AHW player took his set to make the final score 5-3 for the home side.

### Scores:-

Les Wooding bt Peter Bartram 11. 14;  
Jon Bradbury lost to Paul Rowden -19, -9;  
Colin Luscombe lost to Mike Watts -16, -16;  
Dave Cartwright lost to Alan Rowden -13, -22;  
Wooding bt P. Rowden -18, 17, 10;  
Bradbury bt A. Rowden 6. 11;  
Luscombe bt Bartram -18, 15, 15;  
Cartwright bt Watts -17, 16, 19;

In the Wilmott Cup Luton were away to Leighton Buzzard. The home team of Geoff Giles, Alan Chandler and Andy Conquest had a notable win over Marc Lyons, Colin Luscombe and David Foster. Of the Luton players only Luscombe found his form and took his three, in fact the only three Luton obtained. The score a 6-3 win for Leighton Buzzard.

### Results:-

Giles bt Lyons 11. 8;  
Chandler lost to Luscombe 15. -13. -11;  
Conquest bt Foster 11, 15;  
Giles lost to Luscombe -21. -12;  
Conquest bt Lyons 17, 19;  
Chandler bt Foster 16, 14;  
Conquest lost to Luscombe -6, -18;  
Giles bt Foster 16, 16;  
Chandler bt Lyons 17, -20, 12.

Winner of the Under-12's and Runner-up in the Under 14's doubles at Folkestone in the Kent Junior Two-Star are the latest achievements of Caroline Buckley.

Brian Halliday reports from ...

## BERKSHIRE IMPRESSIVE DEBUT

Paul Savins made an impressive County Senior 2nd team debut against Hunts recently. His two victories were not enough however to save the side from their first defeat of the season. This division looks wide open now and the destination of the title could well be decided when Berks meet Worcestershire.

The veterans' 1st team crashed again. This time another 5-4' reverse at the hands of those splendid old rivals from Sussex. Gerry Batt-Rawden and his happy band look set for promotion and after so many near misses nobody will begrudge them this.

The first of this season's inter-town tournaments has taken place with the spotlight firmly on the juniors. Maidenhead had their best day in years and their overall strength made the major impression. Bracknell carried off the boys' title with their talented trio of Graham Kemp, Keith Hodder and Robert Ettridge all performing well. The day was a personal triumph for Hodder who was making a comeback appearance after injury, his unbeaten record was impressive and he is certainly a player to note for the future. The senior section of the inter-town takes place in January and the five points gap opened up by Maidenhead may be beyond the capabilities of reigning champions Reading.

On the National League front our local representatives Omega continue their highly successful season. The only disappointment has been the lack of spectators. The loyal following that contributed so much to past seasons' successes has dwindled to such an extent that at a recent 1st Division match there were no spectators at all. The move from Reading to Maidenhead has not been entirely successful but with the strong possibility of their own permanent venue being available at Reading next season, the situation could well be resolved.

St Georges Press have taken over at the top of the Reading League, mainly due to the continued good form of Michael Childs. They do not appear to have the strength in depth to mount a serious challenge and Woodley still remain favourites to take the title. Omega may still make their presence felt especially if their better players can be persuaded to turn out.

The resurgence of the Reading YMCA has had considerable local impact. Their first team are playing well in Div. I while they have three teams all in contention in Div. II. Promotion looks to be at the mercy of Bob Sym, Phil Atkinson, Mick Bosley and Terry Spies. YMCA recently captured the services of Jane Cohen from Leeds and she has already proved herself at this level. Sonning Common made another important signing to supplement their squad, with the news that Dave Solman was joining them on a temporary basis. There was added good news for this club with Jonathan Samuel back in action after an operation and also that the talented Neil Abbott has been given the go ahead to play again and expects to be fit for next season.

Perhaps the most sensational news of the month comes from Bracknell where a local school have started teaching their pupils Chinese. It is understood that a lady from the People's Republic has been attached to the school as from January - and she is a table tennis champion. The mind boggles as to what she might do to Bracknells inter-town cause! I will follow this story up and let you know more of this intriguing development next month. It may be that local heroines Alison and Karen have a potential rival on their doorstep.

The Bracknell 1st Division is the most exciting in years. Woodley and Moss fought out a 5-5 draw recently which leaves SSV and Bracknell clubs all in with a great chance of the title.

In Maidenhead a very one-sided Championship is at the mercy of Cippenham. Castle Hill and Springfield fight it out for the runners-up spot. Top news from this area concerned the ever-green Dave Jones who went down to Mary Stafford and then was surprisingly beaten by an inspired John Legg.

The European Cup run of the Omega women's team came to an abrupt end in Yugoslavia where they were beaten 5-0 by Mladost of Zagreb. I had the honour of acting as team manager to Omega and can personally vouch that the girls played very well but a combination of brilliant play from the opposition and a large partisan

crowd, who cheered every home point to the echo, proved too much on the day. The hospitality and welcome we received from our hosts made this a trip to remember, and the attitude of Karen, Alison and Mandy was a credit both to their club and their country. One last observation, when oh when are we going to produce players (male or female) with the grace, skill, flair and athletic ability of the Yugoslavian Branka Batanic. She rose to untold heights of excellence to win the Yugoslavian Open and again delighted us all with some quite breathtaking play in the European Cup match. Her combination of attack and defence even left the Chinese in the cold. Now if she could be persuaded to play before the British public, with TV coverage, those missing crowds would soon return. If you ever have the opportunity take this advice from a devoted fan - go and see her.

P.S. The news has just come through of the successes of Berkshire players at the English Junior Closed. Many congratulations to Jimmy Stokes on taking over from Andy Syed as English Junior' Singles Champion, and on his doubles success with Andy. Also to Andy on his mixed doubles triumph with Debbie Soothill, and of course to brother Matt who retained the English Cadet title.

We are often asked how can one of the smaller table tennis counties so dominate the English Junior game? The reasons would take a full article to explain, however there has been a real dedication and work-rate from the players concerned. There is no substitute to the professional approach and this, coupled with individual concentrated coaching methods, has brought its reward. Perhaps the biggest bouquets should go to the parents concerned whose many seasons of self sacrifice have now been rewarded.

Les Wooding reports from ....

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE EXTREMELY BUSY

Unfortunately, December's report was not cOrTlPiled as I was very busy circulating papers. The County Cup entry forms, questionnaires on County representation, Umpires Test Papers, Coaching "Questionnaires" and the new Computer Rating Lists were all sent out. So the message is that all the management Council are extremely busy not only at top level but also at the grass roots.

# County Notes

I make no excuse for once again giving our top player Philip Bradbury a special mention. Many people still remember the ginger-headed youth who once played in the lowest divisions of the Aylesbury League as a Junior. Nowadays, his form is superb. No sooner had I reported the fact that he won the Sussex 2-Star Open than he captured the Humberside 3-Star title. This performance helped him to No.3 in the English averages. This was no flash in the pan as although he did not win the Midlands or Middlesex 3-Star tournaments it took top class performances from Alan Cooke and Carl Preatn to eliminate him.

Although, he has reached the dizzy heights of an England probable he is still giving his County every support. Asked by Peter Charters to attend a special training session, he missed the match against Cheshire but made up for that with 2 convincing victories against Warwickshire. I managed to fiddle my way to a maximum in both matches but most pleasing was Jon Bradbury's victory over Lester Bertie and Karl Bushell. Julie Richards' and Linda Phelps' fighting victories in the Cheshire match.

Alec Watson is playing magnificently for the Veterans' team with maximums against Cheshire II and Warwickshire leading his team to the top of the table and an almost certain place in the Premier next season. The victory over Cheshire was especially sweet as the same team had lost to Cheshire III last season. The change of fortune has also been helped by victories by our doubles partnerships of Watson/Frank Earis and Sylvia Coombs/Len Pratt. They have made all the difference, a fact that should not be lost on the Senior Team.

The Juniors who had to withdraw this season due to lack of girls will have their chance in the new year when 3 Junior matches and 2 cadet matches will be arranged. Would any Counties who are willing to provide additional competition please contact me urgently on Dunstable 608461.

COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS DIVISION 2A  
WARWICKSHIRE 5 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 5  
(Buckinghamshire names first)

Phillip Bradbury bt Phil Gunn 15,14.  
Ies Wooding bt Lester Bertie 11,14.  
Bradbury lost to Barry Johnson 8,-10,-16.  
Linda Phelps/Julie Richards lost to Karen Groves/  
Diane St. Ledger -19,15,-16.  
Bradbury/Bradbury lost to Gunn/Johnson 14,  
-17,-20.

Wooding bt Gunn 17,18.  
Phelps lost to St. Ledger -7,-12.  
P. Bradbury bt Johnson 11,11.  
Richards lost to Groves -15,-18.  
J. Bradbury bt Bertie -12, 11, 20.

VETERANS DIVISION 2A  
BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 6  
HERTFORDSHIRE 114

Frank Earis bt Terry Wilson 14,20.  
Len Pratt lost to George Tyler -15,-15.  
Alec Watson bt Geoff Bax 14,-14, 10.  
Pratt/Sylvia Coombs bt Tyler/Sylvia Tyler 8, 16.  
Eans/Watson bt Wilson/Bax 11,14.  
Coombs bt S. Tyler -15,13,15.  
Earis lost to G. Tyler -19,-16.

Watson bt Wilson 9,14.  
Pratt lost to Bax -14,-13.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

This season has been the story of two halves for the County's two sides Cippenham of Slough and A.H.W. Pioneers of Milton Keynes. However, the early December fixture saw a reversal in their normal results when Cippenham, went down 2-6 to DSC Rams at Lewisham while Dunstable was the venue for the Pioneers' second victory of the season.

The scoreline for the Slough Club's first defeat did not reflect the closeness of the match as Cippenham all but snatched a draw. After staging a recovery to turn a 0-2 deficit into 2-2, the Buckinghamshire side then faltered but had points to win both the last two sets that would have secured the draw.

Richard Beckham lost his unbeaten record in the first set when he lost to Rams' No.1 Des Charlery. Then Ray Tilling led the higher-ranked John Dennison by a game and 8-3 but failed to capitalise on his advantage. Fresh from his Hampshire Closed Singles title Clive Young produced his best ever display for Cippenham beating Junior Facey at "deuce" in the third. Alec Watson then beat Kent's Jeffrey Chapman. In the second half Cippenham's hopes faded when Tilling went through another bad phase losing to Charlery and despite fighting displays by Richard and Clive the Rams secured their victory.

In the Pioneers versus Errey's Pnnt match captain Les Wooding was in a bad mood when he found he still needed one player 2 hours before the match. He was in an even blacker mood when despite his victory the home side were trailing 1-3 at the half way stage due to some extremely poor performances by Jon Bradbury, Colin Luscombe and David Cartwright. I dissociate myself from some of his choicest comments during the break but it seemed to have the desired effect. Despite doing his best to lose his set he ran out a convincing winner and then had the pleasure for the first time at home this season of seeing his team romp home due in no small part to a terrific "deuce" in the third victory by Cartwright over Mike Watts in the final set. If he leads his team in this new dangerous mood the Pioneers could find themselves in the top three by the end of the season.

DSC RAMS 6 CIPPENHAM 2  
(Cippenham names first)  
Richard Beckham lost to Des Charlery -14,-20.  
Ray Tilling lost to John Dennison 14,-13,-17.  
Clive Young bt Junior Facey 16,-10,20.  
Alec Watson bt Jeffrey Chapman 8,15.  
Tilling lost to Charlery 11,-19,-16.  
Watson lost to Dennison -17,-15.  
Beckham lost to Facey -12,14,-23.  
Young lost to Chapman 19,20,-21.

## COUNTY CUP COMPETITIONS

The draw for the 3 County Cup

Competitions was made at the December Meeting. The First Round has to be completed by Jan 27. Apollo 'A' of High Wycombe will be happy to have avoided Cippenham 1 of Slough and A.H.W. Comets of Milton Keynes who are scheduled to do battle if they overcome their preliminary round opponents.

## AYLESBURY LEAGUE

Hazells 'A' led by Nick Hansell and Colin Belcher are reliving the printing side's glory days by leading the Aylesbury Premier Division being unbeaten. However, they are being closely chased by Dave Wackrill's Aylesbury Sports Club 'A' side for who Julie Richards is causing many heartbreaks. John Williams and John Walker after a mundane season last year have a new lease of life holding third place at the expense of many more favoured teams.

## CHILTERN

Despite an excellent win by Graham Rance over the County No. 2 Junior Darren Ward Chiltern Juniors were no match for a strong Milton Keynes side led by Bedfordshire's top Junior Peter Edwards, in the Buckinghamshire Inter-League.

## MILTON KEYNES

The Senior side started their Wilmott Cup venture off in great style when they thrashed Welwyn & Hatfield 9-0. They now travel to Oxford in the next Round. The Juniors were not so successful losing 4-5 away to Northampton. Carl Furness let the Buckinghamshire side down at the last minute but whereas he is unlikely to play any further part in Milton Keynes' immediate future his replacement Stephen Baggaley, who is still a cadet, played the game of his life. Unfortunately, this match will possibly haunt him for a very long time. He could well have seized the match for Milton Keynes leading Richard Elliott by 1 game and 14-1 only to see the Northants Junior perform the miraculous and clinch the match. Still young Stephen learns quickly and I bet he will never let anyone off the hook like this again.

## COACHING

Ken Muhr is running many coaching sessions, during the week and a training session on Saturday afternoons. Bill Wooding's coaching sessions on Fridays at the A.H.W. Club are also going well and each week a perpetual trophy is presented to the boy or girl who has shown most dedication and improvement over the previous week. The three young ladies Vicki Webb, Clare Hawes and Julie Pollard have taken that title over the past three weeks but the Boys are proud of the fact that Tim Parsons was the first ever

winner.

The first event of the season using "Easy Jeans" sponsorship money was staged at Woughton Sports Centre. It took the form of a handicap competition for each division. The winners were:-  
Div. 1: David Gatiss (County Arms Chisels).

Div 2: Geoff Read (W.P.O. Wallys).

Div 3: John Pollard (E.E.T.C. Dodgers).

Div 4: Lloyd Ellis (Newport Pagnell Imps).

Div 5: Peter Maley (Telephone Rentals Micros).

Div 6: Ian Nicholls (Horwood House Rebels).

## HIGH WYCOMBE

It is pleasing to hear that County player Karl Bushell has started Saturday morning coaching lessons for High Wycombe Juniors. Too few County class players take an interest in Juniors so I wish him every success.

## SLOUGH

Unfortunately, Slough made a quick exit this season the Wilmott Cup losing 1-5 to a strong Newbury side comprising David Reeves, Dave Wise and Richard Koslowski. Slough's only victory was recorded by Peter Swinn with Frank Earis and Martin King failing to break their ducks.

The 4th Annual Hard Bat tournament held at Cippenham's new venue the Haymill Centre, attracted 32 entries and Frank Earis recorded a fine victory over Roger Fairhead who unlike Frank, normally plays with a hard bat. Roger was also unsuccessful in the doubles when partnered by myoid adversary John Husbands they went down to Dad and Son the two Peter Leckies.

## COACHING

Cippenham T.T.C. started coaching at the Haymill Centre just a month after moving in. Fourteen children between 8 and 16 attended the first session. At present 5 tables are available and many of the Club's leading players are providing feeders to the beginners. In charge are 'club coach' Frank Earis and Cippenham's newly elected Coaching administrator Rodney Potts. Cippenham are to receive a grant of £2000 towards equipping their venue.

Geoff Waters reports from . . .

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE

### POINTLESS WEEKEND

Cambridgeshire came away pointless from their first County Championships Premier weekend at Stone, despite some impressive individual performances.

In the opening match against Essex, last season's runners-up, Keith Richardson gave them a confidence boost in the opening set when he beat Kevin Caldon 21-18, 27-25. Essex took the next two men's singles then Cambridgeshire had an excellent opportunity to draw level in the mixed, but Joanne Palmer and Andy Withers narrowly lost -20 in the third to Caldon and Elaine Sayer. Richardson and Mick Harper again raised the county's hopes with an excellent men's doubles win 8,13 against Skylet Andrew and Des Charlery, but they were to lose the next three singles. Harper had a comfortable straight games win over Charlery in the final set to make the score 6-3 to Essex.

The second match was against champions Middlesex, who had beaten Surrey 9-0 in their opening match. Most people expected a repeat of that scoreline and it looked likely as the metropolitan county went into a 2-0 lead. Then Richardson, always at his best in county colours, pulled off one of his greatest successes when he beat England-ranked No.9 John Souter. After losing the first game -24, the county champion took the next two 20, 18. There was another surprise with the score at 3-1, when Richardson and Harper again won the men's doubles against Souter and Colin Wilson.

Joanne Palmer nearly provided another upset but narrowly lost -18 in the third to Sarah Sandley as Middlesex moved into a match winning 6-2 lead. This was not the end of the excitement, however, as Souter's cup of woe finally overflowed.

After predictably beating Andy Withers 12 in the first game, he lost his concentration and the Cambs. No.3 took the next 21 - 19. Withers was now playing with confidence and Souter had completely lost his touch, losing -14 in the third.

Surrey provided the opposition in the third match and again Cambs. went two down.

Now it was Harper's turn to cause a singles' surprise as he slaughtered Max Crimmins, the England No. 19 - 18 and 11.

Joanne Palmer got in the act, partnering Withers to a mixed success against Crimmins and Jane Barella. Richardson and Harper then completed a hat-trick of men's doubles wins by beating Mark Oakley and Glenn Baker to give Cambs. a 3-2 lead.

Surrey bounced back to lead 4-3, but Richardson sent Crimmins home without a win in this match to set up a last minute decider. All their great effort proved in vain as Harper crashed - 14, -16 to Baker in the final set.

So despite some heroic efforts, their chances of staying up seem remote with at least two wins required for the next weekend from Yorkshire, Lancashire, Berkshire and Staffordshire.

The second team continue to make progress in Division 3 with a 5-5 draw with Kent II at Impington Village College. The home county started in fine style winning the three men's singles. Julian Wheel had a particularly fine win over Ray Tilling 17, -14, 19 to give them a confidence boosting start. Then Peter Holliday and Martyn Livermore had wins over Jeff Chapman and Gary Zabrocki respectively. Hilary Finch and Alison Edge suffered their first doubles defeat of the season against Helen Sewell and Jill Farthing, but Wheel and Livermore won their third successive men's doubles to regain a three set lead.

The visitors hit back to draw level at 4-4, but Hilary Finch kept her unbeaten record with a win over Helen Sewell to put Cambridgeshire ahead again. In an exciting final set Livermore led Chapman 16-14 in the third, but finally went down -17.

The juniors started their season with a weekend at Waltham Forest YMCA. The first team had wins over Essex III 7-3; Hertfordshire II 9-1 and the Cambridgeshire second team 10-0 and lost 6-4 to Kent II and 8-2 to Suffolk. The second team beat Norfolk 119-1 and drew 5-5 with Hertfordshire II, while losing 10-0 to Essex III and 8-2 to Kent II.

County girls' champion Helen Gipp was the success of the weekend, winning all her five singles.

For the first team Nicky Ashman and Nicky Rayner won seven of their ten singles, while Jon Collins won six. Louise Ward won one singles when narrowly beating Denise Hinks in the first v second team match.

The second team boys had previously had only one county match between them, but nevertheless played well. Chris Dexter and Robin Tewksbury both won three sets, with Matthew Laughlin winning two. Ruth Hutchinson and Denise Hinks had a little more experience and had three and two wins respectively. The County Close championships will again be played at Soham Sports Hall and the date for your diary is 2nd February.

Malcolm Allsop reports from ..

## DERBYSHIRE LATE NOTICE - NOT ON

The Derby Selectors have complained for years about players

not being available for selection for Representative matches yet persist in late notification of the matches.

The latest victim is a young lady who has been ignored for the past two seasons, but has been asked to play twice this season on the day of the match. On the first occasion she had already gone out for the night, whilst on the second occasion she was already committed to a match that day. I have been advocating her selection for a long time; but this late notification does not even allow correct mental build-up to any match - especially when the fixtures have been known to a select few for a long time.

One former Chairman used the late notification ploy to play teams he wanted rather than those picked by the selectors. He asked certain players if they were available in good time, and then asked those chosen by the selection committee at the last moment to play: if unavailable, his chosen players stepped in for representative honours!

Play fair chaps, give everyone a chance - we all pay the same League fees. Even the fixture lists are kept secret by the chosen few, and despite requests the League's Publicity Officer (me) fails to have a copy of this guarded document, so how can the players keep the dates free?

Derbyshire maintained their challenge for promotion in Div. 3A of the County Championships with an 8-2 win over Northumberland in Newcastle.

I have received no report of the match but the scores appear fairly convincing.

Scores:-  
Alan Cooke bt Neil McMaster 10,11; bt Peter McQueen 11,16.  
Martin Kinsella lost to McQueen -13,-13; bt Eddie Smith Smith 15,-13,15.  
Bradley Billington bt Smith 20,-13,6; bt McMaster -15,17,18.  
Cooke/Kinsella lost to McMaster/McQueen -13,14,-18.  
Kerry Hall bt Caron Buglass -22,10,13.  
Julie Billington bt Christine Burke 11,16.  
Billington/Hall bt Buglass/Burke 11,4.

The Derbyshire Junior 2nd team lost their match with Cumbria in Junior Div 3A at Hill Street, Burton despite 4 wins in the boys' singles.

Gavin West played well to win both his with Robert Scott-Birchall and Paul Knowles, on his debut, winning 1 each. John Backhouse played very well for Cumbria.

Amanda Dawkins made her debut for Derbyshire juniors as both Louise Forster and Joanne Weightman will be out of junior age-level next season, and played too nervously to gain any reward.

Scorers:-  
Robert Scott-Birchall lost to John Backhouse 16,-14,-20; bt Stephen Holland 18,16.  
Gavin West bt Holland 17,19; bt Michael Watts 15,14.  
Paul Knowles bt Watt 11,10; lost to Backhouse -15,17,-14.

Scott-Birchall/West lost to Holland/Backhouse -16,-22.  
Julie Forster lost to Karen Backhouse -18,-19.  
Amanda Dawkins lost to Karen Griffiths -21,-13.  
Dawkins/Forster lost to Backhouse/Griffiths -20,14,-19.

Woodlands School of Alles-tree, Derby won the Derbyshire Schools' Under-16 Team Tournament and play the Lincolnshire and Nottinghamshire winners at Grantham on Jan. 16.

The Woodlands team (Gavin West, Robert Scott-Birchall, William Hollingworth and Darron Owen) beat Netherthorpe School (David Smedley, Kurt Hutson, John Caldwell and Lee Day) in the Derbyshire Final.

## DERBYSHIRE INTER-TOWN LEAGUE

Matlock provided the shock result in the first round of matches when they beat Chesterfield by 9-1 in the Veterans' Division.

Mick Thorley and Harvey Flint won all their singles for Matlock, who were late-entrants to this Division, with A. Williams gaining the sole consolation for Chesterfield at the expense of L. Hewitt.

Charlie Horn and Robin Seale won their sets for Derby Veterans who maintained their unbeaten record with an 8-2 win over Eastwood.

R. Rapley won his 3 for Buxton Vets; but Burton earned a hard-fought 6-4 win through 2 wins each from Pete Bentley and Rose Haggar, 1 from A. Haynes and a doubles success for Bentley/Haynes.

## DERBY LEAGUE

The Derby Divisional Championships are being held on Jan. 13 at the St. Ralph Sherwin School, Duffield Road, Derby. For the first time this year a doubles is being held in addition to the singles event.

St. Andrews 1st and Mechanics 1st are fighting out the Premier Division Championship of the Derby League, with St. Andrews 1st gaining a 7-3 win when the two teams met thanks to a maximum from Stephen Yallop.

St. Andrews 2nd (Paul Harmer, Pete Astley & Marilyn O'Sullivan) have won all their matches, but have yet to meet either of the top two teams. Marilyn O'Sullivan is playing better than I have ever seen her play, yet seems out of favour with the County selectors.

Darbus 1st and Lancaster 2nd lead the Division One table, with Lancaster's Gavin West playing impressively to be the Division's top player.

Foolhardy player-of-the-month, if not the season, must be Harold Cooper of YMCA 4th. Having hurt his arm at work, he turned up for a match with his arm in a sling prepared to play

# County Notes

left-handed rather than let his team field a player short. The sling prevented his arm movement so that he could not throw the ball up to serve! Undaunted he played right-handed! Despite the restricted movement he still won a set to earn his team a 5-5 draw. Could this be a new form of gamesmanship? Teammates are hoping he keeps the sling for the rest of the season.

## EASTWOOD LEAGUE

A Square Dance is being held on Jan. 19 at the Dora Phillips Hall, Eastwood with a Ceilidh band Flash Packet!

Brian Hudson reports from.....

## CHESHIRE

### UNREAD SCRIPT

Having duly recorded their 24th consecutive win against Hunts, our all-conquering Vets duly invited Lines to Hyde for a glorious quarter-century. Unfortunately Lines hadn't read th'script, and spoilt everything by winning 6-3!

Doreen Schofield beat old friend and rival Connie Moran (to whose husband, Bill, many thanks for his help in the umpiring), husband Derek scraped home (21 in the 3rd) against Brian Allison, having saved 4 set points, and Pete D'Arcy beat Brian Edlington, but with Matt Shearer in unbeatable form, both doubles being lost from winning positions, and Eddie Griffiths being unable to maintain his unbeaten run, it was Lines who richly deserved to come away with the spoils. A few pints helped your scribe enjoy the good-natured teasing in the after-match celebrations!

Meanwhile, on the next table the Vets 3rd were putting together an impressive 8-1 scoreline against Northants, with only the ladies' singles escaping - Eileen Edwards losing in 3 to Joyce Porter. Derek Hendry, Terry Taylor and Ron Buckley had a relatively trouble-free afternoon. To make the Vets feel particularly down-cast, the Seniors had a satisfying 7-3 win over Lanes 2nd, with Mark Hankey, inspite of his own indifferent form, proving an inspirational captain. The 2nds had a good 6-4 win over Lincoln with a win each for Steve Green, Keith Deaville, Ron Vose (on his debut), ~~and Debbie McGuire~~ and both doubles, but then lost 3-7 against Notts with wins from Keith Deaville, Rob Bevan and Lynne Harrison.

## HALTON 2 - STAR

Cheshire interest in this event, superbly organized and run by Mike Williams and Karen Tonge, was very quickly reduced to the

girls' events, as only Mark Danaher and Simon Jones made any significant progress in the Junior Singles, and no-one got past Round Two in the Cadets, although young Jonathan Taylor pushed Chris Oldfield, the eventual winner, very hard, just losing in three. In the girls' events, Claire Potts lost in the semi-final of the Junior and in the final of the Cadets to Lancashire's Andrea Holt, with whom she won a very close doubles final. Sister Helen was also beaten by Andrea in the Cadets' Semi.

It does seem a pity that more local Cheshire Juniors didn't enter what is after all the highest category local junior event - perhaps next year!

With the finals being over by 7.30 pm a day which started at 9 am at least finished at a reasonable hour-let us hope Karen had sweet dreams after her busy day!

Finally, news from Stockport. Weston Hyde seem likely to lose their Div. 1 title to Civil Service, whom they recently lost 2-8, but seem secure in 2nd place. Woodside lead Div. 2.

Congratulations are due to a club playing in both Stockport & Macclesfield leagues. 1985 sees not only the Centenary of Poynton Sports Club, but also the 25th season of the Table Tennis Section. In recent seasons their teams have been stalwarts of the lower divisions, and indeed still remain so, but can also now claim two Division One teams in Mace. With County-ranked Junior Alison Hall coming up, ~~and the club's star player, who won 1 winning this season,~~ continued success seems assured.

Colin Taylor reports from....

## CUMBRIA

### BAD NEWS FIRST

To start with the bad news, the County Veterans' team had to be withdrawn just prior to the first match of the season, so that leaves the Junior side to carry the Cumbrian battle honours. It seems strange that only two seasons ago there were four county teams.

Another sad note is that the Millom & District has folded after a lifespan of 16 seasons. It was inevitable that it would come sooner rather than later for it has been struggling for teams for the last four or five seasons. The rise and fall of the League can be linked to the similar fate of Millom School Table Tennis Club. Both reached a peak in the mid-seventies and it is interesting to note that out of all the junior 'super stars' playing in both Millom and Barrow leagues at that time, i.e. players who could

still command a county place, I can think of at least ten, only two are still playing the game.

The reason behind the decline of the league has I think been the shortage of, not superstars, but of players willing to help out on the administrative side. I have known numerous cases over the past few years in Millom where a player in charge of a club team either quits the game or moves elsewhere and no-one else is prepared to run the team, so the league loses a team and a venue. The situation reached a critical point at the start of this season when a number of "veterans" (in their early twenties) decided to call it a day. Apparently the rise in ETIA fees had nothing to do with decisions to quit. I trust that the good work by such league administrators as Peter Bennetts, administrators as PETER BENNETTIS, JOHN REED, TERRY SUMNER and JOHN TAYLOR to name but a few will not be forgotten.

Now for the good news. The inter-league competition has been revived after more years than I care to remember. Wisely it has been arranged over two days. The first of which is Saturday, Jan 12, 1985 at QUEEN KATHERINE SCHOOL, KENDAL. Play commences at 9.30 a.m. between five teams from BARROW, three from WESTMORLAND and two from CARLISLE.

The County Junior team are doing well in Div. 3A. After four matches they have beaten CLEVELAND II away 7-3, ~~Itt~~ ~~SHIRE II~~ ~~6-4~~ lost 3-7 to LINCOLNSHIRE and 4-6 to CHESHIRE II, both at home. The latest result puts them in 3rd place behind LINC. and NOTIS. KAREN GRIFFITHS (BARROW) is top of the class so far with four wins out of four singles and she has partnered KAREN BACKHOUSE (BARROW) to three doubles wins out of four. Miss BACKHOUSE has won two of her four singles, which proves to me the opposition are no mugs! The girls certainly make a formidable duo. JOHN BACKHOUSE (BARROW) tops the boys with five wins out of eight singles, while STEPHEN HOLLAND (WESTMORLAND) has won three out of eight singles. Together they have won three out of their four doubles. DAVID HOLMES (BARROW) has yet to win a singles but with a little 'luck could have won half of them. MICHAEL WATI (BARROW) ~~played III the last match against DERBYSHIRE II but could make no impression on his debut~~

News from the WHITEHAVEN & DISTRICT league is that KELLS METHODISTS 'A', Div. 1 champions for six of the last seven years (STEPHEN CROSBY, KEITH BIRKETI, JOHN GAFFNEY) re-

cently lost their first match since January 1982. Their victors were YMCA AQUARIANS (CARL FARRER - former County Champion, ALAN DIXON - former Cumbria Open Junior Runner-up, and HARRY BOWMAN - former county player), AQUARIANS must now be favourites for the title. STEPHEN CROSBY is the only unbeaten player. In Div. 2 unbeaten MIREHOUSE (GEORGE BELL, JOE O'PREY, BILLY VAUGHAN and C. VAUGHAN) are being challenged by YMCA COBRAS (RON RIGG, IRIS HERBERT, SEAN NELSON, LYNNE HADFIELD and SANDRA NOBLE). GEORGE BELL and IRIS HERBERT are both unbeaten.

Harry Black reports from....

## DURHAM

### LOCAL DERBY

The County has been involved in two matches since my last notes, the first being a thrilling local derby at home to Northumberland who triumphed 6-4. Durham had fought back after losing the first three sets to take a 4-3 lead but then it was Northumberland's turn to take the initiative winning the last three sets to take the points. Scores:-

David Blackburne bt Neil McMaster -15, -17; lost to Peter McQueen -22, -11. Stephen George bt Eddie Smith 15, 7; lost to McQueen -15, -17; Philip Stafford lost to Smith -13, 18, -18; lost to McMaster -19, -13. Linda Spensley lost to Caron Buglass -19, -17; Lynne Yarnell bt Christine Burke 15, 18; Blackburne/George bt McQueen/Smith -7, 16, 17; Spensley/Yarnell bt Buglass/Burke 17, 17.

Durham returned to winning ways in their next match, away to Northants at Lings Forum, Northampton, with a 10-0 result. The conditions were excellent, one of the best venues the team has encountered in the past two seasons. For this match Durham made a couple of changes with Tony Gelder coming in for the first time this season, along with his wife Shirley. Stafford and Lynne Yarnell were the players to make room for them. Scores:-

Blackburne bt Andy Edmonds 14, 18; bt Chris Handshaw 8, 14; George bt Handshaw 17, 14; bt Tim Chamberlain 18, 16; Tony Gelder bt Chamberlain 14, 18; beat Edmonds 18, 14; Shirley Gelder bt Glennis Hooper 14, 15; Linda Spensley bt Dorothy Marsh -15, 9, 17; Blackburne/George bt Chamberlain/Edmonds 20, -13, 14; S. Gelder/Spensley bt Hooper/ Marsh 18, -23, 9.

## DURHAM COUNTY LEAGUE

Sunderland "A" are the early pacesetters in the Senior Division their most recent victory being 7-3 against Philadelphia "A" whose McQueen was unbeaten in accounting for Gelder, Stafford and Robert Reed. In the doubles Peter, partnered by Don MacIvor, lost to Gelder and Stafford. Sunderland "A" beat Sunderland "C" 10-0.

Peterlee, who have Blackburne and Bill Reay in their squad, are unbeaten also, as indeed are Sunderland "B" who, following their initial draw with Peterlee, have beaten Philadelphia "B" (8-2) and Bishop Auckland (8-2). Both Tom Bainbridge and Barry Cuthbertson, along with Neil Herrington, are providing a good test for anyone. Just two results in the Junior Division so far, Peterlee beat Bishop Auckland 6-4 and Philadelphia "A" accounted for Sunderland 10-0.

## HALEX NATIONAL LEAGUE

Washington picked up another 2 pts with a 5-3 home win against rivals Byker Newcastle "A". Both Tom Trehwhitt and MacIvor had maximums and Doug Lawrence contributed one.

Leading positions:-

|                  | P | W | L | F  | A | Pts |
|------------------|---|---|---|----|---|-----|
| Nth Ormesby Pav  | 4 | 4 | 0 | 31 | 1 | 8   |
| Washington       | 3 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 9 | 4   |
| Redcar Insurance | 2 | 2 | 0 | 12 | 4 | 4   |

## SUNDERLAND LEAGUE

Northumbria Centre "A" have a lead at the top of Div. 1. They gained maximum points from their nearest rivals West CA "A" when they defeated the second placed team 8-4. Peter McQueen

Byker's 'sets were won, by Peter Curry (2) and Andy Harrlmett (1).

## NORTH REGIONAL LEAGUE

Washington's unbeaten run came to an abrupt end when they travelled to play league leaders North Ormesby Pavilion. Due to the unavailability of players, Washington had a weaker side than usual and were thrashed 8-0. Scores (Washington names first):-

Don. MacIvor lost to Dennis Reed -13, 11, -24; lost to Keith Bell 15, -9, -14; Allan Thompson lost to Bell 16, -18, -17; lost to Kevin McPartland -19, 16, -19; Chris Blake lost to Barry Pearson -16, -13; lost to Reed -15, -14; Tom Bainbridge lost to McPartland -11 -8; lost to Pearson -15, -14.

Other results:- ICI Cassellworks 0 Nth Ormesby Pav 8; Ormesby II 3 ICI 5; Ormesby 11 Nth Ormesby Pav 7; ICI 1 Redcar Insurance 7.

and Cliff Olsson both suffered two defeats at the hands of Tony Gelder and Tom Trehwhitt. Prior to this encounter both McQueen and Olsson boasted unbeaten records in Sunderland League matches. Leading positions in the league are:-

|        |                        |                        |
|--------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Div. 1 | Northumbria Centre "A" | 40 pts from 10 matches |
|        | West C.A. "A"          | 37 pts from 11 matches |
| Div. 2 | Seaburn Dene N.C.      | 32 pts from 9 matches  |
|        | Dunlop S.C. "A"        | 29 pts from 8 matches  |
|        | Bedford House "A"      | 29 pts from 9 matches  |
| Div. 3 | General Hospital       | 42 pts from 11 matches |
|        | Edward Thompsons       | 31 pts from 11 matches |
| Div. 4 | Southwick Centre "B"   | 30 pts from 9 matches  |
|        | Redby C.A. "B"         | 28 pts from 9 matches  |
|        | St. Gabriels CC "A"    | 25 pts from 7 matches  |

For the first time this season Don MacIvor has compiled a computer ranking list for each of

the four divisions. The leading Div. I rankings are:-

|                                |         |
|--------------------------------|---------|
| 1 C. Olsson (Northumbria "A")  | 167 pts |
| 2 T. Gelder (West C.A. "A")    | 165 pts |
| 3 P. McQueen (Northumbria "A") | 159 pts |
| 4 D. Godbold (Northumbria "A") | 152 pts |
| 5 R. Reed (Silksworth CC "A")  | 145 pts |

John Holland reports from ...

## ESSEX

### SURVIVAL!

Well we have survived 1984 - a year in which English table tennis took a nose dive. At least it wasn't as dire as I expected; since I discovered George Orwell's compelling book in the late 50's I have spent a quarter of a century thinking of that year as Armageddon. Now it couldn't have been as bad as that! A Happy New Year to all my table tennis friends inside and outside Essex.

The end of '84 found Essex facing a struggle to retain their Premier status in the Senior County Championships. It was a depleted squad which fell to Staffordshire and Berkshire but defeated Cambridgeshire 6-3 in the first premier weekend. Our players were Skylet Andrew, Kevin Caldon, Des Charlery, John Dennison, Elaine Sayer and Kim Mudge. For various reasons, Dave Newman, Tony Penny and Lisa Hayden were not available. It was a far cry from the previous two seasons when Essex contested the title with Middlesex till the final match. It seems likely

that Essex will have to win at least two of their remaining matches (against Lancashire, Yorkshire, Surrey and Middlesex) to avoid relegation. Even that may not be enough if the honours are as evenly shared at the second weekend as at the first. Skylet was our most successful player at the Staffs weekend, winning five out of six and falling only to David Barr. The said Skylet has been having a hot streak of late (perhaps spurred on by my jibes about his absence from the Essex Closed?). He won the Kirklees 2-Star with good victories over Alan Cooke and Nigel Eckersley and then took his first 3-Star singles title by defeating Carl Preat in the Middlesex 'Open' on Dec. 9.

hope this is the start of a successful push for selection for the Swedish World Championships in May.

If our senior first team have been struggling then so have the second. They travelled unsuccessfully to Bournemouth on Dec. 1 and found themselves on the wrong end of a 9-1 scoreline. Essex were Paul Sayer, Jeff Drew, Steve Willis, Kim Mudge and Yvette Brown. So let me enter a brief moan which, I am sure, will not be misconstrued as sour grapes. Our hosts insisted on a 7 p.m. start-presumably from inside knowledge of the delights of all-night cafes on the M3. Unfortunately, some of our players are not enrolled in the "love me as though there were no tomorrow" school of contemporary table tennis. In addition to ping pong they like to do absurd things like sleeping, having a social life and going to work.

As a result of this Dorset escapade, the Essex Executive meeting of Dec. 12 agreed to press for strengthening rule 2.2 to ensure that long-distance travellers can insist on an afternoon start.

Meanwhile our senior 3rds, in Div. 3D, have fallen 3-7 to Kent II and defeated Sussex II 6-4. On the latter occasion, at Fellows Cranleigh, a maximum from Steve Dorking was a key factor. In the Kent match, Sandra Alborough did well to defeat former Essex junior No.1, Helen Sewell.

Among the juniors, our second team travelled unsuccessfully to Sussex on Dec. 1, losing 4-6 in Div. 2B. Our 3rds participated in a weekend organised by the enterprising Ray George at the Walthamstow YMCA. The results were as follows:-

Essex III 3 Cambs I 7; Essex III 6 Norfolk I 4; Essex III 5 Suffolk I 5, Essex III 9 Norfolk II 1; Essex 11110 Cambs II 0.

In the drawn match with Suffolk Bao Ma did well to defeat

both Wayne Shaw and Richard Hutchinson. Most successful Essex player of the weekend was Joanne Cook who was undefeated in five singles and five doubles (partnered by Sarah George).

At the time of writing, our juniors and cadets have just returned from Hinckley, the Beneficial English Junior 'Closed'. There was high drama in both of the under-17 singles events. Hottest favourite for years, Andy Syed, fell sensationally to 14-year-old Bradley Billington from Chesterfield in the quarter-final. The powerful Bradley (does he train on raw steaks mixed with bicycle glue?) then defeated another unseeded player, Thomas Blackman, in the semi. It was left to all-action Jimmy Stokes, the second seed, to restore some sense of proportion to events by winning the final, though not before Bradley had taken the first end. This was a really impressive effort, by Bradley and shows great fighting spirit. The previous day he had been dismissed fairly comfortably in the cadet semi-final by the talented Mirfield left-hander, Michael O'Driscoll. Obviously more illustrious juniors were made to suffer for this defeat! Also in the cadet boys' singles, Damian Holland reached his appointed quarter-final berth before being comprehensively 'mugged' by the same Bradley.

Damian had another good run in the boys' doubles, partnered by Rochdale's Lee Brown, defeating Bult and Newton of Yorkshire en route to eclipse by Andy Syed and Stokes in the quarter-final. Sister Tanya's progression in the girls' doubles was even better. Partnered by Amanda Shufflebotham, she reached the final. Highlights were an excellent first round win over second seeds Debbie Southall/Juliet Houghton and a narrow semi-final success over Claire Mouzon/Alison Boxall, after losing the first -7. The final was a nervous affair on 'our' side of the net but Tanya and Amanda were not disgraced in losing 19, 17 to top seeds Joanne Shaw/Jill Powis.

In the girls' singles, Tanya had an identical draw to last year's under-14 event but this time it was transposed to U-17's. Again she overcame Helen Lower in an excellent attacking game, a credit to both players. For the record, Helen, who must have been very disappointed, lost with very good grace. Murray Corbin may be surprised to hear me echoing his prediction of future success for Helen.

Tanya then proceeded to lose in an even better set against Kerry Hall, another gifted member of the Chesterfield stable - as last year again. Kerry

# County Notes

was one of three cadets to reach the quarters of the girls' singles. The others were Bradley's sister, Julie and Clair Potts. Claire was the only cadet semi-finalist. However, she fell at that stage to Joanne Shaw in what appears to have been (I wasn't present) an acrimonious encounter. The final of this event, between Jill Powis and Joanne will no doubt recur in Jill's dreams. She lost from a game up and 20-14 in the second!

The most successful Essex player in the girls' singles was Lisa Hayden. She justified her England No. 8 tag by reaching the quarters after scoring good wins over Amanda Shufflebotham and Alison Boxall, in particular. Her conqueror was Juliet Houghton. One of two Essex ten-year-olds competing was Alison Gower. She scored a convincing win over Helen Wright in the first round of the Cadet Girls' event and then performed creditably against the eventual winner, Andrea Holt in the second round. The tiny Alison was far from disgraced in gaining scores of 14, 13. I was impressed by the composure and all round competence of Alison.

In the National League Division 1 Dagenham F.C. drew at St. Neots on Dec. 2. Leading 4-3 after the penultimate rubber, Kevin Caldon seemed set to secure victory when he took the first end from Mick Harper. It was not to be as Harper came back strongly, winning at 12 in the third. Dagenham's best player was the hard-working Dave Newman who defeated both Steven Moore and Peter Taylor. Ian Kenyon was again disappointing in losing to both Moore and Keith Richardson. It is an open secret that the Daggars are urgently seeking a top half signing to bolster a faltering campaign.

In Div 3E Witham Town have suffered two more setbacks and are now out of the running for promotion. They lost 3-5 at both Waverley and St. Neots. On Dec. 9 they bounced back, gaining a 5-3 win over Northants. Terry Dowsett has maintained his excellent record, losing only one set so far - to Bunn of Waverley. Robin Lang has dropped only three. The problem is in the top half where Nicky Standen and Keith Fellows have both struggled.

As a postscript to these notes, results of the December Vets' matches in the County Championships have just come to hand. The first team, with new 'Closed' champion, Ray Murray back in at No. 3, defeated Herts 8-1, in the premier division. With Cheshire falling to Lincs. Essex have a realistic title chance. Other team members were Stan

Batrick, Peter Radford and Shelagh Hession. Meanwhile the second team were defeating Oxford 6-4. The team was Fred Lockwood, Laurie Fountain, Dave Finlayson and Shirley Carroll. This was the team's first success this season.

Alf Pepperd reports from...

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE

### TWO SCHOOLS OF THOUGHT

In my travels around the County, and sometimes further afield, I meet cross sections of opinion about our sport as it is today and as it was ten or so years ago.

I have, rightly or wrongly, formed the view that there are two main schools of thought which are:-

(A). Those who are only interested in top players and the future of potential champions, i.e. thoughts for example of coaches and administrators in different parts of the country (nothing wrong with this at all).

(B). Those who already have grasped the simple fundamental facts that - although not doubting the validity of the situation that top players are relatively low in number because few really make it to the top - it is the average League Player that feeds the financial coffers not only of his own league, but the ETTA as well. Forget your players who may be balding, over 40, much much slower than they used to be, and table tennis would fold overnight.

We've all heard the old cry - Don't know who we will get to fill old so and so's place when he/she retires, and yet when old so and so does eventually shut the door on his/her table tennis activities invariably another door opens and another so and so steps in to fill the gap. A lot of us make sticks to beat our own backs, but with a little thought and patience our mountainous problems could easily turn out to be molehills.

A very interesting fact was pointed out to me a few weeks ago by a former English International, who said, "I wonder how many of the Chinese team that played for their Country in the 1983 Worlds in Tokyo will represent their respective Country in 1985?"

The inference, readers, I assume to imply that England would be almost certain to put out the same team for 1985 as in 1983. My only comment was - Well it was a rather young one.

### COUNTY CLOSED

These championships took place at Cheltenham Cricket Centre, Pittville Sports Complex on Nov. 25.

Played under excellent conditions on eight tables - although entries were down a little on last season - the Tournament's success could well be the result of stalwart work from Tournament Secretary, Graham Lee of Gloucestershire, Hon. Referee Andy Seward of Cheltenham and his Assistant, Peter Cruwys. John Robb a former County official was instrumental throughout the entire day helping out with the umpiring and other duties.

### Results:-

Boys' Singles. Played on a group basis, Lawrence Symonds (Gloucester) beat Howard Williams (Stroud) in the final.

There were only six entries for the Girls' event, Jenny Ellery (Gloucester) emerged as the winner beating Clare Symonds also of Gloucester.

The Boys' Doubles final was won by Lawrence Symonds/Howard Williams who beat Byrne/Gingell 13, 10.

Heather Colwill/Christine Iacopi beat Cathy Robb/Janet Brier to win the Women's Doubles 18, 14.

The Men's Doubles, went to Graham Slack and Steve Moreman who beat Sylvester Callum and William Dawe 16, 22.

With former English International Bryan Merrett not present, the Veterans' Singles, despite a very low entry, presented a very open situation, the final was eventually contested by Peter Slack (Cheltenham) and Peter Wood (Gloucester). Wood won 16, 14.

The Women's Singles was won by a very determined Cathy Robb (Cheltenham) against the County's No.2 Christine Iacopi, Miss Robb's scores speak for themselves -8, 11.

And now to the final and main event of the day's play:- The Men's Singles.

In the Semis Moreman beat Callum -15, 22, 19 and Graham Slack beat Daws, 10, -15, 17.

Final:- Slack beat Moreman 18, -15, 11.

### COUNTY MATCHES

After last season's success when our Seniors went through the entire season unbeaten to gain promotion to Div. 2 one, as yet, awaits to report a win. Sadly against Kent we again lost but sadder still our opponents served a "whitewash" on us, - YES, we suffered a 10-0 defeat, scores

(Kent names first):

Joey Kennedy bl Darren Griffin 16. -18, 16;  
Andrew Dodd bl Neil Taylor 21, 18;  
David Dodd bl Andrew Golding 10, 18;  
LID: Janet Smith/Juliet Houghton bl Cathy Rabb  
Christine Iacopi 18, 13;  
MID: D. Dodd/Kennedy bl Golding/Taylor 18.  
-19, 21;  
Kennedy bl Taylor -18, 14, 25;  
Houghton bl Robb 18. -23, 13;  
D. Dodd bl Griffin 13, 13;  
Smith bl Iacopi 22, 7;  
A. Dodd bl Golding 11. -17, 14.

### JUNIORS v BEDFORDSHIRE

Bedfordshire's superiority was evident from the start of this match, they just had the edge on us and kept pressure well applied. Newcomer to the Gloucester team - Anthony Wilson, put up a good fight but it was to no avail. Final result 7-3 for Beds.

Scores (Glo'shire names first):

Lawrence Symonds lost to Peter Edwards -15, -11;  
Anthony Wilson bl Nick Apps 17, 15;  
Dale Saunders lost to Gavin Black -18, -13;  
Girls' Doubles: Webley/Egan lost to Mitchell/Buckley -15, -12;  
Boys' Doubles: Symonds/Saunders lost to Edwards/Black -12, -5;  
Symonds bl Apps 19, -14, 14;  
Jenny Egan lost to Caroline Buckley -11, -8;  
Saunders bl Edwards -12, 14, 13;  
Suzanne Webley lost to Joyce Mitchell -19, -19;  
Wilson lost to Black -9, -15.

### THE CAPITOL PROVIDENCE-COUNTY PREMIER LEAGUE

The first three rounds of matches have been played and, after some initial surprises, results are now following a more predictable pattern. The format is the same as last season with three matches played simultaneously at the same venue. But the composition of the six teams is new and; to help identify each team's name incorporates the name of its No. 1 player, All players in the County rankings plus those who played last season and ended with an average of over 50%, were invited to play and trials were held for others who wanted to play to fill the remaining vacancies! The trials were keenly contested and those who did not get through, were nominated as reserves.

Of last season's players Paul Jackson, Michael Owens and Mark Owen cannot play regularly but as their replacements are Griffin, Richard Russell and Taylor, the general standard remains high.

After three rounds only Neil's team, "Taylor's Pommies", are unbeaten and they have a 4 point lead over Graham Slack's - "Savages", but as will be seen from the table, every team has won at least one match.

The pre-season favourites, "Griffin's Tornados", who on paper appeared to be the strongest, lost their first two matches and, at that point were bottom of the table, but they won their last match 5-4.

With teams being so evenly matched, there is every prospect of a closely contested competition before the League ends in March.

TABLE (After 3 rounds)

|                           | P | W | L | Pts. |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|------|
| Taylor's Pommies          | 3 | 3 | 0 | 18   |
| Slack's Savages           | 3 | 2 | 1 | 14   |
| Golding's Goldiggers      | 3 | 1 | 2 | 13   |
| Moreman's Muppets         | 3 | 1 | 2 | 13   |
| Griffin's Tornados        | 3 | 1 | 2 | 12   |
| Russell's Razzle-Dazzlers | 3 | 1 | 2 | 11   |

Taylor is the only unbeaten player so far - but in his set, of exceptional high quality, with Graham Slack, he was pushed all

the way before winning 31-29, 21-19. It is interesting to note that players who have played all three matches have won at least two sets.

Surprises however have been evident. In the first round the Gloucester Veteran (and County Vets' Champion) Peter Wood, scored a maximum - something he was unable to do last season.

His victims were Griffin, Martin Lane and Guy Greening all in the same match. Russell, the County's No.1 before transferring his allegiance to Avon, beat Griffin his now successor as County No. 1.

Moreman has been in fine form, beating County Player Golding (who in the next round convincingly beat Russell) and gained revenge for his defeat in the final of the County Closed to beat Slack 17, 16.

The leading individual scores are - Taylor nine out of nine, Moreman 8-9, Golding 7-9, Russell 7-9, Lane 5-9, Craig Saunders 5-9. Craig a Junior and former County No. 1 Junior is playing in the Premier League for the first time and has already made an excellent start, his contribution is one reason for the overall success of his team - Taylor's Pommies being top.

My sincere thanks are due to John Boyd of Cheltenham, Chairman of the Capitol Providence County Premier League, for this report.

## LOCAL INDEPENDENT RADIO, SEVERN-SOUND

Four years ago this very month I began regular table tennis broadcasting on Radio Severn-Sound. Just over two years ago the powers that be in broadcasting let me do interviews. I was asked, only a few weeks ago - Who was the most interesting person that I've interviewed? My answer was very non-committal, but in all honesty the most important person interviewed at least in table tennis circles was ETTA Chairman Tom Blunn, but, let me have the last word on this, everyone that I have spoken to on the air is important in their own particular way.

## BITS AND PIECES

Thanks to liaison between the County and WRAF Innsworth and indeed perhaps others, a friendly match was agreed between Gloucester Lady Players and three players representing the WRAF. This match was played on Dec. 9th at RAF Innsworth.

Representing the WRAF were:- Sarah Bignell (Cosford), Julie Parrick (Brize Norton) and Debbie Willis (Innsworth), Gloucester's team was - Clare Symonds, Heather Colwill and Christine Iacopi, and won 8-2.

A newcomer to the Gloucester City League 1st Division this

season is John Fannin, who came here from Dublin where he was playing in the Premier League. After six years in the Dublin League John reckons that table tennis here in Div. 1 is more or less equal. John has a 13-year-old daughter who plays in the 6th Div. of the City League for Oxstalls; her name is Cheryl. Nice to have you both over here.

The County Committee are all geared up for the Beneficial Trust Cotswold Junior Select in February at the Gloucester Leisure Centre. Thanks are indeed due to Doug Young of Worcestershire for yet again officiating as Referee but sorry, Doug, to hear that this may be your last year with us. The Cotswold originated as the "Burford" in 1968 and since 1979 has been run successfully at Gloucester. Les Smith is I understand the Tournament Organiser.

And finally Andy Browett, Gloucester's popular Gen. Sec. for several years informed the City-Committee that he will not be standing for Secretary next season, but will see this season out. Phew, that's a relief!

David Cosway reports from...

## HAMPSHIRE DIAGNOSIS ACCEPTED

It is strange but I have been writing these notes now for more years than I care to remember but I have had more comment, mostly agreeing with my views, on my last report than on any other I have written. It appears that the majority of people now accept that our sport is suffering and as with any ailment the first hurdle to get is acknowledging that something is wrong. I highlighted some of the problems, lack of facilities, no social side to the game and "funny" bats, in my last report. So now we know the patient is sick we must find a cure. That is a lot harder. Premises are available but here not only is cost a major obstacle but caretaker problems, early time deadlines and the unsuitability of venues are matters which need to be tackled. Table-tennis needs a larger playing area compared with the number of participants than most sports so the cost per player has risen to the level where it is no longer a cheap sport.

Unco-operative caretakers often with no sporting interests can impose arbitrary early closing on premises, especially if they are local authority education halls. One can see their point, they have been there since early morning dealing with normal school functions and are then expected to work late for the

likes of table-tennis clubs. An answer may be for responsible sports clubs to be given the job of policing the halls for evening use. Then suddenly however the caretakers find that loss of overtime reduces their income and they object to any such scheme. Private halls are in short supply and are usually heavily booked. Sports halls rarely have facilities ideal for table-tennis with space, lighting, background colour and noise being the major defects. These are often difficult if not impossible to resolve to the satisfaction of the management and the players.

On the subject of "funny" bats, I agree with John Preat (Yes I even had a letter from HIM after my last report) - the powers that be have left it too late. Bats should have been standardised years ago. Now with a new generation of players starting the game with the new rubbers it is perhaps too late. There is of course also the subject of money! No sports goods manufacturer is going to give much support to a sport that standardises the very lucrative bat rubber market. I understand that many hundreds of different rubbers are now approved. How ludicrous! How do you advise a beginner where to step in that minefield and how do you explain it to anyone outside the hardcore of our sport?

## SENIOR CLOSED

The main event in the county since my last report was the senior closed and really one could write a book about it! Full of comment, controversy, surprises and even some good table-tennis. The men's singles attracted 50 entries, well up on last year but still a very small percentage of the players in the county. Playing the first round on a group basis I think helps entries but the absence of juniors was a disappointment. The withdrawal of Derek Holman the No.2 seed through illness and the defeat of No.4 seed Ramish Bhalla in the groups gave the draw a very unbalanced look with all the favourites for the title in the top half. Clive Young of Basingstoke took advantage of the top seeds absence from the bottom half of the draw to reach the semi with a win over Ken Giles; His opponent in the semi was Mark Bleakley, a Portsmouth Polytechnic student, who had beaten No. 5 seed Nick Frost Clive had an 18 and 8 win over Mark at that stage. In the top half the four seeds reached the quarters where Graham Toole was taken to a third game by Mark Wilding before winning 14, -14, 16. Micky Sinanan won 18 and 19 against the evergreen Chris

Shetler. In a tight competitive semi Graham just got the better of Micky who thoroughly justified his No.3 seeding -19, 18 and 19. Young started the final well leading 17-14 in the first game but Toole, the winner for the last two seasons, fought back to take the next seven points and the game at 17. Graham looked home and dry in the second having changed a 3-8 deficit into a 13-8 lead but this time it was Clive's turn to comeback to take the game at 19. The third was even with Clive changing ends with a slender 10-8 lead. Then with Graham serving came the controversy which swayed the game. Mick Strode the umpire having warned Graham earlier that he could not see his service called a foul. Graham clearly upset asked for an assistant referee to watch his service but international umpire Peter Thorne, the tournament referee, refused on the grounds that an assistant referee can only be appointed at the start of the set. I bow to Pete's better knowledge of the rules but I have certainly seen an assistant referee appointed during a game in similar circumstances in a National League match. While I support Mick 100% on his decision I will reiterate one of my pet grouses about umpires - lack of consistency. Graham had been serving the same right through the tournament so why wait until half way through the last game of the final before warning or calling him for a foul service? Any sympathy I had with Graham however was gone when I heard of his outburst of foul language to the umpire after the game. However despite these detractions Graham went into a 17-13 lead with his serve to come. At this stage though he got very apprehensive about using his best services and Young came through to level at 17-all and take his first title at 21-18. I have not seen a lot of 22-year-old Clive in recent years, not in fact since hitting the high-lights when he helped Hampshire juniors take the Div. 3 West County Championships title in Carol Preat's era with the county in 1978/79.

A difficult decision for the committee before the women's event - where should they seed Kathy Ridgard (nee Colan), now she is back playing after the birth of her offspring? They decided not to seed her which meant her playing in the groups with the four seeds automatically going through to the quarters. No. 1 seed Cheryl Buttery then had the misfortune of going on the table cold for her first set - against Kathy Ridgard! The first game was close at 19 to Kathy but only one player in the second with a

# County Notes

21-10 win putting Kathy into the semi. I am sure we have yet to see the best of Cheryl since her move to the county. The other semi was a repeat of last year's final but a different result with this year Jill Green (No.2 seed) getting the better of the champion Sarah Hammond (No. 3 seed) 20, 19. In the other semi Kathy Ridgard beat No.4 seed Barbara Clarke 16, 18. Kathy now much steadier and not wasting points as she has in the past had few problems in the final and although Jill, as usual, fought all the way the result always looked on with unseeded Kathy winning her first singles title 18, 15. This has really put the cat amongst the pigeons and how the new rankings emerge from Jan. 1 will make interesting reading.

Surprises also in the veterans' singles with Tony Nixon ousting Rowe Bennett in the groups. He could not repeat this form in the semi losing to No. 1 seed Fred Kershaw 17, 13. In the other half Maurie Shave the No. 4 seed beat holder Ray Lush, the No.2 seed, in the semi 13, 17. A two straight win (12, 19) in the final gave Fred his first title after his recent move to the county.

The withdrawal of Holman left Bhalla without a partner in the men's doubles. His scratch pairing with Tony Duffield proved successful as they reached the final with a 19, 17 win over Wilding and Joe Okoseime. Similarly the scratch pairing of Tony Nixon and Howard Davis put an end to the hopes of first No. 3 seeds Shetler/Kristos Hannides, then in the quarters the No.1 seeds Toole/Sinanan. Last year's finalist Frost and Mark Thomas went the same way in the semis losing -14, 13 and 22. So two scratch pairings in the final with Davies and Nixon going through 13, -18, 14:

The women's doubles was a little more predictable with top seeds and holders Jill Green and Barbara Clarke coming through to the final with an 18, 13 win over Di Winmill and Maria McCabe. Seconds seeds Cheryl Buttery and Sarah Hammond had a comfortable 4, 13 win over Ivy Kershaw and Ann Longland. Jill and Barbara retained their title with a 19, 16 win in the final.

In the mixed no Holman who had been No.1 seed with Cheryl Buttery.. Chris Feeley took Derek's place but they went out first round to Ken Giles and Kathy Ridgard who went into the final with a win over the No.4 seeds Keir Donaldson and Sarah Hammond. In the other semi a battle of the No.2 and 3 seeds ended up with Bhalla and Jill Green beating Shetler and Barbara Clarke 13, 21. Ken and

Kathy won the first game of the final at 18 but the next two went to Rhamish and Jill 14 and 19 to give them their first title.

As usual a smoothly run tournament with Harold Albery the ever efficient secretary and Peter Thorne the referee ably assisted by chairman Brian Lamerton.

So what else has been going on in the county? The Hampshire schools team competition gave the following through to the area finals at Redbridge on Jan. 20. U/19 Girls - Richard Taunton: Boys - Richard Taunton U/16 Girls - Neville Lovett: Boys - Richard Aldworth U/13 Girls - No Entries: Boys - Walhampton U/11 Girls - No Entries: Boys - Kings Copse

In the County Championships an extraordinary match for our senior team against Essex II winning 8-2 but going into a 5-0 lead at the start with all five sets being won at 19 or "deuce" in the third. Toole and Sinaman each dropped a singles. In their next match against Devon a bad 1-9 defeat with only Toole winning the first singles in the third and all the rest being lost 2-straight. The non-playing captain Keir Donaldson was confidently predicting a draw or narrow win beforehand and his main excuse after the match was that the conditions were too fast for our team!

The Junior team are really having a terrible season. After losing 3-7 to Cornwall with the three girls' sets being won they went down in the following match 1-9.

The Veterans A team won 5-4 over Surrey and this was a good team effort with all players scoring. Lush, Kershaw, Bennett and Ivy Kershaw each won a singles while Fred and Ivy combined to win the mixed.

The Veteran B team went down 3-6 in a poor result against Herts III. Maurie Shave (2) and John Harvey (1) won singles. Their result against Kent was much better and the 4-5 defeat showed much more promise for the future.

Our National League team despite their loss of star players still produce entertaining table-tennis. Their drawn match against Reading was amongst the best I have seen at Fareham. Two wins for Kevin Satchell and one each for Glen Baker and Andy Dodd are the bones of it but really good entertainment especially from David Barr, although he lost one. Surely his style is what the crowds want to see! I was disappointed with Phil Bradbury, neither his attitude or play were up to what one expects from an England ranked player. So on to the match against Grove

and not really a good match with all unforced errors. It must be very frustrating for coaches these days teaching their proteges all the strokes and then see that really you only need two strokes for today's game - a serve and a return. I reckon in this match 75% of the points were won either by the service or the return. A 5-3 win, Jaques' first of the season, with Nicky Mason and Mark Oakley never troubled in winning two each and Satchell one. Right out of touch Alan Fletcher did not amass more than an average of ten points per game for Grove.

My fears as to the future of Michael Aucterloni have proved unfortunately well founded as he has asked for a transfer to Wiltshire. I do begin to wonder what players consider is wrong with Hampshire. If it is 'B.O.' I wish our best friends would tell us! It appears at the moment that Bournemouth players play for Dorset, Aldershot players play for Surrey, Portsmouth players have been known to play for Sussex and now a Southampton player plays for Wiltshire. Why!??

Harry Stevens reports from...

## HERTFORDSHIRE

### DEATH OF A PRESIDENT

It is with deep sorrow that I report the death of Mrs. Alice Butler, our President. Mrs. Butler was the longest serving member of our County Committee and had been President since 1981. She was a founder member of the Old Centralians Club, Watford in 1929 and had remained an active member of the club throughout her life. Mrs. Butler was President of the Watford and District League from 1966 and its Assistant Secretary from 1946-81. Alice was a delightful person, a great ambassador for Table Tennis and will be missed by us all.

Little joy for the county teams in recent engagements with the Senior 1st side, at home to Hunts on Nov. 24, being beaten 7-3 the home successes being accomplished by Barry White, John Taylor and John McCarse.

Herts Vets I were at home to Essex I on Dec. 1 and also suffered a heavy defeat, D. Somers winning our only set. On the same date our Vets II side, away to Bucks were beaten 6-3, George Tyler winning two and Geoff Bax one. But, Vets III at home to Sussex III, won 6-3 with D. Wilson, D. Tomsett and K. Hartridge getting us our success.

A round robin event of matches in the Junior Div. 3 of the County Championships was held at Waltham Forest YMCA over the

weekend of Dec. 1/2 organised by Essex TTA. Hertfordshire's Junior II team took part playing 3 matches on the Saturday and 2 on the Sunday.

It was seen as a good chance for Herts to field, as yet, untried members of the squad - Mark O'Connor, John Foley, Edwin Taylor and Maria Williams, together with the more experienced Michael Boardman, Richard Cook, James Patterson, Vicky Marggerrison and Caroline Seaholme.

Saturday morning saw the team of Michael, Richard, Jimmy, Caroline and Maria facing Norfolk's first team of Neil Pickard, Lee Diggins, Andrew Rice, Sue Jenkinson and Rachel Wilson. Pickard "picked off" Michael and Richard in straight games although only by 24-22 against Michael in the first. The final result was a win for Norfolk (8-2) with the Herts wins coming from Maria and Jimmy.

The second match of the day gave Herts a chance to exact revenge on the Norfolk camp against their 2nd team, and did they take it! An 8-2 win by Herts saw double jubilation, it being the first win for Herts II since February, 1982! The valiant team comprised:- Michael, Jimmy, Mark, Caroline and Maria. The third match against Cams II ended in a 5-5 draw with Michael (2), Mark and Maria (1 each) and the Michael and Richard in the boys' doubles getting in on the spoils.

Sunday morning brought instant defeat at the hands of Suffolk I with Maria beating Karen Perkins, 23-21 in the third! Suffolk won 9-1. And the same treatment was dished out by Cams I with Maria again our only winner with a victory over Louise Ward to make the defeat less catastrophic. The overall view was that some hard work was put in by all our players, giving 100% at all times and with promising debuts from four, including a 100%, 5 wins out of 5 for Maria. Well done all.

And well done the organisers, Essex, who provided us with cheerful, professional umpires, managing to keep events running smoothly, thus providing a most enjoyable weekend for all.

### JUNIOR CLOSED

Results of the Junior Closed played at Barnet TTC on Dec. 9 were:-

BS: P. Harris bt D. Rogers 19, 15, 9;  
GS: A. Boxall bt T. Baines 20, 16;  
CBS: J. Patterson bt Black 18, 18;  
CGS: E. Hurling bt C. Seaholme 15, 17;  
U-12 GS: S. Seaholme bt T. Greenberg 18, 17;  
U-12 BS: Patterson (winner), Black (runner-up);  
BD: Rogers/L. Rosso bt M. Boardman/P. Harris  
GD: Boxall/E. Hurling bt C. Seaholme/M. Williams  
XD: Harris/Boxall bt Rogers/Baines.

### DIARY DATES FOR BARNET TTC

January  
13 Inter-League

19 Junior Training  
 26 County Championships  
   Junior 1 v Devon  
   Vets 2 v Beds  
   Senior v Northants.  
 February  
   9 Junior Training  
 10 Inter-League  
 16 County Championships  
   Junior 2 v Kent 2  
   Vets 1 v Kent 1  
 23/24 Senior Closed Tournament

John Prean looks beyond the ...

## ISLE OF WIGHT

I enjoyed my friend David Cosway's column (TT News Nov.), always one of the first I read. It was good to hear about Keith Summerfield again. He was one of Hampshire's best ever players and an articulate and thoughful Starcoach, one of a large army of GOOD young players who have deserted our sport. I was surprised to hear that the combination bat was the villain of the piece. I had often talked about the sport to Keith and we were often on common ground. I saw Keith's departure coming for some time. There always was a case for bat standardisation. There was in 1952, in 1959, again in 1977 (Birmingham World Championships). Little was done until 6 years later. By that time a new generation of players had grown up who were playing with 'funny bats', England had produced a male European Champion (John Hilton), a female one (Mrs. Hammersley-Parker), a cadet one (Carl Prean), a cadet team (Prean and Billy Gleave) and, of course, hundreds, maybe thousands of players who played with these things, including Keith's pupil Stephen Snow. By then it was too late to change.

### A POINTLESS COMPROMISE

Was the solution which confirmed the 3rd ball bashers' place in the sun and made life infinitely harder for the Johnsons and Barrs whom everybody tells me they enjoy seeing play so much. I keep hearing, and I believe it, that everybody wants to see rallies, after which we support legislation which has the opposite effect. Nobody has explained that yet.

### CARL'S CHANGE OF CLUB

Carl was happy with Generation, Fareham, but sometimes players feel the time has come to move on in search of a new challenge. TOYOTA BATH are an excellent club and there is little difference this season between the first two divisions of the National League. The top 3 or 4 teams of the First would survive comfortably in the Premier which has been grievously wounded by Soham's demise,

## LOCAL NEWS

Ryde's hold on the title was loosened when Sandown 'B' held them to a draw. With Mike Turner not so effective with a standard bat, the back-up for Jim Daly is more vulnerable and Sandown's challenge looks hopeful. Roger Hookey has only lost once and Andy Coghlan and the mercurial Kevin Attrill provide a well balanced side and Attrill's sweet left-handed forehand has been known to give Jim Daly his few moments of local trouble. Shanklin too have a well balanced side, but with 4 from Jim Daly (3 singles and the doubles) other teams still have a lot of work to do. Wroxall could have made it a 5 horse race if 50 year old Pete Smith was available more often. He is still a class player who has remained loyal to his hard bat and who once reached the 4th round of the English Open and won two Junior Open doubles titles (the Mixed with Rosalind Rowe, the Boys' with Jimmy Lowe who once beat Richard Bergmann and is now on the Bath Committee). Unfortunately a big gap opens about halfway and the case for a Premier League (once debaed and defeated with great passion) is again very strong. This would contain only 7 or 8 Clubs who would have to play each other 3 or 4 times per season, raising standards but perhaps, so it is said, introducing unwanted monotony. There have been too many 9-1 and 10-0's once again as our first division splits into two worlds.

### HITTING THE ROAD AGAIN

The Tournament circuit has started again. Already it is hard to tell one from another. They all seem in sports centres which charge exorbitant rents, Entry Fees are going up, hotel costs too. Prize money seems to remain the same in all but a few rare cases. In the English Closed it is even going down. The latter is run by the ETTA which has just had a big increase from the membership. No further comment seems necessary.

The Wiltshire 2-Star is going from strength to strength. Great credit is due to the organisers who really mean to make this a big event. There were a few dark corners in outside courts and the final of the Junior Event (between the No. 1 and 2 Juniors Prean and Andrew Syed) was played so late that hardly anybody watched - a very good match played against a ghostly, depressing background. There IS an audience for table tennis - as Prean's earlier rounds matches proved - but not after 12 hours in the same hall with the journey home, often a long one, still to come.

I suppose a pattern has

emerged that all Finals must start at 7 and the main event around 9. 'Staged' Finals is how these are described, but staged for whom? It usually looks like an audition for 'The Invisible Man'. Staged in mid-afternoon, finals would attract excellent audiences. When they are over, that is the time to start on the social events like Doubles. Those who have a long trip home then have the choice between an early night and a late one.

John's final three paragraphs relative to sponsorship have been withheld as they are considered to be sub judice whilst awaiting the deliberations of the National Council at their meeting scheduled for January 5th. Ed,

Terry Brown reports from.....

## LEICESTERSHIRE

### PRESTIGIOUS TOURNAMENT

After the Beneficial English Junior Closed held at Hinckley Leisure Centre - no doubt the details of which appear elsewhere in this issue - the next big event in the confines of the County will be the Leicestershire Closed. This prestigious tournament will be held at the Granby Halls on Sunday, Feb. 3, 1985. Chairman Geoff Aldwinckle and his committee have managed to keep the entry costs down to last year's figure of 80p. A great day is expected and I, for one, am looking forward, as many will, to the Hard Bat Singles Event.

In the Hinckley & District League, Three Crowns 'A' currently head Div. 1, proudly boasting a 100% record after six outings. Div. 2 finds Three Crowns 'C' on top of the pile who also boast a 100% record after seven matches. J. Baines and Stu Burwood top the individual averages with 95% and 93% respectively. Whilst K. Wilson and P. Walden are unbeaten in Div. 3, Mencap 'A' lead the table winning 5 and drawing 1 out of their 6 matches. Mira are the team of the moment in Div. 4 who with Jim and Irene Burrows, both 100%, look like winning the trophy this season.

Div. 1 in the Loughborough League is spearheaded by the Laughing Cavaliers 'A' team, Mike Meredith has yet to taste defeat despite his 18 visits to the table. Knight-Thorpe 'B' lead Div. 2, despite being behind with their fixtures, and remain unbeaten after four attempts. ~~Stu~~ ~~Johnson~~ ~~(6/61)~~ and Bruce Johnson (6/61) head the individual averages. Beamont are the current leaders of Div. 3 by only 1pt over Nat. West. Bank. 100

per-centers in this division are M. Uttley and M. White.

In the Leicester League, divisional leaders are:- 1. Knighton Park 1; 2. Thorn EMil; 3. Great Glen 2; 4. Belgrave Liberals 1; 5. L.U.CA; 6. Epworth 2; 7. Wigston Fields 1; 8. Knighton Park 9; 9. Leicester Building Society 5; 10. Melton 2; 11. Leicester Elec. 4; 12. Kirbey Muxloe; 13. Post Office 5; 14. Camber Int. 2; 15. LAYA; 16. LAYA 2; 17. Charis. Individual leaders are: 1. Chris Rogers; 2. Alan Mould; 3. Gary Alden; 4. John Lenton; 5. Gary Kirk; 6. Gary Baxter; 7. Steve Shaw; 8. Glenys Odams; 9. Andy Radford; 10. Roy Harper; 11. Keith Tointon; 12. Brian Leeson; 13. William Ho; 14. Derek Jordan; 15. Shakeel Amin; 16. Stu McPhee; 17. Don Berrill.

On the County Championships scene, the Seniors in Div. 2A continued their bid to recapture Premier League status next season with a 7-3 success at Suffolk which was achieved despite County No. 1, Chris Rogers surprisingly losing both his sets. In a match taking over four hours to complete, the Veterans, also in Div. 2A, continued their run of success with a 5-4 win over Worcestershire at Knighton Park. A brace from Geoff Aldwinckle, one from John Iliffe and Colin Truman plus the Mixed saw the points go Leicestershire's way. Richard Grimley, Ian Brown and Gail Chapman were presented with their County Badges prior to the latest Junior 2A match, an 8-2 defeat to a visiting Northumberland squad. Loughborough's Paul Bumpus and Gail Chapman were the Leicestershire victors with Gail's being her first win for the County.

Phil Smith, Martin Pickles, Maurice Newman, Graham Hall, John Veasey and non-playing captain John Iliffe make up the first ever local entrants - Olivers Shoes Hinckley Table Tennis Club - in Division Three West of the Halex National League. Early results have been encouraging with wins over Market Drayton, Launceston and Jolliffe Polle. A good start then, let us hope they keep it going.

Keith Fisher reports from.....

## LINCOLNSHIRE

### BRILLIANT MATT

In the recent Midland Regional Open Veterans' Championships held in Coventry, Matt Sheader who was in excellent form played brilliantly to win four gold medals beating Ralph Gunnion in the over-40 singles, Peter Darcy in the over-50 singles and, with Derek Schofield, winning both

# County Notes

doubles. Connie Moran playing with Doreen Schofield won a gold in the Ladies over-40 doubles and with Kath Fisher a silver in the over-50. Kath also took the silver in the 2nd class singles. Barry Johnson of Lincoln was very unfortunate after reaching the quarters of the over-50 singles when an objection was made about the colour of his bat and he was forced to play with an old one. In fairness to the players surely some definite ruling must be made at the start of an event and not halfway through it.

In the Town Competitions Lincoln lead in the Butcher Cup. With a very good team of young players they have wins over Gainsborough 8-2, Grantham 10-0, Grimsby 9-1 (Jan Slieght is unbeaten). Close behind by one point are Stamford with M. Bradford and A. Goodacre playing very well and only dropping one set each. Should be very interesting to see the outcome when these two teams play each other. Louth lead the Haigh Cup and are unbeaten with Lincoln in second place losing to Louth 3-7, but not without a fight. For Louth Sheader won his three and for Lincoln John Malone, Steve Brophy and Roy Harper all beat Dale Allison. The three sets that could have swayed the match

the other way all involved Brian Allison who was made to fight all the way each opponent taking him to three before Brian got on top to win all of them. Louth also took the doubles.

In the Butlin Cup Grimsby Ladies are in the lead with good wins over Grantham and Lincoln, Connie Moran having a good win over Sue Radley in the match against Lincoln.

In the Vets Lincoln look like taking the title with easy wins over Grimsby 7-3 and Boston 10-0, Barry Johnson (Lincoln) not losing a game.

The teams in the National League seem to be a bit shy about their results as no information is coming through, perhaps someone could do something about this as I'm sure people would like to know how they are getting on.

## New Men's Ranking List:

1. D. Skerratt (1)
2. M. Sheader (3)
3. S. Worrell (2)
4. B. Hill (4)
5. C. Bryan (-)
6. N. Parkin (8)
7. A. Thompson (7)
8. B. Allison (5)
9. I. Walker (-)
10. P. Taylor (10)

excellent match. The "A" team drew level in the last set when **Kerry** just beat R. Scott, Coventry "A" won well against Potteries "B" to move into 2nd place. In Div. 3, Phil Paine was in top form to take 3 at Telford and his side also took the doubles, the result being a draw, in a closely contested encounter. However, Stafford went one better against Leamington, Bob Murray taking 3 and the doubles. His set against Paine was probably the decisive one, Phil going down in the third. **Another excellent match, Nuneaton won in command at Derby where P. Mair was undefeated,** and Loughboro' won well at Burton. Meredith and Hudson each taking 3. In Div. 4 Notts "C" continue to command, having won their first 4 matches, dropping only 6 sets in the process. Bath, in second place, have made a promising start.

In the Junior Section, Wolves romped home against Loughboro' but complimented their young opponents on their good conduct and table manners. Notts "A" are the pacesetters with 6 points from 3 games. In Div. 2 Birmingham "A" have opened their account with a big win over Notts "B", whilst their "B" team did the same at Coventry "C" in Div. 3. Stroud must be favourites for the Div. 4 title dropping only one set in 3 matches. Likewise, Kidderminster in Div. 5.

In the Women's Division, six teams have won a match apiece, behind Bristol with 4 points. **Derby won a close game against Birmingham "B",** and Notts went down at Leicester.

In the Intermediate Div., all teams are off the mark, with Worcester winning at Walsall,

Nuneaton winning at Worcester, and Walsall beating Nuneaton, all by 6-4.

Oxford are in the lead in the Veterans Div. 1 with 6 points but were beaten by Notts "A" who have won both their matches and hope to retain their title.

In Div. 2 Coventry "A", Oxford "B" and Stratford have all won their first 3 matches, so their encounters against each other are awaited with interest.

## RESULTS

Men's Div 1  
 4: Birmingham 1, Leicester "A" 3;  
 Glos. 7 Chesterfield 3;  
 Wolves 2 Leicester "A" 7  
 Div. 2:  
 Notts "A" 6 Notts "B" 5;  
 Chiltonham 5 Notts "A" 5;  
 Coventry "A" 2 Potteries "B" 2;  
 Div. 3:  
 Telford 5 Leamington 5;  
 Leamington 4 Stafford 6;  
**Derby 3 Nuneaton 7;**  
 Loughborough 8 Burton 2;  
 Div. 4:  
 Cheltenham 1 Notts "C" 9;  
 Bath 10 Leamington "B" 0;  
 Glos. "B" 7 Cheltenham "B" 3;  
 Coventry "B" 0 Notts "C" 10;  
 Exmouth 8 Glos. "B" 7;  
 JUNIOR  
 Div. 1:  
 Loughborough 4 Derby 6;  
 Glos. 4 Coventry 6;  
 Wolves 9 Loughborough 1;  
 Div. 2:  
 Birmingham "A" 9 Notts "B" 1;  
 Div. 3:  
 Coventry "C" 0 B'ham "B" 10;  
 Div. 4:  
 Worcs. 0 Rugby 10;  
 Leamington 1 Stroud 9;  
 Nuneaton 1 Walsall "C" 9;  
 Div. 5:  
 Dudley 10 Mansfield "A" 0;  
 Broms Grove "B" 1 Kidderminster 9;  
 LADIES DIV  
**Derby 6 B'ham "B" 4;**  
 Leics. 7 Notts. 3  
 Intermediates Div:  
 Walsall 4 Worcs. 6;  
 Worcs. 4 Nuneaton 6;  
 Walsall 6 Nuneaton  
 VETERANS Div. 1:  
 Leicester 6 Leamington 4;  
 Notts "B" 5 Leamington  
 Oxford "A" 7 Telford 3;  
 Leamington 5 B'ham "B" 5;  
 Notts "A" 8 Oxford "A" 2;  
 Walsall 0 Notts "A" 10;  
 Div. 2:  
 Cov. "B" 3 Stratford  
 Stratford 6 Stroud 4;  
 Oxford "B" 10 Cov. "B" 0

## THE MATCHES:

|              | P | W | D | L | Sets |    | Pts |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|------|----|-----|
|              |   |   |   |   | F    | A  |     |
| Veteran Cup  |   |   |   |   |      |    |     |
| Lincoln      | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 17   | 3  | 4   |
| Grimsby      | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 11   | 9  | 2   |
| Boston       | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 2    | 18 | 0   |
| Butlin Cup   |   |   |   |   |      |    |     |
| Grimsby      | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 14   | 6  | 4   |
| Grantham     | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 9    | 11 | 2   |
| Lincoln      | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 7    | 13 | 0   |
| Haigh Cup    |   |   |   |   |      |    |     |
| Louth        | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 21   | 9  | 6   |
| Lincoln      | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 20   | 10 | 4   |
| Grimsby      | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 15   | 15 | 4   |
| Gainsborough | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 14   | 16 | 2   |
| Boston       | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 12   | 18 | 1   |
| Grantham     | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 8    | 22 | 1   |
| Butcher Cup  |   |   |   |   |      |    |     |
| Lincoln      | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 27   | 3  | 6   |
| Stamford     | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 20   | 10 | 5   |
| Gainsborough | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 16   | 14 | 4   |
| Grimsby      | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 13   | 17 | 3   |
| Boston       | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 14   | 16 | 2   |
| Louth        | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 14   | 16 | 2   |
| Spalding     | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 11   | 19 | 2   |
| Grantham     | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 5    | 25 | 0   |

John Barber reports from...

## MIDLAND LEAGUE

### WIDE OPEN SITUATION

The Men's Div. 1 has got off to a slow start with only five matches played. Five teams have 2 points each so the division is, at the moment, wide open. Players to win all 3 are D. Griffin (Glos.) v Chesterfield, D. Parmar (B'ham) v Leicester and P. Smith (Leics. "A") v Wolves "B". Twice as

many matches have been played in Div. 2 where Notts "B" with 5 points have edged ahead of Notts "A". Coventry "A" and Potteries "B". Richard Russell earned a draw against Notts "A" by taking all 3. They locked out their third player S. Callum who waited at the door for 2 hours! When they found him the match was over and Notts decided not to play the extra sets. Notts "A" also slipped against their "B" team who gained a draw in an

## LEAGUE TABLES - LEADING POSITIONS

| MEN'S        | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|--------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Diy. 1:      |   |   |   |   |    |    |     |
| Birmingham   | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 9  | 2   |
| Glos. A      | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 11 | 9  | 2   |
| Leicester A  | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 2   |
| Potteries A  | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6  | 4  | 2   |
| Wolves A     | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6  | 4  | 2   |
| Diy. 2:      |   |   |   |   |    |    |     |
| Notts B      | 3 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 19 | 11 | 5   |
| Coventry A   | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 12 | 4   |
| Notts A      | 3 | 1 | 2 | 0 | 16 | 14 | 4   |
| Potteries B  | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 16 | 14 | 4   |
| Diy. 3:      |   |   |   |   |    |    |     |
| Stafford     | 4 | 2 | 1 | 0 | 21 | 19 | 5   |
| Nuneaton     | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 14 | 6  | 4   |
| Leamington   | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 14 | 3   |
| Loughborough | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 16 | 14 | 3   |
| Diy. 4:      |   |   |   |   |    |    |     |
| Notts C.     | 4 | 4 | 0 | 0 | 34 | 6  | 8   |
| Bath         | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 29 | 11 | 6   |
| Dudley       | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 12 | 8  | 4   |
| Eastwood     | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 22 | 18 | 4   |
| Glos. B      | 4 | 2 | 0 | 2 | 20 | 20 | 4   |

## JUNIORS:

|                  |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| Diy. 1:          |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
| Notts A          | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 4  | 6 |
| Wolves           | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 3  | 4 |
| Coventry A       | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6  | 4  | 2 |
| Coventry A       | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 6  | 4  | 2 |
| <del>Dorby</del> | 2 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 8  | 12 | 2 |

|                   |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
|-------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| Diy. 2:           |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
| Pontesbury        | 3 | 2 | 0 | 1 | 18 | 12 | 4 |
| B'ham A           | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9  | 1  | 2 |
| Walsall A         | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 12 | 8  | 2 |
| <del>Burton</del> | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 7  | 3  | 2 |

|        |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|
| Cov. B | 0 |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--------|---|--|--|--|--|--|--|

|               |   |  |   |   |    |   |   |
|---------------|---|--|---|---|----|---|---|
| Diy. 3:       |   |  |   |   |    |   |   |
| B'ham B       |   |  | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0 | 2 |
| Stafford      |   |  | 0 | 0 | 9  | 1 | 2 |
| <del>16</del> |   |  | 0 | 0 | 8  | 2 | 2 |
| Walsall B     | 0 |  |   |   |    |   |   |

|            |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
|------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| Diy. 4:    |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
| Stroud     | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 1  | 6 |
| Rugby      | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0  | 4 |
| Leamington | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 9  | 11 | 2 |
| Walsall C  | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 9  | 11 | 2 |

|               |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| Diy. 5:       |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
| Kidderminster | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 29 | 1  | 6 |
| Dudley        | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 20 | 0  | 4 |
| Mansfield A   | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 8  | 22 | 2 |

|                  |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| WOMEN'S DIV:     |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
| Bristol          | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 17 | 3  | 4 |
| Wolves           | 1 | 1 | 0 | 0 | 9  | 1  | 2 |
| Leicester        | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 9  | 11 | 2 |
| Notts.           | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 14 | 16 | 2 |
| B'ham B          | 3 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 13 | 17 | 2 |
| B'ham A          | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 8  | 12 | 2 |
| <del>Dorby</del> | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 8  | 12 | 2 |
| Kidderminster    | 1 | 0 | 0 | 1 | 2  | 8  | 0 |

|                  |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
|------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| VETERANS DIV. 1: |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
| Oxford A         | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 23 | 17 | 6 |
| Notts A          | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 18 | 2  | 4 |
| B'ham A          | 2 | 2 | 0 | 0 | 15 | 5  | 4 |
| B'ham B          | 2 | 1 | 1 | 0 | 12 | 8  | 3 |
| Leamington       | 3 | 0 | 2 | 1 | 14 | 6  | 2 |
| Leicester        | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 8  | 12 | 2 |
| Notts B          | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 20 | 1 |
| Walsall          | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 3  | 17 | 0 |

|               |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
|---------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|---|
| DIV. 2:       |   |   |   |   |    |    |   |
| Oxford B      | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 26 | 4  | 6 |
| Coventry A    | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 22 | 8  | 6 |
| Stratford     | 3 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 19 | 11 | 6 |
| Kidderminster | 2 | 1 | 0 | 1 | 10 | 10 | 2 |
| Stroud        | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 8  | 12 | 0 |
| Cheltenham    | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 6  | 14 | 0 |
| West Bram     | 2 | 0 | 0 | 2 | 5  | 15 | 0 |
| Coventry B    | 3 | 0 | 0 | 3 | 4  | 26 | 0 |

|                    |   |  |   |   |    |    |   |
|--------------------|---|--|---|---|----|----|---|
| INTERMEDIATES Diy: |   |  |   |   |    |    |   |
| Hinckley           | 2 |  | 1 | 0 | 12 | 8  | 3 |
| Worcester          | 3 |  | 1 | 1 | 15 | 15 | 3 |
| Rugby              | 1 |  | 0 | 0 | 10 | 0  | 2 |
| Walsall            | 3 |  | 0 | 2 | 13 | 17 | 2 |
| Nuneaton           | 3 |  | 0 | 2 | 10 | 20 | 2 |

Ray Hogg reports from . . . .

## NORFOLK

### 'FINGS AIN'T WHAT THEY USED TO BE'

County matches used to be a pleasure to officiate at as both teams took intense interest in the match and afterwards all compared notes socially over refreshments. Is it that we are not selecting the right people as at a recent match Norfolk II v Surrey II the atmosphere reminded me of Woolworths on Xmas Day combined with some bad-

tempered play on both sides. The lack of spectators was entirely Norfolk's fault as no notice of the match was put in the local paper and we do get some support if we tell people the match is on. After extending my apologies to Murray Corbin who came with the Surrey team, I took note of several things he suggested we could do and gave him my full permission to print his thoughts should he so wish in his column. We as a County have got to shake ourselves up to get back to organising these matches as we used to. On the

same day as this match our 1st team travelled to Middlesex with some trepidation fearing a "whitewash" situation as Middlesex are quite frankly far too strong for this division. On return after having been beaten but by no means disgraced, our team are of the opinion that it is not who you play it is how you play that matters.

Directly after finishing these notes out comes the umpire's jacket and off I go to National League Norwich Foxwood v Lowestoft. With both teams unbeaten and all the players very well known to each other a needle match should be on. I say should as sometimes these matches fall flat - we can only hope as great interest is on this match and we have hopes of a full house to witness. In the last N.L. match in Norwich we had a little incident which might be of interest. After losing to a Foxwood player an away player complained to the referee about one particular service considering it to be illegal. The referee consulted with the umpire and replied to the complaining player that he considered the service while not up to the standards required by the Book not to be illegal and furthermore the umpire had taken into consideration the extremely bad language used during the match by the complaining player.

Whilst on service Sue Everitt who plays for our County Junior 2nd team was in the squad which played 5 matches over one weekend and before she went I warned her to think about her service as she does not intentionally foul but wouldn't take notice of us that she does. First match on Sue was warned with virtually her first service and thereafter faulted continually. This nearly destroyed her but to her credit she worked on it and got through the weekend somehow. I play in the same league team as her and it is a pleasure to see her thinking before serving, and I hope that during the second half of the season I can see even more progress.

My wife and I went to the VETIS tournament at Coventry and none of the foregoing problems seem to apply. What a pleasure to play and mix with these people whose sole interest is to enjoy themselves. Henry Buist v Mike Watts and Derek Schofield v Matt Scheider - those sets stood out from the rest. It is many a year since I have seen other sets stop so that the players could watch. It puts to shame many junior matches I have officiated at in this and other counties.

Unfortunately we cannot get to Brighton for the second regional tournament but will be

at Macclesfield in March to meet yet more pleasant players. As the word gets round about these over-40 tournaments many players in their late thirties will start lying about their ages so that they can compete. It must be difficult if not impossible for Mike Watts and his computer to rank veterans properly as there are always more appearing every tournament who have just qualified and are unknown to the computer.

## NORFOLK COUNTY CLOSED

We had a very good venue, all equipment hired, all prepared for play by the dedicated the night before, sponsors to cover most of our costs, and a very good entry so what could I complain about. Note that I said I not we, as some of my fellow committee members may not agree. Why did not ranked Nos. 2, 3 and 4 enter the singles as that is the event everyone should at least be seen to compete in? Considering the work put in to obtain sponsors I consider that the culprits should be ashamed of themselves. Our sponsors and the general public who attended deserve to see these players they have heard about actually playing. Also what about Norwich Foxwood - only 2 players from this all-Norwich squad entered thereby giving complete freedom for Lowestoft EAE Waveney to dominated the final stages. I can't help thinking back to the days of Bensley, Thornton, Graver etc. nothing on earth would have stopped them competing in the County Champs. What stops the current crop?

The rest of the events were very evenly contested and starting with the XD seemed to stop some of the congestion towards the end which was a reasonable 8.30 p.m.

A special mention to the King's Lynn contingent who won nothing but put up a very good performance without any histrionics and were all immaculately dressed. Well done.

A coach load of us went down on a very foggy night to Ipswich to see Czechoslovakia; apart from Des Douglas, England got lost in the fog as well. Heaven help us if he decides to emigrate!

Dennis Millman reports from...

## NORTHANTS

### THIRD CONSECUTIVE TITLE

Graeme McKim gained his third consecutive Men's Singles title in the Midland Bank County Closed. held at Kingsthorpe Upper School, when he narrowly got the better of an ever-fervent Andy Edmonds, still on the crest of a wave after his elimination of

# County Notes

both the Nos. 2 and 3 seeds, Ian Hawes and Iain Randle. McKim's fluent play on both wings enabled him to counter Edmonds, who however again proved himself to be a top class tournament player but all to no avail on this occasion as McKim came through to win. Earlier McKim had faltered only once when he lost the opener to Brian D'Hooghe, but then the undisputed champion turned on the style to win in spectacular fashion.

Edmonds on the other hand had to battle hard to reach his first Men's final, almost falling at the first hurdle against Graham Ball, beating Phil Snelling 17 and 20, and then accounting for Randle. In the semi Edmonds met Hawes and here his greater mobility stood him in good stead as he won by the narrowest of margins in the decider.

Edmonds also ended on the losing side in the Mixed where, partnered by Maxine Shears, the Wellingborough pair reached the final. An easy first end promised much, but finally the experience of the holders prevailed and they took the title for the third time in four years.

Mrs. Maltby had an outstanding day, for she also ended on the winning side in both the Women's Singles and Doubles. Thus becoming the first woman to take all three titles since Ann Lenton accomplished the feat in 1963-64.

Strangely enough Mrs. Lenton appearing in the championships for the first time for seven years, made her presence felt in no uncertain manner as she accounted for Joyce Porter in a titanic encounter, before in turn becoming a victim of Glennis Hooper who reached her peak in the semi, but then just failed to cope with the unorthodox Mrs. Maltby in a disappointing final.

In the Doubles it was the mixture as before, with Maltby and Porter teaming up to take the title for the fourth time in a row, with the unwilling victims yet again Dorothy Marsh and Glennis Hooper, who never quite came to terms with the expertise of their opponents.

In the Men's Doubles the two-year reign of McKim and Chris Handshaw was ended when they fell in a tense semi, to the unbeaten Kettering League pair, Hawes and Steve Kendall, and it was no surprise that the final went the full distance before Hawes and Kendall got the better of David Gallo and Raymond Jacobs, for earlier Gallo and Jacobs had performed heroic Houdini acts to stay in contention. Some evidence of their earlier exploits can be gleaned from a first round -17, 16, 23 win over Richard Bashford and Mick Edwards, a comfortable 9, 15

win against No. 3 seeds Tim Chamberlain and Steve Lyon, a -16, 10, 24 triumph over Randle and Mike Jessop, and a semi-final success -14, 17, 19 against Ball and John Sanders. However in the final they let Hawes and Kendall get away to a long lead in all three games, and only in the first of these were they able to make up the initial deficit.

With John Palmer failing to appear for his intended veterans' semi confrontation with Dave Marsh, the latter had a comfortable passage to a final meeting with the winner for the past two years Keith Jones. With both players at their best, it became a battle between the accurate attack of Marsh and the determined defence of Jones, with Marsh taking an early lead before Jones gradually wore him down to take the second comfortably and the decider less easily.

The top seeds met in the final of the Boys' Singles, with Richard Elliott having shown the better form on the day, with fine wins in the senior event over Ray Kingston and Steve West, but it was Andrew Trott who started well and he took the opening end to 13 before becoming complacent in the second which Elliott easily secured. The third was close, but eventually Trott drawing on reserves ran out a narrow but deserving winner.

Elliott gained revenge in the Doubles, when partnered by Raymond Jacobs, the Northampton pair accounted for Trott and Ian Bird in a pulsating affair which went the full distance.

Bird also got his name on a trophy when he got the better of his Northants Schools colleague Garry Weston in yet another final encounter to merit a third end, when the Cadet Boys' Singles went Bird's way for a second time.

Maxine Shears dominated the girls' events taking the singles for the second year in succession with a win over Joanna Abbott, before teaming up with her vanquished opponent to take the Doubles in an event organised on a group basis. A similar state of affairs existed in the Cadet Girls' Singles, where the ultimate winner was Caroline Perkins.

The Midland Bank who were generously sponsoring the Championships for the second time sent along a familiar figure to present the trophies in Colin Hogg who doubtless serves the Bank in the same dedicated way he used to apply himself to Northants table tennis. Colin still turns out from time to time, but at his peak, which could be better described as a plateau, he took the Men's Doubles nine times in partnership with Brian Bond, and clinched the last of his seven Men's singles titles in 1971,

fourteen years after winning the first.

The Championships, well staged by the Northampton League, were in the capable hands of Phil Slade.

## Results:

### Men's Singles:

#### Q-F's:

McKim bt O'Hooghe -16, 5, 10;  
Chamberlain bt Sanders -15, 12, 18;  
Edmonds bt Randle -14, 18, 13;  
Hawes bt Lyon 18, -13, 21;

#### S-F's:

McKim bt Chamberlain 10, 13;  
Edmonds bt Hawes 19, -15, 21.  
Final: McKIM bt Edmonds 19, 16.

### Women's Singles:

#### S-F's:

Maltby bt Marsh 12, 9;  
Hooper bt Lenton 9, 16.  
Final: MALTBY bt Hooper 8, 18.

### Men's Doubles:

Final: HAWES/KENDALL bt Gallo/Jacobs -21, 17, 19.

### Women's Doubles:

Final: MALTBY/PORTER bt Hooper/Marsh 10, 14.

### Mixed Doubles:

Final: JONES/MALTBY bt Edmonds/Shears -4, 18, 9.

### Veterans' Singles:

#### S-F's:

Jones bt Dennis Millman 5, 19;  
Marsh bt Dave Burrows 4, 14;  
Final: JONES bt Marsh -20, 9, 16.

### Boys' Singles:

#### S-F's:

Trott bt Bird 12, 10;  
Elliott bt Jacobs 13, 16.  
Final: TROTT bt Elliott 13, -10, 14.

### Girls' Singles:

Final: SHEARS bt Abbon 12, 2a.

### Boys' Doubles:

ELLIOTT/JACOBS bt Trott/Bird 13, -18, 19.

### Cadet Boys' Singles:

#### S-F's:

Ian Bird bt Michael Cross 18, 10;  
Garry Weston bt Michael Lamberty 12, 13.  
Final: BIRD bt Weston 11, -15, 12.

Only Northampton of the County Leagues considered it worthwhile to enter the National Leagues Championships, and their quixotic venture into the Wilmott Cup was brought to an abrupt end by Birmingham's Barry Johnson, Ian and Phil Gunn who obviously carried too many guns for the home side for whom Phil Snelling did best.

At a somewhat lower level, defending champions Wellingborough continue to impress in the St. Neots Winter League, and with only two matches to play they lead by ten points from Ely, with Kettering also enjoying a sound campaign back in fifth place. McKim, an enthusiastic Handshaw as skipper, Andy Edmonds and Mark Nannery form a match-winning squad which should have little difficulty in retaining the title.

### Latest Positions

|                   | P | Pts |
|-------------------|---|-----|
| 1. Wellingborough | 7 | 53  |
| 5. Kettering      | 7 | 38  |
| 7. Northampton    | 7 | 22  |

It was McKim and Edmonds who put Playrite into a 3-2 lead against Witham Town in the Halex National League Div. 3 match, with McKim in impressive form as he won twice, but Playrite flattered to deceive and Witham fought back to win 5-3, with Ian Hawes and Keith Nicoll failing to add to the tally.

The results in the last series of County Championships matches were no more reassuring with

the Firsts and Seconds gaining just one point between them when Mandy Brown (Wallis) won her singles against Avon Seconds, but the Juniors seem to be acquitting themselves well in the Second Division gaining a well deserved win against Hertfordshire in a fine team performance which saw Jacobs win twice, Trott, Elliott and Maxine Shears once and Miss Shears and Joanna Abbott combining to take the girls' doubles.

The Veterans travelled to Cheshire without Jones and Marsh and this left Geoff Atkinson to make his County Veteran debut at No.1. No success here for the men, but Joyce Porter again proved to be a force at this level and took the singles for Northants' solitary point. The highlight of the visit proved to be the counter-attraction on the adjacent table in which Cheshire Firsts after twenty-three consecutive victories finally met their match when going down by 6-3 to Lincolnshire, with Matt Shearer taking the starring role as he remained undefeated. It was also nice to see that defeat still did not take the edge off Cheshire's enthusiasm, no doubt one of the main ingredients in a long run of success.

The league scene shows few changes, with Malcolm Dillely Associates now leading by ten points in Northampton, and Chapmans and Higham Band 'A' holding the aces in the Wellingborough Premier Division. At Kettering, Wellingborough Town and Kettering Town seem destined to battle for top honours, with Rothborough 'A' waiting in the wings if either or both fall by the wayside.

Pauline Long reports from.....

## NORTHUMBERLAND

### CONTINUED SUCCESS

The County juniOr team continued their run of success on Dec. 1 when they travelled to meet bottom team Leicestershire and won by 8-2. Thomas Blackman, Peter Curry and Clare Mouzon all gained maximums while Keith Patterson won one of his singles and Elaine Hopper shared in the girls' doubles victory. There is now an interesting situation developing in Div. 2A, with the latest available tables showing Warwickshire and Northumberland only one point behind the leaders, Yorkshire 11-who, as far as I am aware, cannot gain promotion to the Premier Division under the existing rules. However, any possible euphoria must be tempered by the fact that whether or not promotion is

gained. all the girls - Clare Mouzon. Denise Wilkinson and Elaine Hopper- will be over age next season. and at present there do not appear to be any likely replacements on the horizon. We can only hope that somehow this problem will have resolved itself before the start of next season.

The seniors played two matches in successive week-ends. and started off well by scoring a narrow 6-4 victory away to local rivals Durham on Nov. 24. Peter McQueen and Neil McMaster each won both their singles. while Eddie Smith won one. and Caron Buglass also had a successful singles victory. However. on Dec. 1. they were

**well beaten 2-9 at home to an Alan Cooke inspired Derbyshire team. with only successes 1-3 for McQueen over Mark R. and a notable double 1-2 for McG. P and McMaster against the formidable pairing of Cooke and Kinsella.**

Byker Newcastle's first team entertained Chan Construction in Div. 2 (north) of the Halex National League. and turned the league table upside down with an excellent 5-3 victory. McMaster inflicted the most damage by winning both his singles, while McQueen. Smith and Stephen George took one each. Unfortunately. Byker Newcastle seconds could not repeat the performance in the local derby against Washington. Two wins from Curry and one from Andy Hammett was all they could muster as they crashed 3-5. Washington's sets were won by Tom Trewhitt (2). Don Mciver (2) and Doug Lawrence (1).

Two of our leading juniors recently performed well in the Cleveland Junior Open Tournament, with Clare Mouzon reaching the semi-finals and Thomas Blackman winning his group and then defeating Paul Savins of Berkshire before narrowly losing to the Dutch No. 1.

Finally, apologies for the shorter report this month, but pre-Christmas and New Year activities have left very little spare time available. I expect to have more news for the February issue of "Table Tennis News" and in the meantime hope that all players will have enjoyed their mid-season break and came back, refreshed for the second half of the season.

Brian Hamilton reports from....

## OXFORDSHIRE

### ARTHUR TRIUMPHS

Arthur Chilvers from the Rutherford club, Abingdon,

won the Men's singles title in the Oxford & District championships, after a tremendous contest with the county No 1. Clive Morris.

Chilvers provided the spectators with a brilliant exhibition of forehand and backhand attacking play. In the semis, he overcame the consistent -pressure play of Bucks county player and No 1 seed Karl Bushell from Haddenham, 21-18. 23-21.

In the final against Morris, who defeated Norman Swift 11. in the third, in his semi, Arthur found a very capable opponent, who showed what a good prospect he is for the future. Clive led 20-18, but as a result of a little inexperience, went for a couple of wild first-time kills from receipt of service and lost it 23-21. The second game saw Clive hardly miss a ball and looked as if he had worn Arthur down and romped home 21-14. How wrong I was, from the start of the third. Arthur displayed some of the table tennis that made him feared at open tournaments all over the country, some ten years ago. His attack was perfection itself and a joy to watch throughout the 21-14 final game.

Didcot's Stephanie Haddrell won the Women's title fairly comfortably from Kidlington's Julie Woodward, although in her opening set. against Eleanor Harrison. she only squeezed home 18 in the third.

Other names from the past emerged in the final of the Men's doubles when Stan Hahn and Dave Harse overcame Brian Hamilton and Neil Harris. this being the twelfth time the pair have won the doubles over the past 15 years or so.

The defeat for the senior team against Berkshire II. by 6-4. was a disappointment, but was in no way a bad performance. On the contrary. it was one of the best county matches axon have been involved in for many years and the entertainment was a credit to both teams. One thing I would like to mention about the Berks player, Simon Rowlands' sportsmanship. At 18-17 down in his set with Clive Morris, he very sportingly conceded to a point, which county Umpire Barry Yates did not see. nor any of the other players who were closest. with the exception of one of the axon players. It was accepted by Simon without any question whatsoever, a gesture that is not seen too often today,

Oxford & District Results:

M.S.: A. Chilvers bt C. Morris 21. 14. - 14  
W.S.: S. Haddrell bt J. Woodward 11. 16  
M.D.: Hahn/Harse bt Hamilton/Harris 19. 15  
W.D.: Woodward/Harrison bt Abbot/Allan 17. /4  
X.D.: Heaps/Haddrell bt Morris/Woodward 19. 19  
V.S.: A. Evans bt I. Arnold 17. 19

Gerald Green reports from.....

## SHROPSHIRE

### NARROW DEFEAT

Market Drayton Grove suffered a narrow defeat at the hands of Jaques' Fareham. in the premier division of the Halex National League.

The Hampshire-based side emerged 5-3 winners in a high quality encounter

Grove's successes came from Malcolm Green, Steve Turner and Anwar Majid. with Green beating Glen Baker, Turner accounting for Kevin Satchell and the last set of the day being chalked up to Grove as Majid dismissed Baker.

Unfortunately. Fareham's top two stars, Nicky Mason and Mark Oakley proved to be too strong for the Grove team with Alan Fletcher unable to make his presence felt.

Grove II suffered a worse fate as they fell to a 7-1 defeat when they visited their division leaders, Pengelly Sports, at Torbay.

Stan Deakin was Grove's only winner beating Mark Ellett as the rest of the West Country team proved to be too strong for Joe Deakin, Keith Sillitoe and David Morris.

## SHREWSBURY CHAMPIONSHIPS

It's a long time since an unseeded player got to the final of the men's singles but that's what happened at the annual championships of Shrewsbury and District TTA at Sundorne.

Darren Corfield of Pontesbury achieved this feat when he met No. 1 seed Mike Beaman in the final and lost -12, -11.

On the way to the final he beat No. 5 seed Rod France. No 3 seed John Bebbington and. in the semi-final. his unseeded clubmate Justin Goodall.

Beaman beat No. 4 seed Simon Cooper in the semi.

Biggest surprise in the men's event was the failure of No. 2 seed Dean Pountney to get into the knockout section, losing to both Stephan Morris and Goodall in his group.

The ladies' singles provided two surprises when both the No. 1 and 2 seeds went out in the semi-finals to unseeded players.

Christine Jones lost to Sandra Nevett and Pat Butler lost to Kath Oakley. In the final Oakley easily won 8, 14.

The junior title went to No. 3 seed Justin Goodall. who beat top seed Chris Thompson 11, 18. Goodall beat No. 2 seed Simon Cooper in his semi and Thompson beat the unseeded

Ian Garrett in his.

The veterans' title went as expected to Beaman who beat Motto Jones 9, 14 in the final. Jones had previously beaten No. 2 seed John Bebbington, and Beaman had beaten Bill Stephens in his semi.

## SHROPSHIRE RANKINGS

Grove, Market Drayton players again dominate the NMW Computers ranking list compiled for Shropshire. The top 10 players in each category are:

Men (amended in accordance with national rankings): 1 Malcolm Green. Grv. 720; 2 Paul Barnett. Grv. 690; 3 Keith Sillitoe. Grv. 785; 4 David Norris. Grv. 754; 5 Anthony Harrison. Grv. 752; 6 Justin Goodall. Grv. 750; 7 Ian Baker. Shrewsbury. and Tim McGill. Grv. 735; 9 Darrell Corfield. Pontesbury, 718; 10 Keith Williams, Shr, 715.

Boys: 1 David Morris. Grv. 754; 2 J. Goodall 750; 3 T. McGill. 735; 4 D. Corfield. 718; 5 Nicola Williams. Grv. 665; 6 Simon Cooper. Grv. 646; 7 Robert Holding. Telford. 638; 8 Ian Garrett. Pnt. 565; 9 Nigel Holding. Tel. 560; 10 Matthew Jeffrey. Grv. 544.

Cadet boys: (amended in accordance with national rankings): 1 S. Cooper. 646; 2 D. Morris 754; 3 M. Jeffrey 544; 4 Adrian Philips. Pnt. 507; 5 Neil Martin. Grv. 505; 6 Paul Brown. Grv. 467; 7 Chris Day. Pnt. 449; 8 Paul Corfield. Pnt. 442; 9 Paul Ainsworth. Grv. 441; 10 Peter Giles. Grv 435.

Women: 1 Alison Barker. Grv. 575; 2 Julie Ballard. Grv. 570; 3 Colette Soan. Grv. 569; 4 Carol Wickstead. Grv. 550; 5 Alison Gibson. Grv. 532; 6 Dawn Wickstead. Grv. 530; 7 Cheryl Jones. Oswestry. 481; 8 Victoria Boyd. Grv. 417; 9 Nicola Thorneycroft. Grv. 400; 10 Audrey Barnett. Grv. 399.

Girt.: 1 A. Barker. 575; 2 D. Wickstead. 530; 3 C. Jones. 481; 4 V. Boyd. 417; 5 Nicola Thorneycroft. Grv. 400; 6 A. Barnett. 399; 7 Caroline Ashcroft. Grv. 296; 8 Johanna Dyke. Grv. 290; 9 Tara Hanley. Grv. 263; 10 Louise Townsend. Grv. 221.

Cadet Girls: 1 V. Boyd. 417; 2 A. Barnett. 399; 3 A. Ashcroft. 296; 4 J. Dyke. 290; 5 T. Hanley. 263; 6 L. Townsend. 221; 7 Claire Marshall. Grv. 207; 8 Anne-Marie Williamson. Grv. 165; 9 Laura Talbot. Grv. 133; 10 Jane Roddy. Grv. 130.

## TELFORD LEAGUE (DIVISION ONE)

Albrighton A kept up their title chase by beating Burnhill Tarmac C 9-1. D. Ellis beat R. Fetter 19 in the third to win the sole set for Burnhill.

GPO A lost to Shifnal A 8-2. five sets went to three with Shifnal winning four. the closest set of the night was when P. Collins lost to D. Elkins 27-25 in the third.

P. Fisher dropped his first set of the season when he lost to M. Hughes of Burnhill Tarmac B but Burnhill still lost the match 7-3 to Albrighton A. D. Russell won all his sets for the Albrighton team.

## SHREWSBURY LEAGUE (PREMIER)

Bottom team in the premier division of the Shrewsbury and District League. Shrewsbury CC B avoided defeat for the first time this season when they beat Corporation A 6-4. thanks to Nobby Johnston, who was unbeaten, and two wins from Roger Whitfield.

Both teams had previously met Belle Vue YC A and met the same fate - a resounding 10-0 defeat.

This win takes the youth club back to the top of the division. They replace Legion, who had

# County Notes

to win the doubles to secure a close 6-4 victory over Shrewsbury CC A, for whom Rod France was again in fine form and won his three. Wally Jones and John Bebbington each won two for the winners.

The Cricketers had previously beaten Pontesbury C, with France again unbeaten and Ian Garrett winning two for the losers.

Belvidere Saints A easily disposed of Pontesbury 0 9-1 with Nicky Roberts and Motto Jones unbeaten.

Just as convincing was Pontesbury A's 9-1 win over their B team with Ivan Smith and Barry Ruddick unbeaten.

## SHROPSHIRE LEAGUE

Grove Junior I posted their clear intention of retaining their Shropshire Star division one title in the Shropshire two a side league.

Pontesbury I, Grove II and Video Train of Shrewsbury were the victims of the in-form duo of Claire Potts and David Morris.

The reverse for the juniors came in, the opening set as Pontesbury's Darrell Corfield once again accounted for Morris but Potts was in no mood for charity and a 3-1 success was followed by two 4-0 victories.

Ticklerton emerge as early pace setters in the Angove Roofing division two following a series of excellent wins by Robert Scott and Ian Pennington.

They beat Grove Junior III, Grove Ladies and Grove IVa113-1 with Pennington finishing the day unbeaten.

Grove Girls, Pontesbury III and Oswestry III are sharing the honours at the top of Concorde Trophies division three.

## GRADED SINGLES

November's Grove School Graded Singles Tournament proved to be a real success for the home club. Four of the five championships were won by Grove players.

Keith Sillitoe maintained his form throughout the day to record a second consecutive win in the Rand R Roofing sponsored sponsored Grade A event.

The most deserving victory of the day went to nine-year-old Laura Talbot who won the Wylie and Holland sponsored Grade E division. She has been an ever present since the event started in September last year.

Newcomers to the Market Drayton club made their grade as Darrell Sneyd won the IMC Grade B and Anthony Elliot the Roofrite, Grade C.

Grove's grand slam was averted by Richard Brown, of Pontesbury, who won the Salop Roofing Grade D section.

Jack Chalkley reports from...

## STAFFORDSHIRE WEEKEND SUCCESS

I think most people agreed that the Senior Premier Weekend at BITC, y'arnfield was a success and the Staffordshire Association can feel well pleased with this, its first effort to stage this major event of the County Championships. Many thanks go to the Principal and staff of the College, particularly Ron Harvey who liaised on all matters and Lindsay Paxton, the Recreation Officer, who helped us in many ways. In addition to Ron Harvey" the organising committee included Jean Russell, Derek Sherratt and Geoff Williamson, and our thanks to all of them. Jean Russell did a splendid job providing refreshments throughout the weekend, including up till late on Saturday, and this was much appreciated. Her daughter and Maureen and Louise Sherratt were willing helpers. Special mention must be made of Norman Stanton of Stafford who provided the extra lighting - Norman is someone who can always be relied on and I am very grateful to him. Bob Lower was another who helped throughout the Saturday, and our thanks to him as well as the several people, mainly from Stafford, who stayed and helped clear away on Sunday. Finally, many thanks to all the umpires, to Stan Parr and to Roger Varden, the referee, for their contribution to the smooth running of the weekend. It was especially kind of the umpires from Shropshire to help out.

Having dealt with all the thank-you's, what about the table tennis and the players? Middlesex, as expected, dominated the weekend, but there was not a lot to choose between the other counties with many of the matches ending on a 5-4 scoreline. This prompts the thought that if draws were possible the distribution of points would have been far more even and unlucky Cambridgeshire might have gone home with something for their efforts. Following the Championship Committee's special reference to dress prior to the weekend, I was surprised that one or two individuals chose to ignore their request, most notably someone who can best be described as the 'Yorkshire Ripper'. He did himself no credit by insisting on wearing such shorts.

As to Staffordshire's performance, pride of place goes to Fiona Elliot who won all her singles and, with Andrew Bellingham, two of the mixed. She more than justified her selection in preference to Jill Harris, who nevertheless must rightly consider herself unlucky to lose her place after many years of top

performances for the County. Bellingham, as No.1, had good wins over Alan Fletcher (Yorks) and Des Charley (Essex), Andy Rich contributed two wins in his singles and Craig Bakewell gave Staffs a winning lead over Essex when he beat Dennison. Unfortunately, he earlier failed in the decider against Yorkshire, a win which would have put a real smile on the face of our non-playing captain, Paul Chester, bearing in mind that our third match of the weekend was against Middlesex and with two wins we would have been fairly, safe away from the relegation zone. As it is, we may need two wins out of four at the second weekend to stay in the Premier.

Details:-

v Yorks  
Bellingham lost to Beadsley -5, -19; bt Fletcher 19, -19,11;  
Rich bt Rook 16, 16; lost to Beadsley -13, -14;  
Bakewell lost to Fletcher -1 5, -1 6; lost to Rook -10, -16;  
Elliot bt Shields 14, 4;  
Rich/Bakewell lost to Fletcher/Beadsley-13, -11;  
Bellingham/Elliot bt Rook/Shields 9, 14.  
v Essex  
Bellingham bt Charley 12, 11; lost to Andrew -11,19, -11;  
Bakewell lost to Andrew -13,-13; bt Dennison 7, 15;  
Rich bt Dennison -19, 19, 12; lost to Charley -17, -14;  
Elliot bt Mudge 16, -19, 10;  
Rich/Bakewell lost to Andrew/Charley -16, -12;  
Bellingham/Elliot bt Caldon/Sayer -14 14, 18.  
v Middlesex  
Bellingham lost to Souter -19, -18; lost to Wells -10,17, -16;  
Rich lost to Wilson -12, -14; lost to Souter -16, -15;  
Bakewell lost to Wells -8, -12; lost to Wilson -17, -10;  
Elliot bt Sandley -19, 19, 13;  
Bakewell/Rich lost to Wilson/Souter -13, -14;  
Bellingham/Elliot lost to Wells/Sandley -17, 19, -18.

Our junior second team are finding it tough going in Div. 2A. Since beating Leicestershire in the first match of the season, they have gone under to Lancashire 7-3 and, more recently, suffered a "whitewash" by Yorks. Seconds who look set to win the division. Louise Sherratt and Jane Winter, making their debuts for the County, found the opposition particularly difficult.

Our senior second team are finding it even tougher in their Div. 2A, partly because of fielding a weakened side. They suffered their fourth defeat when they journeyed to Yorkshire, this time going down 7-3. Jill Harris won her singles and, partnered by Tricia Brookes, the doubles and Dave Hanney picked up a singles.

Finally, on behalf of the County Committee and all table tennis players in Staffordshire, may I congratulate Fiona Elliot on being selected to represent England in the Italian Open. Let us wish her every success at international level in the future.

## SUFFOLK

### VINTAGE DISPLAY

Despite a vintage display from Desmond Douglas, England were unable to stop Czechoslovakia

keeping their 100% record in the European Super League at the Corn Exchange, Ipswich on Dec. 12.

The visitors won 5-2 with Desmond winning both his singles. But in the doubles he was unable to inspire his partners to the heights necessary to topple the experienced Czechs.

Desmond made a mockery of the European rankings when he destroyed Jindrich Pansky 21-5, 21-1 5. Ranked one place behind the Czech, Douglas tore him apart with a brilliant power-packed display that had the near capacity crowd in raptures.

The Birmingham-based player has won all six of his singles sets in the European league this season, and he has an unbeaten record at the Corn Exchange, Ipswich, winning twice against Hungary four years ago.

"As the senior player in the team I have, to help the youngsters," said Desmond. He indicated that it would be the New Year before a decision is made on whether he continues to play in the Bundesliga next season or remains in this country.

England coach Don Parker was full of praise for Douglas. "That is the best I have seen Desmond play for a long while. He is bang in form now. We are building for the future and he carries a lot of responsibility." Don went on to praise the facilities at Ipswich and reported favourably on the hospitality accorded to players and officials.

Carl Prean did well to win a fluctuating first game against Pansky, but then had to admit second best.

Alison Gordon, whose training had been hampered by elbow and back injuries, battled well against Marie Hrachova but never looked like causing an upset in the women's singles.

The loudest cheer of the night rang out when Desmond and Alison won the first game in the mixed after a nail-biting climax that went to five "deuces". But the Czechs steadied down and despite some amazing returns from Douglas they won the next two.

P.S. for Graham Sandley - keep your contact lenses out of reach of undiscerning chambermaids!

## COUNTY JUNIORS

Suffolk took a squad of eight players to Walthamstow where six counties met for a long weekend in order to relieve fixture congestion. Cambridgeshire, Essex, Herts, Norfolk, Kent and Suffolk all played each other and it is very pleasing to report that Suffolk returned home worthy overall winners recording nine points out of a possible ten.

The Suffolk squad consisted solely of Ipswich players- Shaun

Caraccio, Paul Gooding, Wayne Shaw, Darren Jones, Richard Hutchinson, Sylvia Kenyon, Claire Nicholls and Karen Perkins. Wayne and Karen were both making their debuts at County level.

## Singles successes:-

Shaun Carraccio won 2 out of 4 sets  
Paul Gooding won 4 out of 4 sets  
Wayne Shaw won 5 out of 8 sets  
Darren Jones won 7 out of 8 sets  
Richard Hutchinson won 4 out of 6 sets  
Sylvia Kenyon won 4 out of 4 sets  
Karen Perkins won 1 out of 3 sets  
Claire Nicholls won 2 out of 3 sets.

Team Manager Terry Gilbert was well pleased with the Suffolk performance and with only Norfolk II and II still to play in the second half of the season, feels quietly confident that the Junior IIID title is very much attainable.

## MATCH RESULTS:

Suffolk 8 Kent II 2  
Suffolk 8 Cambs. I 2  
Suffolk 6 Norfolk I 4  
Suffolk 9 Herts. II 1  
Suffolk 5 Essex III 5.

## SCHOOLS

The County Finals of the Dunlop Team Championships were held at Stradbroke on Sunday, December 2nd. The usual faces were present and we wish the winning teams the best of luck when they represent their County at St. Neots in the Area Finals on Saturday, January 19th. It is nevertheless very disappointing to see two girls' teams going through unopposed at this stage of the competition. Further details in my next report.

Frank Hams reports from...

## SURREY

### REPLACEMENT FOUND

At last the Surrey column returns (although we did have a report on the Junior Closed last month) from what became a considerably longer summer break than usual. Evidently Surrey officials have been having trouble with splinters under their fingernails through scraping the bottom of the barrel looking for someone to replace Mike Green. Mike's job has now taken him out of Surrey; temporarily I hope, as he will be difficult to replace.

However, I take heart from the discomfort of those officials because it will be those same people, including match and league secretaries, with players etc., who will be phoning me regularly with information on all sorts of topics so that these notes can continue to appear in forthcoming issues. So please ring me now with any relevant news on 648-4454. After all, you wouldn't want to hear just about the veterans - would you?

## COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

The County Premier Championships weekend took place on Nov. 24/25. Surrey's first match was against a very strong Middlesex team consisting of Dave Wens, Colin Wilson, John Souter and Sara Sandley. We were without 2 'stars'. Stars are players who play when they feel like it but in this instance, I understand that Dave Hannah and Nicky Mason were both abroad, so obviously couldn't play. The team was Steve Holloway, Mark Oakley, Glen Baker and Jane Barella.

Jane had tried to arrange a practice night for both the 1st and second teams, who also had a match the same weekend, on the Thursday night before the matches. It was probably arranged too late for everyone to attend but the idea is If notification was sent with the team selection sheet it would enable players time to make arrangements. If nothing else it could maintain or improve team spirit. Team spirit was all they had against Middlesex because they lost 9-0. Jane losing nervously to Sara and the men were swept away. In the second match against Lancashire, we won 6-3 with the men now winning all their sets; but Jane was defeated and both mixed and men's doubles were lost. The Lancashire team being Steven Turner, Stephen Scowcroft, Shaun Browne and Jean Parker.

On Sunday we continued the winning habit- but only just- 5-4 against Cambs. represented by Keith Richardson, Mick Harper, Andy Withers and Joanne Palmer. Max was sent down by losing both his sets but Mark, Glen and Jane all won their sets and passed with honours. However, they failed in both doubles.

Mike Kercher was non-playing captain. Over this first weekend Surrey finished 4th (out of 8).

The 2nd team have got off to a flying start. Having narrowly missed promotion last year they seem determined to make amends this year under the management of Murray Corbin. They had won their first 3 matches. Their toughest match was surely to be against Middlesex II on Nov. 24 and the outcome would probably decide promotion, as the gap between these 2 teams and the rest seems as wide as Derek Jones' or Derek Schofield's parting.

The match at home, started in a very tense atmosphere- all the players knowing what was at stake. Surrey's II team was Steve Holloway, Mike Hammond, Dave Harding, Michele Hams and Claire Brooks. Claire making her debut, because Lesley Popkiewicz was injured and Debbie Simmonds was unavailable. The first 6 sets

were shared equally - then Middlesex who fielded Dave Tan, David Goode, Dipak Topiwalla, Mandy Reeves and Gillian Sharp, went 1 ahead when Gillian beat Claire. Steve then stepped forward, tall and slim and as determined as a miners' picket; won the first game against Tan and despite some apparently distracting encouragement was 19-18 up in the 2nd, when he served off. Steve called himself a silly so and so, everyone else stared in stunned disbelief - Murray Corbin, the non-playing captain, almost turned white! Tan gratefully accepted the point and went on to win. From that moment Middlesex didn't look back, winning 7-3 although Michele made a brave attempt against Mandy losing -19 in the 3rd.

Surrey II put their loss against Middlesex behind them when they travelled up to Norwich to play Norfolk on Dec. 1. The final scoreline read 8-2 to Surrey with Farhat Rasul (..Ras") playing his first county match... Ras" made an excellent debut despite losing a singles and I'm sure that he will prove a valuable addition to the team.

There was a surprise before the match when the official ladies' first reserve Debbie Simmonds was not picked when Lesley dropped out. Was she being punished for not playing against Middlesex? If this is true (and surely it isn't) it is a warning to all players to inform the selectors as soon as they can if they are unavailable.

There were other surprises. During the match Murray's support for his team was not total. He was reacting to what he thought was rude and unprofessional behaviour and refused to watch one of the men's sets. Murray's actions are always sincere- whether you agree with him or not - but does he set standards that are too high for his players to achieve or want to achieve?

The general consensus of opinion is that he over reacted to what took place. I don't know what the truth is because I was not there, but, I'm sure he'll be thinking how, before the next match, he and his team can regain their mutual respect.

## THE VETERANS

The Veterans' scene has begun badly for Surrey this season. Being newly promoted and playing in Div. 2 the side have played 3 matches and lost all. Although in 2 of these matches the result was in doubt until the final set and in one of those it was ..deuce" in the 3rd.

Surrey v Dorset (4-5)  
John Garland (2) Frank Hams (1)  
Brian Simmonds (1)

Berks v Surrey (7-2)  
Brian (1) Men's Doubles Hams/Garland (1) Ron Wilde made his debut in this match.

Surrey v Hants (4-5)  
Frank (2) Brian (1) Men's Doubles Hams/Garland (1).

Jennie Vass our new is finding the standard very high but has shown in spells that she is capable of reaching a standard to compete with the best.

With three defeats behind us we approached the match against Wiltshire knowing that we had to put an end to this sequence. Wiltshire were also without a win and so a result was vital to both sides. In the end we won 9-0; the very first time we had managed a clean sheet. Jennie winning her first set at this level.

The team consisted of Frank, Brian, John and Jennie.

## Brief notes on the

### JUNIOR PREMIER WEEKEND

Unfortunately not a win for Surrey although a couple of good personal results.

Surrey 1 Kent 9  
Claire Brooks beat Tracy Ash-down.

Surrey 3 Essex 7  
A good win for Richard Jones over Damien Holland 17, 17.

Surrey 3 Middlesex 7  
Richard and Martin Lowe both won against Kevin King.  
Lesley Popkiewicz and Claire Brooks won the girls' doubles.

Surrey 3 Yorkshire 7  
Claire Brooks beat Alison Evans.  
Lesley beat Joanne Shaw, and Richard Jones had a good win over John Built No. 22 English Junior.

Perhaps a better next half will keep them in the Premier League.

Finally, if you have been, thanks for reading and we wish all players and officials in Surrey and all other Counties - HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR.

Mary Rose reports from ....

## WARWICKSHIRE

### TITLE BID HALTED

Warwickshire's steady progress back toward the Premier Division of the County Championships had an unexpected jolt from Buckinghamshire.

The County had previously reeled off three impressive wins in a row and were strong favourites to make it win number four when they entertained Bucks but they were held to a 5-5 draw by the visitors.

Phil Bradbury was the man chiefly responsible for denying our team another victory. Bradbury is No.6 in the English

# County Notes

Senior ranking list and proved too good for our challenge.

It was generally a lack-lustre performance from the County who have yet to play another of the 2nd Division title favourites Leicestershire.

## WARWICKSHIRE CUP COMPETITION

The draw for the Warwickshire Cup Competition was delayed in the hope that the numbers of entries would increase. Unfortunately only 17 entries have been received, the lowest for a number of years.

The draw for the First Round matches to be played by Jan. 1 1985 is as follows:-

British Telecom (Mid Reg) v Lucas (York Road)  
Birmingham Housing v Nat. Westminster Bank (Cov)  
Nalgo (Nuneaton) v Shirley Institute  
Newman Hall 'A' v Fircoop G.E.C. (Coventry) v North Solihull Sports Centre  
Coton Methodists (Nuneaton) v Four Oaks Boys Club  
Newman Hall 'B' v Redhill 'B' Redhill 'A' v Bye,

It is sad to see that only two teams from the Coventry Association and two from the Nuneaton League have entered this season, it certainly seems as if the travelling costs involved are taking their toll of this previously very popular competition..

## WARWICKSHIRE LEAGUE

The first set of play-off matches of the Warwickshire League Competition was held on Sunday, 9th December 1984 at the West Warwickshire Club.

Last year's title winners Rugby must again be favourites to retain their title with the South League a close contender.

The first play-off match results are as follows:-

Rugby 7 Stratford 2  
South Oham 8 Leamington 1  
Stratford 4 Nuneaton 5  
South Oham 9 Nuneaton 0  
Coventry 4 South a'ham 5  
Rugby 7 Leamington 2  
Leamington 4 Coventry 5

## NEWCOMER AT THE BARN

Congratulations to Jill and Donald Parker on the birth of Katy, a sister for Adam, at Lancaster Royal Infirmary on Friday, December 7th. 1984 weighing in at 61bs 130zs,



## Welsh Corner

by H. Roy Evans

### MORGAN IN COMMAND

Carl Morgan, the coloured boy from Birmingham, so intent on following in the footsteps of Desmond Douglas, took the Cardiff Open title despite valiant efforts by both Nigel Tyler and Nigel Thomas.

Both semi-final and final were fine matches, full of cut and thrust, with changes of fortune which had the crowd on their feet in applause. Tyler, after a close win over Andrew Jones in the quarters, lost the first game of the semi to Morgan, took the second, but lost 19 in the third after an exciting struggle. Morgan had found little trouble in beating the deft mine Trevor Healan in the first round.

In the other half Thomas, after an easy win over Gary Wilkins, accounted for Andy Creed in the semi with equal ease. Creed had eliminated Brian Jeanes in his quarter.

The Final saw Morgan apparently too fast for Thomas, but the latter's new determination came to his rescue, and after trailing he levelled at 20-all, only to lose the decisive points. It was the same in the second game, but this time Morgan got home 21-18.

The women's title also went to the Midlands, but at one time it looked as if Stephanie Jones would take the Final. She played well to beat Sandra Peakman in her semi, whilst Karen had eliminated out-of-touch No. 1 Seed Lesley Tyler in her semi. The Final saw the set evenly poised at 15-all in the third, with Karen serving. Unfortunately Stephanie, made three bad shots at this stage, and paid the penalty.

Some unseeded players came up with good performances. Paul Willia'mson did well to beat Tony Healan, and Aberdare's Neil Jones took Andrew Jones to three. Shirley Cain-Williams was beaten by unseeded Liza Robins, who is said to have a Welsh qualification.

Tyler and Thomas had a fine win over Morgan and Hare in the doubles Final, but came past the semi-final of Brown and Palmer with more ease than they would have had not Jeanes scratched from his partnership with Angie Evans after losing to Creed in the quarter-final of the singles,

The women's doubles was another all-Midland affair, in which Sandra Peakman and Karen Groves beat Diane St. Ledger and Joan Harden in a very uninspiring final.

It was good to see Jeff Turner take the boys' title in such good style. Jeff has promised well, but never quite produced convincing form. This time he had a good semi-final win against Kelvin Roberts, who is also playing better, and an even better final success against Birmingham's Veerandra Chauhan,

There were no Welsh contestants even in the semi-finals of the girls' event, which went to Sarah Hammond of Southampton. Gloucestershire's Dale Saunders took the cadet boys' title, but the diminutive David Guck of Blaenavon gave him a good game. Justine Thomas of Mold was too steady for Joanne Webber from Bridgwater in the cadet girls'.

### THE NATIONAL LEAGUE

Butterfly Cardiff continue to drift downwards, and it is becoming harder to see how they can improve unless the side is strengthened. It's true of course that some of the sides met last year are now much improved. Omega Reading for example, with the Syed brothers and Jimmie Stokes much

stronger, are now a formidable outfit. Nigel Thomas won Butterfly's only set, beating Andrew Syed and losing at 20-all in the third to Stokes. Tony Healan, Trevor Manning lost both, as did Bryn Tyler deputising for Andrew Jones a last moment withdrawal.

The visit to Rotherham, to meet South Yorkshire, was no more productive, and again Thomas registered Butterfly's only success, when he beat Chu Van Que. But he went down to Rogers, 19 in the third, whilst Heald, d Bryn Tyler again failed.

The problem is that the departure to Germany of Mark Thomas, who won 24 of his 26 sets last season, means that the others are now playing in a higher position, with success that much harder to come by.

And talking of Mark, it is sad to see that his sojourn in Germany has left him with a legacy of ill health, and he has had to return to Wales for a throat operation. We all wish him a speedy recovery and a return to his earlier form,

### EUROPEAN LEAGUE

The same team that did so well against Switzerland has been given a vote of confidence in their selection to meet Bulgaria at the Castell Alun Sports Centre, Hope, Wrexham on Jan. 12. The Bulgarians are a very strong side expected to win their way to the First Division

without much difficulty, so Nigel Tyler, Nigel Thomas and Lesley Tyler are going to have their work cut out to make much impression on the East European team.

In the Welsh Open, on Jan. 17/19, Wales will have the allowed two men's and two women's teams amongst the strong entry of 22 teams from Asia, Europe, America and the Home Counties.

The two Nigels are in the "A" team, Alan Griffiths partners Mark Thomas in the "B" Team, and it is hoped he will be well enough to play. Tony Healan is reserve. In the women's team event, Lesley Tyler is with Shirley Williams in the "A" team, with Heidi Cotter and Evelyn Wright as the "B" side. Rachel Roberts is reserve.

Laurie Selby reports from....

## WILTSHIRE

### JENNY UNDEFEATED

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 Jenny Neale, Lorraine Cox and Susan Vowles 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 Neale found a run of good form and finished the tournament undefeated.

Results:-

(Swindon players first):

v Reading: Jenny Neale bt Yvonne Underwood B 16;  
Susan Vowles lost to Tracy Hooker -13, -20;  
Lorraine Cox bt Lorraine Dunn 11, 11;  
Neale bt Hooker 15, 11;  
Cox lost to Underwood -19, -18;  
Vowles bt Dunn B: 11;  
v Maidenhead:  
Neale bt Diane Spindlow  
Cox bt Alison Cox J, 1; IB, -IB, 9;  
Vowles bt Nicola Eaglestone B, g,  
Cox bt Spindlow 18, 18;  
Neale bt Eaglestone 9, 12;  
Vowles bt Cox 7, 6.

v Newbury:

Neale bt Rachel Watts 11, B;  
Cox bt Donna Pettif.. 5, 11;  
Vowles bt Lorna Page 14, 15;  
Cox lost to Watts -16, 13, -20;  
Neale bt Page 12, 13;  
Vowles bt Pettif.. 4, 15,

Wiltshire teams have been having a bleak time in the County Championships.

The senior first team travelled to Bexhill and came away with an 8-2 beating from a strong Sussex side which included three nationally-ranked players.

Wiltshire's only singles victory came from Janet Parker. And Janet also figured in the visitors' only other success when she and Claire Maisey won the women's doubles.

Worse was to come from the senior seconds who were crushed 9-1 by Avon's first in Swindon, A good win by Tracy Watkins

over Helen Perrott saved the home side from a ..whitewash...

The senior teams are having a rough ride in the championships. The first team are without a win and the seconds have chalked up only two points from two draws.

But the juniors have been playing well and were undefeated until they met Middlesex seconds in Swindon and lost 6-4.

Paul Tuck was Wiltshire's most successful player, notching up wins in both his singles. Raymond Powell and Ian Neate each won one of their singles but it wasn't enough to save Wiltshire's undefeated record.

### Results:-

#### Wiltshire I v Sua\*\*x:

Adrian Moore bt Kevin Satchell 14. 19;  
Phil Smith bt Steve Davies 12. 9;  
Stephen Moore bt Ray Hughes 10. 9.  
Teresa Moore/Sally Weston lost to Claire Maisey/Janet Parker -19. -16;  
Moore/Moore bt Satchell/Davies 18. 13;  
A. Moore bt Davies 3. 8;  
Weston lost to Parker -16. -16;  
S. Moore bt Satchell 19. -12. 19;  
T. Moore bt Maisey 16. 19;  
Smith bt Hughes 13. 11.

#### Wiltshire II v Avon 1

Brian Powell lost to Andy Creed -11. -9;  
Jon Hook lost to Richard Russell -16. -11;  
Andrew Oxley lost to Paul Hooper -22. 16. -11;  
Oxley/Powell lost to Creed/Hooper -11. -19;  
Tracy Walkins/Helen Wilson lost to Helen Perrott/Michelle Cohen -18. -16;  
Powell lost to Russell -19. -19;  
Wilson lost to Cohen -21. -19;  
Oxley lost to Creed -16. -13;  
Watkins bt Perrott IS, 15;  
Hook lost to Hooper 19. -7. -12.

#### Wiltshire Juniors v Middle\*\*\* II:

Raymond Powell bt Michael Kowaleski 14. 14;  
Ian Neate lost to Mark JaNis -16. 17. -19;

Paul Tuck bt Seni Emmanuel 9. -13. 13.  
Jenny Neale/Julie Mills lost to Katrina Baker/Sochong Man 15. -13. -17;  
Tuck/Powell lost to Kowaleski/Jarvis -20. -15;  
Powell lost to JaNis -15. 12. -15;  
Mills lost to Man -16. -14;  
Tuck bt Kowaleski 19. 16;  
Neale lost to Baker -15. 19. -16;  
Neate bt Emmanuel 19. 17.

Swindon teams dominate the Wiltshire inter-town league.

After the first round of matches, Swindon 'A' are flying high with full points.

Second place goes to Swindon 'B' who lost only one match at the hands of Swindon 'A'.

The three Swindon 'A' players, Neate, Raymond Powell and Tuck top the averages, each having lost one set.

The final round of matches takes place later in the season.

### Leading averages:

1 (joint) Neate, Ray Powell and Tuck, played 12 won 11 average 91.7%. 4 Michael Auchterlonie (Salisbury) 12-10-83.3; 5 Mark Colyer (Devizes) 21-8-66.7; 6 (joint) Steven Ely (Swindon 'B') and Mark Powell (Swindon 'B') 12.7-58.3.

### Results:

Swindon 'B' 6 Devizes 3;  
Devizes 6 Salisbury 3;  
West Wilts 1 Salisbury 8;  
Swindon 'A' 9 Swindon 'S' 0;  
Swindon 'A' 9 West Wilts 0;  
Salisbury 4 Swindon 'O' 5;  
Devizes 2 Swindon 'A' 7;  
West Wilts 0 Swindon 'B' 9;  
West Wilts 1 Devizes 8;  
Swindon 'A' 8 Salisbury 1.

|             | P | W | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Swindon 'A' | 4 | 4 | 0 | 33 | 3  | 8   |
| Swindon 'B' | 4 | 3 | 1 | 20 | 16 | 6   |
| Devizes     | 4 | 2 | 2 | 19 | 17 | 4   |
| Salisbury   | 4 | 1 | 3 | 16 | 20 | 2   |
| West Wilts  | 4 | 0 | 4 | 2  | 34 | 0   |

A Swindon firm clocked up a handful of successes in the British Horological Sports Association national table tennis championships.

And it turned out to be a real family affair for the Oxleys from Cherhill near Caine.

Graham Oxley met his brother Andrew in the men's singles final. It turned out to be quite a battle with Graham clinching the opening game 21-15 and Andrew levelling by winning the second 21-17.

A tense decider went to Graham's stubborn defence 21-17.

But Andrew gained consolation by winning the junior singles. He paired up with Julie Mills of Caine, runner-up in the women's singles, to win the mixed.

Michael Oxley senior also got in on the act by taking the veterans' singles title.

Andrew, Graham and Michael junior capped a successful day by walking away with the team championship.

Jane McLean and Nicola Jones together in competition again. On this occasion Jane played well to win two straight. The four Worcester cadet girls, all products of the School of Sport, namely Nicola Jones, Kerry James, Sarah Stone and Michelle McDornell caught the eye of players and coaches and obviously show good potential. 12-year-old Sarah played very well to take Jane McLean to 17 in the third. Players from Evesham again dominated the Cadet Boys' event with Mark Bolton beating Stephen Mytton in the final.

The doubles final saw the Singles champions Murray and Louise team up and reach the final. With their opponents being Mark Roden and Tim Holder the outcome did not seem predictable especially when Mark and Tim won the first game. However with Louise making a significant contribution she and Murray clinched their second titles. It is interesting that Louise is a junior next season. She will obviously dominate the County junior scene but should also feature high in the national rankings. Her situation will be watched with keen interest and support.

The County junior team has continued in winning vein with a 6-4 win over Warwickshire II and on this occasion the girls, Lisa Hunt and Jenny Burgess gave a valuable contribution winning their singles events. It is now clear that Glamorgan are also unbeaten. The two teams do not meet until the last match of the season which it seems could decide the Championship.

The County I team recently beat Bedfordshire and have only dropped one point. Hunts are in the same position but Berkshire II have recently been beaten. The team looks well set for promotion but the championship will depend on the relative performances compared with the Hunts, team. Our County II team has to visit Hunts. on Jan. 26.

The County II team has been struggling but did well to secure a draw at Avon, chiefly due to Lewis Siket winning his two singles and teaming up with Ken Walton to win the men's doubles. Lewis was the only player to win a men's singles against Hertfordshire. Lynda Reid was in good form in winning her singles and partnering Debbie Hough to win the ladies' doubles at 24-22 in the third, but this gave the Herts. team a 7-3 win.

The Veterans' team has had some very close matches this season losing narrowly to Bucks. and Leics. In this latter match Brett Davies had to withdraw on the morning of the match which caused some difficulty! Eventually Mervyn Wood, returning

from holiday that day, travelled down from Manchester Airport and then almost immediately turned around to accompany the team to Leicester. Ray Dixon made his debut for Worcs. in this match.

In Dudley Pensnett School and Bromley T.T. Centre has been operating a coaching scheme for the past 12 months and this has proved to be very successful. Paul Smith and Peter Canavan, two 15-yr-old members, are in the successful Dudley Junior team playing for the first time in the Midland League. The team has had two 10-nil wins over Mansfield A and B teams. There are 5 cadet girls receiving coaching who should play a part in County teams of the future.

Due mainly to the efforts and enthusiasm of Frank Southam, Worcester League Chairman, a League has been formed in liaison with Worcester Schools. Ten teams take part and they meet immediately after School each Monday at Christopher Whitehead School. The Nunnery Wood team is in the lead in Div. 1, With boys and girls involved up to 16 yrs of age 13-yr-old Nicola Jones (Nunnery Wood) has been the most successful being unbeaten. Kerry James (Nunnery Wood) and David Pendry (Grammar School) are the next most successful players.

The Association's Executive Committee was very disappointed to note that group play was not provided in the English Junior Closed which, together with the costs of entering, was considered to be a real discouragement to many non-ranked players. It was felt this influenced a good number of players not taking part. The regional Beneficial Trust events specifically provides for groups of 4 players. And what about the provision that - "The I.T.T.F. regulation regarding different coloured rubbers on either side of the racket will not apply during the Championships"? This rule has however seemingly applied at 1-star Junior Tournaments. Without getting involved in the benefits or otherwise of this Rule, where on earth are we getting to if such a rule does not apply. at a national championship?! Was it possibly thought that this would encourage more entries? I would emphasise that group play would have been much more of an incentive.

Two cadet girls, Nicola Jones (Worcester) and Jane McLean (Evesham) are taking part in the English Junior Closed, It will be interesting to see the performance of Louise Davies and Murray Jukes, who will be trying, with partner Adrian Dixon, to hold on to their English Junior Closed Junior Doubles title.

Doug Moss reports from -

## WORCESTERSHIRE

### EXCELLENT CONDITIONS

The County Closed Junior Championships were played at Christopher Whitehead School, Worcester on Dec. 9. Conditions were excellent with 6 tables in use. Predictably Murray Jukes and Louise Davies won the Boys' and Girls' Singles, with neither of them dropping a game. Murray met Tim Holder (County No. 2) in the one semi and then went on to beat Mark Roden (County No. 1) in the final. Paul Smith (Dudley), seed No.4, fell to Blackford

(Dudley), who then played Mark Roden in the other semi. The girls: singles saw 13-yr-old Jane McLean (Evesham) fall to Louise Davies in the semi, after having beaten Nicola Jones (Worcester) by fighting back from 16-19 down to win 22-20 in the third. In the other semi Sue Burgess (Dudley) beat twin sister Jenny and reached the final at her first attempt. However she was unable to make much impression on Louise.

A Cadet Girls' Singles event was introduced for the first time for which John Mytton (Evesham) and myself donated a Shield for annual competition. There were 9 entries and the final brought

# County Notes

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The best of fortune is wished for all players in the County. May you all have your fair share of "nets and edges"!

Les D'Arcy reports from.....

## YORKSHIRE

### COMMON INTEREST

One of the bonuses of playing any team game is the opportunity it gives for meeting people with a common interest and a desire to improve techniques. Table tennis with its bewildering array of blades and rubbers provides an excellent opportunity for the shy person to start a conversation with the opening gambit "What kind of bat is that you are using?" One player who answered that question with great enthusiasm when I spoke to him recently was Stan Battrick 'Stan the Bat' of Essex, silver and bronze medallist in World Vets at Gothenburg 1982.

Apart from being one of the outstanding veteran personalities of the present era, he is also a profound student of table tennis bats. A carpenter by trade, Stan uses his professional skill to design and make bats with the same kind of loving care as Antonio Stradivari of violin fame. The player's name is printed in gold on the shaped leather-covered bat handle at a price several thousand pounds cheaper than the Strads. Judging by the present trend, however, some commercial firms will soon be competing in price with the violin makers. I hope those who are thinking of doing so will have second thoughts - players cannot afford them anymore and some, like Stan, will start making their own, if the trend continues. Prices have now reached such an exorbitant level that some players will decide to stop playing or form break-away groups playing with hard bats. One player who has shown by example, what can be done with a plain Barna original is former team mate, the irrepressible, Stewart Milnes, from Batley.

Using his hard bat Stewart dominated the Dewsbury top division for many years. He became so successful he started extending his playing commitments to other leagues. Two years ago in one season he played in nine winter leagues, two summer leagues and also at inter-league level. Suddenly, after playing in over 2,000 matches over a 25 year period, Stewart decided to call it a day when his mother died. In May, 1983 he visited relations in Australia. He revisited Australia in September 83 and had a wonderful holiday travelling to 40 .

many part of the country. His longest journey being nearly 3,000 miles by train on the 'Indian Pacific' taking almost three days to go through the Blue Mountains with stops at Broken Hill, Port Pirie, Port Augusta, Cook and Kalgoorlie before completing the journey.

One of Stewart's outstanding memories was of speaking to TV's Michael Parkinson, before his fellow Yorkshiremen interviewed Princess Anne and Captain Mark Phillips for Australian Television, which helped to make his 12,000 miles trip from England well worth while. Unfortunately, after the best holiday of his life, on his return, Stewart found that he had lost his job. He fought the case and won, but was then made redundant. The situation looked black for almost a year when, as one of the unemployed in his area Stewart found out who his real friends were. "David Firth, my former Moorend W.M.C. team mate was great. He and another Moorend player Johnny Allen, kept up my spirits during this depressing period," commented Stewart, "but I didn't feel like playing table tennis."

Two important milestones changed his mind. Firstly he found a new job and he had another birthday and became a veteran. It was not long before his old enthusiasm returned. He entered the Yorkshire Veterans' Ranking Trials and although he didn't qualify for the last eight he became West Yorkshire Closed Vets' Champion within a few weeks by defeating Yorkshire's No.1, Geoff. Brook in the final after recording wins over, Mike Farnill, No 4 and Don Kelly, No. 9.

Middleton Park T.T Club's Player Manager, Ken Duxbury, one of the most enthusiastic and helpful officials in the Leeds League was quick to note Stewart's return to form and quickly recalled him to the Club's 1st team in the top division. Ken's judgment proved sound with his new signing winning 12 of his first 15 sets. In the Dewsbury top division Stewart is doing even better with 26 wins out of 29 and at inter-league level is unbeaten in Vets Div. 3; with 7 wins out of 9 for the Men's Team.

Well done Stewart, we look forward to hearing more about your exploits later in the season.

A final note on bats. At a recent coaching and demonstration evening in which I had the pleasure of taking part with Brian Johnson, Dave Townend and junior starlets Andrew Ball and Mark Land, Andrew played with a bat with a blade one and a half inches in diameter and Mark

used a metal soup plate. Even with such handicaps the pair were too good for the opposition who always thought they were in with a chance and created a great deal of interest and amusement. Coaches visiting schools and youth clubs to promote table tennis and the new Dunlop Skills Award, which should prove to be an excellent coaching aid, may find it worth while to introduce some handicap novelty into their routine as an ice breaker.

Had the pleasure of meeting Nicky Jarvis when he came over to the Wakefield, Alan Hydes Advanced Training Centres to do some coaching with England No. 1 girl Joanne Shaw and several other of the county's top young stars. Nicky also found time to congratulate 11-years-old Ellen Meddings, the Yorkshire U-12 girls' singles champion who recently won the Cleveland Open Girls' Singles in her age group. Debbie Toole, Yorkshire's Cadet Champion, was also congratulated on her recent successful county junior debut when she and her Yorkshire Junior 2nds team mates Alaric Bassano, Caroline Dada, Chris Oldfield and Tony Miller were all unbeaten in the team's '10-nil win over Staffordshire's Junior 2nd.

Joanne Shaw continues to maintain her recent progress with a doubles win, partnered by Julie Houghton of Kent, over international junior opposition at the Cleveland. The pair went on to reach the final of the girls' international team event and Joanne rounded off the day by reaching the semi-final of the girls' singles.

When League Press Secretaries can find the time to let me know about some of the outstanding people and events which are taking place in their leagues please ring "A Happy New Year" 0924-366420.

"Spotlight on Leeds" from Keith Shepherd who recently became the Y.T.T.A. Hon. General Secretary reads:-

With only a third of the season gone, Division One of the Leeds League is becoming something of a three-horse race with every result.

Lawnswood YMCA "A" are two points clear at the top.

They are followed by Yorkshire Bank "A" and Yarnbury - recently strengthened with the addition of Kevin Beadsley to their ranks - enjoying a six point gap from the rest of the division.

Only Middleton PA "A" and Dunlop Cavaliers can narrow the difference by two points if they win the game in hand they have over the leaders.

The picture at the bottom is gloomy for two of the sides promoted last season, with Moor Allerton "A" and NEGAS "A"

now four points adrift and looking likely to rejoin Division Two after only one season in the top flight.

### 8-2 WINS

Waddington's "B" and Leeds Perm "B" both had 8-2 successes in Division Two to keep them first and second respectively while Victoria "B" lifted themselves into a healthier position with a 6-4 away win at Yorkshire Bank "B".

Victoria's Roger Popplewell recorded his first three-setter of the season, taking Roger Lawton -15, 9, 16 in the last set of the match to earn both points for his side.

Lawnswood YMCA "B" and TASCUS are pulling away at the top of Division Three, both winning 7-3 this week, while a two man NALGO "A" went down 6-4 to Smiths Rodley "A" and although three points behind the top two, they keep their third spot.

### FOR YOUR DIARY

Wednesday, Jan. 30, 1985, Yorkshire & Humberside Launching of the Dunlop Skills Award Scheme at Sandal Endowed Middle School, Barnsley Road, Wakefield at 7.15 p.m. Demonstrations by National Coach (N) Peter Simpson; Regional Coach, Rowden Fullen and advanced players. Coaches and other persons interested please contact the organiser of the event, Mr. John Arnold, Tel: 0924 372597.

Saturday, Feb. 9, 1985, Yorkshire Evening Press, Selby Junior One-Star Open at Selby High School, Leeds Road, Selby. Closing date for entries Jan. 19. Enquiries: Mike Hanley (Organiser) Tel: 0757 702282.

# halex

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

By Fiona Brown

### PRETENDERS HOT IN PURSUIT

As league leaders Ellenborough took a welcome break, the chasing pack have been engaged in furious competition. GKN Steelstock Wolverhampton earned a valuable point away to Ormesby for whom new England No. 2, m. He despatched Max

his potential as he went down grudgingly to Cooke at 19

Steven Scowcroft proved that he is currently on the crest of a wave with wins over Scotsmen Richard Ue and David McIlroy.

Omega Reading narrowed the gap at the top with a 6-2 win over bottom club Tibhar Larkhall. Omega had raced into a 3-0 lead before Tibhar's Joey Kennedy beat Andy Wellman in two games but Bradbury and Soutertook the next two sets to put the match beyond redemption. although David Dodd earned a consolation win over David Barr in the closing stages.

| PREMIER DIVISION                     | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pta |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1. Thorn E.M.1. Ellenborough         | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 29 | 11 | 8   |
| 2. Ormesby I                         | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 27 | 13 | 7   |
| 3. Omega Reading I                   | 5 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 24 | 16 | 7   |
| 4. G.K.N. Steelstock Wolverhampton I | 5 | 2 | 2 | 1 | 21 | 19 | 6   |
| 5. Jaques Fareham I                  | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 15 | 17 | 4   |
| 6. Grove Market Drayton I            | 5 | 1 | 0 | 4 | 13 | 27 | 2   |
| 7. Tibhar London                     | 5 | 0 | 0 | 5 | 7  | 33 | 0   |

### FIRST DIVISION

Omega Reading are now at the head of the table by virtue of a 7-1 victory over Welsh side Butterfly Cardiff but they lead Bath Toyota only by a superior games average, so there is no room for complacency amongst the young Reading squad.

Nigel Thomas, who had already taken Jimmy Stokes to three ends before losing, provided a surprise performance in coming back from a game down to beat rising England starlet Andy Syed in the visitors' only success.

South Yorkshire, with a game in hand and a good games average, must not be dismissed following a 7-1 win over Butterfly Cardiff in which only Chu Van Que dropped a set, and a 6-2 away victory against Dagenham FC. Both of Dagenham's sets were won by No. 3 Tony Penny who fought back from a game down to beat Shaun Brown then wasted little time in overcoming penholder Chu Van Que in straight games.

Dagenham faired slightly better against MBS St Neots, claiming a point in a 4-4 draw; in fact with a 4-3 advantage going into the final game of the afternoon they were unlucky to miss a second point.

The renaissance of Ormesby II has been short-lived as Birmingham Optical whitewashed them 8-0; only Ormesby's John Broe looked likely to win as he pushed Dougie Johnson to a third end, but Johnson held on to win at 19. These two points help to keep Birmingham in touch with the leaders.

| FIRST DIVISION        | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|-----------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1. Omega Reading II   | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 36 | 12 | 10  |
| 2. Bath Toyota        | 6 | 4 | 2 | 0 | 32 | 16 | 10  |
| 3. Birmingham Optical | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 31 | 17 | 8   |
| 4. South Yorkshire I  | 5 | 3 | 2 | 0 | 28 | 12 | 8   |
| 5. Dagenham F.C.      | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 18 | 30 | 3   |
| 6. M.B.S. 51. Neots I | 5 | 1 | 1 | 3 | 13 | 27 | 3   |
| 7. Butterfly Cardiff  | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 14 | 34 | 3   |
| 8. Ormesby II         | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 12 | 36 | 1   |

### SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Patsun Target Gold Salford stay top having claimed a further two points in a 5-3 win over GKN Steelstock Wolverhampton. For Salford, Tony Taylor and Brian Johns won two sets each, as did Adrian Dixon for GKN. Dixon's first win to level the match at 2-2 was not supported in later sets and when he came to the table in the final set of the afternoon his excellent straight games win over Andy Leigh was incidental to the match result.

Chan Construction's challenge faltered when the team went down 3-5 to Byker Newcastle, for whom Neil McMaster was the hero of the

day with two devastating performances in which he quashed firstly Kevin Chan and then Ian Gunn.

March retain second place following their 8-0 annihilation of Sincil Lincoln, a match in which Suzanne Hunt was the only player who looked capable of breaking Lincoln's duck. Kingsbro Insurance Services finally moved off the starting grid with a 6-2 win over South Yorkshire; congratulations.

| SECOND DIVISION NORTH                 | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pta |
|---------------------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1. Patsun Target Gold                 | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 33 | 15 | 12  |
| 2. March                              | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 35 | 13 | 9   |
| 3. Chan Construction                  | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 28 | 20 | 6   |
| 4. G.K.N. Steelstock Wolverhampton II | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 24 | 24 | 5   |
| 5. South Yorkshire-II                 | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 21 | 27 | 5   |
| 6. Byker Newcastle I                  | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 20 | 28 | 4   |
| 7. Sincil Lincoln                     | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 17 | 31 | 4   |
| 8. Kingsbro Insurance Services        | 6 | 1 | 1 | 4 | 17 | 31 | 3   |

### SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

Holts Carpets continued their march for promotion with a 6-2 win over Jaques Fareham, who dramatically drop down the table as they are overtaken by TCB Dolphins and Cranfield Colours.

The Dolphins, despite two unexpected defeats for No. 2 Phil Smith, firstly by Mandy Sainsbury and then Simon Rowland, ran out 6-2 victors over Omega Reading. Cranfield Colours cruised home by the same scoreline, 6-2, against lowly TSP Larkhall for whom only Gordon Chapman and Dave Harding had any success. This must have been a disappointing result for the visitors who had held an early 2-1 lead.

Gunnersbury Triangle have pulled clear of the relegation zone thanks to a fine 6-2 victory over fellow strugglers Spicer New Malden.

| SECOND DIVISION SOUTH      | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pta |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1. Holts Carpets Salisbury | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 36 | 12 | 12  |
| 2. TCB Dolphins            | 5 | 4 | 0 | 1 | 27 | 13 | 8   |
| 3. Cranfield Colours Halex | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 28 | 20 | 7   |
| 4. Jaques Fareham II       | 6 | 3 | 1 | 2 | 25 | 23 | 7   |
| 5. Omega Reading III       | 6 | 3 | 0 | 3 | 23 | 25 | 6   |
| 6. Gunnersbury Triangle    | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 18 | 30 | 4   |
| 7. Spicer New Malden       | 5 | 0 | 2 | 3 | 13 | 27 | 2   |
| 8. TSP Larkhall            | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 14 | 34 | 0   |

### THIRD DIVISION NORTH

The title in this division seems destined to fall to a Yorkshire side with teams from that county occupying the top three league positions.

Two sets from No. 1 Steven Sharpe helped Unity Bradford to maintain their table topping unbeaten record with a 5-2 away win against Vickers Barrow. Bradford No. 3 and England ranked cadet Michael O'Driscoll played well to win a set and went down fighting at 18 in the third to Barrow's Murphy in his second visit to the table.

Ormesby III proved no match for Unity Leeds as the visitors raced into an unassailable 5-0 lead before Mark Simon could stop the rot with a straight games victory over Ian Duxbury. Ormesby then gained some consolation with wins in the last two sets to record a match result of 5-3.

South Yorkshire retain third place following a 6-2 win over Ormesby IV who stay one place clear of the foot of the table thanks to Washington, who emerged 5-3 victors in their Tyneside derby match against Byker Newcastle. This was a close fought affair and Newcastle must have been confident of earning their first points of the season when Peter Curry levelled the score at 3-3 but wins for Don Mciver and Doug Lawrence secured both points for Washington.

| THIRD DIVISION NORTH     | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pta |
|--------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1. Unity Bradford        | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 35 | 13 | 12  |
| 2. Unity Leeds           | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 34 | 14 | 10  |
| 3. South Yorkshire III   | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 30 | 18 | 8   |
| 4. Washington            | 6 | 2 | 2 | 2 | 23 | 25 | 6   |
| 5. Ormesby III           | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 24 | 24 | 5   |
| 6. Vickers Sports Barrow | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 20 | 28 | 5   |
| 7. Ormesby IV            | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 14 | 34 | 2   |
| 8. ayker Newcastle II    | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 12 | 36 | 0   |

# Halex League

## THIRD DIVISION SOUTH

The surprise result in this division must surely be the recent 6-2 defeat which the DSC Rams inflicted on Cippenham. The Rams' top two players Desmond Charlery and John Dennison registered two wins apiece and were ably supported by one each from Junior Facey and Jeffrey Chapman.

Following two recent wins Medway have succeeded in displacing Cippenham from top spot. Two sets each for Andy Mitchell and Bobby Brown, together with a single from Paul Amos, were sufficient to take both points against Nittaku Ruislip and in their following fixture Medway brushed Ashford aside 7-1. Although Cippenham have a game in hand they must surely have been surprised by this turn of events.

Erreys Print had yet another disappointing result when they travelled to play AHW Pioneers. The Sussex team held a 3-1 lead at the break but the tide turned in the fifth rubber. When Erreys No. 1. Paul Rowden, went down in three games to Les Wooding the visitors' resistance crumbled and Pioneers marched on to a 5-2 victory.

Abeng Warriors emphasised their improvement in a 4-4 draw against Nittaku Ruislip. With the score standing at 4-2 to Nittaku, the balance began to tip with a fine win at 17 in the third by Neville Miller over Ruper Bole. In the final game Abeng's Lionel Faure, who had earlier lost narrowly to Bole, played an inspired match to slaughter Ruislip's McCarthy, 11 and 4, and secure the point.

| THIRD DIVISION SOUTH      | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pt. |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1. Medway                 | 7 | 6 | 1 | 0 | 40 | 16 | 13  |
| 2. ASPRO Cippenham        | 6 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 31 | 17 | 9   |
| 3. The DSC Rams           | 6 | 4 | 0 | 2 | 31 | 17 | 8   |
| 4. Nittaku Ruislip        | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 28 | 20 | 8   |
| 5. AHW Pioneers           | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 20 | 28 | 4   |
| 6. Ashford                | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 18 | 30 | 4   |
| 7. Errey's Print '84      | 6 | 1 | 0 | 5 | 14 | 34 | 2   |
| 8. Abeng Warriors (Stiga) | 7 | 0 | 2 | 5 | 18 | 38 | 2   |

## THIRD DIVISION EAST

Norwich Foxwood finally met their match when they faced E.A.E. Waveney. The Waveney side emerged as 5-3 victors of this table top confrontation, not only retaining their 100% record but moving into pole position with a sizable points lead as a result of other recent successes over Witham FC 5-3 and Britannia Deepsure 7-1.

In the interim Norwich Foxwood earned two points in a 5-2 win over early season league leaders Playrite Northampton, who seem to have suffered a loss of form in recent weeks.

New Zealander Alan Shewan, playing in his final match for MBS St Neots before returning home, went out on a high note with two wins which helped the Cambridgeshire side to a 5-3 win over Witham Town FC. Quite apart from his National League exploits, Alan travelled widely during his six months in this country and will be fondly remembered by many as a fine ambassador for table tennis in New Zealand.

Following Soham's 6-2 thrashing of Crusaders Lincoln the latter must surely be resigned to their fate as 'supporters' of this division. Lincoln's only glimmer of hope was provided by NO. 1 Brian Allison who is fast becoming to the Crusaders what Desmond Douglas is to our National team!

| THIRD DIVISION EAST       | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pt. |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 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. Playrite Northampton   | 7 | 2 | 2 | 3 | 30 | 26 | 6   |
| 5. MBS St Neots II        | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 22 | 26 | 5   |
| 6. Britannia Deepsure     | 6 | 1 | 2 | 3 | 20 | 28 | 4   |
| 7. Hassy Perfection Soham | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 19 | 29 | 4   |
| 8. Crusaders Lincoln      | 6 | 0 | 0 | 6 | 10 | 38 | 0   |

## THIRD DIVISION WEST

Hereford Times move up two league places following their 4-4 draw against Jolliffe Poole and 7-1 thrashing of lowly Launceston Kernow.

There is little change at the top where Pengeley Torbay remain on target for the title having cruised to a 7-1 victory over Grove. a result which has plunged the latter to the foot of the division.

Title challengers, Olivers Hinckley, maintain the pressure following a favourable 6-2 result over GKN Steelstock Ladies, despite two defeats for Phil Smith by Jill Harris and Fiona Elliot.

Global Sports Plymouth earned their second victory of the season with a 6-2 win over Jolliffe Poole. Global's No. 1 Gary Wilson seems to be making a habit of winning both rubbers and as a newcomer he is providing a welcome source of inspiration to the team which was, until recently, struggling to keep pace with the opposition,

## THIRD DIVISION WEST

|                            | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pt. |
|----------------------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| 1. Pengeley Sports Torbay  | 6 | 6 | 0 | 0 | 37 | 11 | 12  |
| 2. Olivers Shoes Hinckley  | 6 | 5 | 0 | 1 | 32 | 16 | 10  |
| 3. Hereford Times          | 6 | 3 | 2 | 1 | 28 | 20 | 8   |
| 4. Jolliffe Poole          | 7 | 3 | 1 | 3 | 28 | 28 | 7   |
| 5. GKN Steelstock Ladies   | 6 | 2 | 1 | 3 | 23 | 25 | 5   |
| 6. Global Sports Plymouth  | 6 | 2 | 0 | 4 | 17 | 31 | 4   |
| 7. Launceston Kernow       | 5 | 0 | 1 | 4 | 13 | 27 | 1   |
| 8. Grove Market Drayton II | 6 | 0 | 1 | 5 | 15 | 33 | 1   |

## FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

### Premier Division

|         |                        |                   |
|---------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 17.2.85 | Ormesby                | v Tibhar Larkhall |
|         | Thorn EMI Ellenborough | v Omega Reading   |
|         | Jaques Fareham         | v GKN Steelstock  |

24.2.85

|                |                          |
|----------------|--------------------------|
| Omega Reading  | v Ormesby                |
| Jaques Fareham | v Thorn EMI Ellenborough |
| Grove          | v GKN Steelstock         |

### First Division

|         |                    |                      |
|---------|--------------------|----------------------|
| 3.2.85  | MBS St Neots       | v Butterfly Cardiff  |
| 17.2.85 | Dagenham FC        | v Omega Reading      |
|         | Birmingham Optical | v Butterfly Cardiff  |
|         | MBS St Neots       | v Ormesby            |
| 24.2.85 | Butterfly Cardiff  | v Omega Reading      |
|         | South Yorkshire    | v Birmingham Optical |
|         | MBS St Neots       | v Bath Toyota        |
|         | Dagenham FC        | v Ormesby            |

### Second Division North

|         |                    |                        |
|---------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 17.2.85 | South Yorkshire    | v Patsun Target Gold   |
|         | March              | v Chan Construction    |
|         | Kingsbro Insurance | v Byker Newcastle      |
|         | GKN Steelstock     | v Halex Sincil Lincoln |
| 24.2.85 | Chan Construction  | v South Yorkshire      |
|         | Byker Newcastle    | v March                |
|         | GKN Steelstock     | v Kingsbro Insurance   |
|         | Patsun Target Gold | v Halex Sincil Lincoln |

### Second Division South

|         |                 |                   |
|---------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 17.2.85 | Byker Newcastle | v Unity Bradford  |
|         | Ormesby         | v Ormesby         |
|         | Washington      | v South Yorkshire |
|         | Vickers Barrow  | v Unity Leeds     |
| 24.2.85 | Ormesby         | v Byker Newcastle |
|         | South Yorkshire | v Ormesby         |
|         | Vickers Barrow  | v Washington      |
|         | Unity Bradford  | v Unity Leeds     |

### Third Division North

|         |                 |                   |
|---------|-----------------|-------------------|
| 17.2.85 | Byker Newcastle | v Unity Bradford  |
|         | Ormesby III     | v Ormesby IV      |
|         | Washington      | v South Yorkshire |
|         | Vickers Barrow  | v Unity Leeds     |
| 24.2.85 | Ormesby IV      | v Byker Newcastle |
|         | South Yorkshire | v Ormesby III     |
|         | Vickers Barrow  | v Washington      |
|         | Unity Bradford  | v Unity Leeds     |

### Third Division South

|         |                 |                  |
|---------|-----------------|------------------|
| 3.2.85  | Medway          | v Abeng Warriors |
| 17.2.85 | Aspro Cippenham | v Erreys Print   |
|         | Nittaku Ruislip | v Ashford        |
|         | Medway          | v DSC Rams       |
| 24.2.85 | AHW Pioneers    | v Abeng Warriors |
|         | AHW Pioneers    | v DSC Rams       |
|         | Erreys Print    | v Abeng Warriors |

### third Division East

|         |                      |                          |
|---------|----------------------|--------------------------|
| 17.2.85 | Norwich Foxwood      | v Witham FC              |
|         | EAE Waveney          | v Halex Lincoln          |
|         | Playrite Northampton | v Hassy Perfection Soham |
| 24.2.85 | MBS St Neots         | v Britannia Deepsure     |
|         | Halex Lincoln        | v Norwich Foxwood        |
|         | MBS St Neots         | v Playrite Northampton   |
|         | Witham FC            | v Britannia Deepsure     |

### Third Division West

|         |                       |                     |
|---------|-----------------------|---------------------|
| 17.2.85 | Launceston Kernow     | v Olivers Shoes     |
|         | Hereford Times        | v Global Plymouth   |
|         | GKN Steelstock Ladies | v Grove             |
| 24.2.85 | Jolliffe Poole        | v Launceston Kernow |
|         | Global Plymouth       | v Pengeley Torbay   |
|         | GKN Steelstock Ladies | v Hereford Times    |
|         | Olivers Shoes         | v Grove             |

# LUCRATIVE SPONSORSHIP

by John Oakley of the Press Association

Graham Sandley, who has been tempted by Federal German League offers to take his table tennis talent out of England, is to remain in this country.

Sandley made this decision after receiving a lucrative sponsorship from Ray Bridgeman, chairman of J.F.A. Computer Stationery, a division of the Jason Fine Arts printing company in New Malden, Surrey.

Bridgeman presented Sandley with a £5,000 cheque for this season and has given the 22-year-old Middlesex left-hander added incentive with a series of bonus possibilities.

If Sandley wins the Commonwealth Championship in the Isle of Man in March he will receive an extra £2,000. For winning the Welsh Open or the English Closed he will receive £750 and £250 for winning any Three-Star Senior event.

It gives him the opportunity to collect up to a further £5,000 in bonuses and with his Butterfly contract, worth over £2,000, and his ETTA contract Sandley, if he plays well for the rest of the season, could earn anything up to £12,000, nearly double what he earned last season.

Bridgeman first agreed to sponsor Sandley after being approached by the player's coach, Lloyd Lewis, who works for the company.

Sandley said of his windfall: "This new sponsorship will be a tremendous boost to my game. It will mean I shall have no financial worries and with the carrot of the bonus payments I shall be keener than ever to do well.

"Last season I made somewhere between £6,000 and £6,500 but about £3,500 of that was taken up in expenses.

"I don't blame Des Douglas for playing in Germany. After all he has a living to make. But I think it is better for the good of the game in this country if all the top English players compete regularly in tournaments here rather than going abroad."

Sandley is of the opinion that Douglas, who has not been beaten by an English player for seven years, would suffer an occasional loss if he played regularly on the English tournament circuit.

"I would like him to come back to England and put himself on the line" he says.

Sandley certainly intends to do just that and Bridgeman, 40, who began the Jason Fine Arts Company five years ago with his wife Lesley, is delighted to help the Potters Bar youngster.

"I have been interested in table tennis for a long time" he said, "and if in helping Graham it helps the game in this country then I am happy to play a small part."



GRAHAM SANDLEY

## SHOW 'EM, LARN 'EM, FOLLOW 'EM

by Tom Matthews, President, ESTTA

### SHOW 'EM

For at least four years it has been the custom to take a high class table tennis exhibition to a number of schools in Leeds. This was made possible with the co-operation of the P.E. Adviser, Doug Thompson, the Leeds League Coaching Secretary Dave Wilson, the Leeds Schools Association, and above all the National ETTA Coach for the North.

Nearly sixty schools have had the privilege of watching Don Parker with Steve Turner, Steve Mills and Steve Sharpe and recently two Steves under the guidance of Peter Simpson and

myself. During October 1984 we visited 16 schools (4 each day). Eleven of these schools were Middle Schools (our main target) with pupils 9 to 13-year-olds, and everywhere we were given a rapturous reception.

Such exhibitions reveal the true power and speed, the immense skills and the subtleties of spin, to many who otherwise would never see Table Tennis played. They create tremendous interest, establish a happy contact between first class players and novices (much signing of autographs etc) - and most importantly impress watching teachers. Always we leave 200 or more pupils, buzzing with

interest and excitement and pressing staff to do something about it.

### LARN 'EM

This past year through the good graces and hard work of Peter Simpson, National Coach for the North, we decided to try to capitalise on this interest with two follow-up coaching days on Oct. 3 and Dec. 8. Both days were Saturdays and Middle Schools which had been visited were invited to send a limited number of pupils for a full day's coaching (10 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 to 3 p.m.) All eleven schools responded in some way - some sent only two, but one wanted to send eighteen! Fifty-six pupils came in November and forty-four in December - so that 100 novice players got a great introduction to the game. Some of these have already been passed

on to other regular coaching groups. Nearly all expressed a wish for more Saturdays.

### FOLLOW 'EM

When corresponding with the schools I asked if any would like to join in a round of friendly games, Five have accepted and Richard Hudson, the Leeds Schools Association Middle School expert is to organise this for them in late Jan./Feb, 1985. The idea is to give them gentle and private experience in match play hoping that in Sept. '85 they will affiliate fully and swell the already active Middle School League.

Finally Peter and I hope to arrange two Award Saturdays in February when we would hope many of these Middle School players would return to try some parts of the new Dunlop Awards. We have to keep after them!



## THE LENTEC STORY WHICH COMBINATION?

by Malcolm Brown

The opposition is waiting for you to return to the table. You've wiped the sweat off your face, towelled your bat and now you can feel your heart racing. NINETEEN-ALL in the third game - a semi-final as well!

How many times have you faced this situation? Probably quite often, if not always in a semi-final. So close to a win but knowing your opponent was in the same position. Except this opponent has a better 'loop-drive' attack than you and points have been flying from it with alarming regularity up until now.

So, as you walk back to the table, you try to find the answers: how can you take these last points? how did you manage to get this far when the opponent has such an aggressive attack? which tactic to use?

Tactics have played a great part in the match and your success so far. You've managed to attack first in most rallies keeping your opponent on the defensive. If only you had managed to control the ball all the time, you'd have won in two straight games. You've given too many points away and the trouble has been inconsistency. Obviously you need to attack first, to stop your opponent finding a hole in your defence with an even more powerful attack.

As you prepare yourself for the point, your confidence grows. It's your service. Surely your opponent is feeling more 'pressure' at this moment? You plan quickly: you're going to serve short, with sidespin to bring the ball back to your forehand. You throw the ball high in the air to get maximum spin from the effort you make as your body turns into the service.

The return comes back short and well controlled. How can that have happened against your most aggressive spin? You'd been saving your better serves for moments just like this, but it seems to no avail. You concentrate on returning the ball short so 'that your opponent cannot attack. Not careful enough' Your return is too long. You've been the first to lose control - again. Your opponent attacks and you find yourself beaten out of the point without a chance to reply. NINETEEN-TWENTY.

Your heart races faster. "If only...", you say to yourself. "Just one good chance to get in first. And what about that serve? Isn't

it as good as it used to be?" You glance at your coach and your club mates. They're worried but trying hard to encourage you. Alright, you've done it before and you can do it again. You're going to pull back level.

What tactic now? A long service perhaps. That won't be expected, especially at this stage. But your attack must be first, otherwise you can say goodbye to the final! It's worth the risk. You try for the long service. The return comes back exactly how you wanted giving you the chance to attack at last.

The killing blow strikes. You hesitate. You've had trouble with your backhand 'loop' all day - all month for that matter. You send the ball back far too slowly. Your opponent has time to recover and take the ball on the forehand.

All you hear is the applause for the 'better' player. NINETEEN-TWENTYONE.

Nineteen-Twentyone. How often have matches been decided by that score? More importantly, how often have matches been lost by that score?

I am talking about losing because it is interesting to see that, with the score-line being so close, sometimes the differences between the players' abilities are great. It is even more relevant to this article that in a high percentage of cases, the loser is actually a better all-round player than the winner!

It is easy to dismiss losses due to a player who is not performing at his or her best at the right time, or to push aside the games where an opponent excelled his ability.

It is not so easy to dismiss the example above where the player is quite capable of winning the game and has the ability to do so, where he or she plays a better all-round game, and yet is beaten. Why does it happen?

The most important factor deciding the outcome of a match next to the player's coach, physical fitness and mental preparation is, of course, the equipment being used. The rubber, sponge and blade combination chosen by the player is usually intended to enhance his or her better shots, while at the same time helping with control over weaknesses.

In 'The Lentec Story' (November 1984) I hinted that not all faults may stem from the player. A lack of consistency in returning

a certain type of shot, or the lack of effective spin being produced can originate from a detrimental bat combination.

How then is a player, or more importantly perhaps a coach in charge of several players, able to recognise at an early stage that the combination is not correct? Let us use the example of the player given above where he is not able to control the ball or produce efficient spin.

This is typical for two reasons: one being that the opponent is producing spin that he cannot 'read', and, secondly, that the rubber, sponge and blade are of the wrong type for him.

The former is probable if the player is of beginner or intermediate standard. It is least probable in this case, where the player has the skill and ability to reach the semi-final of a tournament. The fact that the combination being used is not suited to his style is much more likely.

The difficulty in finding this out, from a coach's point of view, is that until the player is playing at a higher level, he will make fewer errors. The spin, he is receiving, the speed of the rallies, etc., are not sufficient enough to cause a great number of mistakes and, therefore, even the player will not recognise what is happening at club level or in practice with another player of slightly less ability.

In the case of our example, he was unable to control a spinning ball on the bat face when trying to return the ball 'short'. The loss of control was caused by the rubber failing to 'grip' the ball. There was a low coefficient of friction, the scientific value given to the amount of friction between two surfaces; in this case the rubber and the ball.

The higher this value then, the greater the potential to control the spin on the ball. We can see in this case that the combination being used did not have this level of control. The rubber and sponge were the prime cause of this.

To further emphasise this fact, we can also observe that the player's spin serve was not effective at all, even though maximum effort was given to it. The rubber, sponge and blade combination were not allowing him to get maximum 'spin potential' from his shots.

Exactly why this happens and how it can be put right is ex-

plained in the LENTEC TABLE TENNIS MANUAL which I mentioned in my previous article.

A whole section of the LENTEC MANUAL is devoted to choosing the correct rubber, sponge and blade for a particular style. You can learn the scientific reasons behind why a combination is excellent for 'looping' or why it provides good control when counter-hitting.

The aim of the LENTEC MANUAL is to give every coach and player a guide to help improve the selection of equipment when faced with a maze of different rubber and sponge types, and blades that can alter playing characteristics even more. It is hoped that it will provide many answers to the problems faced when choosing a combination to suit each individual player.

If there are any doubts or cries of "Where is the proof?", I would like to mention once again the recent successes of Carl Preat.

Before Carl started to use LENTEC rubber, he found the other types of long-pimpled rubbers available could not provide the effects that he wanted for his style of play. He was looking for speed of return together with control, as well as the ability to block the ball without spin so as to produce a 'floating' return.

Carl found that LENTEC 'SWING' had all these qualities. Unfortunately, Ulf Bengtsson found this out recently as well, except that the Swedish player was on the receiving end of the effect!

The LENTEC TABLE TENNIS MANUAL describes the differences between 'SWING' and other makes of this type of rubber. Both the defensive and attacking versions of 'SWING' benefit from far greater elasticity of the pimples. How this causes better 'speed and spin' together with very high control can be seen in, the next article.

Needless to say, the research into this rubber and its effects only re-emphasise the point that the LENTEC MANUAL is based on fact. British Table Tennis no longer has to take Japanese rubbers to be the last word in the development of our sport's equipment. Far from it.

LENTEC has already produced, in this one rubber alone, a rubber that meets the requirements of a player having 'some' success in the Super Division of the Euro-

pean League.

'SWING' is just one of the rubbers in the LENTEC range which cover every style of play. The LENTEC MANUAL gives recommendations as to which rubber, sponge and blade combination is correct for your style of play. It will help coaches

advise players as to how they can gain better effect from their present abilities to pave the way for even greater things to come.

To experiment with a new combination should be a rewarding experience if entered into with knowledge of how certain rubber types will behave, or in-

deed how the whole combination will be suited for a particular style of play.

Carl Prean had to learn the hard way, by trial and error. Many others have had the same problem. Now, with the aid of British research and technology, we can leave many problems behind and

look forward to a faster growth for our sport. Then, perhaps, we will get the attention we have long awaited ever since 1977.

Next time it is NINETEEN-ALL in the third game, think about how good it would be to know that all you were playing against was your opponent!

## POSITIVE PLAY

by Donald Parker, National Trainer/Coach

Whatever style of play a player adopts, to be successful at senior National and International level, it is essential to play positive. It is worth pointing out at this early stage that cadet and junior table tennis are regarded by the vast majority of people as only stepping stones to senior table tennis. I would therefore hope that any aspiring young players and their coaches are trying to develop a style of play that will enable them, should they have the other necessary abilities, to become successful senior Internationals. A positive player is always doing something constructive as opposed to the negative player who simply keeps the ball on the table relying on the opponent to make a mistake.

Playing positive starts with the service and receive and indeed the first two articles this year, looked in reasonable detail at these two areas. The service is a closed skill. It is the only time in a rally when the opponent has no control over the situation and it must be used to the great advantage that it is and not just be a case of putting the ball into play. The receive is also not used to put the ball back in play and hope the opponent misses it, but

to try and put the server under pressure. If it is a short service, it could be pushed short, pushed long and fast into the body or wide, or it could be flicked fast into the body or wide. If it is a long service the attacking player should make a strong topspin return and the defensive player should make a deep return always varying the amount of backspin.

By playing positive, some players have the incorrect idea that this means hitting each ball as hard as possible which of course is not the case. Basically a positive shot is one that increases the percentage chance of a player winning the point. A player serving should have a seventy per cent chance on winning the point, and therefore if the opponent can push the return short and tight it will reduce the server's percentage to fifty per cent making the receive a positive one. Once the rally becomes evenly matched, a player going for a smash or a strong topspin that only has a twenty-five per cent success rate is not playing positive. However, going for the same percentage shot when the rally is looking very much as if it is going to be lost, is playing positive.

successful cadets who have made the European Youth Cham-

Quite often under pressure in a game a player will revert to negative play, playing not to lose instead of playing to win, and needs to be encouraged to play positive. The above phenomenon is more commonly referred to as "bottling" and can be seen on numerous occasions at all the tournaments. Unfortunately, some players to prove they are not "bottlers" will attempt a very difficult smash at deuce, lose, and they tell everyone "well at least I didn't bottle". Unfortunately by my "percentage definition" they did bottle just as much as the player who did not go for the winner when the opportunity arose.

It is very pleasing to see on the tournament circuit coaches encouraging positive play. A player who has played a positive rally but lost the point should be encouraged, likewise a player who wins a rally by playing negative should not be encouraged. Obviously winning is vital for a youngster but also important is developing the right type of game that has a chance of winning at top senior level. Therefore it is quite obvious that a compromise is required for the player who wants to become a top senior. Losing is a habit, and obviously must be avoided as much as possible. However, winning playing a negative game will reinforce the negative approach which has a limited long term future. The list of

championships but failed to make it at senior level is unfortunately quite extensive. The reason is very simple, at cadet level you can get away with negative play, at junior level you might just get away with it, but at senior level then I am afraid you have no chance.

A player who has just come off the table having lost but having played positive should be encouraged. It should be pointed out that with a little more practise the shots he went for that just missed will very shortly become winners. The important thing is that he went for the shots. I have worked with many players who would not play positive under pressure however, in the practise situation they do all the right things. Unfortunately to get them to transfer this ability back to the match situation is very difficult as the negative play they adopted when they were younger has been grooved in. It is much easier to coach a player with a positive approach the necessary techniques than it is a player who has all the strokes but a negative approach. Once a negative approach has been grooved in then it is my experience that this is very difficult, if not impossible, to change.

**Donald Parker  
National Trainer**

NB. It was very encouraging to see at the Cleveland Junior International many players when knocking up playing down the lines as well as on the diagonals.



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# EASTBOURNE'S 39-DAY WAR

## LOOKING FOR THE WHITE TAPES IN THE MINEFIELD...

JOHN WOODFORD, with no personal axe to grind found himself during October and November involved in the biggest row ever in the history of the Eastbourne and District Table Tennis League.

It started when league secretary Derek Wilkinson persuaded three other members of the league executive committee to suspend the town's two top players Paul Rowden the Eastbourne champion and his father Sussex veteran player Alan Rowden from local league play. No reason was given under a rule that is normally available for disciplinary purposes concerning conduct likely to bring the game into disrepute.

John Woodford, himself a member of that executive committee but absent at an ETTA meeting when the decision was made, now gives his account of the happenings, something that could happen elsewhere when players' commitments are stretched to the limits by the extension of the National League and other events. JW found himself leading the mounting opposition from virtually all players in a 39-day 'war' that ended on November 14th.

Derek Wilkinson has been invited to put his case for his action into 500 words to ensure equal freedom of speech for both arguments.

JOHN WOODFORD writes... Early in September when the England squad were training in Eastbourne I talked with Paul Rowden about his increased commitments this season including 14 matches in the National League.

He indicated that in order to fight for his place for Sussex in the County Championships and to make a successful debut in the National League he would have very little time left for weekly league play and that some players did not try hard against him and therefore some matches were a waste of time.

After this appeared in the local press the Eastbourne secretary wrote a letter which was published giving his views about leagues being the backbone of the game in this country etc. There appeared to be a case for negotiations with the players who at that point might well have

responded. The four men after a long meeting decided to take the bull by the horns and suspend the Rowdens with almost immediate effect.

To say that this caused alarm and despondency in a normal tranquil league is an understatement. Especially as no official reason was given for 30 days whilst a campaign, quite unprecedented was mounted. For eight or nine editions in succession the furore occupied huge headlines in our bi-weekly newspapers. Appeals at three levels, a special general meeting seemed on the cards as the four men wandered into the minefield, quite against natural justice in my view, as no appeals committee would it is felt, have supported suspensions where the banned men had no chance to air their views before the suspension was made.

Regional media were taking an interest including major radio stations. No doubt, that the national press would have been "tasting copy" had it proceeded further. Legal representation was also secured for the players for the county appeal.

However, fate intervened in the shape of a broken leg for a soccer player in the Rowdens' team, leaving them with two men. This provided, what I will steadfastly call until hell-freezes over, a lifeline for the besieged quartet. The secretary talked to the club and after belated negotiations the Rowdens agreed to play in some matches. The suspensions were withdrawn, but life will not be the same again in Eastbourne until perhaps at the AGM next summer the rule on banning players is amended to prevent the threat of such injustice ever happening again.

Rules experts in high places in the ETTA will tell you for nothing that a number of leagues possess rules that are nonsense or they are naive. The joke is that twelve years ago I personally originated the rule to stop bad behaviour, never dreaming that it would be used in this manner.

Footnote: It was a bitter struggle. On the media freedom angle, my newspapers were open to allegations of biased reporting but, remember the words of Lord Justice Griffiths in the Appeal Court not long ago: "A campaign to put pressure on the authorities is a very important and essential function of the free Press and we would be all the worse for it if the Press were unduly inhibited in this field of activity."

## DEREK WILKINSON replies... MINES DEFUSED

In your November issue, John Woodford wrote about a huge row exploding in the Eastbourne League. I can assure you that this is not true. The row if any has been generated by John Woodford himself and the vast majority of the league's players are either not aware of what has occurred or are not interested enough.

The history of this matter started when John Woodford in his column of the local paper stated that Paul Rowden, the top player in the league had turned his back on the league he did not get strong opposition from other players. He and his father Alan would not be playing in the league but were willing to play in town matches.

I felt that this was wrong so I wrote a letter to the local paper in which I appealed to both players to return to the league and assist younger players. Both had been with the league for many years, Paul having progressed from the lowest division to become the town champion and both had been helped financially over the years. I also saw Alan Rowden and whilst he told me that John Woodford had made rather a lot of things he also said that he did not get very good games. As a result I attended a County Meeting and brought the matter to their attention not knowing of what the outcome could be if we cancelled their registrations. Unfortunately not a lot of interest was shown apart from one person who thought it was wrong that a player should represent his league if he had not taken part in the league play.

The Executive Committee of our league met and it was decided that the registrations of both players should be cancelled. The four members who were able to be present have been long standing members of our league holding positions for many years and spent some time discussing the matter. One of the two members who could not attend was John Woodford who is also the league's publicity officer and the other members took notice of his views which were opposed to the players' registrations being cancelled. The committee also allowed a letter from Mike Watts, the ETTA Assistant General Secretary, to be read. He was also opposed to the cancellation and also said that what the Rowdens were doing was going on all the time and nobody could do

a thing about it. I should mention here that both players appear in National League, County matches and other more higher graded competitions. In accordance with our league rules the Rowdens' club were informed and given the right of appeal to the next meeting of our league council. Unfortunately due to the closeness of the executive meeting and the league council meeting and the fact that the Captain of the Club concerned was on holiday, the club concerned were not able to get an appeal in.

John Woodford then embarked through his column in the local papers on a campaign against his fellow committee members. I personally object to what has been said about myself and my fellow committee members. I consider that we are all well respected members of the league who have been elected to do a job. Both my league members and other leagues' members know how difficult it is to get people to take on tasks in the leagues. In respect of the decision taken about the Rowdens I have no doubt that we would be supported by the vast majority. Unfortunately that majority did not have the medium of the local paper to air their views. I complained to the Editor and gave him the opportunity to print my letter but he chose not to do so.

I would point out that the decision taken by our league did not affect either player appearing in other competitions as they were both registered with our County by way of one of the National League clubs.

The whole affair has now had a happy conclusion as both players have made a firm commitment in writing to play in the league this season and as a result the Executive Committee have accepted their registration.

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# Middlesex 3-Star Open/Photo competition

## MIDDLESEX 3-STAR OPEN

### ENTRIES GALORE

By Iris Moss

Despite losing 5 players (Alan Cooke, David Wells, Andrew Syed, Joy Grundy, and Lisa Bellinger) all of whom had entered but who were selected to represent England in Russia, the Middlesex 3-Star Open finished up with 314 entrants at Picketts Lock Centre over the weekend of Dec. 8/9. As we also had to refuse 57 entries received on 14th and 15th November (closing date was the 15th) and I had to explain to numerous telephone callers that I could not get forms to them and back in time for acceptance, I reckon that we could have had 400 entries if only the hall had elastic sides.

I hate to have to disappoint people who want to enter our event, and, with my Treasurer's hat on, we could do with the money, but if we want to keep up our standards (which we must do if we want to retain our 3-Star status) we must continue to refuse entries or come down to playing groups of 3 instead of 4. This will be a matter for next year's Committee to consider if we can get the necessary sponsorship. Certainly dropping the Mixed Doubles, which I admit I was **against** in the first instance, does not seem to have affected the size or quality of the entry.

By making an early start on the Saturday, the Referee Len Pilditch, managed to ensure that

with a lot of hard work on the part of Committee and umpires, we had reasonably early finishes on both days with play finishing at 9.45 pm on the Saturday and finals starting promptly at 6.0 pm on the Sunday as advertised. The change of Organiser also made a vast improvement. David Miller did a much better job than I have ever done, partly because he has much more experience of other tournaments than I have, but mainly because he would not take "No" for an answer to improvements that he considered essential.

Now for the event itself. Apart from the ranked players who were absent in Russia and 2 who left their entries to the last minute and were therefore refused, the top-ranked men and women players all entered. In the Men's Singles where we had 224 entries, Graham Sandley was the top seed with Philip Bradbury occupying second place. With Carl Preen and Skylet Andrew at 3 and 4 respectively, all looked well for a cracking final. But John Hilton decided that we were not going to get all we had planned and the shock came when he beat Graham in the 3rd round -12, 11, 18. Of the other seeds Nigel Eckersley failed against Steve Mills; Alan Fletcher lost to Michael Harper; Andrew Bellingham fell to Barry Johnson; and Stephen Moore went out to Michael Hammond. In the semi-final between Hilton and Andrew, we had an unusual incident when Skylet hit the corner of the table with his bat, and not only tore the rubber but also damaged the blade. Fortunately the table was tougher and was not damaged! Both the

semis and the final were hard fought with Andrew coming out the excited winner after a terrific fight against Preen.

The Women's Singles (69 entries) went slightly more according to seeding with only Jackie Bellinger failing to take her place in the semis when Fiona Elliot beat her in the quarter-final. In the final Karen Witt seemed to be rather hesitant about going for her shots (Is her back still troubling her?) and Alison Gordon had very little trouble in taking the title.

The Men's Doubles, like the Singles, had some unexpected results. The top seeds, Sandley and Bradbury, looked as if they would have no trouble in the second round when they took the first game at 9 from Keith Satchell and Andy Wellman, but Keith and Andy decided otherwise and took the other 2 games at 19 and 16. With the 3rd seeds John Souter and Colin Wilson going out to Brian Johns and Steve Scowcroft, and the No. 4 seeds Bellingham and Eckersley losing to Mills and Chris Rogers, the only seeds to take up their position in the semi-finals were Andrew and Nicky Mason and even they eventually lost in the Final.

In the Women's Doubles, 2 out of the 4 seeded pairs failed to reach the semis but the final was fought out between the No. 1 and No. 2 seeds with Fiona Elliot and Jill Harris beating Alison Gordon and Mandy Sainsbury.

I never fail to be amazed at the keenness of veteran players! Personally I gave up long ago, but not only did we have 39 Men's entries but 3 Women Veterans joined in rather than be

"deprived" because we had no separate Women's event. Henry Buist had a good Tournament, knocking out Ralph Gunnion and Matt Shearer on his way to the final, and only **just losing** them to Derek Schofield.

Final results were:-

Men's Singl... S.mi-finals.  
S Andrew (E) bt J. Hilton (Ia)10. -7.17.  
C. Preen (IOW) bt P. Bradbury (au) 17. -14. 16.  
Final  
Andrew bt Preen -11. 18. 17.  
Women's Singl...  
Final  
GO'don (BA) bt K. Witt (Bk) 11. 17.  
Men's Doubles  
Final  
K. Satchell (WillA. Wellman (8k) bt Andrew/N. Mason (5y) -12, 19, 16.  
Women's Doubl...  
Final  
F. Elliot/J. Harris (St) bt Gordon/Sainsbury (Bk) -14, 15, 17.

Finally I would like to express thanks to the Arts and Recreation Committee of the Greater London Council for their (verbal) assurance of financial assistance; to Butterfly Table Tennis UK Ltd for providing the tables; to the staff at Picketts Lock Centre for their help and co-operation; to the members of the St. John's Ambulance Brigade who were in attendance throughout - though fortunatley not needed; to Len Pilditch and his Committee for a well-run tournament; to all the umpires who came from far and wide to work like **mad**; and personally to David Miller who relieved me of a very arduous job and in consequence practically worked himself to a standstill. Thanks everyone.



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ESTIA Hon. General Secretary  
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Although the national launch of the Dunlop Skills Award Scheme was in London last month ESTIA Chairman John Arnold is organising a special Yorkshire version. All coaches, teachers and administrators are invited to Sandal Endowed CE Middle School, Barnsley Road, Wakefield on Wednesday, January 30th at 7.15 p.m.

There will be a demonstration of the new awards and a forum involving ESTIA and ETIA Officers and sponsors Dunlop. Further details from John Arnold at the school. Tel: 0924 250516 (s) 372597 (h).



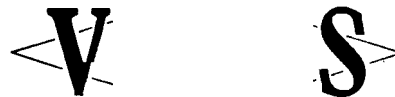
Bob Wood  
(ESTIA Hon. Treasurer)



John Arnold  
(ESTIA Chairman)

## THE MIDLANDS VETERANS' OPEN FOUR GOLDS FOR MATT

By Mike Watts



VETERANS ENGLISH  
TABLE TENNIS SOCIETY

Played at the West Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled in Tile Hill, Coventry, this tournament, the first of three Regional Tournaments for Veterans, was a personal success for Matt Sheader from Lincolnshire who remained unbeaten all weekend. Four gold medals was his tally with wins in the over-40 and 50 singles and the over-40 and 50 doubles in partnership with Derek Schofield from Cheshire.

Quite a surprise too for Derek, beaten in both over-40 and over-50 singles events and thankful that two qualified from the groups having lost at this stage to Babs Adedayo. However wife Doreen saved the day with wins in the over-40 singles and doubles partnered by Connie Moran.

The Venue was excellent as was the Ladbroke's Hotel at Warwick, used by VETTS for the weekend. The only minus factor being the entry of 63, a third down on the Nationals held at Watford in May. Two more events were added Men's and Women's restricted with the top 30 men and the top 10 women ineligible. Both proved extremely popular and will be repeated.

Our thanks go to Stan Lenton, Chairman of the Trust at Tile Hill, for letting us use his centre and to referee Geoff Taylor from Coventry who did a thoroughly professional job. A special thank you to his good lady Joan and their daughter who manned the

refreshment stand both days.

### Men's Singles Over-40

Shocks in the groups. Schofield beaten by Adedayo and going through in an unseeded position as runner-up. Then Geoff Brook from Yorkshire did the same to 3rd seed Peter D'Arcy. The 2nd round meeting between Schofield and Sheader was a cracker with Matt finally emerging triumphant 22 in the third. D'Arcy lost to Ralph Gunnion in another fine game -18, 18,-13.

#### Semi-Finals

R. Gunnion (Wa) bt B. Adedayo (Mi) 16, -19, 16.  
M. Sheader (Li) bt R. Norton (Hu) 20,4.  
Final.  
Sheader bt Gunnion 19, -19, 17.

This game would have graced any final of an open tournament. Both players must be congratulated on a fine exhibition of Table Tennis.

### Women's Singles Over-40

When did Doreen Schofield last lose a Veterans' match? However Sylvia Coombs stretched her to a close third game in the semi final. Connie Moran seeded two was taken out by Joyce Coop but the surprise finalist was Pam Butcher who also a great tournament.

#### Semi-Finals

D. Schofield (Ch) bt S. Coombs (Bu) 17, -17, 15.  
P. Butcher (K) bt J. Coop (Do) -17, 14,7.  
Final.  
Schofield bt Butcher 12, 7.

### Men's singles Over-50.

More shocks here Schofield having safely emerged from the

groups, promptly lost to Terry Donlan on his first visit to the table. D'Arcy found Brook in his group again but made it this time albeit 28-26 in the first game.

Stan 'the bat' Battrick had to scratch after winning his group- the only seed not to reach the semis.

#### Semi-Finals

P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt T. Donlan (Ch) -19,18,13.  
Sheader bt Adedayo 12, 21.  
Final.  
Sheader bt D'Arcy 10, 14.

### Women's Singles Over-50

Pam Butcher gaining her second medal winning all her games comfortably.

#### Semi-Finals

Coombs bt P. Anker (E) 12, 6.  
Butcher bt R. Hogg 8, 11.  
Final.  
Butcher bt Coombs 17, 15.

### Men's Singles Over-60

An excellent entry of 12 players including Percy Hydes from Milton Keynes who is well over 80 and still plays regularly in the 6th Div. of that league. Percy even qualified for the knock-out finishing runner-up in his group. The final predictably between the old rivals who have played each other in the 82 and 84 World Vets' Championships.

#### Final

Ron Etheridge (K) bt L D'Arcy (V) 18, 13.

### Women's Singles Over-60

Only two contestants here with Phyllis Lauder (E) beating Dolly Harmer (Bd).

### Men's Doubles Over-40.

Only shock being No.3 seeds

Henry Buist (K) and Brian Allison (Li) being beaten by the scratch pairing of Brian Varnham and Ray Dixon in the quarters.

#### Semi-Finals

Gunnion/P. D'Arcy bt B. Varnham/R. Dixon 12, 19.  
Schofield/Sheader bt D. Seaholme (He)/Norton 14,12.

Final.  
Schofield/Sheader bt Gunnion/D'Arcy 14, 15.  
Women's Doubles Over-40.

Pam Butcher continuing her fine run in partnership with Ruth Hogg beat the No.2 seeds.

#### Semi-Finals

Schofield/C. Moran (Li) bt A. Robinson (Bd)/Coombs 19, 11.  
Butcher/Hogg bt Coop/So Tyler (He) 16, -17, 21.

#### Final

Schofield/Moran bt Butcher/Hogg 14, 13.

### Men's Doubles Over-50.

Both top seeds reached the final without dropping a game.

#### Semi-Finals

Schofield/Sheader bt Donlan/W. Moran (Li) 11, 16.

P. D'Arcy/S. Battrick (E) bt F. Lockwood (E)/N. Slifkin (Mi) 15, 16.

Final. Schofield/Sheader bt D'Arcy/Battrick -7, 17,18.

### Women's Doubles Over-50.

Three pairs entered. Pam Butcher/R. Hogg duly annexed the title.

### Men's Doubles Over-60.

The singles finalists teamed up to comprehensively win the doubles.

#### Semi-Finals

Etheridge/L. D'Arcy bt W. French/A. Gould (La) 14,11.

S. Nunn (V)/D. Clare (Sx) bt L. McSweeney/P. Harmer (Bd) 4, 11.

#### Final

Etheridge/D'Arcy bt Nunn/Clare 5, 12.

### Men's Restricted

New event and New Vet Peter Radford who only qualified because he has not yet won enough games in the Premier Div. of the County Champ, won the title. He was taken to a third game on a number of occasions.

#### Semi-Finals

P. Radford (E) bt J. Smith (Mi) 12, -19, 15.

Slifkin bt R. Dixon (Wo) 11, 13.

#### Final

Radford bt Slifkin -15,8,13.

### Women's Restricted.

New event and another success for Pam Butcher.

#### Semi-Finals

Butcher bt Tyler 10, 6.

K. Fisher (Li) bt P. Anker (E) 11, -19, 13.

#### Final

Butcher bt Fisher 15, 14.

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## CHILTON U-21 CHAMPIONSHIPS

### JOB TO BE DONE

by L. J. Bridges

Perhaps the reason for Somerset's first ever open can best be indicated by an irony. Bridgwater, a small West Country town, can boast almost 30, mostly rather young, girls in the area.

Yet, when it comes to Under-21, only 15 entries were received in spite of many invitations. There is a job to be done!

No computer points for U-21's, but the tournament had much that was good about it. Players were in groups of four. So, three sets for pretty well everyone. Two went through so most players played four sets. The women did even better with their own groups competition as well as the opportunity to enter the mixed event.

The final rounds were well staged, with easy viewing on three tables. Plenty of seating and plenty of spectators. Meantime, the defeated players had the other four tables in another hall to practise on.

The finals were perhaps a little disappointing, Darren Griffin from Gloucestershire played Australian, Gloucestolian, Neil Taylor. It was a set to be admired rather than enjoyed. Two fast hitters third ball attacking made for brilliant but, usually, short rallies.

Griffin had the edge on his superb touch and his backhand, What a player he would be with a higher net, and I think it would

certainly be more watchable. In the women's final Rebecca Russe from Somerset played Michelle Cohen from Bristol. Michelle did well to get the second game but by this time Rebecca had got her defence going and systematically ground Michelle down in the third.

Pat Archdale appeared to be flawless as Referee, keeping things to time and making judgments in favour of playing table tennis rather than working to rule, John Reakes did most of the work in getting the tournament off the ground and did a superb job as usual. Helpers came not only from the Bridgwater League but parents of our younger players as well,

Bryan Merrett "took a day off" by visiting and did a thoroughly good PR job for the game by involving himself with the local scene. We see the Chilton U-21 as a stepping stone towards keeping young players in the game. We will do it again next season, John Reakes tells me. We would be very pleased to be one of several,

#### Results:-

**Mixed Single**:- Neil Taylor bt Paul Hooper 16, 17; Darren Griffin bt Graham Bateman 13, 15; Final: GRIFFIN bt Taylor 18, 17.  
**Women's Single**:- Rebecca Russe bt Melanie Carver 17, 15; Michelle Cohen bt Fiona Stuart 9, 14; Final: RUSSE bt Cohen 12, -14, 11.



Mike Davies, Chilton Head of Upper School, presents The 'BCI' Trophy and £50 to the winner Darren Griffin,



Rebecca Russe 'Not always a chopper' winner of the women's singles,

Photographs by Focus Photography, Bridgwater, Somerset.

## HEART OF ENGLAND CADET LEAGUE SECOND SESSION AT LEAMINGTON

By Brian Aston

The 2nd session took place at Leamington on Dec. 8 with Birmingham Schools leading the table after winning their 3 matches. They beat Bromsgrove (10-0), Walsall (9-1) and Leamington "B" (9-1).

No. 1 player Haroon Rashid and No. 2 Rajinder Singh were well supported by Simon Mellor and Steven McDonald. The local 'derby' match between the two Leamington teams resulted in an 8-2 victory for the "A" team, Richard Miles and Mark Jackson both beat Claire Woodward for the "B" team points but Jon Williams and Kate Ryan proved too strong all round to win both doubles and all three singles.

Bromsgrove picked up their first two points through losing to Evesham 2-8, Spencer Coates beating Stefan Mytton and Simon Robinson. Marcus Bolton was undefeated for Evesham. Coventry fielded some new faces in Daniel Swallow and Paul Sidwell

but to no avail suffering defeats at the hands of Walsall and Evesham.

Graham Jackson defeated Claire Woodward to give Rugby their one point against Leamington "A", Birmingham Youth Service although losing all their matches 10-0 still gamely battled on and they actually went to three games for the first time when Spencer Leach played Robert Duncan from Northants Schools whose team are the 'dark horses' of the league. The next session takes place on Feb.

9 when the singles knock-out competition also takes place.

#### Results:

Bromsgrove 2 Evesham 8  
Leamington 'A' 9 Rugby 1  
Leamington 'O' 4 Northants Schools 6  
Walsall 11 Sharn Schools 9  
Leamington 'A' 8 Leamington 'B' 2  
Evesham 8 Coventry 2  
Bham Schools 10 Bromsgrove 0  
Bham Youth Service 0 Northants Schools 10  
Bham Youth Service 0 Leamington 'A' 10  
Evesham 10 Rugby 0  
Coventry 0 Walsall 10  
Leamington 'B' 1 Bham Schools 9

#### PLAYERS WITH '100% RECORDS'

Graham Bird; Robert Till; Haroon Rashid; Gary Weston; Jon Williams,

#### LEAGUE TABLE

|                    | P | W | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|--------------------|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Bham Schools       | 5 | 5 | 0 | 46 | 4  | 10  |
| Leamington 'A'     | 5 | 5 | 0 | 44 | 6  | 10  |
| Walsall            | 5 | 4 | 1 | 38 | 12 | 8   |
| Northants Schools  | 5 | 4 | 1 | 34 | 16 | 8   |
| Evesham            | 5 | 3 | 2 | 30 | 20 | 6   |
| Leamington 'B'     | 5 | 2 | 3 | 23 | 27 | 4   |
| Rugby              | 5 | 1 | 4 | 9  | 41 | 2   |
| Bromsgrove         | 5 | 0 | 5 | 9  | 41 | 0   |
| Coventry           | 4 | 0 | 4 | 7  | 33 | 0   |
| Bham Youth Service | 4 | 0 | 4 | 0  | 40 | 0   |

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# DURHAM COUNTY. CLOSED TOP SEED DEFEATED

by Harry Black

Top seed and County No.1, David Blackburne, was defeated by the No.2 seed, Tony Gelder, in the final of the men's singles at Peterlee Sports Centre on Dec. 9. Gelder, on his way to the final ousted Bob Sanderson, Allan Thompson, Philip Stafford and, in the semis, No.3 seed Cliff Olsson.

There was a shock in the women's singles when the unseeded Lynne Bainbridge beat top seed Shirley Gelder in the semis and went on to account for the No.2 seed, Lynne Yarnell, in the final. It was the eighth time that she has won this title.

Top seeds David Godbold and Olsson won the men's doubles event beating the No.3 seeds Bill Reay/Paul Smith in the final. But there was another surprise in the counterpart women's event with the top seeds, Shirley Gelder and Linda Spensley losing to Lynne Bainbridge and Lynne Yarnell in the final.

Biggest shock of the day came in the mixed when the unseeded pairing of Olsson and Jeanette Turner beat top seeds Tony and

Shirley Gelder who suffered their first defeat in this event for many seasons. Earlier the shock winners had eliminated the No.2 seeds Neil Herrington and Lynne Yarnell.

Paul Smith, the top seed in the veterans' singles, also bit the dust going out in the semis to Tom Bainbridge, the eventual winner over Gordon Bissett who knocked out the No.2 seed Larry Cartmell.

Washington's Michael Roughley proved the top junior of the day coming away with three trophies. In the boys' singles he beat Neal Thornley and, in the U-15 BS, fellow teammate Paul Swift as well as winning the boys' doubles with Mickey Chang. In the remaining event Jeanette Roberts beat Angela Wiffen in the final of the girls' singles. Results:-

M.S: q-fs:  
D. Blackburne bt G. Webstler 17. 9;  
M. Tate bt D. Godbold 14. -19. 12;  
C. Olsson bt R. Reed 9. 17;  
T. Gelder bt P. Stafford -14. 8. 12.  
S-fa:  
Blackburne bt Tate 15. 18;  
Gelder bt Olsson 14. 14.  
Final: GELDER bt Blackburne 6. -10. 16.

W.S: a-fa:  
L. Bainbridge bt S. Gelder 20. -20. 17;  
L. Yamell bt J. Roberts 18. 15.  
Final: BAINBRIDGE bt Yamell 15. 9.  
M.D. Final:  
GODBOLD/OLSSON bt Reay/Smith 8. 16.  
W.D. Final:  
BAINBRIDGE/YARNELL bt Gelder/L. Spensley -11. 12.18.  
X.D. Final:  
OLSSON/J. TURNER bt A. and S. Gelder 18. -10.18.  
V.S: Final:  
T. BAINBRIDGE bt G. Bissett 14. -21.18.  
B.S: s-fs:  
M. Roughley bt P. Young 13. 14;  
N. Thornley bt P. Swift 19. 15.  
Final: ROUGHLEY bt Thornley 9.18.  
G.S: Final:  
J. ROBERTS bt A. Wiffen 15. 11.  
U-15 B.S: Final:  
ROUGHLEY bt Swift 13.11.  
B.D: Final:  
M. CHANG/ROUGHLEY bt Thornley/Young 15. 19.

## MERIT AWARD

During the Championships Alan Jenkins was presented with the ETIA Merit Award for his services to the game. Alan represented the Hartlepool League on the county's management committee from 1962/68 and, from 1968 until earlier this season, he represented Peterlee & District of which league he has held the positions of Treasurer, Registrar, Secretary and Chairman.

Alan has been a county selector for 18 years and a member of the Durham County Executive for 22 years including serving on the Coaching, Tournaments and Disciplinary sub-committees. He has served Region 10 and Region 5 for 12 years and has seen 15

years slip by as non-playing captain for county teams at both senior and junior levels with a spell as Coaching Organiser for the Northern Region of BDSA.

On the playing side Alan represented Hartlepool town team for four years, won the league's men's singles title and four times the men's doubles, three times the mixed and once the veterans' singles. He also represented Peterlee for 10 years being three times the men's singles champion, 5 times men's doubles and four times their veteran champion.

In the Durham & Dist. League in 1968/9 Alan played and captained Bede College. He also captained Durham University in 1970 and was awarded the full palatinate in 1969. He was awarded UAU Colours in 1970 (National University Award). Open singles (1), Open doubles (6), Handicap (1) and Plate winner at the UAU Championships in Liverpool in 1968 are also in the record book. He represented Durham University (1968/71).

Alan was coaching instructor for Y&E Annual Modules and still officiates as a County Umpire at local, county and National League levels having had experience at international competition i.e. ETIU Top 12 at Cleveland etc. A well-merited award!

# LANCASHIRE LIFE

## TEAMMATES CLASH IN CHESHIRE

By George Yates

Oldham representative players, Phil Aspinall and Mark Hankey, battled out the first set when Lancashire" opposed Cheshire in Div. 2A of the County Championships with Aspinall, for Lancs, emerging the winner 16, -19, 18.

But the rejoicing was short lived as Cheshire came back to take the next three sets only for Lancs to equate the match score at 3-3 with wins for Aspinall and Andy Gray of Preston in the men's doubles and a singles success for Fleetwood's Steve Bevan over Hankey.

Thereafter the tide turned once more with Cheshire taking the next four sets in a row to triumph 7-3 with both Brian Johns and Wayne Percival unbeaten in their singles engagements.

Away to Warwickshire, the Red Rose juniors brought off a credit-50

able 7-3 win to remain in contention for honours, albeit runners-up to' Yorks II. Against Warwick's Rochdale's Lee Brown had two singles successes and a third, with David Carse, in the boys' doubles. Both Carse and Andrew Eden of Preston had solo successes as did Lynne Harnden of Southport and Nicola McGrath. of Preston. Scores:-

v Cheshire  
M. Hankey lost to P. Aspinall-16. 19. -18;  
W. Percival bt S. Bevan -18.17.12;  
B. Johns bt A. Gray 13. 10;  
J. Deakin/A. Williamson bt K. Cox/C. Whitehead -21. 21.18;  
Johns/Percival lost to Aspinall/Gray -12. -19;  
Hankey lost to Bevan -17. -17;  
Williams bt Cox -17. 15. 19;  
Johns bt Aspinall 23. 13;  
Deakin bt Whitehead -14. 12. 13;  
Percival bt Gray 15. 15.

v Warwickshire  
V. Chauhan lost to A. Eden -13. -17;  
S. Swallow lost to L. Brown -21. 8. -13;  
M. Randle lost to D. Carse -17. 13. -18;  
D. Bromley/T. Green bt L. Harnden/N. McGrath 17. -17.17;  
Chauhan/Randle lost to Brown/Carse -18. -19;  
Chauhan lost to Brown -23. 12. -16;

Green lost to McGrath -17. -11;  
Randle bt Eden 16. 17;  
Bromley lost to Harnden -18. -17;  
Swallow bt Carse -8. 18. 17.

## LANCS AND CHESHIRE LEAGUE

Bolton, the defending first division champions of the Lancashire and Cheshire League, have twice faltered in recent matches being held to 5-5 draws by both Stockport and Manchester. Stephen Scowcroft, locally sponsored by Kirkby Central, the Vauxhall-Opel car dealers, was missing from the Stockport match in which - it seems hardly believable - Derek Schofield was beaten by Shaun Browne, Nigel Hallows' and reserve Ronnie Durose.

|            | P | W | D | L | F  | A  | Pts |
|------------|---|---|---|---|----|----|-----|
| Bolton     | 4 | 2 | 2 | 0 | 27 | 13 | 6   |
| Oldham     | 4 | 3 | 0 | 1 | 24 | 16 | 6   |
| Manchester | 4 | 2 | 1 | 1 | 23 | 17 | 5   |
| Stockport  | 4 | 1 | 2 | 1 | 21 | 19 | 4   |
| Liverpool  | 4 | 1 | 1 | 2 | 18 | 22 | 3   |
| Warrington | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 | 11 | 19 | 3   |
| Preston    | 4 | 1 | 0 | 3 | 16 | 24 | 2   |
| Fleetwood  | 3 | 0 | 1 | 2 | 10 | 20 | 1   |

Andrew Leigh was the winner of the Bolton League's Division 1 individual championship on Dec. 20 beating Durose in the final,

Back for the Manchester match, Scowcroft brought off his customary treble but Browne lost to Tony Taylor and Clive Heap failed to register a win, not even in the doubles with Scowcroft.

Meantime promotees Oldham, now boasting Hankey in their team along with Aspinall and Larry Bainbridge, equate with Bolton on points but with an inferior sets analysis.

To date Oldham have polished off Manchester (6-4), Stockport (7-3) and Preston (7-3) the latter being represented by Paul Rainford, Philip Huggon and Mark Gibson! Their one reverse was at the hands of Warrington when Aspinall was an absentee. Table:-

the latter being the runner-up last season when beaten by 'Heap.

## A tribute to Mr. Burnleyl

A tribute to the memory of the late Mr. Tom Alston, by the chairman of the Burnley and District Table Tennis League, Mr. Alan Magnall.

It was with much sadness that members of the Burnley and District Table Tennis League heard of the recent death of their president Mr. Tom Alston.

Tom was involved with the sport of table tennis for a period of about 60 years, and as a youngster played in the Burnley Sunday School League.

His enthusiasm for the game was boundless, and in 1926 he was largely responsible for the league title being changed to the Burnley and District Table Tennis League so that more teams could take part in competitive table tennis.

In that same year Burnley became one of the first 19 leagues to be affiliated to the English Table Tennis Association.

Such was Tom's determination to put Burnley on the table tennis map that he was not content just to send the necessary forms. Instead he travelled to London with Leonard Simpson, his friend and doubles partner, to personally hand in the forms.

He then played a large part in the formation of the Lancashire Table Tennis Association and served as Chairman for a number of years. Tom served on the Burnley committee from its formation in 1926, filling various offices including those of Press secretary, chairman and president.

As a player, Tom was outstanding. He was the Burnley town champion on five occasions, was a winner of the Burnley Express Cup and won the mixed doubles title partnered by the late Mrs. Jean Jackson (then Miss Jean Davies).

He also won the men's singles title at the Scottish Open Tournament and the men's singles and doubles at the East of Scotland Open, and the Sunday Referee Lancashire Championship.

During his Army service Tom attained the rank of Major. It was in his army days that he met and played in exhibition matches with world class players, including the former world champion, the late Victor Barna.

On his return to 'civilian life, he assisted in arrangements for those players to give exhibition matches in Burnley, and so stimulated interest among local people.

However, Tom was much more than a first class player and administrator. He was a gentleman who was thoroughly dedicated to a sport to which he gave so much.

We shall miss Tom, but we are fortunate to have had a man of his calibre in our town.

## INFLUENCE'

In the past few days I have spoken to two senior members of the league, and I think their comments illustrate the fine influence Tom had on the sport of table tennis.

Fred Robinson, a vice-president of the league and a player with half a century's experience had this to say: "Tom played a large part in the development of the sport. He was always keen to help players to become a part of organised table tennis. He was Mr. Burnley of Table Tennis."

Bob Wright, himself a former town champion and town team player, said: "I remember Tom as a personal friend, who gave much help and advice to me. He was outstanding both as a table tennis player and administrator."

Burnley Express,  
2nd Jan. 1985.

Continued from page 14.

The position for 1984/85 is much better as the rate of corporation tax for that year was reduced to 30%, which is the same rate as for income tax. So no corporation tax should be payable for 1984/85 as follows: Example for

|   |         |
|---|---------|
| 1984/85   | £       |
| Interest received from Building Society                   | 100.00  |
| Add back, income tax already deducted by Building Society | 42.85   |
| Gross amount of interest deemed to have been received     | £142.85 |
| Corporation tax thereon for 1984/85 at 30%                | 42.85   |
| Less, income tax already paid by deduction, as above      | 42.85   |
| Corporation tax payable by the league etc for 1984/85     | NIL     |

The rate of income and corporation tax for the year 1985/86 will be announced in the budget in March 1985. If there is no change in the rates then the position in the second example will remain.

A further point is that Bank interest is to be received after

the deduction of income tax at the current rate from 1st April, 1985, and this tax will be irrecoverable. So it will be beneficial for any surplus funds to be put on the best deposit rate in a Building Society rather than on deposit with a bank.

Now I must turn my attention to a source of considerable concern and worry. I refer to the unending stream of criticism from John Prean. It seems to me that John is determined to attack every facet of the workings of the Association - and the articles and views expressed in this magazine are mild in comparison to the endless number of complaints received direct by the Officers. Whilst I am not adverse to constructive criticism I am becoming increasingly concerned at the non-stop tirade.

Every member of the Association from grass roots to the top officials should be working for the benefit and improvement of our sport. I hope that John will keep this in mind and that he will put away his pen and paper and concentrate on helping his most talented son, Carl, to become even more successful. At the same time it will also allow the Management Committee to concentrate their efforts in the best interests of the members.

## ENGLISH CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

to be held

FRIDAY - SUNDAY, MARCH 8/10, 1985

at

BLETCHLEY LEISURE CENTRE

Princess Way, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Bucks.  
(Phone: (0908) 77251)

Finals

Sunday, March 10th commencing at 2 p.m.

Entrance Fee for spectators:

Friday - £1, Children and OAPs 50p  
Saturday - £2.50, Children and OAPs £1.50  
Sunday - £2.50, Children and OAPs £1.50

TIMES OF PLAY COMMENCEMENT

Friday - 4 p.m. and Sunday 9 a.m.

LAST DATE FOR RECEIPT OF ENTRIES

Saturday, January 26, 1985

to

Mr. D. A. Young, 75 Hillery Rd., Worcester WR5 1RF.

'Forms available from ETTA Office, 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HF.  
(Phone: (0424) 433121)

Officials

Referee: Doug Young (NR)  
Assistant Referee: Trevor Openshaw (NR)  
Organiser: Mike Holt  
Assistant Organiser: Roger Moss  
Press Officer: Fiona Brown

Championships Committee

Mrs. D. M. Stannard (Chairman), H. J. Webb (Secretary),  
L. C. Pilditch, M. R. Holt, D. A. Young, M. D. Watts,  
F. Brown, J. M. Wright, T. Openshaw, J. R. Moss.

# IVOR MONTAGU A PERSONAL RECOLLECTION

By Gerald N. Gurney

We all belong not so much to the era in which we are born as to the era in which we attain maturity; Ivor Montagu belonged to the 1920-s. and in his later years carried not only the aura of age but the aura of the period.

When I first met him - at the 1977 World Championships- he was an impressive, if rather un-gainly, figure, and we talked for some time of the need for a "history" of table tennis. Previously I had only corresponded with him in the early 1950-s. when he gave strong support to the Oxbridge application for the award of half blues; with his help this was achieved. It was not easy to correspond with him; his letters were often so illegible that they needed transcription and (in parts at least) decoding. But he had a fine sense of style in expression as in everything he touched.

Just two weeks before he died, provided with meticulously careful directions, I visited him at his Hertfordshire home and spent over two hours with him. I had prepared a comprehensive list of questions about the early days of table tennis but, as many readers will appreciate, he was not to be pinned down and he ranged far and wide over many topics, Fred Perry's quickness of eye, Andreadis' backhand, relations between management and players, coaching methods, Chinese sporting diplomacy, with a diversion into film-making, particularly his friendship with Charlie Chaplin.

He was in fine form and his qualities as a raconteur were fully apparent, not least in his account of the recent tournament in which he played; he had, he said, "won only three points, all off my knuckles". When he did, apologetically, return to my questions I asked him whether table tennis would even exist now if it had not been for the initiative taken by Bill Pope and himself in the 1920's revival of the game. He replied that it was almost entirely a matter of luck and timing; few inventors in any field deserved any special credit, merely seizing the chance which came their way.

I challenged him rather strongly on his statement (in Table Tennis, 1936) that equipment for the game was first advertised by Ayres Ltd. in 1884. Might not the catalogue entry "Miniature Indoor Lawn Tennis Game" be a reference to indoor

lawn tennis played on the floor of the great country houses of the day? In the manner of the true scholar he weighed up all the evidence before concluding that this was indeed possible, even likely.

It is already well known that Ivor Montagu was distinguished in several, remarkably diverse

fields; he was film producer and critic, political figure, zoologist, author and linguist. Right up to his death his correspondence was burdensome but it is a mark of the man that he still found time to reply personally and at length to anyone (including schoolchildren) wanting information on the history of the

game.

Table Tennis News takes pleasure in reproducing the original page from the Illustrated Sporting and Dramatic News, December 18, 1926, with a caricature of the President. The page is the property of Gerald N. Gurney to whom we are indebted. Ed.

December 18, 1926

THE ILLUSTRATED SPORTING AND DRAMATIC NEWS

## HUNGARY TO THE FORE: "PING PONG" AT THE MEMORIAL HALL.



SOME TABLE TENNIS CARICATURES: THE INTERNATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP MEETING.

The nations were at grips last week at the Memorial Hall in Farringdon Street, where the International Table Tennis Championships were contested. Hungary captured the limelight decisively, the men's singles final being confined to representatives of that country, Dr. R. Jacobi beating Zoltan Mechlowits. The ladies' final was won by the Hungarian, Maria Von Mednyansky from Miss D. Gubbins, of Bridgend, while Hungary also won the team final against Austria. Such famous lawn tennis players as Dr. A. H. Fyzee, Mr. A. A. Fyzee and Baron Von Kehrling were among the competitors.

(Caricatured by

[POSTBAG]

SILLY QUESTION

To play or not to play? What a silly question because this is what the game is all about; or so you would think- but apparently not at the Kirklees Open this year!

Four of the seeds in the men's singles event failed to turn up - three of them didn't even have the courtesy to let anyone know that they weren't coming. It was said on the grapevine that one of them didn't turn up because he was off form and taking a rest. Isn't it a good job that tournament organisers don't take the same attitude? Otherwise one day the players will come to an event, only to find that the organising committee aren't there - because they felt off form.

To make matters worse, even players who are not in the higher echelons of the game failed to put in an appearance for group matches; or, having lost in a group in one event, decided not to play in the other events and went home. What a lack of consideration for their next opponents, who then had to sit around without a match until later rounds of their respective events. Again only a small number of the players who left bothered to tell the organisers. What a selfish attitude!

Consider this, that of thirty-two ladies in the ladies' doubles, only sixteen put in an appearance for the event; in addition to which another 'lady' who was in the hall withdrew for reasons best known to herself, and when asked to reconsider still refused to play - and this lady a national number one! Madam, really! And of the others well.....

And of the men, their doubles was not so badly affected percentage wise but still a considerable number of absentees with the same disastrous effect.

What would be said if the organisers withheld a comparative percentage of the prize fund?

There have been enough complaints in the past by players about inadequately organised tournaments, with matches going on late and finals late into the night. Well, here's one back by a tournament committee who had their event ravaged by players failing to turn up.

If players don't want to play, they should not enter; if they enter, they should honour their obligations.

Players must think that sponsors fall out of the sky and into the lap of table tennis. I assure you they do not.

Sponsors give their money to see top players, organisers arrange Class Two events in order to give other players a slice of the cake. Without sponsors, forget it! Try giving a sponsor a plausible explanation as to why there are so many empty tables, and so many seeds are missing. When all the time I was thinking that he was showing more interest than some of the players by just being there. Even worse, try it on a potential sponsor.

Come in, other sports! There could be some sponsorship for you, which was originally destined for table tennis; because it seems that a certain fraction of table tennis players don't want your money. If they do, they should prove it!

But, there! I almost forgot that there are still your precious ranking points to play for. Well, why not turn up and play for them? Or maybe you are frightened of losing ground if your form has slipped. Is it time for a penalty points system for those who enter and don't turn up without just cause?

B. W. WALKER  
Tournament Organiser  
Kirklees 2-Star  
1 Rooks Close.  
Wyke. Bradford.  
West Yorkshire.

ANY MORE FOR THE TITANIC?

I am always bemused to read in "Table Tennis News" the complacent bulletins for future progress emanating from the Ivory-Castle of ETTA HQ.

They read to me like bulletins from the Captain's room of the Titanic. More facilities for players in tournaments (?) Better seating arrangements for spectators (?) Big new sponsorship deals leading to more television coverage (?)

And all the time those who can see the icebergs ahead are abandoning the ship - casting off in droves. Some big long-established leagues are being decimated by the drop in membership, attendances at big events are plummeting, television coverage has all but ceased.

As John Prean says, keeps saying and I hope will keep saying, "disaster is dead ahead; the third ball kill is killing Table Tennis." But is there anyone out there listening?

So what is the answer? Very simple - just two quick and easy changes to the rules. But first, because any changes at all are always resisted by some people let us think of Tennis for a moment.

Just imagine that in Tennis singles the server can serve any-

where he likes. Also, let us imagine that the net is only 3 foot high. Now stop; close the eyes, and picture the sort of Tennis which would result.

Ah yes! The picture would be very similar to Table Tennis today would it not? Mostly unreturnable serves and if they are returned a quick kill across the low net finishes the rally- on the third ball. Yes folks, what is euphemistically termed the "third ball rally". And how many spectators would there have been at Wimbledon last year to watch that; even with names like McEnroe, Lendl, Chrissie Lloyd and Martina Navratilova? Yes madam you would have got your centre court seat at last with acres of room all round you!

Because what spectators want to see and what players want to enjoy are rallies. I will repeat that in capitals because nobody except John Prean seems to be listening

THE PUBLIC AND THE PLAYERS WANT RALLIES

Back then to the 64,000 dollar question; what are the answers to our immediate very desperate problems? The answers, I suggest, are absurdly obvious:

1. The server has to serve into the right hand court of the receiver.
2. The net must be raised back to 6½ inches.

I can well understand that a lot of people will say these solutions are too simple, too easy. Something much more complex, difficult and erudite must be thought up. My reply is - try them! Give them a pilot outing at an experimental tournament. That would not be too difficult. See what happens.

My guess is that we would have back in action a sport called Table Tennis. A sport that players, spectators, promoters and television are crying out for.

Is there still time for the Titanic to change course?

DICK HOPKINS  
12 Woodside Grove.  
Henbury.  
Bristol. Avon.

REPERCUSSIONS

If, "No man is an island, entire of itself", then it follows that no sport can exist in isolation to what is going on around it either. In previous letters I have pointed out that there is much scope for developing table tennis with the vast cohorts of the unemployed in these times of economic stagnation and decline. Unfortunately our sport, adversely affected by the nation's ills and beset with

internal difficulties, has largely ignored the challenge.

Two other current socio-political developments could have far reaching implications for table tennis. Firstly, if the miners' strike continues, and we have a long and severe winter this time or next, then the lights might, at a critical time, go out. Not only would this severely disrupt the playing season but could have repercussions on the kind of society we live in. For it would signify that the striking miners can 'win'. Whether that is a good thing depends on the individual's personal standpoint and sense of values. But I would hope that it is not judged according to whether one's evening's match is spoilt.

I wonder too, if the move towards capitalistic enterprise in Red China and the opening up of cultural boundaries could be damaging to table tennis there and hence, internationally. Maybe talented Chinese will increasingly be inclined to take up the more lucrative and prestigious sports of the West. Chinese domination and influence over the world table tennis scene could decline - to the detriment or enhancement of world standards and healthy competition?

Or perhaps table tennis will become more professionalised and commercialised. Whatever happens, I doubt that what is going on in China will have no effect. Something to think about. And if the world experiences nuclear or biochemical warfare, what future for table tennis then? Let us hope for a happy and peaceful New Year.

KEN MUHR  
23 York Road.  
Stony Stratford.  
Milton Keynes.  
Bucks.

BOUQUETS

Thank you Charles Church Developments Ltd., for a very generous sponsorship and making Table Tennis available on TV again.

Well done Ladbroke Dragonara (Hotels) for the Cleveland Junior International Open Championships and bringing much needed foreign competition for our Juniors.

Marvellous Table Tennis News in full colour covers, we are in line with other sports magazines. A nice start to a new season and a New Year.

Hans Soova  
Oakleigh Lodge.  
West Lane.  
Baildon. Shipley.  
West Yorkshire.

## A BRIDGE TOO FAR

Fiona Brown's comprehensive report on England v Hungary in County Durham is "spearheaded" by a suggestion that my fellow freelance journalist Richard Eaton was the only one brave enough to make the long journey.

I am prepared to travel to the ends of the earth to cover top-class table tennis as most readers will know and I have done just that on a number of occasions.

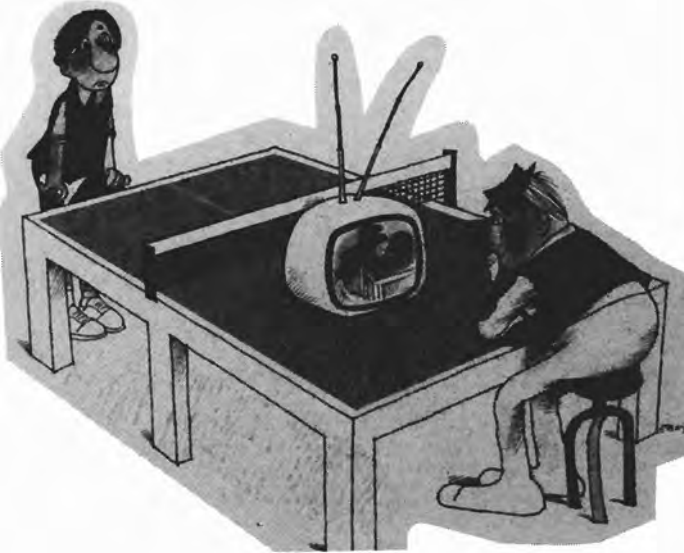
Fiona is the one who could qualify for a bravery award if she can persuade Fleet Street sports editors to despatch their correspondents as far as Crook, County Durham. The Daily Telegraph is happily, one of the front-runners in supporting our sport, but that one was just too far for a personal appearance.

ETTA policy in spreading European league matches round the country is fine but the Fleet Street sports editors will close ranks on an SOO-mile round journey for a one-night affair.

JOHN WOODFORD

7 Carroll House.  
53 Selwyn Road.  
Eastbourne.  
East Sussex.

## PRIVATE TUITION



By Budimir Vojinovic, Novi Sad, Yugoslavia

## TABLE TENNIS NEWS

Published each month from October to May. Postal subscriptions £6.50 for eight issues (U.K.) Europe (including Eire) £11.00, Overseas airmail £13.00.

Advertisements: Mrs. Christine Wilkes, English Table Tennis Association, 21 Claremont Hastings, East Sussex. TN34 1HF. 'Phone: Hastings (0424) 433121.

Subscriptions: Miss B. Davies, English Table Tennis Association, 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex. TN34 1HF. 'Phone: Hastings (0424) 433121.

Distribution: Mrs. E. Doreen Yates, 43 Knowsley Road. Smithills, Bolton, Lancs. BL1 6JH. 'Phone: Bolton (0204) 42223.

Editorial: Mr. George R. Yates, 43 Knowsley Road, Smithills, Bolton, Lancs. 'Phone: Bolton (0204) 42223.

## REVISED ENGLISH SENIOR RANKINGS

### COOKIE UP TO No.2.

Although Desmond Douglas remains way out in front as the country's No. 1 in the revised senior rankings, issued in December, Alan Cooke leaps from No. 5 to No. 2 displacing Graham Sandley who drops to No. 4.

John Hilton takes a huge stride, from No. 17 to No. 10 whilst his Lancashire colleague, Stephen Scowcroft, moves from No. 25 to No. 16 but Steve Mills has done even better in being promoted from No. 32 to No. 17 whilst Surrey's Glen Baker finds himself at No. 22 from No. 39.

Although the women's list remains unchanged in the top four positions Fiona Elliot moves up to No. 5 from being No. 9 in the previous list whilst Julie Revill and Michelle Hams come into the reckoning at Nos. 15 and 24 from not being listed previously. Revised rankings and points (previous position in brackets) are:-

| Men                         | Pts  |
|-----------------------------|------|
| 1 Desmond Douglas (Wa), (1) | 1368 |
| 2 Alan Cooke (Dy) (5)       | 844  |
| 3 Carl P,ean (iOW) (4)      | 750  |

|                                |     |
|--------------------------------|-----|
| 4 G'aham Sandley (Mi) (2)      | 718 |
| 5 David Wells (M) (6)          | 676 |
| 6 Philip B,adbury (Bu) (3)     | 615 |
| 7 Skylet And'ew (E) (7)        | 584 |
| 8 Nicky Mason (Sy) (9)         | 492 |
| 9 John Souter (Mi) (11)        | 472 |
| 10 John Hilton (La) (17)       | 414 |
| 11 And'ew Syed (Bk) (1 D)      | 392 |
| 12 Colin Wilson (Mi) (12)      | 391 |
| 13 David Dodd (K) (15)         | 378 |
| 14 Kenny Jackson (E) (8)       | 366 |
| 15 David 80" (Bk) (16)         | 354 |
| 16 Stephen Scowcroft (La) (25) | 350 |
| 17 Steve Mills (V) (32)        | 344 |
| 18 Nigel Eckersley (Ch) (14)   | 343 |
| 19 Max Crimmins (Sy) (13)      | 331 |
| 20 Carl Morgan (Wa) (20)       | 328 |
| 21 Andrew Wellman (Bk) (30)    | 318 |
| 22 Glen Bake' (Sy) (39)        | 316 |
| 23 Jimmy Stokes (Bk) (28)      | 308 |
| 24 Steven Turner (La) (29)     | 303 |
| 25 Kevin Satchell (Wi) (31)    | 298 |
| 26 Chris Rogers (Le) (18)      | 294 |
| 27 Andy Bellingham (St) (19)   | 293 |
| 28 Kevin Beadley (V) (34)      | 288 |
| 29 Michael Harper (Co) (50)    | 284 |
| 30 Alan Fletcher (V) (21)      | 280 |
| 31 Andy C,eed (Av) (27)        | 277 |
| 32 Stephen Moore (Sx) (22)     | 274 |
| 33 Richard Jermyn (Hel) (23)   | 274 |
| 34 Ma'k Mitchell (Mi) (24)     | 262 |
| 35 Ma'k Oakley (Sy) (43)       | 262 |
| 36 Keith Richardson (Ca) (59)  | 258 |
| 37 Barry Johnson (Wa) (41)     | 256 |
| 38 Duggie Johnson (Wa) (26)    | 250 |
| 39 Adrian Moo'e (Sx) (35)      | 244 |
| 40 Michael Hammond (Sy) (74)   | 244 |
| 41 Malcolm Green (Sp) (38)     | 238 |
| 42 Chu Van Que (Nd) (33)       | 235 |
| 43 Tony Taylor (Chi) (61)      | 232 |
| 44 Chris Bartram (K) (37)      | 214 |
| 45 Phil Smith (Sx) (51)        | 210 |
| 46 Philip Gunn (Wal) (45)      | 209 |
| 47 Matthew Syed (Bk) (56)      | 207 |
| 48 Joe Kennedy (K) (48)        | 206 |
| 49 David Newman (E) (54)       | 203 |
| 50 Lindsay Taylor (Cv) (42)    | 202 |
| 51 Ian Kenyon (K) (36)         | 192 |
| 52 Tony Clayton (Do) (44)      | 188 |

|                                 |     |
|---------------------------------|-----|
| 53 Shoun Browne (La) (60)       | 187 |
| 54 Ray Tilling (K) (92)         | 186 |
| 55 David Reeves (Bk) (40)       | 184 |
| 56 Stuart Palme, (Sk) (47)      | 182 |
| 57 Stephen Holloway (Sy) (73)   | 182 |
| 58 And'ew Dodd (K) (68)         | 180 |
| 59 John Dennison (E) (82)       | 179 |
| 60 Costos Papantoniou (Mi) (96) | 179 |
| 61 Brian Johns (Chi) (64)       | 178 |
| 62 Stephen Sharpe (V) (58)      | 176 |
| 63 Dave Constance (Do) (49)     | 173 |
| 64 Adrian Dixon (St) (151)      | 172 |
| 65 Anthony Penny (E) (65)       | 168 |
| 66 Les Wooding (Bd) (79)        | 168 |
| 67 David Tan (Mi) (57)          | 166 |
| 68 Paul Whiting (Dv) (114)      | 164 |
| 69 Gary Lambert (OY) (55)       | 162 |
| 70 Malcolm Francis (Sx) (101)   | 161 |
| 71 Gary Spencer (K) (46)        | 160 |
| 72 Ian Gunn (Wa) (125)          | 159 |
| 73 David Goode (Mi) (93)        | 157 |
| 74 Desmond Charley (E) (77)     | 155 |
| 75 Paul Amos (K) (1 09)         | 153 |
| 76 Matthew Shearer (Li) (95)    | 151 |
| 77 Rupert Bole (Sy) (99)        | 151 |
| 78 Graham Toole (Ha) (98)       | 150 |
| 79 Phil Bowen (La) (52)         | 148 |
| 80 Clive Bakewell (St) (87)     | 148 |
| 81 Steven George (Du) (72)      | 147 |
| 82 Andrew Rich (St) (76)        | 147 |
| 83 John Kitchener (Sk) (67)     | 146 |
| 84 G,aham Slack (Gs) (83)       | 146 |
| 85 Derek Schofield (Ch) (134)   | 146 |
| 86 John Bu,leton (Kl) (63)      | 145 |
| 87 Da'en Griffin (Gs) (133)     | 145 |
| 88 David Gannon (Lei) (71)      | 142 |
| 89 Richard Beckham (Kl) (85)    | 142 |
| 90 Jeff D,ew (E) (-)            | 141 |
| 91 Kevin Caldon (E) (158)       | 140 |
| 92 Neil Taylo, (Gs) (H)         | 137 |
| 93 Stephen Brunskill (Cv) (62)  | 135 |
| 94 Richard Venner (Sx) (80)     | 135 |
| 95 Robert Swift (Ca) (70)       | 134 |
| 96 Tony Sanderson (V) (78)      | 134 |
| 97 John Payne (Mi) (75)         | 133 |
| 98 Stephen Bertie (Wa) (-)      | 128 |
| 99 Pete, Taylo, (He) (66)       | 127 |
| 100 Mark Elliott (Dv) (104)     | 127 |

|                                  |     |
|----------------------------------|-----|
| 3 Ka'en Witt (Bkl) (3)           | 446 |
| 4 Lisa Bellinger (Bdl) (4)       | 438 |
| 5 Fiona Elliot (St) (8)          | 374 |
| 6 Jackie Bellinger (Bd) (5)      | 324 |
| 7 Mandy Sainsbury (Bk) (6)       | 308 |
| 8 Sarah Sandley (Mi) (10)        | 235 |
| 9 Jill Ha'is (St) (9)            | 225 |
| 10 Ka,en Smith (Le) (7)          | 218 |
| 11 Jean Parker (La) (13)         | 174 |
| 12 Helen Williams (Mi) (151)     | 167 |
| 13 Joanne Shaw (V) (11)          | 154 |
| 14 Susan Collier (Bk) (12)       | 151 |
| 15 Julie Revill (Le) (H)         | 148 |
| 16 Carol Rutle, (Dv) (19)        | 144 |
| 17 Claire Maisey (Wi) (38)       | 144 |
| 18 Mandy Reeves (Bk) (20)        | 132 |
| 19 Suzanne Hunt (li) (14)        | 130 |
| 20 Jill Powis (St) (18)          | 126 |
| 21 Helen Ba,dwell (He) (32)      | 121 |
| 22 Lisa Hayden (E) (17)          | 114 |
| 23 Angela Mitchell (Mi) (16)     | 113 |
| 24 Michelle Hams (Sy) (H)        | 112 |
| 25 Te,esa Moore (Sx) (29)        | 111 |
| 26 Helen Shields (V) (35)        | 110 |
| 27 Jane Borella (Sy) (22)        | 109 |
| 28 Jenny Collins (Bk) (31)       | 104 |
| 29 Elaine Saye, (E) (30)         | 104 |
| 30 Cheryl Buttery (Li) (26)      | 99  |
| 31 Karen Groves (We) (21)        | 95  |
| 32 Joanne Palmer (Co) (25)       | 90  |
| 33 Debbie Soothill (Cui) (37)    | 87  |
| 34 Mary Denbow (Ox) (24)         | 81  |
| 35 Melody Hill (V) (44)          | 81  |
| 36 Sand,a Peakman (Wa) (23)      | 80  |
| 37 Julie Dimmock (Bd) (41)       | 80  |
| 38 Cathy Ridgard (Ha) (36)       | 70  |
| 39 Nina Tsakarisianou (Gs) (27)  | 69  |
| 40 Elaine Short (OY) (H)         | 69  |
| 41 Rebecca Russe (Av) (28)       | 68  |
| 42 Gillian Sharp (Li) (34)       | 62  |
| 43 Lau,a Goldsmith (Mi) (39)     | 58  |
| 44 Lesley Broomhead (V) (-)      | 57  |
| 45 Ca,ol Spain (K) (33)          | 57  |
| 46 Do'een Schofield (Ch) (H)     | 54  |
| 47 Melonie Seaston (Y) (42)      | 49  |
| 48 G, Spindlow (Wa) (H)          | 49  |
| 49 Karen Burrows (Y) (40)        | 45  |
| 50 Julie McLe,n (V) (H)          | 44  |
| 51 Diane St Ledger (Wa) (-)      | 44  |
| 52 Amanda Hegarty (OY) (43)      | 43  |
| 53 Hilary Finch (Cal) (49)       | 42  |
| 54 Susan Butle' (OY) (H)         | 40  |
| 55 Iaryn Napier-Vallis (Bk) (48) | 39  |
| 56 Pauline Simpson (Ng) (H)      | 39  |
| 57 Deborah Simmonds (Sy) (45)    | 37  |
| 58 Susan Culbertson (Wa) (-)     | 37  |
| 59 Andrea Holt (La) (H)          | 37  |
| 60 Sally Weston (Sx) (46)        | 36  |