



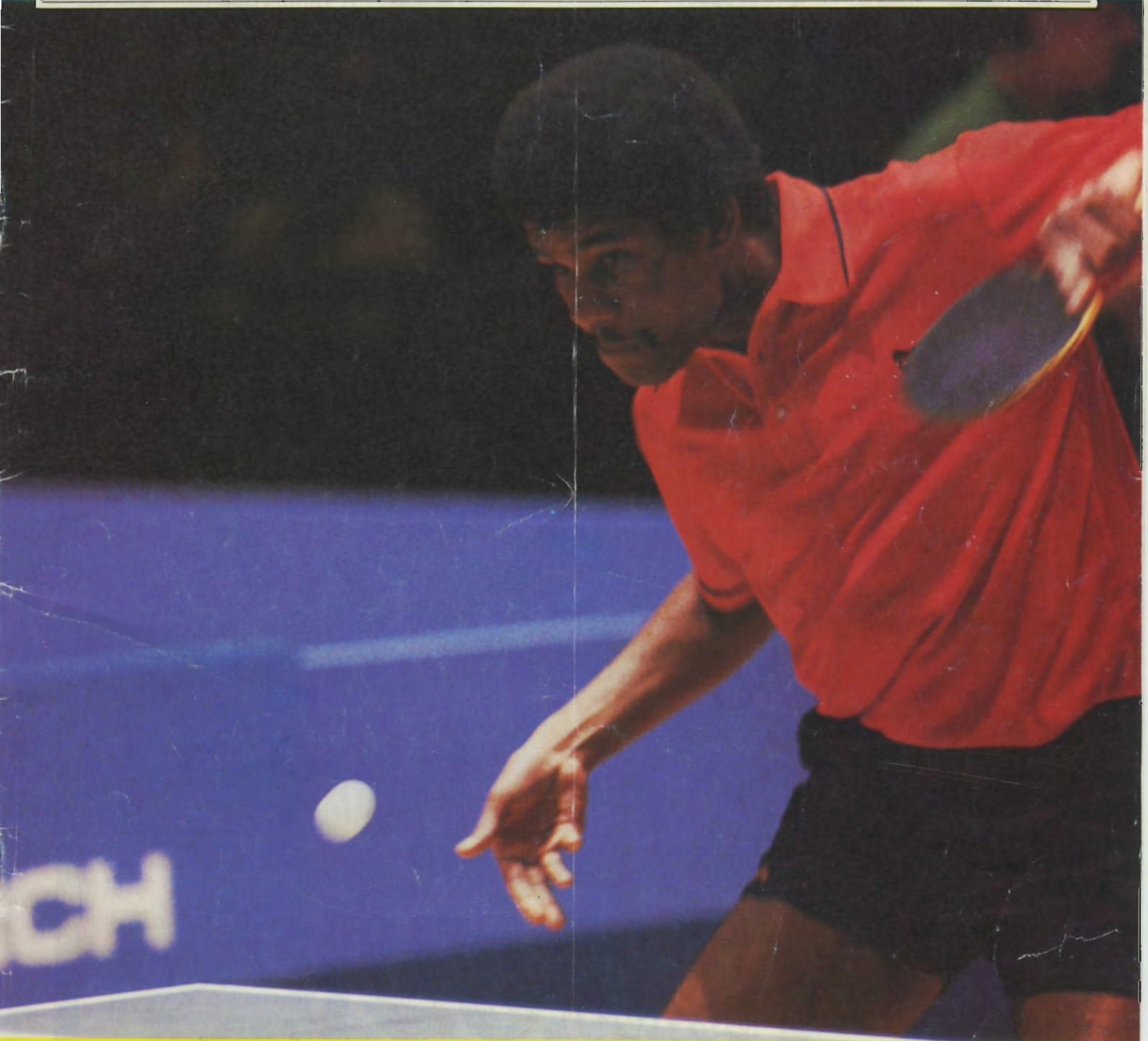
# TABLE TENNIS NEWS

OFFICIAL JOURNAL OF THE ENGLISH TABLE  
TENNIS ASSOCIATION

No. 150

March 1985

Price 60p



TOP OF THE TABLES  
FOR QUALITY AND PRICE

**John  
Jaques**

# ON THE INTERNATIONAL FRONT

By The Editor

FOR RUBBERS AND BLADES  
RING OR WRITE

## Rose Bank Sports

also for other T.T. equipment!  
clothing at Discount Prices

119 WITTON STREET  
NORTHWICH, CHESHIRE

Telephone: 0606-48989 (day)  
0978-760249 (after hours)

## POOR RELATIONS

The lure of the Deutschmark as proffered by Bad Hamm of the Federal German Bundesliga looks likely to tempt Carl Preat in the footsteps of Desmond Douglas although with the same proviso that England's claim on his services will take priority.

In the opposite direction. Douglas would appear all set to sever his connections with Borussia Dusseldorf thus giving English supporters more sightings of the Birmingham left-hander than hitherto.

But it would have been good for 3 and 2-Star open organisers to have had the pair of them in contention affording the probability of better sponsorship and spectator appeal.

Why, in the Federal Republic of Germany, there should be so much money on offer is difficult to comprehend when, in this country, so little is in evidence and so hard to obtain. It is not that the Deutscher Tisch-Tennis Bund puts any money into the Bundesliga - it does not - but these multi-sports clubs, the like of which we do not have here, seem to have the knack of generating finance of the highest order.

Granted we do have backers for certain of our Halex National League clubs but sponsorship in this respect amounts to peanuts when compared with that evidenced in the Bundesliga. And so it is in Sweden with the likes of Appelgren, Bengtsson, Carlsson, Lindh and Waldner who have all been tempted away as is the Polish ace, Andrzej Grubba, next season. It seems we are the poor relations.

## ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.  
President: M. Goldstein. O.B.E.  
**Chairman:** T. Blunn.  
Deputy Chairman: G. R. Yates.  
Hon. Treasurer: A. Drapkin.  
General Secretary: A. W. Shipley.  
Management Committee:  
(Vice Chairmen)  
P. Charters, C. J. Clemett,  
A. E. Ransome, N. K. Reeve,  
D. I. Whiteside



INCONCLUSIVE

England's 5-2 win at the expense of Federal Germany at the Mountbatten Centre, Portsmouth on Feb. 20 was in no way conclusive as to a retention of status in the Super Division of the European League. Granted they now have a one point advantage over the Netherlands, but should the Dutch team pull off another shock win at home to England in the final series of matches, as they did against Poland, then it will be England for the drop.

Such are now the rules for if two teams finish equal on points - as the Netherlands and England would if the Dutch were to win - then it is the result between the two teams that count. So s'-Gravendeel on March 6 will provide the answer and may the best team win.

It was a sterling performance on England's part at Portsmouth with Desmond Douglas happily now restored to Birmingham and England for next season - featuring in four of the home successes. In single combat he accounted for Ralf Wosik and Georg Böhm and shared in two doubles successes with Carl Preat and Alison Gordon the latter giving England a winning 4-1 lead.

But in the first two sets the victories had to be well earned particularly Preat's defeat of Böhm which must certainly count as a feather in the Isle of Wight boy's cap. Scores:-

D. Douglas bt R. Wosik 20, 12, 18;  
C. Preat bt G. Böhm 10, -18, 19;  
A. Gardonlast to A. Olschewski -19, -8;  
Douglas/Preat bt Bihm/Wosik 20, 12;  
Douglas/Gordon bt Böhm/Olschewski 20, 13;  
Douglas bt Böhm 20, -15, 15;  
Preat lost to Wosik 15, -16, -15.

Meantime the Netherlands, at home to Czechoslovakia in Nijkerk, were being seen off 6-1 Henk van Spanje claiming the only home success in the second set when he beat Vladislav Broda. But there was no Bettine Vriese-

koop in the Dutch team as I feel there will be in 's-Gravendeel.

Scores:-

R. Potton lost to J. Pansky -17, -18;  
H.v. Spanje bt V. Broda 22, 13;  
M. Kloppenburg lost to M. Hrachova -10, 17, -10;  
H.v. Spanje/R.V. Spanje lost to Broda/Pansky 16, -20, -10;  
H.v. Spanje/Kloppenburg lost to Pansky/Hrachova -11, -15;  
Potton lost to Broda -23, -19;  
H.v. Spanje lost to Pansky 18, -18, -11.

In Rzeszow, the once proud Hungarians were given a 7-0 thrashing by a full strength Polish team not one of the seven sets needing a deciding game.

Scores:-

L. Kucharski bt Z. Harezi 17, 4;  
A. Grubba bt Z. Kriston 18, 15;  
J. Szatko bt E. Urban 20, 19;  
Grubba/Kucharski bt Kriston/J. Takacs 15, 13;  
Kucharski/Szatko bt Takacs/Urban 8, 17;  
Kucharski bt Kriston 12, 8;  
Grubba bt Harezi 19, 14.

Sweden maintained their top position with a 6-1 home win against Yugoslavia in Visby where the one to escape them was the mixed doubles won by Zoran Kalinic and Branka Batinic against Ulf Carlsson and Marie Svenson. Scores:-

J. O. Waldner bt Z. Kalinic 1, 3;  
M. Appelgren bt B. Mesaros 12, 11;  
M. Svenson bt B. Saticic 18, -11, 17;  
Appelgren/U. Carlsson bt Kalinic/Mesaros 16, 18;  
Carlsson/Svensson lost to Kalinic/Batinic -16, -16;  
Waldner bt Mesaros 20, 18;  
Appelgren bt Kalinic 19, 19.

Y. Maas lost to B. Parietti -17, -15;  
C. Risch bt N. Oaviald 18, -17, 17;  
A. Hartmarin/Maas bt Campagnolle/Parietti 18, 20;  
Maas/Risch lost to Parietti/Daviaud -17, -15;  
Stebens lost to Parietti -19, -12;  
Maas lost to Campagnolle -14, -19.

Meantime in Aalesund, Italy achieved a like result away to Norway, who, following the tragic road accident which cost the life of Tone Folkesson and severe injuries to Erik Rasmussen, introduced Geirr Gustavsen and Kristin Hågen. But it was Tom Johansen who figured in the two home successes, beating Massimo Costantini in singles and partnering Miss Hagen to a mixed success over Silvio Pero and Marina Cergol. Giovanni Bisi was unbeaten for the Italian side winning both his singles and the men's doubles with Costantini. Scores:-

T. Johansen lost to G. Bisi -15, -16;  
G. Gustavsen lost to M. Costantini -18, -17;  
K. Hagen lost to A. Busnardo 14, -16, 4;  
Gustavsen/Johansen lost to Bisi/Costantini -11, -19;  
Johansen/Hagen bt S. Pero/M. Cergol 17, 16;  
Johansen bt Costantini 17, 21;  
Gustavsen lost to Bisi -13, -18.

Belgium, who brought about that shock defeat of Italy back in September, brought off their fourth win of the season in beating Denmark 4-3 on Feb. 6. Faltering only in the men's doubles they raced to a 4-1 lead in which

### TABLE

P	W	L	F	A	Pts.	
Sweden	6	5	1	28	14	5
Czechoslovakia	6	5	1	26	16	5
Poland	6	3	3	24	18	3
Hungary	6	3	3	21	21	3
Federal Germany	6	3	3	21	21	3
Yugoslavia	6	2	4	19	23	2
England	6	2	4	20	22	2
Netherlands	6	1	5	9	33	1

### Final Fixtures

Feb. 28 Federal Germany v Sweden (Lampertheim)  
Mar. 6 Netherlands v England ('s-Gravendeel)  
Yugoslavia v Hungary  
Czechoslovakia v Poland (Havlickuv Brod)

### FIRST DIVISION

The match France versus Italy, in Nimes on March 6, will be the one to settle the promotion issue from Division 1 of the European League for that will be the prize awaiting the winners.

France, unbeaten in their six matches to date, had a comparatively weak team out against Luxembourg yet maintained their winning ways with a 5-2 victory on Feb. 9. Both Bruno Parietti and Pierre Campagnolle rolled up the four men's singles to which Parietti and Nadine Daviaud added the mixed, the home wins, in Petange, coming from Carine Risch, in the women's singles, and from Guy Stebens and Yves Maas in the men's doubles. Scores:-

G. Stebens lost to P. Campagnolle 19, -11, -19;

Remo De Prophetis and the European cadet champion, Jean-Michel Saive, won their opening singles; Karen Bogaerts accounted for Charlotte Polk and the De Prophetis/Bogaerts combination beat Claus Pedersen and Polk. Scores:-

A. De Prophetis bt C. Pedersen 14, -14, 19;  
J.-M. Saive bt L. Hauth 21, 13;  
K. Bogaerts bt C. Polk 17, 16;  
De Prophetis/M. Lambot lost to Pedersen/Sandbæk 11, -18, 20,  
De Prophetis/Bogaerts bt Pedersen/Polk 18, -18, 17;  
De Prophetis lost to Hauth -20, -16;  
Saive lost to Pedersen -13, 17, -19.

Spain, still seeking their first win, went down to their sixth loss in Priego on Feb. 9 when beaten 5-2 by Austria whose first success this was, thanks to two wins for Erich Amplatz; one each from Dietmar Palmi and Barbara Wiltsche and the mixed won by

# International News

## Peter Eckel and Wiltzsche. Scores:-

J. M. Pales bt D. Palmi 15. 10;  
I. Caymellost to E. Amplatz 18. -15. -17;  
A. M. Godes lost to B. Wiltzsche -11. -6;  
CaymeV Pales bt Amplatz/P. Eckel 16. 17;  
Pales/Godes lost to EckerVWiltzsche -14. 15. -12;  
Pales lost to Amplatz -14. 17. -17;  
Caymel lost to Palmi -. 7. -13.

Late February results to hand confirm the all-important meeting between France and Italy in Nimes on March 6 for in the penultimate series France, away to Finland, won 4-3 whilst Italy in Castellana Grotte (Bari) 'white-washed' Spain 7-0. No matter now what the result between Luxembourg and Spain on March 9 both countries face the drop having regard to Austria'S 6-1 victory. Results:-

Austria 6 Luxembourg 1  
Finland 3 France 4  
Italy 7 Spain 0  
Norway 2 Denmark 5

TABLE						
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts.
France	7	7	0	37	12	7
Italy	7	6	1	34	15	6
Denmark	8	5	3	31	25	5
Finland	7	4	3	32	17	4
Norway	7	4	3	26	23	4
Belgium	7	4	3	23	26	4
Austria	7	2	5	21	28	2
Luxembourg	7	0	7	11	38	0
Spain	7	0	7	9	40	0

Concluding Fixtures	
March 6	France v Italy (Nimes)
March 9	Austria v Belgium (Amstetten)
	Finland v Norway (Turku)
	Luxembourg v Spain

## DIVISION 2

Bulgaria's 7-0 defeat of Scotland on Feb. 24 assures them of promotion to Division 1 no matter what the result of the two remaining matches which are: Scotland v Wales and Greece v Bulgaria.

TABLE						
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts.
Bulgaria	3	3	0	18	3	3
Wales	3	2	1	12	9	2
Greece	3	1	2	10	11	1
Scotland	3	1	2	7	14	1
Switzerland	4	1	3	9	19	1



## WOMEN'S GRAND PRIX

Following the Czech Open in Ostrava the points table now reads:-

1. Bettine Vriesekoop (HOL)	425
2. Maria Hrachova (TCH)	300
3. Zsuzsa Dlah (HUN)	275
4. Olga Neme. (FRG)	230
5. Valentina Papaya (URS)	175
6. Druks Batinic (YUG)	155
7. Fliura Bulatova (URS)	130
8. Gardana Perkucin (YUG)	90
9. Edit Urben (HUN)	90
10. Narine Antonian (URS)	80

11. Sonja Grefberg (FIN)	65
Gabriella Szabo (HUN)	65
13. Nadine Daviaud (FRA)	60
Marie Lindblad (SWE)	60
15. Elena Kovtun (URS)	50
16. Alice Pelikanova (TCH)	45
Susanne Wenzel (FRG)	45

The 8 players heading the points list plus 2 'wild cards' (from the ETTU and one from the Dutch host association) will contest the final tournament in Breda on May 19 when the minimum prize money will be:-

- 1st DM 8,000
- 2nd DM 5,000
- 3/4 DM 3,500
- 5/8 DM 2,000

## I.T.T.F. WORLD GRAND PRIX FOR MEN

Leading positions as at Feb. 19/85.

	Pta
1 Ieszek Kucharski (POL)	2400

Men's Doubles: Mazunov/Aozenberg  
Women's Doubles: Khasanova/Vetcherok  
Mixed Doubles: Mazunov/Antonian

## GREEK SECRETARY

Emmanuel Kolibadis has taken over from John Loucas as the Hon. General Secretary of Greek-Table Tennis Federation.

## SWISS PRESIDENT

Mr. Jürg Vonaesch has taken over the Presidency of the Swiss Association in succession to Mr. Urs Wymann. Mr. Vonaesch's address is Herrengrabenweg 48, CH-4054 Basle, Switzerland. 'Phones(0)061 5401 26(h)061 384085. Telegrams: Swistabten Bern, Telex: Basle 62 689.

The office and Headquarters of the N.Z. Table Tennis

Association Inc. is now located on the 4th floor, The Dominion Sports House, Mercer Street, Wellington. Correspondence and letters should still be addressed to P.O. Box867. Wellington. The new telephone No. is (Wellington) 731-146.

## SUSPENSIONS

The Australian TTA has suspended the following players: Steve Cowley (until 31.12.85), Nikki Cowley (until 30.6.85) and Laurie Skeates (until 30.6.85).

The Austrian Assn. has suspended indefinitely from all national and international play the following: Mrs. Evelyn Eckel and Mr. Manfred Gsdam (senior).



Jacques Secretin of France takes Russia's Valentina Popova to himself in the mixed doubles in Ostrava.

Photo by courtesy of Leonid Makarov, Moscow.



Alice Pelikanova the Czech girl making her way up the ladder.

Photo by Brian Webster, Dundee.

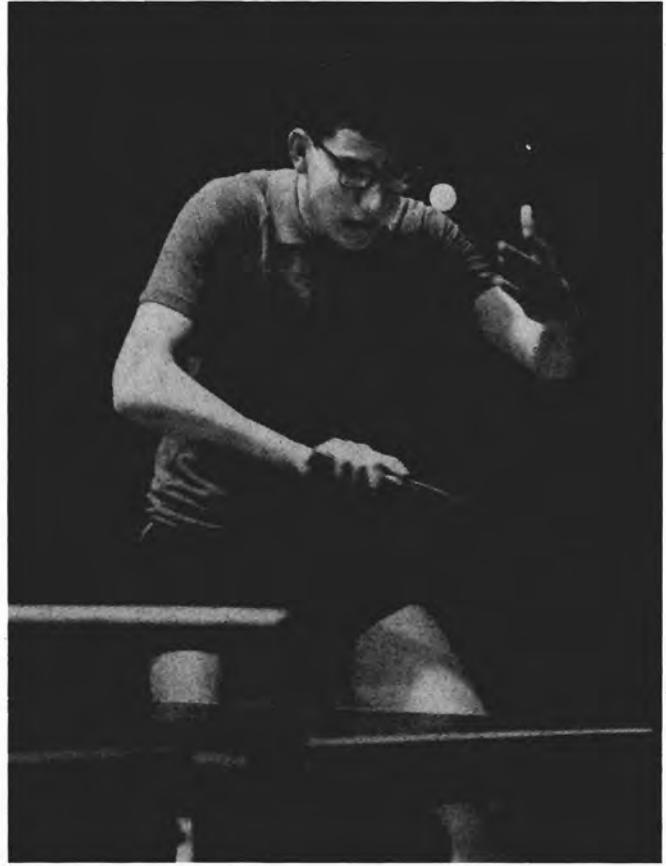
2 Jorgen Persson (SWE)	2350
3 Jiang Jialiang (CHN)	1800
Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE)	1800
5 Andrzej Grubba (POL)	1800
He Zhiwen (CHN)	1600
7 Stellan Bengtsson (SWE)	1500
Jacques Secretin (FRA)	1500
9 Patrick Birocheau (FRA)	1300
Desmond Douglas (ENG)	1300
Andrei Mazunov (URS)	1300
12 Georg Böhm (FRG)	1200
Erik Lindh (SWE)	1200
14 Wang Huiyuan (CHN)	1100
15 Zsolt Kristan (HUN)	1050
16 Fan Changmao (CHN)	1000
17 Jonny Akesson (SWE)	900
Mikael Appelgren (SWE)	900
Hui Jun (CHN)	900
20 Milan Grman (TCH)	850
21 Ulf Carlsson (SWE)	800
Tibor Klampar	800
24 Oragutin Surbek (YUG)	800
Tong Vi (CHN)	750
25 Ulf Bengtsson (SWE)	700
Jonas Berner (SWE)	700
Chen Longcan (CHN)	700
Ilie Lupulescu (YUG)	700
Jörg Roskopf (FRG)	700
30 Patrick Aenverse (FAA)	650

## SOVIET CHAMPIONSHIPS 1985

Men	Women
1 Dvorak	1 Oulatoya
2 Solopov	2 Vetcherok
3 Aozenberg	3 Popova
4 Mazunov	4 Javorovskaja
5 Sheytchenko	5 Zacharian



Desmond Douglas



Carl Prean

IN ACTION AT POMPEY

Photos by Stephen Line, Shoreham-by-Sea.



Poland's Andrzej Grubba, a non-entrant in the Czech Open but very much in evidence against Hungary in the Super Division of the European League.  
Photo by Ladislav Perenyi, Dusseldorf.

# World Ratings/World Championship Team Draws

## REVISED WORLD CLASSIFICATIONS

China's Jiang Jialiang takes over as the World No. 1 man from his compatriot Cai Zhenhua in the revised classification lists issued by the ITTF on Feb. 10/85 but Cao Yanhua, the defending world title holder, retains her No. 1 position over four other Chinese in the women's list.

If there were to be a World Top 12 no less than 8 men and 8 women from the People's Republic of China would line up with Europe's Andrzej Grubba, Jan-Ove Waldner, Mikael Appelgren and Kiyoshi Saito of Japan for the men and Yang Young Ja of the Republic of Korea together with Bettine Vriesekoop, Marie Hrachova and Valentina Popova representing Europe's women!

Newcomers to the extended lists are (men), Teng Yi (CHN) - making a comeback - Jorgen Persson (SWE) and Lie Gun Sang (PRK) in the Top 40 and Olga Nemes (FRG), Xu Jing (CHN), Li Bun Hui (PRK) and Oi Baohua (CHN) (women).

England's Desmond Douglas retains his 18th position but Carl Prean is dropped from No. 48 to No. 54. On the distaff side Alison Gordon comes in, at No. 58 one place in front of Karen Witt who has been demoted from No. 49 to No. 59. The revised classifications (previous position in brackets) are:-.

- Men
- Jiang Jialiang (CHN) (2)
  - Xie Saikie (CHN) (3)
  - Wang Huiyuan (CHN) (5)
  - Andrzej Grubba (POL) (7)
  - Cai Zhenhua (CHN) (1)
  - Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE) (4)
  - Mikael Appelgren (SWE) (6)
  - Fan Changmao (CHN) (10)
  - Kiyoshi Saito (JPN) (8)
  - He Zhiwen (CHN) (14)
  - Hui Jun (CHN) (16)
  - Chen Longcan (CHN) (30)
  - Jacques Secretin (FRA) (12)
  - Erik Lindh (SWE) (11)
  - Ulf Bengtsson (SWE) (9)
  - Teng Yi (-)
  - Dragutin Surbek (YUG) (17)
  - Desmond Douglas (ENG) (18)
  - Chen Zinhua (CHN) (13)
  - Jindrich Pansky (TCH) (21)
  - Kim Wan (KOR) (36)
  - Cho Yong Ho (PRK) (23)
  - Tibor Klampar (HUN) (22)
  - Andrei Mazunov (URS) (26)
  - Kim Ki Taek (PRK) (19)
  - Leszek Kucharski (POL) (31)
  - Zoran Kalinic (YUG) (15)
  - Eric Boggan (USA) (40)
  - Seiji Ono (JPN) (20)
  - Zsolt Kriston (HUN) (29)
  - Patrick Birocheau (FRA) (25)
  - Jorgen Persson (SWE) (-)
  - Ulf Carlsson (SWE) (24)
  - Hong Chol (PRK) (37)
  - Cho Jong Chol (PRK) (41)
  - Vladislav Broda (TCH) (35)
  - Chiu Man Kuen (HKG) (34)
  - Georg Bohm (FRG) (44)
  - Li Gun Sang (PRK) (-)
  - Park Lee Hee (KOR) (28)
  - Josef Dvoracek (TCH) (39)
  - Wu Wen-Chia (TPE) (-)
  - Jia Ning (CHN) (47)
  - Patrick Renverse (FRA) (45)
  - Gabor Gergely (HUN) (42)
  - Igor Solopov (URS) (-)
  - Milan Orlovski (TCH) (32)
  - Kim Young (KOR) (-)
  - Cheng Yinghua (CHN) (38)
  - Ju-zo Nukazuka (JPN) (49)
  - Atanda Musa (NIG) (-)

- Moroslav Broda (TCH) (50)
- Wang Baojing (CHN) (40)
- Carl Prean (ENG) (48)
- Hiroyuki Abe (JPN) (43)
- Jonny Akesson (SWE) (-)
- Bela Mesaros (YUG) (-)
- Istvan Jonyer (HUN) (33)
- Stefan Dryszel (POL) (-)
- Norio Takashima (JPN) (46)
- Stellan Bengtsson (SWE) (-)
- Henk van Spanje (HOL) (-)
- An Hae Jung (KOR) (-)
- Takehiro Watanabe (JPN) (-)
- Masao Shimizu (JPN) (-)
- Danny Seemiler (USA) (-)
- Igor Podnosov (URS) (-)
- Milan Grman (TCH) (-)
- Arif Khan (PAK) (-)
- Wilfried Lieck (FRG) (-)
- Narine Antonian (URS) (29)
- An Hae Sok (KOR) (16)
- Chen Lili (CHN) (39)
- Yoon Kyung Mi (KOR) (23)
- Xu Jing (CHN) (-)
- Gordana Perkucin (YUG) (30)
- Edit Urban (HUN) (26)
- Yoshiko Shimauchi (JPN) (32)
- Emiko Kanda (JPN) (18)
- Kayoko Kawahigashi (JPN) (31)
- Li Bun Hui (PRK) (-)
- Tian Jing (CHN) (19)
- Li So Hung (HKG) (24)
- Shen Jianping (CHN) (22)
- Qi Baohua (CHN) (-)
- Mika Hoshino (JPN) (33)
- Kirsten Kruger (FRG) (27)
- Pang Chun Dok (PRK) (40)
- Cho Yong Hui (PRK) (46)
- Marie Alboiu (ROM) (45)
- Shin Dook Hwa (KOR) (34)
- Rie Wada (JPN) (28)
- Li Huifeng (CHN) (25)
- Susanne Wenzel (FRG) (37)
- Anita Zacharian (LIR) (41)
- Lee Soo Ja (KOR) (-)
- Mok Ka Sha (HKG) (38)
- Chang Yong Ok (PRK) (36)
- Pak Song Hyang (PRK) (-)
- Han Hye Song (PRK) (-)
- Mirjam Kloppenburg (HOL) (44)
- Brigitte Thiriet (FRA) (48)
- Sonja Grefberg (FIN) (47)
- Kim Sook Hee (KOR) (50)
- Dana Guergueltcheva (BUL) (-)
- Inna Kovalenko (URS) (42)
- Tomoko Tamura (JPN) (43)
- Alison Gordon (ENG) (-)
- Karen Witt (ENG) (49)
- Jolanta Szatko (POL) (-)
- Alice Pelikanova (TCH) (-)
- Lee Mi Woo (KOR) (-)
- Nadine Daviaud (FRA) (-)
- Park Mal Yun (KOR) (-)

### Women

- Cao Yanhua (CHN) (1)
- Dai Lili (CHN) (2)
- Geng Lijuan (CHN) (11)
- Qi Baoxiang (CHN) (6)
- Tong Ling (CHN) (3)
- Yang Young Ja (KOR) (4)
- Bettine Vriesekoop (HOL) (13)
- Marie Hrachova (TCH) (9)
- Ni Xialian (CHN) (7)
- He Zhili (CHN) (35)
- Jiao Zhimin (CHN) (5)
- Valentina Popova (URS) (8)
- Zsuzsa Olah (HUN) (15)
- Filura Bulatova (URA) (12)
- Blanka Batinic (YUG) (21)
- Fumiko Shinpo (JPN) (10)
- Kim Gyong Sun (PRK) (14)
- Gabriella Szabo (HUN) (17)
- Marie Lindblad (SWE) (20)
- Olga Nemes (FRG) (-)

## DRAW

### 38th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS - TEAM EVENTS

#### SWAYTHLING CUP

#### MEN

Category 1		Category 2	
A	B	C	D
China	Sweden	FR Germany	USSR
Hungary	England	Norway	Nigeria
DPR Korea	Japan	Finland	Indonesia
Korea R	France	Netherlands	Australia
Czechoslovakia	Yugoslavia	Scotland	Israel
Poland	Italy	Pakistan	Austria
USA	Denmark	Switzerland	Wales
Hong Kong	India	Belgium	Brazil
		Chinese Taipei	Romania

#### Category 3

E	F	G	H
Luxembourg	Malaysia	Egypt	Singapore
Yemen AR	New Zealand	Canada	Spain
Malta	Saudi Arabia	Guatemala	Venezuela
Libya	Iceland	Colombia	Lebanon
Bulgaria	Zimbabwe	Chile	Bermuda
Curacao	Ecuador	Costa Rica	Cyprus
Ireland	Jersey	Greece	Faroe Islands
Papua New Guinea	Palestine	Peru	Portugal
Turkey			Sri Lanka

#### CORBILLO CUP

#### Women

Category 1		Category 2	
A	B	C	D
Japan	China	Austria	Finland
DPR Korea	USSR	USA	Poland
Czechoslovakia	Korea R	Indonesia	Canada
Netherlands	England	New Zealand	Denmark
FR Germany	Hungary	India	Singapore
Romania	Sweden	Australia	Luxembourg
France	Yugoslavia	Switzerland	Malaysia
Hong Kong	Belgium		Chinese Taipei

#### Category 3

E	F	G	H
Norway	Ireland	Spain	Italy
Lebanon	Colombia	Israel	Scotland
Zimbabwe	Venezuela	Bulgaria	Brazil
Malta	Greece	Iceland	Jersey
Nigeria	Portugal	Peru	Sri Lanka
Turkey	Wales		

## INTERNATIONAL CLUB HARD BAT OPEN

### HENRY WINS FOR THIRD TIME

In a very exciting and enjoyable day of table tennis at Barnet, on Feb. 3, Henry Buist was too powerful on the backhand side for Laurie Landry in a fast moving final. Landry had got the better of holder for two years, Stuart Gibbs, in a splendid semi which was reminiscent of some of the top class games played 25 years ago.

One of the favourites, Derek Schofield, found the changing of bats rather too awkward as he was well beaten by John Burleton, a former finalist. In fact all four semi-finalists had appeared in finals of the singles before.

Mary Symes retained her women's singles title from a fairly low entry. It really would be nice to see more entries' Buist got the doubles title too and Schofield went back north with the mixed title which he won with Paula Rogers.

Thanks to a sponsorship arrangement with the Barnet TT Centre, where the tournament took place, the winners of the men's singles and women's singles were able to give £75 and £25 respectively upwards expenses of juniors to take part in the English Junior Open event.

### Results:-

MS: g-rs:  
S. Gibbs (E) bt D. Finlayson (E) 13, 15;  
L. Landry (Mi) bt R. Bhalla (Sy) 17, 14;  
H. Buist (K) bt J. Kennedy (K) -22, 10, 12;  
J. Burleton (K) bt D. Schofield (Ch) 14, 13.

s-fs:  
Landry bt Gibbs 14, 20;  
Buist bt Burleton 16, 10;  
Final: BU1ST bt Landry 12, 11.

WS:  
s-fs:  
M. Symes (Mi) bt G. Squier (E) 12, 13;  
G. Larking (E) bt L. Moscrop (Mi) 12, 17.  
Final: SYMES bt Larking 11, 19.

MD:  
s-fs:  
Buist/A. Lush bt Gibbs/F. Lockwood (E) 10, -20, 8;  
Burleton/Kennedy bt J. Payne (Mi)/D. Somers (He) -19, 13, 17;  
Final: BU1ST/LUSH bt Burleton/Kennedy 17, -15, 18.  
WD: Final:

MOSCROP/SYMES bt Larking/P. Rogers (E) 18, 10.  
XD: s-fs:  
Kennedy/A. Willis (E) bt Landry/Symes -16, 18, 18;  
Schofield/Rogers bt Gibbs/Squier 17, -7, 16.  
Final: SCHOFIELD/ROGERS bt Kennedy/Willis -13, 13, 17.

MS Consolation:  
Payne bt S. Willis (E) 14, 17.  
WS Consolation:  
Rogers bt P. Lauder (E) 17, 19.



TENNIS DE TAULA

Bettine Vriesekoop of the Netherlands, last a winner in 1982, in Nantes, laid claim to being crowned "Queen of Europe" by topping the women's selection of the Europe Top 12 tournament, played in the Palau Municipal d'Esports, Barcelona over the period Feb 1/3, 1985, without the loss of a single set.

And, in keeping with his recent run of impressive results, Poland's Andrzej Grubba, despite losses to Jindrich Pansky of Czechoslovakia and Erik Lindh of Sweden, topped the men's section.

No less than five players completed the course with a return of 7 wins against 4 losses in the men's section with England's Desmond Douglas losing out on the countback of sets won to sets lost. But it would have been No.2 spot for Des had he but won one more set arid it could have been against Grubba after the Birmingham left-hander had come back from a 2-game deficit to level only to lose -18 in the fifth.

But it was Pansky who claimed the runner-up position and with wins over Grubba, Zoran Kalinic, Jan-Ove Waldner, Mikael Appelgren, Douglas, Andrei Mazunov and reigning world champion, Ulf Bengtsson he deserved it. Bengtsson, the hero in Moscow, could only account for his compatriot, Lindh, and Leszek Kucharski of Poland to finish twelfth and last. What a reversal of fortune!

On the distaff side Bettine Vriesekoop shed but two games-Flirua Bulatova of the Soviet Union and Branka Batinic of Yugoslavia - but her set against Batinic was a joy to behold, the Yugoslav's final eighth position hardly doing her justice.

European champion, Valentina Popova, failed to find her Moscow form whilst Olga Nemes, now of the Federal Republic of Germany, equated with Zsuzsa Olah of Hungary and Marie Hrachova of Czechoslovakia with 8 wins against 3 losses but finished fourth on countback. Olga's hardest set was against her new compatriot, Kirsten Kruger, in the very first round, winning 20-20 in the third.

Miss Kruger came in following the withdrawal of injured Marie Linblad of Sweden which was

# IIQUEEN OF EUR-OPE"

By George Yates

also the reason for the Leszek Kucharski of Poland taking the place of Hungary's Tibor Klampar.

Nobody could deny the, success of the tournament which had the blessing of Juan Antonio Samaranch, President of the International Olympic Committee - Barcelona being his home city - and Pasqual Maragall i Mira, the Lord Mayor.

All made us more than welcome including Javier Quintano Manoz, President of the Spanish Federation and Joan Maria Tarruella i Manazanares, President of the Catalana Federation, the two bodies charged with the undertaking of the tournament, not forgetting Lluís Furnells i Abaunz, the General Secretary of the event.

Lluís even organised the weather which reached 20C as against the -20 left behind by some of the players.

Men  
Round 1  
J. Secretin (FA) bt J. Pansky (TCH) -19, 20, 16, -18, 11;  
A. Mazunov (URS) bt J.-O. Waldner (SWE) -18, 16, -15, 14, 17;  
U. Bengtsson (SWE) bt E. Lindh (SWE) 3, 22, -11, 20;  
M. Appelgren (SWE) bt D. Douglas (ENG) 7, 19, 16;  
A. Grubba (POL) bt L. Kucharski (POL) 19, 18, -17, 17;  
D. Surbek (YUG) bt Z. Kalinic (YUG) -15, -21, 15, 20, 10.

Round 2  
Waldner bt Lindh -21, -12, 19, 21, 15;  
Appelgren bt Bengtsson 22, 14, 14;  
Kalinic bt Kucharski 19, 22, -19, 18;  
Secretin bt Surbek 16, 18, -15, -19, 15;  
Douglas bt Mazunov 13, 13, 12;  
Pansky bt Grubba 17, 20, 17.

Round 3  
Grubba bt Kalinic 17, 10 19;  
Douglas bt Lindh 16, 18, 14;  
Appelgren bt Mazunov 13, 18, 14;  
Waldner bt Bengtsson 18, 10, -18, 17;  
Surbek bt Pansky 19, 18, -16, 11;  
Secretin bt Kucharski 14, 19, -20, 6.

Round 4  
Appelgren bt Lindh 11, -20, 15, -18, 14;  
Kucharski bt Pansky 17, -11, 20, 13;  
Waldner bt Douglas 19, -16, -16, 16, 14;  
Grubba bt Surbek -16, -26, 15, 15, 20;  
Secretin bt Kalinic -14, -21, 8, 9, 10;  
Mazunov bt Bengtsson 13, 25, 14.

Round 5  
Douglas bt Bengtsson 10, 18, 18;  
Appelgren bt Waldner 21, 17, 16;  
Grubba bt Secretin 14, 14, 10;  
Mazunov bt Lindh 23, -9, -17, 16, 8;  
Pansky bt Kalinic 19, 17, 20;  
Kucharski bt Surbek 15, 14, 14.

Round 6  
Appelgren bt Kalinic 19, 19, 17;  
Pansky bt Waldner 11, 21, -19, -17, 15;  
Bengtsson bt Kucharski 19, 20, 15;  
Douglas bt Surbek 18, 15, 16;  
Secretin bt Mazunov -17, 17, 13, -14, 13;  
Lindh bt Grubba 19, -21, -18, 17, 16.

Round 7  
Grubba bt Bengtsson -19, 22, 16, -16, 23;  
Waldner bt Surbek 17, 16, 14;  
Kucharski bt Mazunov 17, 14, -17, 15;  
Lindh bt Secretin 19, 17, 15;  
Douglas bt Kalinic 20, 19, 18;  
Pansky bt Appelgren -21, 16, 19, 8.

Round 8  
Secretin bt Bengtsson -18, 11, 13, 19;  
Pansky bt Douglas 14, 14, -17, 22;

Waldner bt Kalinic 16, -19, 16, 11;  
Grubba bt Mazunov 15, 18, 16;  
Surbek bt Appelgren -14, 20, 15, 19;  
Lindh bt Kucharski -13, 16, 16, 11.

Round 9  
Kalinic bt Mazunov 19, 19, -20, 19;  
Grubba bt Douglas 6, 14, -15, -20, 18;  
Surbek bt Bengtsson 12, 11, -18, 11;  
Appelgren bt Kucharski 12, -14, 15, 17;  
Lindh bt Pansky 9, 18, 20;  
Waldner bt Secretin 12, 12, -19, 17.

Round 10  
Kalinic bt Bengtsson 11, -12, 13, 18;  
Surbek bt Lindh 24, 18, 17;  
Grubba bt Waldner 16, -15, 13, 6;  
Secretin bt Appelgren 19, 14, -15, 20;  
Douglas bt Kucharski 19, -12, 8, 9;  
Pansky bt Mazunov -18, -17, 12, 10, 17.

Round 11  
Waldner bt Kucharski 17, 18, -19, -14, 15;  
Pansky bt Bengtsson 18, -9, -17, 21, 20;  
Lindh bt Kalinic 13, -17, 11, 20;  
Grubba bt Appelgren 14, 16, 6;  
Douglas bt Secretin 19, 20, -19, 11;  
Mazunov bt Surbek -10, 14, -17, 9, 15.

## FINAL PLACINGS

		P	W	L	F	A	F	A	Games	Points
1	Andrzej Grubba (POL)	11	9	2	29	14	857	739		
*2	Jindrich Pansky (TCH)	11	7	4	25	20	860	828		
*3	Mikael Appelgren (SWE)	11	7	4	24	15	749	698		
*4	Jacques Secretin (FRA)	11	7	4	23	23	855	826		
*5	Jan-ave Waldner (SWE)	11	7	4	26	21	885	861		
*6	Desmond Douglas (ENG)	11	7	4	26	14	758	695		
7	Dragutin Surbek (YUG)	11	5	6	21	23	815	829		
8	Erik Lindh (SWE)	11	5	6	22	22	821	822		
9	Andrei Mazunov (URS)	11	4	7	18	27	792	854		
10	Zoran Kalinic (YUG)	11	3	8	15	27	746	837		
11	Leszek Kucharski (POL)	11	3	8	17	26	766	817		
12	Ulf Bengtsson (SWE)	11	2	9	14	28	733	831		

## Sets

	Sets	Games
Pansky	3-1	Appelgren
Appelgren	2-2	Secretin
Secretin	2-2	Waldner
Waldner	2-2	
Douglas	1-3	

## Women

Round 1  
Z. Olah (HUN) bt E. Urban (HUN) 20, -17, 17;  
M. Hrachova (TCH) bt G. Szabo (HUN) 22, 14;  
B. Batinic (YUG) bt G. Perkucin (YUG) 18, 13;  
B. Vriesekoop (HOI) bt F. Bulatova (URS) -15, 16, 14;  
V. Popova (URS) bt N. Antonian (URS) -18, 15, 12;  
O. Nemes (FRG) bt K. Kruger (FRG) 21, -19, 20.

Round 2  
Popova bt Kruger 20, -16, 17;  
Olah bt Perkucin 14, 7;  
Bulatova bt Antonian -17, 13, 18;  
Hrachova bt Batinic 13, 13;  
Vriesekoop bt Nemes 16, 14;  
Szabo bt Urban 20, 12.

Round 3  
Nemes bt Antonian 14, -16, 19;  
Vriesekoop bt Kruger 19, 18;  
Hrachova bt Perkucin 23, 14;  
Olah bt Szabo 12, 13;  
Batinic bt Urban 18, 20;  
Bulatova bt Popova 15, -16, 11.

## FINAL PLACINGS

		P	W	L	F	A	F	A	Games	Points
1	Bettine Vriesekoop (HOI)	11	11	0	22	2	496	381		
2	Zsuzsa Olah (HUN)	11	8	3	18	9	495	443		
3	Marie Hrachova (TCH)	11	8	3	17	7	468	416		
4	Olga Nemes (FRG)	11	8	3	17	10	542	457		
5	Flirua Bulatova (URS)	11	6	5	16	14	576	529		
6	Valentina Popova	11	5	6	12	15	482	502		
7	Narine Antonian (URS)	11	5	6	13	13	469	470		
8	Branka Batinic (YUG)	11	4	7	9	15	410	479		
9	Gordana Perkucin (YUG)	11	3	8	7	19	427	532		
10	Edit Urban (HUN)	11	3	8	8	16	440	472		
11	Kirsten Kruger (FRG)	11	3	8	10	16	486	508		
12	Gabriella Szabo (HUN)	11	2	9	6	19	408	510		

Round 4  
Batinic bt Szabo 16, -18, 17;  
Olah bt Hrachova 19, 17;  
Kruger bt Antonian 15, 16;  
Vriesekoop bt Popova 15, 16;  
Nemes bt Bulatova 17, -18, 21;  
Perkucin bt Urban -11, 19, 22.

Round 5  
Bulatova bt Kruger 10, 13;  
Popova bt Nemes -13, 16, 18;  
Hrachova bt Urban 14, 15;  
Szabo bt Perkucin 16, -14, 18;  
Olah bt Batinic 11, 4;  
Vriesekoop bt Antonian 18, 17.

Round 6  
Vriesekoop bt Urban 21, 16;  
Nemes bt Perkucin 11, 14;  
Kruger bt Batinic 18, 21;  
Bulatova bt Szabo -23, 5, 13;  
Hrachova bt Popova -11, 9, 12;  
Antonian bt Olah 11, -14, 10;

Round 7  
Olah bt Kruger 14, -13, 16;  
Nemes bt Szabo 12, 16;  
Batinic bt Popova 20, 22;  
Hrachova bt Antonian 12, 12;  
Urban bt Bulatova 18, 16;  
Vriesekoop bt Perkucin 14, 15.

Round 8  
Hrachova bt Kruger 14, 19;  
Perkucin bt Bulatova -16, 19, 16;  
Nemes bt Urban 13, 13;  
Olah bt Popova 18, 12;  
Vriesekoop bt Szabo 14, 20;  
Antonian bt Batinic 20, 19.

# Czechoslovak Open

## CZECHOSLOVAK OPEN

ENCORE FOR BETTINE AND LESZEK

By George R. Yates

Just as in Rotterdam in the Phipps Dutch Open Leszek Kucharski and Bettine Vriesekoop landed the two singles titles in Ostrava in the Czech Open played over the period Feb. 14/17, 1985 with final victories over Jan-Ove Waldner and Marie Hrachova respectively.

And, in yet another repeat performance, Erik Lindh and Marie Lindblad took the mixed title in finally beating Jindrich Pansky and Hrachova.

But in the two other doubles events it was the Republic of Korea's Kim Ki. Taek and Kim Wan who beat Patrick Birocheau and Jacques Secretin in the men's and the Republic's Yang Young Ja and Yoon Hyung Mi who beat Hrachova/Vriesekoop in the women's.

In the team events Sweden beat Czechoslovakia 'A' 3-0 in the men's final and the Soviet Union accounted for Czechoslovakia 'A' by a 3-1 margin in the women's final.

Graham Sandley and Skylet Andrew carried England's flag in the men's team event but, after a first round bye, succumbed to Yugoslavia 3-0 in the second round. Our women, Joy Grundy and Karen Witt began with a 3-0 win over Poland but were subsequently beaten 3-1 by Czechoslovakia 'A'.

Both Sandley and Andrew fell in the first round of the men's singles, the former beaten by Eric Boggan (9, 13, 12) and the latter by Mikael Appelgren (-19, 17, 15, 18). Alan Cooke, our other male representative, began

with a win over Jan Harkamp of Denmark (15, 19, 16) but was then beaten by the host nation's Jindrich Pansky (19, -15, -14, -16).

Both Joy and Karen had first round successes in beating, respectively, Zatkova (TCH) (-12, 16, 12, 17) and Urbanovici (RO-M) (17,-9,11). Subsequently Joy went on to beat the Hungarian junior Krisztina Nagy (-14, 19, 15, 17) but Karen was taken out by Hungary's Csilla Batorii who won 16, 13, -7, 7!

Joy, at the last 16 stage, put up a brave fight but fell to Hrachova, beaten 13, 16 and 20. In the men's doubles Cooke and Sandley had a win over the Federal Germans, Klein and Roskopf but then fell to Milan Orlovski and Pansky. Andrew, paired with Lee Jung Hak (KOR) failed to qualify when beaten by the Canadians Ng and Nguyen.

Joy and Karen in the women's doubles had wins over Austria's Gropper/Wiltsche and the host nation's Kocova/Pelikanova before losing out to the Russians Larina/Popova in the quarter-finals.

For the record, Andrzej Grubba sat this one out!

Poland's Stefan Dryszel and Calinska put paid to Graham and Joy in the mixed with their compatriots Piotr Molanda and Stelmach performing likewise to eliminate Alan and Karen. Not a trip to shout about from England's point of view. Results:-

Men's Team:  
Round 1  
Czechoslovakia 'B' 3 Bulgaria 0  
R. of Korea 3 Romania 0

Yugoslavia 3 German D. R. 0  
Federal Germany 3 Greece 0  
Soviet Union 3 Austria 0  
Round 2  
Sweden 3 Czechoslovakia 'B' 2  
United States 3 Netherlands 1  
R. of Korea 3 Canada 0  
Yugoslavia 3 England 0  
Lupulescu bt Sandley 13, -17, 13;  
Kalinic bt Andrew 19, 16;  
Kalinic/Surbek bt Andrew/Sandley 19, 10.  
Federal Germany w.o. D.P.R. Korea (scr)  
Czechoslovakia 'A' 3 Poland 2  
Denmark 3 France 2  
Soviet Union 3 Hungary 2

Quarter-finals  
Sweden 3 United States 0  
Yugoslavia 3 R. of Korea 0  
Czechoslovakia 'A' 3 Federal Germany 0  
Soviet Union 3 Denmark 2

Semi-finals:  
Sweden 3 Yugoslavia 0  
Waldner bt Lupulescu -20, 12, 12;  
Appelgren bt Kovac 19, 11;  
Lindh/Waldner bt Kalinic/Surbek 16, 17.  
Czechoslovakia 'A' 3 Soviet Union 2  
Pansky bt Dvorak 13, 18;  
Orlovski lost to Rozenberg -12, -18;  
Orlovski/Pansky bt Rozenberg/Shevtchenko 13, 19;  
Pansky lost to Rozenberg -15, 22, -8;  
Orlovski bt Dvorak 14, -14, 19.

Final:  
SWEDEN 3 Czechoslovakia 'A' 0  
Appelgren bt Pansky 15, 18;  
Waldner bt Orlovski 20, 19;  
Lindh/Waldner bt Orlovski/Pansky 15, 15.

### Women's Team

Round 1  
Sweden 3 Denmark 0  
Federal Germany 3 Norway 0  
England 3 Poland 0  
Witt bt Calinska 21, 15;  
Grundy bt Stelmach -17, 16, 16;  
Grundy/Witt bt Calinska/Stelmach 18, -16, 19.  
Czechoslovakia 'B' 3 Finland 0  
France 3 German D. R. 0

Round 2  
Sweden w.o. D.P.R. of Korea (scr)  
Romania 3 Greece 0  
Federal Germany 3 Bulgaria 2  
Czechoslovakia 'A' 3 England 1  
Hrachova bt Witt -15,21, 9;  
Pelikanova bt Grundy 21, 10;  
Kocova/Pelikanova lost to Grundy/Witt -16, 9, -13;  
Hrachova bt Grundy 18, 15.  
R. of Korea 3 Czechoslovakia 2  
Yugoslavia 3 Netherlands 2  
Hungary 3 Austria 0  
Soviet Union 3 France 1

Quarter-finals:  
Sweden 3 Romania 0  
Czechoslovakia 'A' 3 Federal Germany 0  
Yugoslavia 3 R. of Korea 1  
Soviet Union 3 Hungary 1

Semi-finals:  
Czechoslovakia 'A' 3 Sweden 1  
Hrachova bt Svensson -22, 11, 13;  
Pelikanova lost to Lindblad -22, -15;  
Hrachova/Pelikanova bt Lindblad/Svensson 10, -14,17;

Hrachova bt Lindblad -15, 9, 5.  
Soviet Union 3 Yugoslavia 2  
Bulatova lost to Perkucin -14, -12;  
Larina lost to Batinic -15, -16;  
Larina/Popova bt Batinic/Perkucin 19, 20;  
Bulatova bt Batinic 11, 14;  
Larina bt Perkucin 12, -9, 18.

Final:  
SOVIET UNION 3 Czechoslovakia 'A' 1  
Bulatova bt Pelikanova 16, 19;  
Popova lost to Hrachova -14, -14;  
Larina/Popova bt Hrachova/Pelikanova 15, 18;  
Bulatova bt Hrachova 17, 22.

Men's Singles:  
Quarter-finals:  
J.-O. Waldner(SWE) bt J. Secretin (FRA) -13, -24, 9, 11, 15;  
J. Persson (SWE) bt Anjaou Hyung (KOR) 15, -20, 18,20.  
S. Bengtsson (SWE) bt P. Birocheau (FRA) 18, 20, -18,12;  
L. Kucharski (POL) bt J. Akesson (SWE) -14, 16, -15,20,15.

Semi-finals:  
Waldner bt Persson 19, 12, -12, 15;  
Kucharski bt Bengtsson 19, 15, 22.  
Final: KUCHARSKI bt Waldner 13, 19, -19, 21.

### Women's Singles:

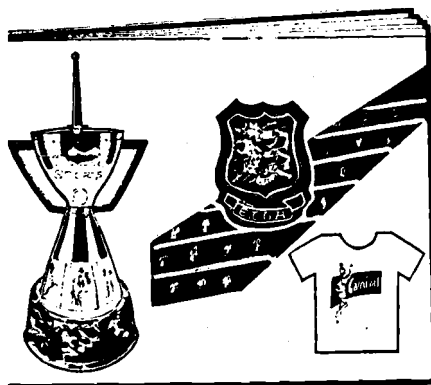
Quarter-finals:  
Yang Young Ja (KOR) bt Z. Olah (HUN) 18, 16, 18;  
B. Vriesekoop (HOL) bt F. Bulatova (URS) 18, 18, -17,16;  
M. Hrachova (TCH) bt Lee SooJa (KOR) 16, 14, 12;  
Yoon Kying Mi (KOR) bt N. Daviaud (FRA) 17, 15, 12.

Semi-finals:  
Vriesekoop bt Yang Young Ja 17, 19, 19;  
Hrachova bt Yoon Kying Mi -9,14, -10,14,16.  
Final: VRIESEKOOP bt Hrachova 12, 16, -18, 17.

Men's Doubles:  
Semi-finals:  
Birocheau/Secretin bt U. Bengtsson (SWE)/Kucharski -11, 17, 18;  
Kim Ki Taek/Kim Wan (KOR) bt S. Bengtsson/Berner (SWE) 13, 14;  
Final: KIM KI TAEK/KIM WAN bt Birocheau/Secretin 18, -16, 12.

Women's Doubles:  
Semi-finals:  
Yang Young Ja/Yoon Kyung Mi bt Larina/V. Popova (URS) -14, 16, 16;  
Hrachova/Vriesekoop bt B. Batinic/G. Perkucin (YUG) 13, 10.  
Final: YANG YOUNG JA/YOON KYUNG MI bt Hrachova/Vriesekoop -18, 18, 16.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:  
E. Lingham. Lindblad (SWE) bt Secretin/Popova -17,19,16;  
J. Pansky bt I. Lupulescu (YUG)/Perkucin -19, 10, 17.  
Final: LINDH/LINDBLAD bt Pansky/Hrachova -9,20,17.



TIES  
BADGES  
TROPHIES  
T-SHIRTS AND  
SWEAT SHIRTS  
ALL CLUB INSIGNIA



telephone Or Write  
For Your Edition  
Of The Alec Brook  
Catalogue Illustrated in Full Colour  
ADD (London) Ltd. (Dept. TTN)  
49-57 Harrow Road, London W2 1JH  
Telephone 01-402 5671  
Telex 24752 Tieman-G

### COVER PICTURE

Desmond Douglas, England's ace exponent, who has severed his connection with Borussia Dusseldorf in the Federal German Bundesliga by contracting himself to the English Association for the next three seasons subject to review at the end of the 1985/86 season. Welcome home!



## POWER TO THE MEMBERS

says ... TOM BLUNN, ETTA Chairman

First let me thank the members on behalf of George Yates (Deputy Chairman) and Aubrey Drapkin (Hon. Treasurer) for the confidence you have placed in us by returning us once more to office. It is a great confidence booster and helps to keep up the enthusiasm for our respective jobs.

It may be opportune on this occasion to elaborate a little on my own particular job as your chairman. I will be embarking on my eighth year, and this follows a period of twenty years as honorary treasurer. Twenty-six of those years were during a period when I had to **earn** a living to support my family and spend many weeks away from home because of the nature of my job. So I can sympathise with all those voluntary workers who devote their spare time to organising the game at all levels. Also the amateur players who enjoy their weekly match and occasional weekend venture into higher spheres.

Experience is a great teacher but it does not give the power and authority that is sometimes ascribed to me. I do not have

power to over-rule any democratic decision of the council, or any committee, or any official. I have powers of persuasion and hope that by now most people will respect my views even if they do not agree with them. I hope most people will accept that when I make a statement it is the truth so far as I **know** it in accordance with the information at my disposal. I cannot attend every committee meeting and must of necessity accept the information given to me by the chairman of the committee or by reading the minutes.

I have been asked, indeed told, I should interfere with certain decisions and over-rule what **has** been decided. The chairman of the ETTA is not a dictator. I understand we fought a war to eliminate dictators. The chairman has to work within the constitution probably more than anyone else who may consider bending the rules to be an expedient. I have to answer to the members. In fact, there is a rule (34.1.3) which allows any member who is aggrieved by a decision of mine (amongst others) to appeal to the board of appeal for the decision to be reviewed.

I hope that never happens and to prevent it I try to make my points by reasoned argument in moderate language and rely on the respect I hope members have for me and acknowledge my many years of experience,

which I said earlier, have been a great teacher.

The administration of the ETTA is spread over a wide area bringing in both professional and voluntary people, each well versed in a particular area of activity and prepared to learn something new as every year of experience goes by. Some workers are specialists in their job and as such some respect should be given to their views. The constitution requires the appointment each year of five vice-chairmen, each responsible for a particular area of activity over which they have specialist knowledge.

As chairman I must rely on the vice-chairmen to see that the organisation and administration under their jurisdiction is maintained to a high standard and within the policies and terms of reference laid down by the national council. They have been appointed to do the job and I have every confidence that in all matters, the interests of the ETTA, as a whole, are uppermost in their minds.

On a matter of great interest at the moment I can say that I have been under pressure recently to take a stance on the question of the use of the various rubber coverings and to get the ETTA to **take** various actions at the world congress, next month. Needless to say, I have been asked to take actions which conflict with each other. Obviously there is a dif-

ference of opinion and what action is taken by the ETTA will not be my decision. A poll is being taken at present of all national councillors who no doubt will consult with their leagues and county **committees** before coming to any decision, and the majority view will prevail. That too is my version of democracy but I have no doubt that the final **decisions** will be contested by those with strong views on the matter.

It must be remembered that at the world congress, the ETTA has only one vote and there will be around 90 associations voting. Our views will be put by our delegates and I am convinced they will gain respect from many others present. It has been said that the rubber manufacturers from the Far East have a commercial interest in leaving things as they are and are only interested in selling their products.

I have no knowledge of their motives but I do know that many experiments have taken place in Japan with higher net, amended service, less effective rubber, and in other ways, and some of the propositions for congress are the result of these experiments. The decisions which will have been taken at congress will be put to our own membership at the AGM in July of this year. That is where our own attitude will be decided so far as our domestic programme is concerned.

### JILL HAMMERSLEY-PARKER TABLE TENNIS FOUNDATION

Unfortunately with two babies I am now finding it difficult to put in the same amount of time to the Foundation as I did last year. As a result, the membership has declined slightly and the raffle is not going as well as it did last year. I am very indebted to Roy Pugh for his generosity and Clive Oakman for his time and assistance in the raffle but unfortunately I need helpers to sell the tickets in what is left of the season. Anyone interested in

helping in what I hope you think is a worthy cause please do not hesitate to contact me and I can send tickets on. Just to remind those who are unsure as to what the Foundation is about, it relies on its members who pay £10 per year which quite simply is spent on promising junior or cadet players. Not players who are playing for England, but players who are just missing out on selection to give them the experience that may help them break through to become top International players. Should you wish to support such a scheme, simply send a cheque for £10.00 (payable to "J. HAMMERSLEY-

PARKER T.T. FOUNDATION") to: The Barn, Common Bank, Dolphinholme, LANCASTER LA2 9AN.

This year we are in the process of arranging a training camp in Norway followed by the Scandinavian Junior Open and have applied for teams in the English Junior Open. We have now formed a selection committee of which Barry Johnson is the Chairman. Any members who would like any players to be considered by the committee please put in writing and send to the above address.

Jill Hammersley-Parker

# COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND-UP

By MURRAY CORBIN



Since the February result sheets are not yet to hand, I will take the opportunity to review only those matches in January, where the Top Teams were involved. I therefore hope that this meets with your admired approval. Here we go!

**SENIORS 2A:**  
Lancashire 0 WARWICKSHIRE 10.

Group Leaders WARWICKSHIRE, with KAREN GROVES, SANDRA PEAKMAN, CARL MORGAN, BARRY JOHNSON and PHIL GUNN, travelled to Preston to take on Amanda Goodwin, Carey Whitehead, Phil Aspinall, Phil Blake and Graham Clarke of LANCASHIRE. Five sets went to three, but in spite of this, The Midlanders were still able to keep the upper hand and therefore avoid the Lancastrians from having a single success. PHIL ASPINALL played well and took both Carl and Barry to three; so did Amanda when she confronted Karen. The match official was B. A. LEESON.

**SENIORS 2B:**  
Hampshire 1 SUSSEX 9.

Promotion hunters SUSSEX-SALLY WESTON, TERESA, ADRIAN and STEVEN MOORE, plus PHIL SMITH, gave HAMPSHIRE a going-over at Hambleton, Hampshire's sole success derived from the experienced and amazing RAMISH BHALLA keeping his nose just ahead of Smith, particularly in the third. However, from this point, Kathy 'Waistline' Ridgard, Jill Green, Graham Toole and the fiery Derek Holman slid down stream, after the second set. Keir Donaldson - the Hampshire Captain, will have to motivate his team to a better performance in the next few matches, if they are to avoid relegation. BRIAN LAMERTON was the Referee.

**SENIORS 3A:**  
DERBYSHIRE 10 Northamptonshire 2nd 0.

DERBYSHIRE HOTSHOTS - the bubbling KERRY HALL and JULIE BILLINGTON they humour me by laughing at my jokes, along with the combined skills of ALAN COOKE, young BRADLEY 'Freckles' BILLINGTON and MARIIN KINSELLA, gave bottom team Northamptonshire a good spanking at the Activity Centre, Chesterfield, where C. McLEAN was in charge of the proceedings. NORTHAMPTONSHIRE was represented by Glennis Hooper, Dorothy Marsh, Steve Lyon, Chris Handshaw and Andrew Edmonds. The success of this match for the visitors may

have been the stretching to three of Brad Billington, by the promising Edmonds.

**SENIORS 3B:**  
SOMERSET 1st 9 Cornwall 1.  
Referee JOHN REAKES witnessed a sterling performance from his SOMERSET warriors when CORNWALL'S Allison Clemens, Esme Stevenson, John Bassett, Jeremy Williams and Ian James travelled up to TAUNTON, to oppose the mighty BECKY RUSSE, JUDY CRAIG, BRIAN REEVES, DAVID LEE and LEE SADLER. After David Lee had given Somerset a good start in the first set against Bassett, IAN JAMES for Cornwall levelled to 1-1 immediately by defeating Sadler in the third at 19. After this, SOMERSET did not look back and soon cleared up the remaining eight sets without much trouble. Well done, Somerset! The umpiring staff were MEL JONES, COLIN ALLSOPP and JOHN CRABTREE.

**SENIORS 3C:**  
WORCESTERSHIRE 9 Berkshire 2nd 1.

The Umpiring squad of JOHN and PEGGY MYTTON and Referee - the dapper DOUG MOSS, found their Worcestershire team to be in great form at Bengeworth Church Hall, Evesham, against Berkshire. The home team of LOUISE DAVIS, SANDRA RODEN, the skilled MURRAY JUKES, SIMON CLAXTON and the likely lad TREVOR WASHINGTON, met little resistance from Taryn Napier-Vallis, Simon Rowland, Richard Kozlowski and Wally Allanson, but with the exception of the very competitive JENNIFER COLLINS, who pipped Louise to the post at 21 in the third, to stop the Worcestershire clean-up. Well done Jenny! Are you still on the combination bat?

**SENIORS 3D:**  
SURREY 2nd 9 Norfolk 1st 1.  
Leaders Middlesex did not play on this date. Second placed Surrey is therefore looked at.

Playing Captain WENDY HOGG brought down her team of Joy Dixon, Richard and Martin Stevenson and David Unwin to Tweeddale School, Carshalton, to face MICHELE HAMS, DEBBIE SIMMONDS, STEPHEN HOLLOWAY, MICHAEL 'The Mouth' HAMMOND and DAVID HARDING, who were found in good fettle. As it turned out, only Wendy had any success for the visitors, and she must have been pleased with herself for beating Michele Hams, which is a very

good win. Bravo Wendy! The Umpire was the very steady JIM CARTWRIGHT of Esher, Treasurer of Surrey ITA. Thank you very much BRIAN GARROWAY for looking after Surrey for me on this occasion.

**JUNIORS 2A:**  
YORKSHIRE 2nd 9 Warwickshire 1.

Table-toppers Yorkshire, on their home ground in Bradford, met fourth placed Warwickshire under the supervision of International Umpire ALEC HEAD. From the scoresheet, it appears that RUTH BRAY, CAROLINE DADA, CHRIS OLDFIELD, ALARIC BASSANO and TONY MILLER hardly put a foot wrong. MARK RANDLE for Warwickshire, took the opening set off Bassano, but from here on it was 'the pits' for Dawn Bromley, Tracey Green, Veranda Chauhan and Steve Swallow. Yorkshire may have to keep an eye over their shoulders, because Northumberland are knocking on their door.

**JUNIORS 2B:**  
Essex 3rd 3 WILTSHIRE 7.

RAY GEORGE'S ESSEX of Helen Platt, Catherine Thompson, Jason Clarke, Gary Killington and Bao Ma, suffered another defeat, this time at the hands of JENNY NEALE, JULIE MILLS, PAUL TUCK, RAY POWELL and IAN NEATE of WILTSHIRE. Essex's three results came from CLARKE over Ray Powell, the Girls' Doubles and also in the last singles when BAO MA inflicted a second defeat on Powell. The Umpire was the amiable ROY FRANKLIN.

**JUNIORS 3A:**  
CUMBRIA 5 NOTTINGHAMSHIRE 5.

The match report suggests this to be an excellent performance by both teams, and I believe it that the 'draw' was a fair result. I understand that STEPHEN HOLLAND and JOHN BACKHOUSE played well to beat the Notts No. 1 - Adrian Bolton in the singles and that they were unlucky in the Doubles against Bolton/Holland, because they led 19-16 in the third and never saw another point due to Bolton/Holland moving into overdrive. I think the winners may have been braver than the losers. I have noticed that in this Country, too many players can not win from 19; you see, they stop playing and depend on the opposition making two mistakes. In other words, many of the so-called top players cannot finish, they simply "bottle", due to the lack of confidence and mostly - bravery. Of

course, this particular instance may have been exceptional. but only the brave survive, JOHN TAYLOR was the Referee at Natland, Kendal. David Holmes, Karen Backhouse and Karen Griffiths also performed for CUMBRIA, while Kay Mayall, Claire Oldman and Robert Fearn, made up the Notts squad. Notts will have to pull on their reserves when they meet LINCOLNSHIRE in February to keep in the hunt for the title:

**JUNIORS 3B:** Warwickshire 2nd 2 GLAMORGAN 8,

Leaders GLAMORGAN held on to the two points lead over Bedfordshire when they stopped the progress of Warwickshire in this meeting at REDHILL TTC, Birmingham. I must point out that, in spite of the final score, this was not a demolition job by the Welsh visitors. Five sets went to three, therefore, ensuring a tense and exciting battle. WARWICKSHIRE were ably represented by Lisa Spilsbury, Alison Ledwith, Darren Smith, Richard Todd and David Thomas. The winners consisted of the talented JOANNE LEE, THERESA PEITY, KEVIN ROBERTS, ANTHONY JONES and RICHARD HARRY. The home team's two results came from SMITH'S win over Jones and in the Boys' Doubles when SMITH/TODD crept home in the third against Roberts/Jones. The Referee was DOT SHERWOOD, GLAMORGAN have beaten next-in-line Bedfordshire already and should go on to win this division if they keep their noses clean.

**JUNIORS 3C:**  
Wiltshire 2nd 1 SOMERSET 9,

SOMERSET did a good job here on bottom team Wiltshire, in a very low scoring match. MARK COLYER got Wiltshire off to a start in the third set by defeating Murray Barter. Murray seems to be becoming a common name. Unfortunately, after this, Lorraine Cox, Sue Wowles, Mark Powell and C. Smith found the talents of F. STUART, L. WITHYMAN, PHILLIP PAYNE and DAVID WOODRIDGE of SOMERSET, too over-powering. I could not understand the signatures of the two umpires, so their secret remains in tact. Perhaps I should explain for them

# Counties Round-up

benefit that the line provided for the Referee's Name should be utilised with clear writing, for very good reasons. I would not be offended if more Referees would show their Christian names clearly plus the Umpiring Staff. After all, they are the real workers.

## JUNIORS 3D: SUFFOLK 10 Cambridgeshire 2nd 0.

When Cambridgeshire visited The BRITANNIA DO,ME in Ipswich, their team of Denise Hinks, Melonie Canham, Chris Dexter, Robin Tewksbury and Matthew Laughlin found KAREN PERKINS, CLAIRE NICHOLLS, the talented PAUL GOODING, DARREN JONES and RICHARD HUTCHINSON in great form for SUFFOLK. The home side was so fantastic on the day, that the only peak of success the visitors could claim, would be that of Tewksbury stretching Hutchinson to three, in the last set of the match. The Referee was JOYCE LOVE, who writes so lly that it is always a great treat for me to pick up a scoresheet that she has laid her artist's hands upon. She was supported here by the well thought of COLIN KERRY.

## VETERANS PREMIER:

Middlesex 1 CHESHIRE 8.

CHESHIRE are hanging on to first place due to a better games average over ESSEX and LINCOLNSHIRE, who are all on 8 points. On this outing to Middlesex, Bill Brookman was the only playerto record a victory over the visitors. He did so by handing out 15 and 16 to Eddie Griffiths in the seventh set. Bill's partners-Kathy Nunn, Babs Adedayo and Norman Slifkin, fell surprisingly easily to DOREEN and DEREK SCHOFIELD and PETER D'ARCY. Wow! Doreen beat Kathy 9 and 7. What a performance! The umpire was D. Howes.

## VETERANS 2A:

Essex 2nd 4 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 5.

Third from bottom Essex stretched the leaders and pressed them very hard for some time but it was not until the eighth set when the very good ALEC WATSON easily contained Ray Murray before Bucks cpuld breath freely. Alec had good support from SYLVIA COOMBES, FRANK EARIS and LEN PRATT. The determined ESSEX was made of ,SHIRLEY CARROLL - who pulled off a good result over Sylvia, BRIAN PARRISH and FRED LOCKWOOD. Bucks needed this result to stay two points clear of Cheshire 2nd, in second place. The Umpire at Chadwell Heath was J. ANKER.

## VETERANS 2B:

SUSSEX 6 Hampshire 3.

This SUSSEX foursome is a very good unit indeed, with real down-to-earth characters. For instance, there is VALERIE GILLAM, ROBIN STACE, JERRY BATT-RAWDEN and ALAN ROWDEN. What a Team! They are riding the crest of the wave and they so much deserve to. HAMPSHIRE, with Ivy and Fred Kershaw, Ray Lush and Roland Bennett, came over to the B.A.C.S CLUB at Hove, and gave a good performance by taking three sets off the highfliers. Fred beat Jerry, the Kershaws took the mixed against Alan and Valerie, and then Ivy levelled the match score, in the sixth when she outplayed Valerie 8, 12. After this, SUSSEX pulled up their britches and Jerry, Alan and Robin took the last three sets in straight games. International Umpire BERT FRETWELL was the governor at this meeting.

## VETERANS 3A:

Northamptonshire 3 ESSEX 3RD 6.

A fine performance here by ANN GILIHAN, LAURIE FOUNTAIN, DAVID FINLAYSON and JOHN LEITH, keep ESSEX ahead of Yorkshire and Cheshire 3rd. In this match the scores were rather low and one could assume that there was not much difference in skills on the day between the teams. Joyce Porter, Keith Jones, Geoff Atkinson and Dennis Millman of Northamptonshire, on losing this are positioned second from the bottom of the table. I see JOYCE PORTER is still blazing away and remains unbeaten so far. The Referee was A. PALMER at Wellingborough.

## VETERANS 3B:

BERKSHIRE 2nd 5 Sussex 2nd 4.

Referee ROBIN LOCKWOOD and Umpire HUGH MURRAY were lucky to preside over this sizzler at the PEPPARD MEMORIAL HALL to decide the king of the division. Four sets went to three and full credit must be given to SYLVIA BRUTON, DAVE JONES, BOB HOLIDAY and PETER BRADLEY of Berkshire, who kept the pressure on PAT PEARCE, MIKE WATTS, BOB PITTARD and TED CRAMER, up to the 8th set when JONES found the solution to the pugnacity of Watts, to create the fifth and winning set. PITTARD, for Sussex, fought off the advances of Bradley in the last set to climax the action on the battle field. Hello Hilda Watts!

## SENIORS

Premier Division - Final Tables

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts.
Middlesex	7	6	1	49	14	12
Lancashire	7	6	1	38	25	12
Yorkshire	7	5	2	39	24	10
Staffordshire	7	4	3	28	35	8
Surrey	7	4	3	27	36	8
Berkshire	7	2	5	30	33	4
Essex	7	1	6	23	40	2
Cambridgeshire	7	0	7	18	45	0

## Division 2A

	P	W	0	L	F	A	Pts.
Warwickshire	5	4	1	0	39	11	9
Leicestershire	5	4	1	0	35	15	9
Yorkshire 2nd	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Buckinghamshire	5	2	2	1	24	26	6
Cheshire	5	2	0	3	26	24	4
Lancashire 2nd	5	1	2	2	20	30	4
Suffolk	5	1	0	4	21	29	2
Staffordshire 2nd	5	0	0	5	8	42	0

## Division 2B

Sussex	5	4	1	0	37	13	9
Devon	5	4	0	1	36	14	8
Kent	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Dorset	5	3	1	1	30	20	7
Essex 2nd	5	2	0	3	17	33	4
Wiltshire	5	1	0	4	21	29	2
Hampshire	5	1	0	4	16	34	2
Gloucestershire	5	0	0	5	9	41	0

## Division 3A

Derbyshire	5	4	1	0	39	11	9
Clwyd	4	2	2	0	24	16	6
Lincolnshire	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Durham	5	2	1	2	30	20	5
Nottinghamshire	5	2	0	3	23	27	4
Northumberland	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Cheshire 2nd	4	1	0	3	13	27	2
Northants 2nd	4	0	0	4	5	35	0

## Division 3B

Somerset 1st	5	4	1	0	34	16	9
Avon	5	3	1	1	34	16	7
Glamorgan	5	3	1	1	31	19	7
Dorset 2nd	5	2	1	2	22	28	5
Cornwall	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Isle of Wight	5	0	3	2	19	31	3
SomeJset2nd	4	0	2	2	17	23	2
Wiltshire 2nd	5	0	2	3	16	34	2

## Division 3C

Worcestershire	7	6	1	0	53	17	13
Huntingdonshire	5	4	1	0	33	17	9
Berkshire 2nd	5	3	0	2	28	22	6
Hertfordshire	6	3	0	3	29	31	6
Oxfordshire	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Bedfordshire	5	2	0	3	19	31	4
Avon 2nd	5	1	1	3	25	25	3
Northants	5	0	1	4	15	35	1
Worcestershire 2nd	5	0	1	4	12	38	1

## Division 3D

Surrey 2nd	6	5	0	1	41	19	10
Kent 2nd	6	4	1	1	41	19	9
Essex 3rd	5	3	0	2	25	25	6
Cambridgeshire 2nd	5	2	1	2	2	28	5
Sussex 2nd	5	2	0	3	27	23	4
Norfolk	5	1	0	4	20	30	2
Norfolk 2nd	4	0	0	4	11	29	0
Suffolk 2nd	5	0	0	5	5	45	0

## Counties Round-up



From the top -left to right: TONY PENNY and DES CHARLERY **of Essex tried** their best to fight off relegation: MANDY SAINSBURY, CRAIG BAKEWELL and FIONA ELLIOTT. Second Row: Fancy dressed SHAUN BROWNE, the burly ANDY WELLMAN, and KEVIN BEADSLEY. Third Row: DAVE WELLS and SARAH SANDLEY and back to back with Umpires DI WINMILL and JACK RANDALL. Last Row: JACK and BERYL CHERRINGTON of Great Barr, Birmingham, who travel yearly to all the Premier Weekends and are obviously connoisseurs of good table-tennis, and lastly, LEN PILDITCH - Team Manager of the winning MIDDLESEX outfit, receiving the 'Big Pot' from GUNTER L. STOHR, General Manager of THE WOODFORD MOAT HOUSE HOTEL, the sponsor of the final weekend play-off at WANSTEAD SPORTS CENTRE.

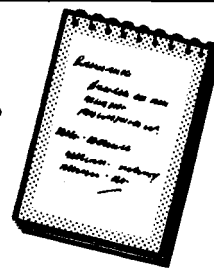
Photos by: Murray Corbin of Wimbledon.



Novi Sad, Yugoslavia



# County Notes



Mary Williams reports from...

## BEDFORDSHIRE

### FINE WIN

The senior County team having lost twice recently, to Oxford (3-7) and Worcester I (4-6), had a fine win over Avon II by 6-4.

Scores:-

David Sharpe bt Chris Holley 16. 19;  
David Cartwright bt Clive Ellison 17. 17;  
Andy Conquest lost to Paul Lewis -23. -15;  
Julie Dimmock/Dawn Campbell bt Pam Graham/  
Mary Hefferman 15. 23;  
Sharpe/Cartwright bt Lewis/Holley 20. 19;  
Cartwright lost to Holley -18. -17;  
Campbell lost to Hefferman -11. -9;  
Sharpe bt Lewis 17. 19;  
Dimmock bt Graham 14. 12;  
Conquest lost to Ellison 15. -13. -17.

The juniors had two satisfying wins, the first 7-3 over Gloucestershire, the second with the A.R.A. Social Club, Bedford being used by the juniors as a venue for the first time saw them winning 6-4 against Worcestershire.

Peter Edwards, No.1, surprisingly lost both his sets as did Martin Sharpe., but they were saved by Gavin Black, Joyce Mitchell and Lisa Robins taking their singles. Edwards partnered by Black beat Mark Roden and Tim Holder in the boys' doubles, and Lisa and Joyce beat Jenny Burgess and Lisa Hunt in the girls' doubles. Scores:-

Black bt Roden -10. 16. 15;  
Sharpe lost to Dean Kloos -17. -21;  
Edwards lost to Holder 21. -17. -18;  
Edwards/Black bt Roden/Holder 13. -18. 16;  
Robins/Mitchell bt Burgess/Hunt 14. 16;  
Black bt Kloos 16. 5;  
Mitchell bt Burgess 18. -21. 12;  
Edwards lost to Roden -14. -12;  
Robins bt Hunt 10. -18. 10;  
Sharpe lost to Holder -10. -7.

### 'LEIGHTON BUZZARD

Earlier this season the Leighton league were invited to enter teams in an inter-league competition which runs every season in Buckinghamshire. A veterans' team of Gordon Pepper, Dave Gilbert and Graham Fenn played their first match just before Christmas.

The team travelled to High Wycombe and were rewarded with a five-all draw, with Pepper winning two, Gilbert one, Fenn one and Gilbert and Pepper taking the doubles.

In the Carter Cup Leighton were drawn at home to Birmingham. Peter Edwards, Mark Beaumont and John Masters faced stiff opposition but were beaten 7-3. Edwards by far the most experienced player proved this by winning all his 3 sets. Beaumont and Masters put up a

credible performance and can look upon this as valuable experience for the future.

Having won their first round match in the Wilmott Cup the men's team of Geoff Giles, Andy Conquest and Alan Chandler entertained Dunstable. The match, despite some excellent play by Leighton ended with a 5-2 win for Dunstable.

Another local player, Ian Doughty, who plays also for Milton Keynes, helped his team in the Wilmott Cup to a 9-0 victory against Hatfield.

Ian has been out of action for several weeks following a serious accident to his hand. All in the County wish him well. Cheers Ian.

### LUTON LEAGUE

The Senior and Divisions 2, 3 and 4 tournaments were held in January at Bedford Trucks, Dunstable. Several were played up to the final and these coupled with some of the junior and 5, 6 and 7 finals (this tournament on the 17th February at Bedford Trucks) will be fought out on finals night (date to be arranged).

Those played to a finish were as follows:-

Women's Doubles:  
Dawn Campbell/Julie Dimmock bt Lisa Robins/  
Mary Jarrett 14. 19.  
Div. 2, 3, 4 Doubles:  
Mike and Mary Jarrett bt R. Bowler/T. Winter -19.16.18.  
Mixed Doubles:  
N. Jarvis/Dawn Campbell bt D. Sharpe/Ruth Forrester -14. 19. 15.  
Veterans:  
G. Sharpe bt L. Jones 16. 15.'

Our youngster Caroline Buckley again showed fine form in winning the Under-12's in the South of England 2-Star Junior Open and also reached the semi-final of the U-14's. Well done Caroline.

Brian Halliday reports from....

## BERKSHIRE

### IIPLAYER OF THE MONTH'

The player of the month in, Berkshire circles must be Malcolm Hayes. His standard of play has improved considerably this season and with long practice and hard work he has produced impressive results in the first two local closed

championships. Seeded only at No.7 in the Maidenhead Closed he put out higher-rated players Frank Earis and Dave Jones but failed at the final hurdle to the reigning champion Steve Everard. Everard seems to save his very best for local tournaments and his recent league form did not suggest that he would carry off the title again; still he con-founded his critics with another powerhouse display of all-out attack.

The luckless Hayes then went to Bracknell the following week, played very well to lift the men's doubles with Terry Richards and the Divisional Singles with awin over Bob Sym. Then came a major surprise when Sym reversed his earlier defeat to become Bracknell Men's Singles Champion for the first time.

The women's titles in the Maidenhead and Bracknell tournaments went predictably to Sue Collier and Taryn Napier-Vallis respectively. Sue lost out in the 'mixed' at Maidenhead but Taryn made it a treble Bracknell triumph when partnering Linda Green in the doubles and then carrying your notewriter through to win the mixed. Both tournaments were well supported and well organised by dedicated committees. The Maidenhead Closed once again kept up its enviable reputation of first class organisation, good facilities and finals presentation. Bouquets to all concerned.

It is all over bar the shouting in the Maidenhead Premier Division title race as Cippenham cruise to the championship. The devotees of the one point per set system should look again at this outdated and unpopular way of determining league results. League table tennis should be based on the results of the team and not on an individual's performance. The Maidenhead championship race would still be open now if the 2 points for a win, 1 for a draw system was in operation. In all other respects the Maidenhead set-up usually excels, but in this area they should think again.

In Bracknell the dreaded 1 point per set system operates but in fairness here the title race is wide open. Woodley look to have a good chance of lifting the

title at the expense of Moss. The Bracknell and S.S.V. clubs are both poised to take advantage of any slip by the leaders.

There is an intriguing situation developing in Div. 1 of the Newbury League. It was anticipated that the championship would once again develop into a two horse race between the Thatcham 'A' squad of Richard Kozlowski, Clive Payne, Dave Wise, Derek Basden and Duncan Campbell and the Woolton Hill quartet of Dave Reeves, Malcolm Cummins, Caroline Steven's and Colin Wilkes. However as Thatcham remain unbeaten Woolton Hill have dropped four points and Thatcham 'B' have emerged as serious challengers. Perhaps this is not too surprising as their squad which includes Mandy Sainsbury and Janet Parker, has now been strengthened by the signing of Dave Barr. The confrontation of the two Thatcham teams could well decide the championship.

In the Reading 1st Division the title race has remained wide open all season. Several clubs seeing the possibility of cashing in on an indifferent season by the Omega Club took advantage of the January Sales by going out and signing star players to boost championship aspirations. Leading the way were Y.M.C.A. who signed Jimmy Stokes and will now almost certainly win the title. His partnership with Simon Rowland should just give them the edge over their rivals. St. George's seem to have had every justification for their signing of Sue Collier as they lost the services of ex-Reading men's singles champion Michael Childs who went off to Bristol to study. Sonning signed East London player Dave Solman on Omega's recommendation and Dave has made an immediate impact on the Berkshire scene. Finally the Polish club persuaded Dave Reeves to play for them - and then he promptly broke his arm. Their very strong line up never quite breaks through to the top level and it is tough luck on them that they were deprived of Dave's services at such a crucial time.

The latest county results have produced a fair number of shocks. The 1st team retained their

Premier status. Congratulations to all concerned especially Andy, Wellman, Barr, and Mandy Sainsbury who performed so well at Walthamstow. Paul Savins, drafted in at the last minute also played exceptionally well in this his first taste of county table tennis at this level.

The 2nd team's bright run of success came to an abrupt halt at the hands of Worcs. and the Selectors must surely be tempted to try out some new blood in the remaining matches. With a safe mid way position assured perhaps they could experiment with Malcolm Hayes, Bob Davis, or Bob Sym, who all deserve their chance on this season's form.

The veterans' 1st team have been very disappointing. There were high pre season hopes for the squad but indifferent results have seen them plummet into the relegation area. Only Wally Allanson and Gil Knightley have retained their places in a team shake up to face Middlesex.

Not all gloom from the veterans' front as the 2nd team look set to win their division. A good team spirit from a settled side has brought success to Dave Jones and his very capable team.

It has been a fairly quiet period for our local National League sides; however the Omega Club still have chances of major league honours.

If we are to attract any spectators at all to our sport then surely the image of the game must be improved. It has been whispered that even those sporting manufacturers committed to our game would welcome equipment standardisation using the understandable argument that if everyone were to play with the same rubber face on their bats then out would go the dreaded third ball bangers, and grace, skill, strokes and associated flair would return. Hoo-ray to that. However perhaps we could all start putting our own houses in order. Playing conditions at local level are in the main atrocious. As far as I know only the Reading League in Berkshire have a committee to inspect club premises, and generally club premises in this league are reasonable. The same cannot be said for Maidenhead or Bracknell where, in this aspect, apathy reigns supreme. There really is no excuse whatsoever. The Sports Council has money available to improve conditions, floor, lighting, etc., so why isn't something done? See your own Club Secretary now and dem, and action. Alternatively write to your League Secretary and ask his advice how your club could benefit from money and expertise available. Perhaps then we can avoid an instance when in a

recent match when one defender dived rather too athletically to his right to deliver a forehand chop, and promptly jammed his bat right between two radiator sections.

In a lighter vein I was surprised to see some rather quaint blue rubber on private sale at the Maidenhead Championships, at a rock bottom price. On enquiring where it had originated I was told that it had been purchased in bulk from a second-hand antique-type shop where the owner thought they were table mats.

The Omega Club have progressed to the next stage in both the men's and women's club championship of England. The men disposed of Springfield Kestrels from Maidenhead and the ladies ran out comfortable winners over E.M.1. Ellenborough. It is difficult to see any team stopping the club from completing the double for the second year running.

All members of the Reading League were stunned recently by the news of the tragic death of Brian Collins. Brian, who died whilst playing a match for the Tidmarsh Club, was a very popular player who was loved and respected by all who knew him. He was one of the founder members of the Kidmore End Club which did so much for youngsters and helped in a very positive way to put Berkshire table tennis on the map. We shall all miss him terribly and to Colleen, Jenny, and Martin we all extend our deepest sympathy.

Finally my promise to keep readers advised as to developments regarding our Chinese table tennis champion lying dormant in Berkshire, is still receiving attention. I have tracked the lady down and all should be revealed next month.

Les Wooding reports from....

## BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

### UNEXPECTED VICTORY

The highlight of the month was without doubt the Veteran team's victory over Essex II. I make no apology for repeating captain Alec Watson's report:

Essex paid Buckinghamshire the compliment of turning out their strongest side this season with even their No. 3 Fred Lockwood being No. 53 in the Veterans' National Ranking List. They were led by 1st team player and County Veteran Champion Ray Murray.

After sportingly refusing the right to claim the opening sets when 2 of the Essex players

failed to arrive on time' the Buckinghamshire players recorded another splendid if rather unexpected victory. Sylvia Coombs was the heroine of the day combining well with Len Pratt to record another good Mixed win and then playing her heart out to win an all-important Singles victory from 11-16 down in the vital 1st leg. Sylvia had suffered a very serious fall 2 days before the match and looked like the victim of a mugging. It was A VERY GUTSY PERFORMANCE from someone who should not have played.

Len played very well recording a victory over Lockwood but Frank Earis could not adapt to the conditions nor electric atmosphere and allowed them to affect his performance.

Characteristically, Alec, one of the first gentlemen of our sport makes no mention of his own performance. However, I can set that record straight by paying tribute to his tremendous unbeaten leadership this season and his straight games victories over Murray and Brian Parrish underline what a tremendous player he is.

### ESSEX II 4 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 5

(Bucks names first)

A. Watson bt B. Parrish 13. 10  
L. Pratt bt F. Lockwood 18. 16;  
F. Earis lost to R. Murray -19. -11;  
Pratt/S. Coombs bt Lockwood/Shirley Carroll -15. 14, 18;  
Earis/Watson bt Murray/Parrish 14. 20;  
Coombs bt Carroll 19. 15;  
Pratt lost to Parrish -15. -12;  
Watson bt Murray 16. 16;  
Earis lost to Lockwood -9. -11;

The senior side also recorded an excellent victory at the expense of Yorkshire II. Philip Bradbury really turned on an international class performance giving David Illingsworth and Derek Munt no chance. Julie Richards proved far too good for Melanie Seaton. Uncharacteristically, Jon Bradbury was not his normal extrovert self and this seriously affected his performance.

### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 6 YORKSHIRE II 4

J. Bradbury lost to D. Illingsworth -13. -10;  
L. Wooding bt Paul Longstone 12. 17;  
P. Bradbury bt D. Munt 8. 10;  
J. Richards/Linda Phelps lost to M. Seaton/Lesley Broomhead -18. -15;  
P. & J. Bradbury bt Munt/Illingsworth 14. -11. 13;  
J. Bradbury lost to Longstone -19. -19;  
Phelps lost to Broomhead -10. 20. -11;  
P. Bradbury bt Illingsworth 8. 11;  
Richards bt Seaton 17. 14;  
Wooding bt Munt -19. 17. 15;

### NATIONAL LEAGUE

8-0! This was Cippenham's emphatic response to the disappointment of two pre-Christmas defeats, when they completely demoralised Abeng Warriors. As if smarting from their recent drubbings all the Cippenham players rose to the challenge and produced a thoroughly professional performance in Brixton. This was Cippenham's first ever 8-0 win in their 45 matches in three and a half seasons in the Halex National League but it was thoroughly deserved.

### ABENG WARRIORS 0 CIPPENHAM 8

(Cippenham names first)  
Richard Beckham bt David Dewsbury 9. 17  
Ray Tilling bt Neville Miller 8. 14;  
Clive Young bt Lionel Faure 17. 18;  
Alec Watson bt Robert Campbell 6. 9;  
Tilling bt Dewsbury 9. 19;  
Watson bt Miller 11. 8;  
Beckham bt Faure 9. 19;  
Young bt Campbell 12. -18. 16;

Less successful were A.H.W. Pioneers when they made the 'long snow-strewn journey to Gillingham but went down 3-5 to the division leaders. Although he failed to a victory Ken Muhr's performance suggested that he will soon make the jump to National League standard.

### LANSDOWN MEDWAY 5 A.H.W. PIONEERS 3

(Pioneers names first)

Jon Bradbury lost to Andy Mitchell -10. -11;  
Les Wooding lost to Paul Amos -17. -16;  
Ken Muhr lost to Bobby Brown -18. 13. 14;  
Colin Luscombe bt Tony Spain 19. 16;  
Wooding bt Mitchell 18. 14;  
Luscombe lost to Amos -21. -20;  
Bradbury bt Brown 20. -11. 22;  
Muhr lost to Spain 15. -13. -18;

## COUNTY RANKING LIST

### Men

- (1) Philip Bradbury (Ayl)
- (2) Les Wooding (MK)
- (3) Jon Bradbury (MK)
- (4) Karl Bushell (HW)
- (5) Alec Watson (HW)
- (6) Colin Luscombe (MK)
- (7) Muhr (MK)
- (8) Robert Harman (MK)
- (9) Mark Curtis (HW)
- (10) Frank Earis (SL)
- (11) Richard Lines (MK)

### Women

- Julie Richards (MK)
- Sylvia Coombs (MK)
- Jacquie Farwell (SI)
- Linda Phelps (HW)
- Dawn Robbins (HW)
- Jackie Thomas (SI)
- A. Shaw
- Jan Curtis (HW)
- C. Hasberry

## COUNTY COMPUTER RATING

The first County computerised rating list based on the quantity and quality of victories recorded, in the local Leagues and County competitions has been published. Obviously, it will take time to settle down into its correct order but it has given a fresh competitive outlook to over 200 players to beat players above them in the table.

All players who entered in the County Closed on February 23 would have had the opportunity of seeing the complete up-to-date allocation of points.

### WILMOTT CUP.

WATFORD 2 MILTON KEYNES 6

Jon Bradbury turned on a 1st Class performance on the day after his disappointing match against Yorkshire winning all his sets.

(Milton Keynes names first)  
Wooding bt David Seaholme 12. 16;  
Bradbury bt Geoff Bax 11. 5;  
Harman lost to Stuart Seaholme -11. -14;  
Bradbury bt D. Seaholme -19. 5. 15;  
Wooding lost to S. Seaholme -17. -9;  
Harman bt Bax 13. 20  
Wooding bt Bax 10. -21. 17;

Harman bt Sax -17. 15. 11;  
Bradbury bt S. Seaholme 13. 20;  
Wooding bt Sax 10. -21. 17;

# County Notes

## NATIONAL CLUB COMPETITION

A.H.W. of Milton Keynes were far too strong for Banbury side Bodicote

Luscombe bt Paul Barnett -20, 7, 14;  
Wooding bt Colin Mortimer 5,9;  
Harman bt Tony Bradley 7, 20;  
Wooding bt Barnett 12, 14;  
Luscombe bt Bradley 11, 17;  
Harman bt Mortimer 11, 18;  
Wooding bt Bradley 15, 5;  
Harman bt Barnett 17, -21, 15;  
Luscombe bt Colin Mortimer 20, 21;

Geoff Waters reports from....

## CAMBRIDGESHIRE DAY OF SHOCKS

It was a day of shocks at the Cambridgeshire Closed at Soham Sports Hall, with Geoff Davies and Mandy Mills (formerly Judd) winning the top two titles.

Geoff, who plays for March in the Halex National League, finally emerged from the shadows of the county's big two, Keith Richardson and Mick Harper, who had won nine of the previous men's singles titles.

He had reached two previous finals, but had been beaten in both, by Keith in 1976 and Mick in 1981.

It was, therefore, fitting that the March player should beat both men on the way to his title. In the semis, fourth-seeded Davies beat second seed Harper 13 in the third to earn a final clash with holder Richardson, who had comfortably beaten Andy Withers.

In an exciting final, Geoff showed plenty of confidence and attacking skill. He held his nerve in the first game when after leading 20-15, he lost four points in a row but won narrowly. In the second game, he showed his fighting qualities by pulling back from 19-15 to win a 'deuce' game.

The women's title went to Mandy Mills, who has been out of the game whilst having a baby, but she played with all her old skill in beating holder Joanne Palmer. The two have dominated this event in the '80's with Mandy having won three to Joanne's two, but any hopes the Newmarket girl may have had of equalling Mandy soon faded as the former champion won in great style.

Mandy almost completed a hat-trick of wins as she won the women's doubles, with Joanne, but lost in the mixed with Keith Richardson only by -21 in the third.

In the junior events, Helen Gipp, from Aldreth, retained her girls' title, while Nicky Rayner, from Wisbech won the boys' for the first time..

Helen won an exciting girls' final against Wisbech's Ruth

Hutchinson, who took the holder to three. The boys' final was a repeat of the Cadets of two seasons ago when Nicky met Nick-Ashman, from Stretham. On that occasion Ashman won, but this time the boy from Wisbech turned the table.

However, the Ashman family did take home one trophy as father John again won the veterans' final, beating Netherhall's Brian Odell.

There were new winners in the Cadet events. In the boys' final Robin Tewkesbury, (Wisbech) beat Darren Rayner, (March). There was, however, consolation for the March League with Melanie Canham getting the better of Wisbech's Sara Peukert in the girls' final.

For the second successive season the Restricted singles, open to players who have not played for the county at senior level, went to Cambridge University. Tuan Chew followed in Paul Dilger's footsteps by beating Wesley's Tim Vine.

Brian Richardson, with a handicap of seven, beat NCT's Clive Allison (21) in a three game marathon up to 41 points in the final of the Handicap singles.

The tournament ran very smoothly and credit must go to County Chairman Brian Judd. He had some able support from Derek Stacey, Peter Davies and his daughter Cathy Richardson. Thanks are also due to former county player Paul Chisnall, who organised the Cadet girls' event.

Finally we have to thank our five sponsors: Cambridge Battery Service; Autocolours Cambridge; Pye Telecommunications; Gray & Holmes and Michael Manni Photographic, without whom the Championships probably would not be held.

Results:

Cambridge Battery Service Men's Singles:  
Semi-finals: K. Richardson bt A. Withers 16, 17;  
G. Davies bt M. Harper 18, -18, 13;  
Final: DAVIES bt Richardson 19, 20.  
Autocolours, Cambridge Women's Singles:  
A. MILLS bt J. Palmer 18, 15.  
Pye Telecommunications Men's Doubles:  
RICHARDSON/HARPER bt Davies/Withers 17, 17.  
Pye Telecommunications Women's Doubles:  
MILLS/PALMER bt H. Gipp/A. Edge 13, 11.  
Mixed Doubles:  
PALMER/HARPER bt Mills/Richardson 19, -17, 21.  
Boys' Singles:  
N. RAYNER bt N. Ashman 15, -8, 14.  
Cadet Boys' Singles:  
R. TEWKESBURY bt D. Rayner 4, 13.  
Girls' Singles:  
GIPP bt R. Hutchinson 14, -20, 16.  
Pye Telecommunications Cadet Girls' Singles:  
M. CANHAM bt S. Peukert 15, 19.  
Veterans' Singles:  
J. ASHMAN bt B. Odell 18, 12.  
Gray & Holmes Restricted Singles:  
T. CHEW bt T. Vine 19, 16.  
Michael Manni Photographic Handicap Singles:  
B. RICHARDSON (7) bt C. Allison (21) 33-41; 41-33; 41-31.

The county-seniors, who were promoted to the Premier Division of the County Championships for the first time last season, were relegated without winning a match.

Having lost their first three in Stone last November, they were looking for at least two wins from their four at Wanstead.

They lost their opening match against Staffs. 6-3. Keith Richardson gave them a boost by winning the opening set against Adrian Dixon -17, 18,10, but then they went 3-1 down. Keith and Mick Harper, who were unbeaten in the doubles at Stone continued the good work in this match.

They brought the score to 3-2 with a splendid victory over Dixon and Andrew Bellingham. However, Staffs. again took three on the run before Harper beat Andrew Rich in the final set.

They had their worst result to date when they went down 7-2 to Berkshire in the next match. Paul Savins proved Berkshire's hero with wins over Harper 20 in the third and Andy Withers 19 in the third. Richardson had an excellent win over Andy Wellman and Mick and Keith made it five in a row in the doubles by beating the Wellman/Savins combination.

Relegation was then a certainty but there was no sign of despondency as they met joint leaders Lancashire. Richardson won a classic match against Steve Scowcroft 19, -20, 21. Then Withers put them two up with a straight games win over Shaun Browne. The northerners hit back to draw level, but the doubles was again won to put Cambs. 3-2 up.

The Cambs. pair this time beat Browne and Turner. This was to be the county's last win as they lost the next four to go down 6-3.

Although they had lost all six matches to date, at no stage had they been outclassed, but in the final match they proved no match for Yorkshire who won 9-0.

For the first time Richardson failed to win a singles and finally the men's doubles bubble burst.

Despite our lack of success the weekends were enjoyed by all and we went down in very good company as Essex drop to Div. 2 for, I believe, only the second time.

The second team had their biggest defeat and biggest win of the season during the last month.

In January, they travelled to Bexhill-on-Sea to meet Sussex II and went down 9-1. They won the opening set when Peter Holliday beat Paul Rowden but this was to be their only success.

Next month against Norfolk II at March, it was Holliday who lost the only set against David Honor as Cambs. crushed the East Anglian county 9-1. This

was their biggest win since they beat Beds. II 10-0 back in the 1980-81 season. Julian Wheel scored his first double at senior level, while Hilary Finch, absent in Sussex, kept her 100% record with her fifth singles win.

The juniors completed their season playing off their last two matches in one day at Ipswich. The first team beat Norfolk I 8-2 and Norfolk II 10-0. Helen Gipp capped a splendid season with two single wins to give her a 100% record, thus passing out of the junior ranks in a blaze of glory. Nicky Rayner, Nick Ashman and Jonathan Collins did well; all three winning ten of their 14 singles in the season. At the moment this team are second to Suffolk, but look likely to finish third or fourth when Essex III and Kent II complete their fixtures.

The second team were beaten 7-3 by Norfolk I and 10-0 by champions Suffolk and will finish next to bottom unless Herts. II lose their last match 10-0.

In Div. 2 North of the Halex National League, March have continued their early season promise and are firmly fixed in second place. Fine all-round team efforts have put March in a position to think in terms of finishing in the prize money for the first time.

The March team spearheaded by Stuart Palmer and ably backed by Withers, Swift and Davies were the first team to take a point off divisional leaders Salford. In front of a crowd close to 300 (awaiting a Jacques Secretin/Vincent Puckart exhibition) Robert Swift clinched a draw with a 'deuce' in the third victory.

If this form can be maintained March must certainly be considered favourites for the runners-up spot. In Div. 3 East Soham completed a double over MBS St Neots with a 5-3 win.

Peter Holliday and Julian Wheel both had doubles, while Martyn Livermore chipped in with one.

Brian M. Hudson provides.....

## CHESHIRE CHAT STOCKPORT CLOSED

First of all apologies for this report's absence from the February edition - a combination of a quiet month and no other contributions!

Early January saw the Stockport League Closed, ably run as ever by Barbara Ware and Colin Cooke. A large entry in the Men's Singles ended with ROGER HAMPSON beating TONY WORTHINGTON in a close final

of a very high standard. The entry for the Women's Singles reflects the low number of ladies playing at the moment - where are they all? - but the final, was, nonetheless, very exciting, with Lynne Harrison saving match points to beat Anne Williamson 26-24 in the 3rd!

#### Other results:

MD: Keith Deaville/Phil Mayman bt Roger Hampson/Ninny Mole -8, 17, 15;  
 XD: Keith Weatherby/L. Harrison bt Ron Weatherby/A. Williamson.  
 CONS.S. Phil Mayman bt Tony Slinger.  
 VS: Terry Taylor bt Derek Hendry 14, 13.  
 YS: K. Weatherby bt Steve Lypnickyj 17, 16.  
 CS: Jonathan Taylor bt Mike Parker 20, 18.  
 JS: Taylor bt Tom Parker 13, 10.

Jonathan Taylor enjoyed a particularly successful weekend, for the previous day he had attended the England Cadets' Ranking Trials, along with Mike Parker, and had done very well to achieve 19th place on the list, with Parker finishing 43rd.

On the County scene, success seems to come more readily to our Vets' teams than to the Seniors or Juniors. Our Seniors went to Leics. and came away on the wrong end of a 7-3 scoreline, with a win each for Mark Hankey and Wayne Percival plus the mixed. The 2nds fared only slightly better, going down 4-6 to Clwyd, with a win each for Steve Green, Rob Bevan, Ron Vose and Lynne Harrison. Although the results have gone against them, it is very encouraging to see such an improved team spirit in the 2nds.

The Juniors report one defeat and two draws. The 1st went to Cleveland and lost 4-6, with a win each for Simon Jones, Bernie Wentworth, Alison Jones and the Boys' Doubles, and followed this with a draw against Staffs 2nd. Two wins for Simon Jones, one each for Andrew Taylor and Wentworth were backed up by Alison Hall's first win for the County. The 2nds also travelled to Cleveland and went one better than the 1st by sharing the points. Mark Danaher was unfit so Steve Rushton made an encouraging, if unsuccessful debut. Two wins each from Martin Thompson and Steve Terry plus the Boys' Doubles ensured the draw.

The Veterans bounced back in fine style after their reverse against Lines. by travelling down to Middlesex and coming back with an 8-1 victory, only Eddie Griffiths losing. They then entertained Essex, and after losing the first two "sets" ran out 7-2 winners.

#### Scores:

Derek Scholfield bt Peter Radford 19, 18; bt Stan Battrick 6, 10.  
 Peter D'Arcy lost to Radford 12, -18, -6; bt Ray Murray 14, 15.  
 Eddie Griffiths bt Battrick -8, 17, 15; lost to Murray 21, -20, -18.  
 Schofield/Griffiths bt Battrick/Murray -20, 18, 19.  
 Doreen Schofield bt Shelagh Hession -19, 13, 13.  
 D'Arcy/Scholfield bt Radford/Hession 17, 20.

Incidentally Derek's win over Peter was a repeat of the Vets' final at Essex the previous weekend, with, happily, the same result!

A convincing win against Kent in their last match should ensure the Vets' title remaining in Cheshire.

The Vets' 2nd had a convincing 9-0 win over Leics. with Alan Timewell struggling against Geoff Aldwinckle in the closest set of the match.

#### Scores:

Alan Timewell bt John Iliffe 15, 15; bt Geoff Aldwinckle -21, 16, 20.  
 Keith Powell bt Iliffe 18, 19; bt Colin Truman 18, 15.  
 Terry Donlon bt Aldwinckle 17, -11, 11; bt Truman 20, 18.  
 Timewell/Powell bt Aldwinckle/Truman 13, 19.  
 Myra Lypnickyj bt Glenys Odhams 14, 15.  
 Donlon/Lypnickyj bt Iliffe/Odhams -10, 19, 14.

The Vets' 3rd had a comfortable 6-3 win over previously unbeaten Essex 3rd. Ron Buckley was called into the 2nds (whose result is not to hand) to replace Keith Powell, whose luggage was touring Finland while he was on his way home, so Roger Moss came in as reserve and enjoyed a vital success against Dave Findlayson.

#### Scores:

Terry Taylor bt Laurie Fountain 15, 17; bt Dave Findlayson 17, 14.  
 Derek Hendry bt Fountain 15, 18; lost to John Leith 17, -13, -11.  
 Roger Moss bt Findlayson 18, -14, 12; lost to Leith 19, -19, -11.  
 Hendry/Moss lost to Fountain/Findlayson -13, -18.  
 Eileen Edwards bt Anne Gilliam 11, 15.  
 Taylor/Handy bt Leith/Gilliam 7, 15.

We welcome to the ranks of County Umpires, three new names - Campbell Eaton, Ajan Timewell and Peter Williams. Long may they be able to officiate! Although our numbers are increasing, we are still looking for new Umpires, so volunteers are still to be greeted with open arms!

We look forward now to March 30, and the Northern Vets' event at Macclesfield. We welcome all our friends to that, and hope the weekend is a success.

Jeremy Williams reports from...

## CORNWALL

### ADVERSE WEATHER

The adverse weather conditions of late have taken their toll on Cornwall's table tennis interests both internally and externally with important fixtures being postponed. The fate of Cornwall's teams competing externally now seems to be decided; the Junior 'A' team now look set to clinch Division 3C while the Seniors, Junior 'B' and the Launceston Kernow National League team will all have to content themselves with Div. 3 table tennis again next season.

However, most of Cornwall's domestic issues are still in the balance with much of the interest at the moment focusing on the continuing battle in the Cornish Inter-Town League, which is now building up to a dramatic finish.

### CORNISH INTER-TOWN LEAGUE

SERIES 4: Bude 4, Falmouth 5  
 SERIES 5: St. Ives 6, Launceston 2  
 Bude 1, Redruth 7  
 Falmouth 7, Truro 1

Some excellent victories for the three leading teams in this season's Inter-Town League has enabled Redruth, St. Ives and Falmouth to forge ahead, and break free from the remaining bunch. Only two teams qualify for the final and everything now hinges on series 6 when Redruth entertain Falmouth and Series 7 when St. Ives visit Redruth.

One re-arranged fixture played recently saw Bude go down to Falmouth in front of around 30 spectators. The home team gave the league champions a fright when 11-years-old Neil Bevan defeated highly rated players Malcolm Peters and Neville Reed in straight games. One win from Peters plus two each from Graham Reed and Jeremy Williams clinched the points for Falmouth.

Launceston must have been disappointed to lose 6-2 at St. Ives but last year's finalists were

#### LEAGUE TABLE:

	P	W	O	L	F	A	Pt.
Redruth	5	5	0	0	31	9	10
St. Ives	5	4	1	0	30	10	9
Falmouth	5	4	0	1	29	11	8
Bude	5	2	0	3	17	23	4
Launceston	5	2	0	3	16	24	4
Truro	4	0	1	3	10	22	1
Camborne	3	0	0	3	8	16	0
Helston	4	0	0	4	3	29	0

AVERAGES: M. James (Camborne) 100.00%; J. Bassett (St. Ives) 90.00%; G. Reed (Falmouth) 90.00%; J. Williams (Falmouth) 87.50%; M. Peters (Falmouth) 83.33%; N. Bevan (Bude) 80.00%; M. Kent (St. Ives) 80.00%; R. Prendergast (Redruth) 70.00%; M. Starkie (Redruth) 70.00%.

### CORNWALL SCHOOLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

East Cornwall certainly got the better of West Cornwall as far as trophies were concerned in the 'Cornish Schools' at Launceston College on Jan. 27. There was another mammoth entry in a tournament that saw plenty of upsets.

Winner of the main event, the boys' U-19 singles, was Malcolm Peters of Redruth School. His narrow victory over Launceston's Andrew Hunt brought about West Cornwall's only title.

The elimination of top seed and holder Mark James (Camborne) by Hunt in one semi was the biggest surprise of the day while in the other semi, Peters had to work hard to overcome Bude's Neil Bevan.

In the corresponding girls' event, Esme Stevenson (Bude) recorded a notable victory. With a final win over Cornwall No.1

in a mean mood and their star was once again young Michael Kent whose two wins over both Andy and Steven Hunt earned the two points for St. Ives. One win each from Rodney Smith and Bill Symes plus another two from John Bassett who completed a trio of hard bat players for St. Ives.

Are Redruth strong enough to win their first major honour is a question many people are asking in Cornwall. Well, no-one could fault their performance in a 7-1 win at Bude where Robert Prendergast, Melvin Starkie and Steven Lobb were all in fine form and relatively untroubled. Austin "grind 'em down" Chapman, however, could not live up to his name on this occasion and became another casualty of young Bevan at 18 in the third. It would be interesting to see the progress of both Bevan and Kent at the moment if the County rankings were computerised.

Any doubts that Falmouth were losing their way domestically were dashed when they demolished a strong Truro team in a rather surprisingly one-sided local derby. New signing Martin White could not make any headway for Truro who lost their first seven sets in straight games before Roy Newberry narrowly overcame Neville Reed.

woman Alison Clemens (Camborne) in another tight and entertaining final.

The younger age groups were totally dominated by players from the Launceston and Bude areas. No. 1, Bevan was the unexpected winner of the U-16 boys' event at 11 years of age, but then went on to lose the U-13 final to Launceston's Mark Bawden in the best final of the day.

#### Results:-

BU-19: M. Peters (Red) bt A. Hunt (Laun) 20, -18, 19;  
 GU-19: E. Stevenson (Bude) bt A. -17, 11, 13;  
 BU-16: N. Bevan (Bude) bt M. Stanley (Bude) 14, 20;  
 GU-16: K. Broczek (Laun) bt S. Hunt (Laun) 14, 17;  
 BU-13: M. Bawden (Laun) bt Bevan -18, 17, 19;  
 GU-13: T. Logg (Laun) bt R. Plummer (St Ives) 19, 12;  
 BU-11: S. Garrett (Bude) bt S. Baverstock (Laun) 14, 16;  
 GU-11: V. Rea (Bude) bt T. Rowe (Cam) -12, 14, 11.

# County Notes

## COUNTY MATCHES

Somerset 9 Cornwall 1  
Cornwall Jun. " 2, Hampshire 8.

The recent trimming inflicted by our Juniors on Somerset in that vintage performance before Christmas was avenged by the Somerset Seniors recently; they made Cornwall pay dearly and the 9-1 defeat was the heaviest suffered for three years.

Once David Lee had beaten Bassett in the opening set, Somerset never, really looked back. Ian James pulled one back with a fine win over Lee Sadler and Alison Clemens played well to extend Rebecca Russe in what was otherwise a lacklustre performance by Cornwall at Taunton.

The only other county action of late saw the Junior seconds go down 8-2 at home to Hampshire at Launceston with Cornwall's two sets coming from Andy Hunt and Andrew Bevan.

## HALEX NATIONAL LEAGUE

Launceston Kernow 0  
01ivers Hinckley 8.

Launceston suffered their first 'whitewash' of the season at the hands of a very strong Hinckley side in an otherwise entertaining match. Hinckley's team of Smith, Pickles, Newman and Hall were too consistent on the day but Launceston will now look forward to easier fixtures in an effort to get off the bottom of Div. 3 West.

Colin Taylor reports from ...

## CUMBRIA

### STRENGTH PROVED

After the 1st round of matches in the Cumbria Inter-League competition, played at St. Katherine School, Kendal, the two Barrow teams head the Senior Men's division while Westmorland head the boys'. The Barrow senior teams, proved their strength in depth with, relatively easy wins, both "A" and "B" teams winning all their matches.

Neil Smith and Tim Pachul remained unbeaten for the "A" team, while Alan Fay performed likewise for the "B". Neil Yardley (Barrow "B") lost only to Paul Watson (Carlisle) in his two matches. Alan Manson and Andrew Murphy for the "A" and "B" teams respectively both won two out of three in each match. For Carlisle, Watson excelled against Barrow "B" to beat both Murphy 13,-18,16 and Yardley 14,-11,20. Against Barrow "A" Roger Stewart beat Manson 22,21 and also took Smith to the decider, losing -19,16,-14. Westmorland's only successful player was David Hillbeck who beat Murphy 13,19 and Manson

### 19,-8,15. Results:

Barrow "A"	8	Carlisle	1
Barrow "A"	8	Westmorland	1
Westmorland	1	Barrow "B"	8
Carlisle	2	Barrow "B"	7

The Junior matches proved to be a lot closer and no player emerged unbeaten. Best of all were Steve Watt (Barrow "A") and Mark Tadross (Westmorland) who both won 5 out of 6. In their personal contest Watt beat Tadross 11,24. Stewart Sayer (Carlisle) was the only player to beat Watt, with a confident scoreline of 9 and 17. Sayer together with Gavin Boyd (Barrow "A"), Jonathan Lowes (Barrow "B") and Derek Irving (Westmorland) all won 4 out of 6 sets. Westmorland lead after beating both Barrow teams. The 5-4 win over Barrow "A" had 8 sets that went to a decider and the match score could easily have been 7-1 to either side.

In the final set Irving gave Westmorland the points with a comeback against Boyd winning -19,12,19. Gavin, however, gave his side the points against Carlisle with a final set win over David Taylor 18,14. Taylor, in turn, scored a final set win over Peter Brockbank 19,15 to enable Carlisle to beat Barrow "B" 5-4.

### Scores:-

Westmorland	7	Barrow "B"	2
Westmorland	5	Barrow "A"	4
Carlisle	4	Barrow "A"	5
Carlisle	5	Barrow "B"	4

In their latest County Championships match the Juniors scored a well-earned draw against Notts who had not dropped a point previously. John Backhouse (Barrow) and Stephen Holland (Westmorland) both produced outstanding performances in beating Notts No. 1, Adrian Bolton, ranked No. 55 Junior in England. Karen Griffiths (Barrow) also kept her 100% singles record intact with her 5th straight games win. It was only a slip up in the boys' doubles that cost Cumbria a win, Backhouse and Holland led 19-16 in the third only to lose -19.

### Scores:-

J. Backhouse bt A. Bolton -19,18,20; bt R. Fearn 17,-18,19.
S. Holland lost to J. Holland -18,-13; bt Bolton 1a-15,16.
David Holmes lost to Fearn -18, 17; lost to J. Holland -10, -15.
Karen Backhouse lost to K. Mayall 20,-17,-13.
Karen Griffiths bt C. Oldman 18,14.
J. Backhouse/S. Holland lost to Bolton/J. Holland -12,12,-19.
K. Backhouse/Griffiths bt Mayali/Oldman 7,-12,16.

Congratulations are due to John Backhouse on attaining No. 52 place in the Cadet Boys' ranking list.

It looks as if Vickers "A" are well on the way to the Barrow League 1st Division championship after completing the double against Vickers 1st team. Neil Smith, Alan Manson and Stan Halesworth won two singles each in their 7-3 win. Smith lost only his second singles of the season, Neil Yardley beating him -9,19 and 13. Prior to this match only Eddie

O'Hara (St. Patricks) had got the better of Smith. Andrew Murphy was best for Vickers 1st team with two wins. Alan Fay had an unusual match in losing all his singles.

Malcolm Allsop reports from ...

## DERBYSHIRE

### RALLIES ABOUND

Readers of Table Tennis News could be forgiven for thinking that rallies no longer exist - but they do, albeit in the lower division of the local leagues.

This month I turned up to play in a match to find out it had been cancelled. Scanning through my handbook I saw YMCA 4th were playing Belper Sports Centre 2nd in Division Four of the Derby League and decided to go along and watch, and it proved the most entertaining match I have seen this season.

In the Belper team I was impressed by the attacking skills of Paul Harrison; the industry of Jeff Critchlow; and the enthusiasm of Ken Lewis. YMCA's Derek Banton played stylishly; John Wayne was aggressive; and Edwin Clarke showed fine tactical appreciation.

Long rallies, long games (33-31 in the doubles, which I umpired brilliantly), sportsmanship and appreciation of opponents' play were all in evidence. All six players were prepared to attack or defend, with no stereotype play and the final result was a 5-5 draw.

So if you want entertainment, the answer seems to be to watch the lower divisions of the local league. Top players could learn a lot by studying the play and enthusiasm of these players who play for their own enjoyment, and yet can provide so much enjoyment for others. The backbone of the ETTA membership are the players outside the top divisions, and table tennis is all the richer for their membership.

So can we have less moaning in Table Tennis News, and more encouragement for the lesser players.

I wrote in the October TT News of my concern if two-colour rubbers were forced upon lower players that they may pack up the Sport. However those to whom I have spoken regarding a change feel the change is inevitable and are making arrangements to change their rubbers accordingly - some have already done so. Their attitude is a welcome change to some of the moanings of the so-called leading players.

Derbyshire maintained their promotion challenge in the

County Championships with a convincing 10-0 win over Northamptonshire.

Despite fielding 3 juniors, the Derbyshire team led by England International Alan Cooke and Irish International Martin Kinsella, gained their most convincing victory with ease.

### Scores:

Cooke bt Handshaw 6, 11, bt Steve Lyon 13,8;
Kinsella bt Lyon 10, 14; bt Andrew Edmonds 13, 14;
Bradley Billington bt Edmonds -17, 14, 12; bt Handshaw 13, 14;
Billington/Cooke bt Edmonds/Lyon 11, 13;
Kerry Hall bt Glennis Hooper 7, 16;
Julie Billington bt Dorothy Marsh 15, 10;
Billington/Hall bt Hooper/Marsh 9, 11;

Julie Forster was outstanding player for Derbyshire Junior 2nd team when they were narrowly beaten 6-4 by Cleveland at Chestefield, Activity Centre.

Julie beat the Cleveland No 1 girl, Angela Wattis, and combined with Penny Corden to win the girls' doubles. Derbyshire's other successes came from Robert Scott/Birchall and Paul Knowles. Derbyshire's No.3 boy, John Davis almost got Derbyshire a draw in the final set only to be beaten by an edge ball.

After a spell of bad weather, Cleveland had left home early and arrived two and a half hours before the scheduled starting time. Unfortunately Derbyshire were not so prompt. Cleveland's enthusiasm gained them a deserved victory.

### Scores:

Scott-Birchall bt Andrew McKeown 14, -15, 14;
lost to James Nicholson -15, -13;
Knowles lost to Nicholson -17, -15; bt David Pashley 16, 12;
John Davis lost to Pashley -14, -14; lost to McKeown 21, -18, -19;
Scott-Birchall/Knowles lost to Nicholson/McKeown -19, -18;
Julie Forster bt Angela Wattis -19, 10,11;
Penny Corden lost to Suzanne Lawton 19, -19, -19;
Forster/Corden bt Lawton/Wattis 19, -14, 18;

In the Dunlop Derbyshire Schools' Individual Championships, Scott-Birchall beat William Hollingworth in the Boys' Under-16 Final, and To Thuy Dung won the Girls' Under-19 Singles.

Recent comment in TT News regarding the standard of dress has been noted by Charlie Kyles who has started to wear shorts. Charlie's legs, which should carry a Government Health Warning, are believed to be responsible for the resultant lack of spectator interest in table tennis.

Granville's Nigel Adams has had his hair permed. I have not seen the result yet as Nigel promptly left for Switzerland under the pretext of going skiing.

Derbyshire Inter-Town League:

Stuart Brooks and Paul Harvey won 3 singles each and combined to win the doubles in a 7-3 win for Burton 1st over Derby 1st, only requiring a third game in the doubles.

In Div. 2 Paul Chambers and Stephen Taylor won their sets for Eastwood 2nd in an 8-2 victory

over Chesterfield 1st; whilst Alfreton were beating Buxton by 7-3 despite 3 wins from Buxton's David Hall.

In the Junior Division, Buxton's M. Bradbury continues to gain impressive results, but his 3 wins were not enough to prevent Eastwood gaining a 7-3 win through G. Farnsworth, M. Starr and S. Robinson.

Ian Ford had 3 singles wins for Burton with Richard Smith winning 2 against Matlock, who forced a 5-5 draw thanks to 2 wins from Mark Beck; and Warren Slaney and Robert Blackburn winning 1 each and combining to win the doubles.

Burton beat the reigning Champions Derby in the Veterans' Division despite 3 wins from Dave Smedley; Rose Haggard and Pete Bentley won 2 each and combined to win the doubles with Alan Haynes adding the nail in Derby's coffin.

Chesterfield have all the top veterans in Derbyshire, yet the Chesterfield veterans team is still searching for its first win - going down 3-7 to a Brian Ashfield-inspired Buxton performance.

Derby continued their successful run in the East Midlands Cadet League, and the 1st team look potential champions.

Derby 1st team of Scott-Birchall, Knowles and Matthew Widdall beat Nottingham 2nd by 10-0, and Grantham by 9-1.

Penny Corden was the outstanding player for the Derby 2nd team gaining 9 victories in 3 matches. The squad of Penny Corden, Darreh Owen, Richard Patrick and Chris Baldwin lost 3-7 to Coventry; drew 5-5 with Grantham; and then won 9-1 against Mansfield.

In the Premier Division of the Derby League, Mechanics 1st are extending their lead over the Champions St Andrews 1st. Mechanics 1st are getting convincing victories, whereas St Andrews 1st are dropping silly points despite, maintaining an unbeaten record.

sity players and there is a very good chance that next season they will again participate.

One major problem is that of attracting teams of young players. Most are in the 30-plus bracket although this does have the advantage that they tend to be more reliable. Belmont 'A' appear to be the dominant force in the league having a large squad of players including Tony Gelder, Jimmy Laing, Geoff Fisher, Keith Henry and Brian Bateman.

The league is fortunate in having David Blackburne playing and to-date he has missed very few matches for Community Centre 'A'. He is the player to beat and only Gelder has done so this season in a close 3-ender. It just goes to demonstrate the make-up of the league in that David's team-mates are John Morgan who, at 50 years of age, and George Dent who is now 60 still participate!

The Handicap Cup is now underway and the first round brought the dismissal of last season's winners Aycliffe Hospital - Gary Webstall included - by 2nd Division Mullards. But Bishop Barrington, last season's runners-up, are still there with Phil Scott and Trevor Di-Martino at the helm.

Leading positions in the league are:-

Division A	P	W	D	L	Pts
Belmont 'A'	10	10	0	0	95
Gillesgate	9	6	1	2	61
Community 'A'	10	5	3	2	57
Bishop Barrington	10	5	2	3	56
Division B	P	W	D	L	Pts
Mullards	6	0	0	6	62
Savings	7	0	0	5	53
Norscot	7	5	1	4	46

### PETERLEE

The final of the Team Handicap Cup was played recently when Whitbread 'A' and Whitbread 'B' met at a neutral venue. The 'A' team had to concede 90 points and it was not until the seventh set that this deficit was wiped out. But from then on the 'A' team forged ahead to win by 66 pts. Scores:-

N. Hunt bt D. Carney 50-40, bt R. Douglas 50-18, bt G. Park 50-16.  
A. Jenkins bt Carney 50-28, bt Douglas 48-45, bt Park 50-15 - -.  
H. Williams lost to Carney 37-50, bt Douglas 50-35, bt Park 50-32.  
Results: Whitbread 'A' (+60) - 495;  
VWhitbread 'B' (+150) - 429.

### PHILADELPHIA AND DISTRICT

Latest positions in the Philadelphia League are:-

Division 1	P	W	D	L	Pts
Great Lumley	11	9	2	0	37
Hetton Meths	11	7	2	2	34
Washington 'A'	7	6	1	0	26
Northumbria 'A'	8	6	1	1	26
Division 2	P	W	D	L	Pts
Washington 'C'	11	11	0	0	44
Shiney Row CA	12	10	0	2	38
Biddick CA	10	5	3	2	27

### SUNDERLAND AND DISTRICT

Northumbria Centre 'A' of the 1st division dropped their first point of the season when they travelled to meet Silksworth 'A' and could only win 7-5 after winning 12-0 in their first meeting. Silksworth's set were won by Robert Reed (2), Chris Blake (2)

and Alvin Robson (1) whilst Peter McQueen (3), Tom Robson (2), Cliff Olsson and Dave Corbett (1 each) got Northumbria's sets.

Any chance West 'A' had of catching Northumbria 'A' was dashed as they could only manage the same result against St. Gabriels 'A' and, to add insult to injury, only Tony Gelder and Paul Smith turned up against the Post Office but they still managed a draw.

Latest positions in Div. 1 computer rankings are:-

1. T. Gelder (West 'A')	180 pts
2. C. Olsson (North 'A')	171
3. P. McQueen (North 'A')	171
4. S. George (St Gabs 'B')	162
5. R. Reed (Silks 'A')	161
6. P. Stafford (St Gabs 'B')	157
7. D. Bissett (PO)	156
8. D. Godbold (North 'A')	155
9. M. Polkinghorn (West 'A')	154
10. T. Robson (North 'A')	150

### DURHAM COUNTY LEAGUE

Sunderland 'A' who remain the favourites to gain the Senior Division title, lie in second place behind Sunderland 'B' just 2 pts in arrears with a match in hand. The crunch comes later this month when the two sides meet. Philadelphia 'A' could finish runners-up but they would have to gain maximum points from their final matches. In the Boys' section the title rests between Philadelphia 'A' and Peterlee.

Leading positions:-

Senior Division	P	W	D	L	Pts
Sunderland 'B'	6	5	1	0	22
Sunderland 'A'	5	5	0	0	20
Peterlee	5	3	1	1	13
Boys	P	W	D	L	Pts
Philadelphia 'A'	0	1	1	9	9
Peterlee	0	0	0	6	6
Philadelphia 'B'	0	1	4	4	4

### ROSE BOWL

Sunderland travelled down to Warrington for their 3rd round tie on Feb. 3 but were well beaten 8-1. Scores (Sunderland names first):-

Shirley Gelder lost to Janet Deakin -9,-16; lost to Susan Lisle -10,-8; bt Caroline Hemming 17,16. Linda Spensley lost to Lisle -12,-19; lost to Hemming -14,-15; lost to Deakin 13,-7,-18. Lynne Yarnell lost to Hemming -18,-9; lost to Lisle -7,-15; lost to Deakin -15,-14.

### CARTER CUP

Sunderland are through to the Zone final after York conceded with Northumberland their next opponents.

### DURHAM 2-STAR OPEN

It is with regret that I have to announce that the Durham 2-Star Open, scheduled for March 31, has had to be cancelled due to lack of sponsorship. I sincerely hope that it can be held next year.

Alf Pepperd reports from...

### GLOUCESTERSHIRE BUT FOR THE FEW!

For most leagues the tail end of March usually signifies the end of the season, a series of -

"Finals Nights", and for many players a time when table tennis abruptly ends and more summer-like sports tend to take over. But for the ardent Administrator, T.T. NEVER ENDS, and work continues. Next season's bookings for special events have to be done now, or at least ensure they are booked in time. I often wonder how many league players appreciate just what is done for them!

Gloucestershire, despite having only three leagues, has much to offer. But having said that - few indeed are really prepared to do much, at least outside actually playing. Unfortunately this is commonplace and goes on all over the country.

The future, as this Scribe sees it, will remain much the same as long as "THE FEW" are still available and prepared to do the spade work, but should the few "OPT OUT" and not be replaced - What then? Some other alternative would have to be established, perhaps some counties might have to pay hard cash as an incentive (if volunteers are not available). Where's it coming from if indeed matters should reach that stage? The answer, Readers, IS YOU! - and maybe a hefty additional increase in your affiliation fee. There is always considerable uproar at Gloucester City meetings when it is suggested that fees may have to go up. Few people take into consideration the 65,000 Dollar question, WHY THEY HAVE TO.

The Beneficial Trust Cotswold Junior Grand Prix came to Gloucester Leisure Centre last month. This indeed has been the 7th consecutive tournament to be staged in the City.

As Fiona Brown is reporting it this year I obviously do not wish to tread on her toes. Nevertheless I feel it only appropriate to mention that for the past three years we have had the excellent services of Doug Young of Worcester as Hon-Referee. On behalf of the Glo'shire T.T. Committee, many thanks for your help to us Doug.

Several other stalwarts, NOT ON THE COUNTY COMMITTEE, also did sterling work. For example- Jaques sent us 14 tables instead of 15, and Colin Bruton of the Gloucester League and a member of the Rudford Club which is 5 miles from Gloucester immediately drove out and brought the Rudford Jaques table in and returned it for a match on the following Monday.

Stan Johnston of Cheltenham turned up both days to umpire, and several others helped out in many ways. Gladys Pepperd (a very close relative) saw both days out from start to finish helping to assist Doug Young

Harry Black reports from ...

## DURHAM

### AROUND THE LEAGUES

Within the last six years the number of teams in the Durham and District League has fallen from 35 to 20 but still it has been good to welcome four new teams this season and hopefully they will remain in membership. It is the first season for many years in which the University has not been represented and they normally have 'up to four teams in membership. But the League still has close links with the Univer-

# County Notes

and Andy Seward with Control. Sylvia Giles and Ray Westbury of Stroud, Ann and Terry Smith and Bernard Mowbray, all of Gloucester, did sterling work. And there were many others who at the risk of repeating myself - NOT ON THE COUNTY COMMITTEE who turned up to help out - where and when required, including John Cooper, a great worker, who always turns up. I could go on but I'm merely trying to point out that almost inevitably without the help given by these enthusiasts there just would not be any tournaments at all. Finally I not mentioned the sterling work done by the Committee - I shall mention no names, they after all accept the work as part and parcel of their functions.

## RADIO - SEVERN-SOUND

Regular weekly 4-5 minutes of broadcasting still goes out and to date this year the following have honoured me with interviews - Les Smith our Gen/Sec and National Councillor, Alan Haines - Gloucester's Chairman, Jack Reeves - County Vice-Chairman, Fiona Brown - Press and Development Officer (E.T.T.A.) and Doug Young, International Referee.

## THE PROVIDENCE CAPITOL COUNTY PREMIER LEAGUE

The last two rounds have seen some of the closest and most exciting matches in the history of the competition. One reason for this is that the lower-ranked players are now offering a real challenge to players ranked above them. No longer do the No.1's beat the No.2's and 3's easily and indeed it is not unusual for most sets to require a third deciding game.

In the first of these rounds the two top teams, Taylor's Pommies and Slack's Savages, played

each other and with so much at stake, both fought for every point. Adrian Vale No.3 of the Savages, became the first player this season to take a game off Neil Taylor; the latter would have been even more hard pressed, had Adrian been able to cope better with Neil's service.

When the No.1's came to the table the score stood at 4-4 but Neil clinched victory for his side by beating Graham Slack - 22-20, 26-24!

The two other fixtures ended with 5-4 scorelines. Again the score stood at 4-4 before Darren Griffin's attacking play overcame Richard Russell's defence, and in the other match a fine maximum by No. 2 - Sylvester Callum, which included a win over Steve Moreman, saw his team to victory. Steve recovered, however, to beat the County's No.3 Andrew Golding 21 in the third.

The 6th Round saw the clash of Slack's Savages and Griffin's Tornados, and a very close contest followed. Perhaps the crucial result was Adrian Vale's win over Guy Greening 22 in the third, after Adrian had led 20-15. Griffin scored a maximum and Slack got two, but by only 20 and 19 over Guy Greening and by 19 in the third at the expense of Martyn Lane.

Actually Griffin's team scored 35 more points, but Slack's team won 5-4.

In the other matches Taylor's Pommies just scraped through to a 5-4 win versus Moreman's Muppets and Golding's Goldiggers took full advantage of Richard Russell's absence to record a 7-2 victory v Russell's Razzle-Dazzlers. Despite the final score, it was a closely-fought fixture. Paul Gleed beat Rob Stroud, but the score was 22, -1 9, 22 and they don't come much closer than that.

## LEAGUE TABLE

	P	W	L	Pts
Taylor's Pommies	6	6	0	33
Slack's Savages	6	4	2	30
Golding's Goldiggers	6	3	3	28
Griffin's Tornados	6	3	3	27
Moreman's Muppets	6	1	5	23
Russell's Razzle-Dazzlers	6	1	5	19

It may look as though unbeaten „Pommies" have the title ALL SEWN UP, but they have to play Tornados twice and Griffin must fancy his chances of depriving Taylor of his hitherto unbeaten singles record, while Lane and Greening look a stronger pairing than Alan Giles and Craig Saunders. Nevertheless Junior Craig Saunders has responded splendidly to the challenge of playing in the C.P.L. and by winning half of his sets so far has made a vital contribution to his team's top position.

## COUNTY MATCHES

On Jan. 26, at C.E.G.B., Banbury, the County senior side took on Dorset in Div. 2B but, despite playing hard and fighting well failed yet again to win a match in going under 8-2. The truth, it is often said, is hard to face up to. But, at present, the County do not have players of 2nd Division standard and it will be a hard job to escape relegation. Scores:-

Neil Taylor lost to Tony Clayton -18, -18;  
 Andre Golding lost to Rodney Thomas -16, 18, -15;  
 Darren Griffin bt Martin Abbott 19, 19;  
 Cathy Robb/Heather Colwill lost to Leanne Harman/Samantha Scott-Pawson -13, -11;  
 Golding/Taylor lost to Abbott/Clayton -19, 19, -16;  
 Taylor bt Thomas 18, -19,9;  
 Colwill lost to Scott-Pawson -11, -12;  
 Griffin lost to Clayton 17, -16, -4;  
 Robb lost to Harman -19, -12;  
 Golding lost to Abbott -19, -16.

Our Juniors travelled to Banbury to play Oxon and came away with a fine 6-4 win under their belts. Our team was weakened as the top five ranked girls were just not available. However, Jenny Egan (Cheltenham), the No.6, and Cheryl Fannin (Gloucester), the No.7, put up a good show but the former could hardly be expected to make any impression on Amanda Shufflebotham who figures at No. 33 in the latest Lentec computer rankings. Howard Williams (Stroud) and Tony Wilson (Gloucester) won both their singles with Lawrence winning one and combining with Williams to win the boys' doubles. Scores (Oxon names first):-

David Bottomley lost to Symonds -12, -17;  
 Steven Evans lost to Williams -8, -8;  
 Dominic O'Flynn lost to Wilson 7, -20, -17;  
 Amanda Shufflebotham/Neil Brett bt Eagan/Fannin 13, 4;  
 Bottomley/O'Flynn lost to Symonds/Williams 20, -14, -15;  
 Bottomley lost to Williams -19, -17;  
 Brett bt Fannin 8, 9;  
 O'Flynn bt Symonds 18, 15;  
 Shufflebotham bt Egan 6, 7;  
 Evans lost to Wilson -1 6, -9.

## ODDS AND ENDS

I understand, somewhat sadly, that County Chairman, John Bunn, will not be seeking re-election. Also declining re-election is Mrs. Jean Golding who for many years has held the position of Team Selection Officer. Both will be missed and indeed perhaps hard to replace. We can but only thank them for past services rendered to the County Association and table tennis in general.

I understand that Nina Tsakarisanos has recently been re-admitted to Hospital for an operation to repair her fractured vertebrae.

Nina, as I have mentioned before, has had back trouble for some considerable time, and indeed had to return from Germany last Autumn as a direct result of it. She has not played since her return.

I feel sure her friends and table tennis acquaintances will join me in wishing her well and per-

haps MOST important above all, a speedy recovery to normal health.

David Cosway reports from....

## HAMPSHIRE

### NOT A GOOD HABIT

Hampshire Senior team's favourite score in recent matches seems to be 1-9. Not a good habit to get into with four such results in succession. Against Wiltshire, Graham Toole gained the 'county's only success although I believe this 1-9 score line on the table may have been amended to '2-8! The match was notable for the county debut of 'non playing' captain Keir Donaldson when Derek Holman's car broke down and he failed to arrive. This did not appear to affect the Wiltshire team too much, and despite this distraction they ran out comfortable winners. Only two more appearances now Keir for your county badge!

More problems for Keir against Sussex with the re-ranking, after the Hampshire Closed, not being received by the ETfA in time and Kathy Ridgard, the new Hampshire champion's sets going by default to Sussex. Rhamish Bhalla recalled to the team, gained the only win. He also scored the only success in the following debacle against Kent, with an excellent win over Andy Dodd. But the rest! Kathy came close in her singles but lost disastrously in the doubles with Cheryl Buttery, and Cheryl losing to Juliet Houghton -11 and -10-well!

A brighter note on the junior scene with a good 8-2 win over Cornwall. Paul Hudless won two, Sean Picken, Paul Lawrence, Sarah Hammond and Laura Savaka each won a singles while both the boys' and girls' doubles went our way. An even better win for the veteran 'A' team 6-3 over Dorset. Ray Lush and Fred Kershaw each won two singles, both beating Cyril Bush, while Fred and Ivy Kershaw won the mixed and Ray with Tony Nixon the men's doubles. The Veterans' 'B' team lost 3-6 to Berkshire with Ken Giles and Maurie Shave each winning a singles and combining to win the doubles.

The Hampshire Junior Closed attracted a very good entry and certainly showed the potential in the county. In the Under-12 girls' event, Claire Woodham (Aldershot) beat Sarah Jackson of Wallampton School 14, 19. In the corresponding boys' event, Joe Healey, son of the Winchester Association's Treasurer, beat Carl Hutchinson of Aldershot 11, 10.

At Cadet level Lisa Rice (Portsmouth) beat Aldershot's Elizabeth Shubrook 10, 18 in the girls' while Graeme Connelly (Aldershot) beat Edward Westmacott in his last year at Wallhampton School, 17, 17. In the Cadet doubles the Aldershot pairing of Connelly and Bryant Gonsalves beat the Basingstoke/Southampton scratch partnership of Robert Kinison and Mark Thorne 13 -19 12. In the girls', 14-year-old Lisa Rice caused an upset with the defeat of No. 2 seed Laura Savaka in the groups. In the final however she was no match for No. 1 seed Sarah Hammond. In the boys' two good semis with the top seeds emerging. Hudless beat his Aldershot team mate Lawrence -1 7, 18, 13. Picken of Basingstoke beat Southampton's Richard Mandair 17, 19. I cannot understand why Richard is not even listed in the county rankings but hopefully this will now change! The final saw No. 1 seed Hudless just getting the better of No.2 Picken 16, 14. Hudless and Lawrence dropped the first to the scratch pairings of Picken and Thorne but won the next two -1 7 7 17.

### Southampton Closed

Once again a poor entry for the men's singles with only 37 players. Early matches on a group system had been hoped would encourage the poorer players to enter. No real surprises with the top four seeds reaching the semis and the top two the final. Two straight forward semi-final victories for Chris Shetler (Alpha) 17 and 10 against his team mate Andy Ely and Terry Bruce (Snows) by 10 and 10 against his team mate Bill Moulding. This could have been the final ten years ago for both have been around for some time now! Where are the new comers? The final, as one would expect, a hard-hitting affair, was always going to go to Bruce who thereby picked up his second Southampton singles titles - his last was in the 1973/4 season! The final score 19, 16. The thing that surprised - and disappointed - me about the final was Shetler's temperament, not a matter I can ever remember having to criticise in the past.

The women's singles attracted only five entries, so everyone played in a group with the top two going into the final. The outcome never looked in doubt with Cheryl Buttery (Four T's) winning all her four sets and Ivy Kershaw (Esso) only losing to her - 19 in the third! The repeat of this match in the final was a different kettle of fish with Cheryl pulling out all the stops and showing the form at last which earned her high computing ranking. I have to admit expressing doubts about her

form since her move to Southampton but this set proved what she is capable of. Now she has settled in her new job and has just got married I hope this is a taste of her future form. The final score against Ivy was 14, 8.

Once again Sarah Hammond was absent on the junior circuit and it is disappointing that our first junior international in years has yet to win a Southampton title and gives her local tournament so little priority. The men's doubles saw No. 1 seeds Bruce and Moulding into the final with a 19, 19 semi final victory over Shave (Snows-) and Nixon (Four T's). Their opponents Alan Charles and Shetler of Alpha disposed of No. 2 seeds Jeff Mitchell and Ken Giles (Snows) before beating Graham Pointer and Allan (Wadhams) -21, 16, 14 in the semi. The final a 16, 12 win for the No.1 seeds to give Terry and Bill their first doubles title in the city since 1972/3.

No women's doubles event in view of lack of entries but in the mixed top seeds Gary and Anne Longland (Snows) were knocked out by Donaldson and Cheryl Buttery of Four T's 17,-15,20 in the semis. In the final however another husband and wife combination, Fred and Ivy Kershaw had no trouble in winning 10 and 16. The veterans' event proved a bad day for the top seeds. Nixon reached the final by disposing of No.3 seed and holder Shave -17,17,19 and then the No. 1 seed Fred Kershaw 21,-16, 16 in the semi. In the other half Ken Giles disposed of No. 2 seed Rowe Bennett (Wadhams) 8,-18 24. The final saw Nixon eventually run out of steam to give No.4 seed Giles his first title 20,-17, 15. No problems of this nature for the top two seeds in the junior singles with the only early shock, the elimination of No.3 seed Mark Thorne by his Four T's club mate Martin Johnson in the first round. The two finalists also from the Four T's club with Michael Aucterlonie having a comfortable 'win' over the Vietnamese Luong La 10, 15. The handicap singles was won by Gary Longland with a 19, 18 win in the final against Alan Charles.

It has been very much Southampton versus Bournemouth in recent matches. In the Rose Bowl, for once, Southampton looked in with a chance but even the most ardent Bournemouth fan could not have expected the 5-0 "whitewash". Bournemouth were excellent, full of fight and will to win, two elements sadly lacking in the Southampton team. Cheryl Buttery had no idea how to deal with Joyce Coop's chop and let good leads go in both the first and final games against

Samantha Scott-Pawson. Sarah Hammond also had a poor match losing two-straight in the opening set against Samantha and letting a 13-7 lead in the third evaporate to 14-all against Leanne Harman. This is the first time I have seen Leanne play and was most impressed. Against the experienced Christine Davies she fought well to win at 18 in the third and never gave up against Sarah. The attitude and temperament of the Bournemouth trio was an example I wish was more prevalent in the county! There you are Harold Pearce - who said I was anti Bournemouth! By the way I hope the Editor of Bournemouth's '21 up' magazine is now fully recovered from what he called his 'plumbing job'.

In the Four T's national club knock-out match against North Bournemouth, it was sadly the same story. The same Southampton team as in the Rose Bowl, but for North Bournemouth Elsie Carrington and Rose Jeal joined Leanne Harman. On paper this match looked a formality for Four T's - but no! North Bournemouth were never led. It was left for Leanne to win the last set at 4-all against Christine which she duly did 19, 22. The star of the show however was without doubt veteran Elsie. Three wins in a match at this level a good performance by any standard but so shortly after the sad death of her husband, Jack, must have given her a great deal of pleasure and encouragement for the future.

Then into the inter-town league with Southampton versus Bournemouth virtually the deciding match in the mixed division. There were rumours that Bournemouth were having difficulty in fielding a team wished to cry off at one stage, but on the day only one team in it with Bournemouth 9-3 winners. Tony Clayton and John Robinson each won two for Bournemouth, M. Hughes and Joyce Coop won one singles each, while Clayton Combined with Joyce Coop to win a mixed and with Hughes to win the men's doubles. For Southampton Ely and Ivy Kershaw won a singles a piece and the other mixed also went their way.

In the men's division Bournemouth have only played one match which they drew, while Aldershot and Portsmouth head the table level on points. Bournemouth 'A' and Southampton 'A' are both unbeaten at the top of the Veteran Div. 1, while Aldershot head Div. 2. I will report more fully on the junior division after the second set of block matches, but after the first set with Bournemouth 'A' losing to Aldershot 'A' and Southampton still to play both, the first division

is wide open.

In the Hampshire Schools' Individual Championships there were a few upsets. In the U-19 boys' Christos Hannides of Richard Tauntons, Southampton beat Andrew Davies of Salesian College, Farnborough 19,-12, 18. Andrew has now left Hampshire to play for Surrey in the junior premier division. Sarah Hammond of Richard Taunton beat Laura Savaka of Bayhouse School, Gosport in the girls' event. At U-16 level, 13-year-old Marke Thorne of Hardley School, Fawley beat County No.1 Paul Hudless -14,18,18 and went on to win the final against Richard Mandair of Deaney SchOOl, Southampton -1 9, 16, 17. In the girls', Lisa Rice of Horndean School beat Rachael Chaffey of Wildern School, Hedge End. Michael Aucterlonie, overwhelming favourite to win the U-13 boys' was a little lucky to win his group, only beating Graeme Connelly of Salesian College, Farnborough -20, 16, 21. In the girls', two Wallhampton School girls contested the final with Sarah Sperringwinning against Philipa Pirie. Mark Shutler of Wallisdean School, Fareham, playing in his first tournament won the U-11 boys with Noel Mansell of Cove School the runner-up. Catherine Hutchins of Wallhampton School won the U-11 girls' event.

Harry Stevens reports from....

### HERTFORDSHIRE DETERMINED TRACY

The Junior first team were at home to Devon 1st and were represented by Peter Harris (2), Leonard Rosso (1), Derek Rogers (1), Alison Boxall (-) and Tracy Baines (1). Alison/Tracy and Harris/Rogers won their doubles. A number of close games, the two doubles wins gave Herts a confident lead and a determined fight back by Tracy, after losing the first game, ensured Herts took both points, with a 7-3 victory.

Senior team were at home to Northants. Herts were represented by John Taylor, Barry White, John McCance, Karen Morton and Sally Bax. Excellent win with the result in doubt right up to the last point. Two wins each for Taylor, White and McCance.

Veterans' first team v Hunts 1. Derek Somers (2), Dave Seaholme (1), Alan (1), Margaret Harris (1) and the Mixed to Margaret and David to give a 6-3 win. Veterans' second team were at home to Beds. and achieved a 9-0 win. A disappointing match to both teams,

# County Notes

although for different reasons, as Bedford were let down on the day and could only field two men.

Veterans' third team were away to Wiltshire 2 and suffered a 4-5 defeat. Keith Hartridge (-), Dave Wilson (1), Brian Gale (1), Pat Gale (-). The doubles were won by Hartridge/Wilson and Pat and Brian Gale. A very hard, but friendly, match with seven of the sets going to three.

Diary dates - Barnet Table Tennis Centre

March 2 Junior Training  
March 9 Senior 1 - Oxford  
March 17 Barnet League 2-a-side

March 30 Junior Training  
April 6 County Championships

April 14-20th Barnet Closed Championships  
April 27 Junior Training.

Senior Inter League Division 1

Winners - North Herts.

Watford II 2 Barnet 5  
N. Herts 7 Watford II 0  
Watford I 7 Hemel 0  
N. Herts 7 Hemel 0  
Barnets 2 N. Herts 5  
Watford II 3 Watford I 4  
N. Herts 5 Watford I 2  
Watford II 5 Hemel 2  
Barnets 3 Watford 4  
Barnets 7 Hemel 0

## John Prean looks beyond the **ISLE OF WIGHT** BANNED!

I have been inundated with requests for copies of the 3 paragraphs that were banned from my January Notes. I feel a bit of a fraud, because they are of quite monumental harmlessness, dealing with the neglect and treatment of our own players in the Charles Church Invitation Event (and generally) and opened with a warm tribute to the Sponsor. That, readers, is all there was to it. It takes an English International half a year of being at the ETIA's beck and call to earn less than the travel costs of Jindrich Panskv and in one year of similar service he or she could not earn what Andrzej Grubba earned in one day in this English TTA Tournament.

Not even good business. You will have read about a similar event in Denmark (Jan. issue, page 11). Two local Danish players WERE included and, although Copenhagen is a much smaller city than London, the gate was very much bigger than ours. The TV viewing figures too were very high. So, leaving our players out was not even good business in the end. Next time let us do better.

Will he... won't he?  
I saw it on Lyon the box. Quite a few of us, having to travel a long

way, were put off by the singularly inept pre-match publicity that Desmond Douglas might not make it. As it happened, he did - arriving, so I read, 15 minutes before his first match. He lost 3 out of 4 in an event which he had won the previous 4 years. He reached the Final in the last 10. "A typical ETTA schedule," remarked a friend, "At last I see what you mean". Since without Douglas the event would never have got on the box, one would have thought that they might have managed to find a date when Douglas did not have Bundesliga commitments the previous night. All that rush and 5 hours' sleep, I take my hat off to him for playing as well as he did.

A dangerous revolutionary? It has been a lot of fun writing this column, but the fact has to be faced that the forces of censorship are massing and that it may be nearing its end. You may be forgiven for thinking after reading the Jan. issue that I was a fanatical madman sent by Fidel Castro to blow up our beloved ETTA. The truth is less dramatic. I am a middle-aged businessman, an enthusiastic local official, a former county player of a very small county, a club coach who has been largely forgotten. I have been married to the same woman for 32 years and in the same job for 31. As Managing Director of my Company I made both my main shareholders dollar millionaires, unfortunately not myself, though I always earned enough to be comfortable and enable my 'talented' son to play this very expensive sport in which few weekends leave any change from a hundred pounds. None of this is very much and I relate it to show that I am a respectable 'Square'. I grew rebellious only as I looked at the Sport as a businessman and saw many signs of failure and decay and began to wonder whether the Sport had any future at all.

### Sunny Platitudes

Whenever I voiced these forebodings, Selector Charters was never far behind assuring us that I was being 'flamboyant', 'immoderate', 'extreme' an 'indiscriminate knocker' and so forth. Thereafter he assured us that he himself was a man of moderation. Then he embarked on a lame defence of such things as the Moscow Fiasco not a humiliation' - had I imagined it all?, his strange ranking-lists (which bear as much relation to reality as Hitler did to a freedom fighter) and the plastic ball (which even the makers were endeavoring to change whilst Selector Charters was lauding it to the sky). The famous travel schedules (some worse than that endured by Des) too were de-

fended to the death, although they now stand discredited and deserted. His defence mechanism resembled the movements of a chicken with a severed head. The twitches continued after the poor chicken was dead.

### Dr Pangloss

He reminded me more and more of Voltaire's stout philosopher Dr Pangloss who staunchly maintained that all was for the best in the best of possible worlds, as everything around him, indeed he himself, was falling to bits.

### Icebergs approaching

(Apologies to Dick Hopkins)  
If he had stood on the Titanic, he would have admired the icebergs for their natural beauty and reproached the dastardly Prean for seeing any danger in them. Once they had struck the ship, he would have said it was a nice day for a swim. If the awful Prean had suggested looking for a life-boat, he would have accused him of destructive pessimism. As the waves finally closed in on him, he would have declared that all would be well, if only Prean would stop complaining. If he did not stop, the players might start making excuses. The fact that the tables were under water was no reason for them not to give of their best. Under no circumstances must officials be blamed because the ship was sinking. Then, being unable to swim together, they would have sunk together. United at last. Other less leaky ships, symbolising better-conducted sports, continued to sail into calmer waters - to tranquility and success.

What are we getting for our money?

I must again ask this question, since the membership voted the ETTA vastly increased funds. So far I am not impressed and I speak for my members. My calculations showed a sum of £40,000. If membership figures continued to decline, then that sum is less. Nevertheless what we have heard so far is derisory. There is a fund of £2,000 for needy juniors. Many parents tell me that it takes close to that to keep one junior playing on the national circuit for one year. A committee has been appointed to administer this tiny fund. Presumably there will be means tests. May I suggest that the whole sum - a very small one in relation to what we all contribute is given to the Hammersley Parker Foundation where they have experience of making a little go a long way and a proven record of getting excellent value for what at this time are private contributors? The ETIA has sat on its hands.

There is more  
More goodies are promised: A Fund of a further £2,000 to train

local officials. I can only report that, as I travel the country, I have found more enthusiasm, devotion and efficiency at local level than I have found at the top. I am not sure therefore WHO will train WHOM, but when the time comes, I shall report for training with an open mind. Still, I can count only £4,000 or 10% of the new money. I look for further news - about the remaining 90%. Hardly a day passes without one of my members asking ME that question.

County Team hammered  
Sad news from our County Team. We were thrashed 8-2 by Glamorgan. Regina Stevens was called back to Germany which made it tough in the ladies' sets, although Jill Fothergill played well, losing 18 in the 3rd to Carolyn Jones. C.P. won two, which must have been a change after playing Surbeck 3 days earlier before more than a thousand people. We too had an excellent crowd, though not quite of those proportions! Having played several super matches before thin numbers, it was a tragedy that we played poorly when we were so well supported. We worked really hard on the pre-match publicity. I was impressed with Glamorgan. Andrew Jones, Warwick Armstrong, David Chan, Carolyn Jones and Jayne Sully played with admirable motivation.

Our own Super-Cup  
At last we got some terrific matches in the Peach Cup donated by our late Treasurer Frank Peach. We are getting close matches, because no team may field 3 players with a combined average of more than 160% in our 1st division, Newport Vics, with an all Division 2 line-up (Graham Copp, Mark Buckell and the all-conquering Richard Jackson) have reached the semi-finals, piling sensation upon sensation. With excellent new premises about which I wrote recently I am hoping that Newport will become a Table Tennis hotbed, which Ryde has been for so long.

More sensations  
Columbia too have a team in the Semis. This is C.P. and Maurice and Christopher Fenn. The latter, a Division 2 player, brought off the sensation of the round when he defeated David Toffrey, a member of Ryde's championship winning side. 16-19 down in the third, he won the next 5 points and Columbia won 5-4.

Terry Bown reports from....

## **LEICESTERSHIRE** SUCCESSFUL DEFENCE

Six titles were successfully defended when the Leicestershire

Closed Championships took place at the Granby Halls Leisure Centre in early Feb.

Shock results were only noticeable by their absence as the eight seeded players in the Men's Singles secured their allotted place in the quarters. In fact, the only problems came in the second round when, Martin Pickles had to come back from behind to beat the unorthodox skills of Mike James. From the quarters onwards, the closing stages had that air of 'predictability' about them with all sets being won two-straight. The final saw No. 1 seed, **Chris Rogers** triumph over Dave Gannon (2) 20, 14.

The women's singles was again a success story for **Karen Smith** who added yet another title to her impressive list when she beat Julie Revill 9, 17, in the final. Joanne Murray upset the seedings appletart by brilliantly outplaying the fourth favourite, Joanne Heath in the quarters to win in three.

Chris and Karen combined to take the Mixed title with a comfortable win over Graham Hall and Julie Revill whilst Maurice Newman was busy hanging on to his Hard Bat Singles crown with a final win of 14, 16 over Tony Kinsey. Joanne Murray's form continued to impress when she took the Girls' Singles title for the second year running with a 18, 18 win over Gail Chapman in the final. Karen Smith and Julie Revill, the beaten finalist in the Women's Singles, paired up to take the Women's Doubles when they triumphed over Yvonne and Sandra Hall, thus giving Karen her third title to become the most successful player of the day.

In the other events, a complete reversal of last year's Veterans' Singles Final saw Colin Truman overcome the efforts of John Iliffe by 19, 19 and in the most exciting final of the day, Knighton Park's Ian Brown came back from behind to snatch the Boys' Singles title from a strangely jaded Paul Bumpus. The Cadets Singles final saw Andrew Clark beating Graham Imlay in three and Pickles regained the Intermediate title in his last year of qualification for the event. Newman's second win of the day came in unison with club-mate Hall when they took the Men's Doubles with a 9, 15 win over Keith Fellows and Nick Standen. The Junior Doubles was a triumph for Brown and Mark Laywood over Bumpus and Gail Chapman.

All in all then, a successful Championships. Organiser Geoff Aldwinckle must have been well pleased with the 230 odd entrants, as he would have with the control desk which was admirably run by Ian McKelvey with assis-

tance from Pat Pickles (Public Address), Mike Smith and Alan Philpott.

## DETAILS:

M.S: C. Rogers bt D. Gannon 20, 14.  
W.S: K. Smith bt J. Revill 9, 17.  
V.S: C. Truman bt J. Iliffe 19, 19.  
C.S: A. Clark bt G. Imlay 15, -19, 18.  
G.S: J. Murray bt G. Chapman 18, 18.  
I.S: M. Pickles bt David Grundy 11, 17.  
B.S: I. Brown bt P. Bumpus -11, 18, 20.  
H.B.S: M. Newman bt T. Kinsey 14, 16.  
M.D: Newman/Hall bt Fellows/Standen 9, 15.  
X.D: Rogers/Smith bt Hall/Revill 14, 7.  
J.D: Brown/Laywood bt Bumpus/Chapman 15, 9.  
W.D: Smith/Revill bt Y & SHall 12, -21, 7.

Of the two results that I have received concerning County Championships matches, I have only the details of one. By way of an explanation, apparently, the Veterans' team captain was so disgusted with the performance of his team, when they went 9-0 down to Cheshire II in Div. 2A, that he ripped up the copy score-sheet!! Shame on you, John.

Despite a 9-1, Div. 2A, reversal at Lancashire, captain Harry Ward reckons that this was the most encouraging display by the Leicestershire Juniors so far this season. Bumpus suffered a narrow two-game defeat to Sean Gibson and won Leicester's singles rubber with a two-straight win over Andrew Eden. Brown lost an exciting match to Eden which saw Ian a mile behind in the first, yet he won, and a mile in front in the third, yet he lost!!

## DETAILS:

Leicestershire Veterans 0 Cheshire 119  
Lancashire Juniors 9 Leicestershire Juniors 1 (Leics. names first).  
Bumpus lost to Gibson -20, -19;  
Michael Gillett lost to Lee Brown -9, -10;  
Ian Brown lost to Eden 19, -13, -17;  
Gail Chapman/Lucie Grundy lost to Lynn Harnden/Nicola McGrath -9, -17;  
Bumpus/Brown lost to Gibson/Brown -9, -16;  
Gillett lost to Gibson -9, -7;  
Grundy lost to McGrath -15, -13;  
Bumpus bt Eden 15, 16;  
Chapman lost to Harnden -10, -15;  
I. Brown lost to L. Brown -12, -14.

On the local league scene, the Leicester Committee have been forced to expel two clubs from within its league, which is always a distasteful course of action. After a string of repeated rule violations, non-payment of fines, defaults etc, etc, Secretary Mike Smith and his colleagues felt that there was no other choice than to take this action, regretful though it was.

The Hinckley and District League is currently in the grip of 'Cup Fever'. In the final of the 'Holt Trophy', Croft 'A' entertain Three Crowns 'A' whereas in the 'Inter Divisional' final we'll find Westfield taking on Mencap 'A'. Ferry Pickering will be taking on Stoney Stanton WMC or Market Bosworth in the 'Bob King Under-17' final, and the 'Mark Wormleighton' final will be contested between John Cleveland 'A' and Stoney Stanton WMC. Ferry Pickering 'A' and Three Crowns 'C' have yet to battle it out to see who will be playing Ashby Parva 'C' in the semi-final of the Albion Trophy (Handicapped) whilst the other

semi-final is between Mencap Casuals 'A' and Croft 'A'. In the league, Three Crowns 'A' rule the roost in Div. 1 with Barley Sheaf tucked in second place. Div. 2 is headed by Three Crowns 'C' and Croft 'B' occupy second. Mencap Casuals 'A' are top of the tree in three closely followed by those 'B's of Earl Shilton Albion. Mira look set to take the Div. 4 trophy unless 'the Mencap Casuals 'C' can do anything about it. The Hinckley Closed Championships will be held at the Hinckley Leisure Centre on Sunday, 17th March. Can the County's number one veteran, John Iliffe retain his Men's Singles title?

I understand that the Loughborough League's General Secretary, Reg Billson, is ill in hospital. Although I have never met Reg, we have corresponded a number of times over the years and I think that that entitles me and others to wish Reg a very full, and very speedy recovery.

Kath Fisher reports from.....

## LINCOLNSHIRE JUNIOR CLOSED'

The Lincolnshire Junior Closed held at Clee Sports Hall, Grimsby, again proved to be very popular. 76 competitors played a total of 283 matches in just over nine hours. All singles were played in groups of four or five except the mixed class and this was played in groups of three. Umpiring proved no problem at the knock-out stage as 20p was the reward for each set so some players went home with quite a bit of pocket money.

As for results, Chris May won the boys' singles, beating No. 1 seed Mark Arnold in the final. Martin Williams of Boston had a good win in the groups over No. 3 seed Martin Burwell but lost in the first round to Dale Allison. Martin qualified by finishing second in his group and went on to beat Pete Wilkinson before losing to 13-years-old Wayne Noone, in the quarters. -

Boston's juniors are beginning to make an impact on the scene and with Jimmy Brewster spearheading their challenge as coach and mentor they could be a force to be reckoned with in a few years' time. Mark Williams in the boys', James Watson and J. William in the boys' U15 all impressed but possibly the best performance was that of Stephen and Freeston in the boys' doubles. Neither got through in their singles group and yet together they made a formidable team in the doubles beating Dowsett and Carthew the No. 3 seeds to reach the semis and even then, only losing narrowly to Burwell and Wilkin-

son.

Mathew Ryan of Horncastle also impressed winning the mixed class singles reaching the semi-final of the boys' U15 and quarter-final of the boys' U17 but the player who won the best performance of the tournament (a new trophy awarded for the first time this year) was 7-years-old Scott Allison who reached the semi-final of the boys' U11 and played well in his group in the U13 event. His enthusiasm, boundless energy and his attitude made him the unanimous choice of the committee and his obvious joy in winning the trophy earned him a tremendous round of applause when he went up to receive it. (On aside - Scott must get his energy from his mother. He surely couldn't move around the court that quick from his dad's side. Perhaps that is why Brian is so casual looking. Scott has inherited all his speed and Brian has none left. Only joking!!).

Another new item on the schedule this year was the Elite Class Event, open to those players only eligible for the U17's and the doubles. This was played on a group basis with each rubber the best of 1 game, no deuces. May won this event only losing to Allison but with three players winning 2 out of 4, the referee, Pete Taylor, had to use his mathematical skills to add the -points up to see who came second. It proved very close. Arnold 67-75, Linda Thompson 72-77 and Martin Burwell 70-74 but Martin took it by 1 point.

## Results:

Boys' U17 s/f: M. Arnold bt D. Allison 9,14;  
C. May bt W. Noon 8, 21.  
F: MAY bt Arnold 17, 20, 11.  
Girls' U17 s/f: L. Thompson bt H. Stephens 7, 6;  
J. Mole bt R. Bemrose 11, 18.  
F: THOMPSON bt Mole 10, 9.  
Boys: U15 s/f: Noon bt M. Ryan 11,14; J. Whattam bt J. Watson 18, 20.  
F: NOON bt Whattam 15, 12.  
Girls' U15 s/f: Stephens bt S. Johnson 7, 15;  
Mole bt J. Duggan 16, 6.  
F: MOLE bt Stephens 17, 10.  
Boys' U13 s/f: M. Warren bt P. Weston 10,14; N. Smith bt M. Jackson 16, 17.  
F: WARREN bt Smith 20, 16.  
Girls' U13 Winner: S. JOHNSON  
2nd C. May  
3rd M. Jackson  
4th R. Orr.  
Boys' U11 s/f: T. Pexton bt S. Allison 11,13; M. King bt I. O'Malley 4, 8.  
F: KING bt Pexton 16, 10.  
Girls' U11 Winner: R. ORR  
2nd S. Howe  
3rd C. Baxter  
4th E. Barber.  
Mixed Class s/f: M. Ryan bt P. Hunter 19, 13;  
P. Wilkinson bt S. Dowsett 19, 14.  
F: RYAN bt Wilkinson 17,24.  
Elite Class Winner: C. MAY (3/4)  
2nd M. Burwell (2/4)  
3rd L. Thompson (2/4)  
4th M. Arnold (2/4)  
5th D. Allison (1/4)  
Boys' Doubles: F: ARNOLD/NOON bt Burwell/Wilkinson 11, 16.  
Girls' Doubles: F: T.HOMPSON/BEMROSE bt Stephem/Mole 17, 10.

As a result of the Lincs. Junior closed, the ranking list for county matches has been revised as follows:

## Boys

1. C. May (Gra)
2. M. Arnold (Sp)
3. W. Noon (Gy)
4. M. Burwell (Li)

# County Notes

5. D. Allison (Lo)
6. M. Ryan (Ho)
7. P. Wilkinson (Li)
8. S. Dowsett (Gra)
9. P. Hunter (Sc)
10. M. Williams (Bo)

## Girls

1. L. Thompson (Gy)
2. J. Mole (Gra)
3. R. Bemrose (GY)
4. H. Stephens (Gra)
5. J. Duggan (Gy)
6. S. Johnson (Li)
7. L. Baker (Gy)
8. C. May (Gra)
9. C. Oldman
10. R. Orr (Gra)

On Feb. 10 Mablethorpe and Sutton League held their annual tournament at Alford Grammar School Hall. Forty-two players took part and a draw was made for partners, each pair consisting of one first and one second division player. The pairs were divided into three leagues, the winners from each league and the best runners-up going forward to the semi-finals.

A very exciting final resulted in M. Cox & N. Campling beating T. Dalton & D. Burton.

It was interesting to note that the winners only just managed to qualify for the last place as runners-up in the groups but came good to win the title.

I was hoping to include the final tables in the inter-town competitions but unfortunately, some matches are outstanding because of the weather but full details should be available next month.

Players are reminded that the East of England 2-Star Open Championships are to be held on Sunday, March 17 at Grantham Sports Centre. Anyone wishing to help will be very welcome. 9.15 a.m. start.

Ray Hogg reports from....

## NORFOLK

Congratulations to the Norwich League who on March 29th celebrate 50 years' continuous T.T. in and around the City of Norwich. In that time only three secretaries have held office namely Harold Betts (32 years), Len Miller (10), and the current Ken Edwards so far 5 years.

National League. Norwich Foxwood v Witham turned out to be the most enjoyable match of the season mainly because of the attitude of the players from both sides. They all played as though winning was not all that mattered and we even had flashes of humour. My thanks to Witham for being such a side and fully deserving of a 4-4 draw after being 4-1 down. The crunch set came right at the end with Norwich 4-3 up and Stephen Fox a game up and cruising to victory at 17-8 then suddenly Robin Lang put it all together and took that and the third game. Sympathies to Stephen but all credit to him for 24

the way he played in the face of adversity - no walk-abouts or ranting and raving as is the way of many players. I have been a critic of Stephen's attitude in the past but today I hope to have seen him graduate from a boy to a man.

## COUNTY JUNIOR CHAMPS

75 of them came from all parts of the County in very inclement weather and about 72 of them seemed to have a very good day despite not being in the final stages. The other three seemed to be of the impression that they shouldn't be included in the groups as there was no opposition to speak of and nothing annoys me more than players who try to show up their opponents' shortcomings. This tournament saw the end of Simon Steward, Stephen Fox and Paul Rich and there seems to be a big gap developing unless some of the up-and-coming juniors improve rapidly.

### Results:

U.17 Boys' Winner Simon Steward;  
R/Up Stephen Fox.  
U.15 Boys' Winner Neil Pickard;  
R/Up Lee Diggins.  
U.13 Boys' Winner Ricky Diggins;  
R/Up Stephen White.  
U.17 Girls' Winner Sue Jenkinson;  
R/Up Rachel Wilson.  
U.15 Girls' Winner Sue Everitt;  
R/Up Alison Taylor.  
U.13 Girls' Winner Nicky Savage;  
R/Up Rachel Hodson.

Dennis Millman reports from ..

## NORTHANTS

### DOMINANCE MAINTAINED

Graeme McKim maintained his dominance of the local tournament circuit, when he outclassed all opposition at Northampton, to retain his Men's Singles title, without dropping a single end. The culmination of his efforts coming in a one-sided final which saw him despatch his most likely future rival for the No. 1 status, Andy Edmonds.

Earlier the second and third seeds, Keith Jones and David Ga110, had bowed out at the hands of Adrian Roper and John Sanders respectively, but in the semis Roper and Sanders proved no match for the eventual finalists.

McKim also kept his name on the Men's Doubles trophy, when playing with Edmonds for the first time in a tournament, the younger pairing came back from 13-17 down in the third to beat Jones and Brian D'Hooghe in a classic attack versus defence encounter - still the best table tennis to attract and entertain the spectators.

Heavy snowfalls seem to be a feature of tournaments held at Lings Forum - one recalls the

blizzard conditions prior to the County Closed three years ago - and once again winter reserved its worst weather for the Friday and the worst road conditions for the day of the event, the main outcome of which was the non-arrival of triple title holder Margaret Maltby.

This should have left the way clear for a comparable performance from highly-ranked veteran Joyce Porter, but her dislike of tournament play was again in evidence, and in the Women's Singles she was beaten in the final by newcomer Sue Whitehall. However Mrs. Porter's equable temperament, allied with her doubles expertise, enabled her to finish on the winning side in two doubles events, the Women's with her singles conqueror, and the Mixed in partnership with D'Hooghe, a win which denied Sue her personal hat-trick of titles.

Keith Jones was inevitably among the honours, retaining the Veterans' Singles comfortably against Tony Fowkes, and demonstrating by winning the hard-bat singles, that if we were all still using 'proper bats', that he would still be in the forefront of modern day players.

Richard Elliott continues to improve, and took the Boys' Singles comfortably in the third after a close battle with County colleague Raymond Jacobs, after the pair of them had earlier had no difficulty in taking the Junior Doubles.

### Results:

M.S.: G. McKim bt A. Edmonds 10,13.  
W.S.: S. Whitehall bt J. Porter 19,18.  
M.D.: McKim/Edmonds bt K. Jones/B. D'Hooghe -19,11,19.  
W.D.: Porter/Whitehall bt Kath Walsh/Clem Little 11,17.  
X.D.: Porter/D'Hooghe bt R. Elliott/Whitehall 17,11.  
V.S.: K. Jones bt A. Fowkes 11,12.  
B.S.: R. Elliott bt R. Jacobs 20-17,7.  
G.S.: Sarah Young bt Eleanor Williams 15,19.  
J.D.: Elliott/Jacobs bt Garry Weston/Scott Crawson 9,12.  
C.S.: Weston bt David Evans 15,12.  
H.B.S.: Jones bt Glen Robertson 12,10.  
Div. 1 & II H'Cap: Fowkes bt Dave Birch 14,18.  
Div. 3 & 4 H'Cap: Dave Ewing bt Reg Dick 14,12,19.  
Div. 5, 6 & 7 H'Cap: Don Crowson bt Alex Duncan 13,13.

Two further series of County Championships matches has done nothing to improve county fortunes - if anything, a gloomy picture has been painted, with enthusiasm in the senior sides currently at a low ebb. Hopefully the imminent emergence of Edmonds and Andy Trott will help to remedy the malaise sooner rather than later.

The juniors have always been a perpetual silver lining with a promise that never seems to be fulfilled, so it is not surprising that despite playing at a higher level than the other Northants sides it is the present junior squad which is enjoying a successful season, remaining unbeaten to date, although only winning one of their four

matches. Most recently the draw against Essex was achieved with the aid of a solid team performance from Trott, Jacobs, Maxine Shears and Joanna Abbott, while the earlier share of the spoils with Middlesex Seconds, in the absence of Trott, was due to a consistent unbeaten display from Jacobs and Elliott and the absence of a Middlesex player.

Although the County Seconds were unfortunate enough to meet a Derbyshire side of high potential, with five highly-ranked players topped by England No. 2 Alan Cooke, the Firsts should have improved on their defeats at the hands of Herts and Hunts. Margaret Maltby and Mandy Brown excelled against Herts, but received little backing from a full strength men's line-up, while it was significant that the best performance against Hunts came from Edmonds, a late replacement for the again unavailable McKim.

The County Veterans too have their problems, with only Keith Jones and Joyce Porter currently capable of holding their own against formidable opposition, with a division reduced to five sides by late withdrawals containing some exceptionally strong sides with Yorkshire making their first sally into veteran ranks. Essex III, like their Cheshire counterparts, have strength in depth, and although Jones won twice and Mrs. Porter once, to retain unbeaten singles records, even the Mixed was lost as the visitors won 6-3.

Kettering Town 'A' and Wellingborough Town have now drawn clear at the top of Kettering's Premier Division, and with both sides having similar remaining programmes, including matches against third-placed Rothborough 'A' the Kettering outfit should maintain a narrow lead to the end.

### Latest Positions:

	P	W	O	L	Pts
Kettering Town 'A'	14	13	1	0	117
Wellingborough Town	14	11	1	2	111
Team Electric 'A'	14	10	1	3	98
Rothborough 'A'	13	9	4	0	97

### Leading Averages:

1. McKim (Corby 'A')	30-30 = 100%
2. Keith Nicoll (Roth 'A')	37-39 = 94.9%
3. Ian Hawes (Wellingborough)	39-42 = 92.9%
4. Chris Handshaw (Town 'A')	36-42 = 85.7%
Andy Edmonds (Town 'A')	36-42 = 85.7%
Steve West (Electric 'A')	36-42 = 85.7%
7. Andy Trott (Town 'A')	34-42 = 81.0%
8. Steve Kendall (Wellingh)	31-39 = 79.5%
9. Ken Nicoll (Roth 'A')	27-36 = 75%
10. Graham Ball (Electric 'A')	28-42 = 66.7%
11. Alan Hawes (Wellingh)	26-42 = 61.9%
12. Mark Cole (Electric 'A')	22-39 = 56.4%

The Kettering League recently took the unprecedented step of publishing its own ranking list and this subsequently amended is as follows:-

1. McKim; 2. Keith Nicoll; 3. Ian Hawes; 4. West; 5. Edmonds; 6. Handshaw; 7. Trott; 8. Kendall; 9. Ken Nicholl; 10. Ball; 11. Alan Hawes; 12. Mark Nannery; 13. Terry Cardwell; 14. Geoff Atkinson; 15. Mark Cole; 16. David Steels; 17. Alan Ashberry; 18. Steve Brown; 19. Gerald Finney; 20. Allun Thomas; 21. Mick Deacon; 22. Bill Broome; 23. Ian Baldock; 24. John Hunt.

Pauline Long reports from....

## NORTHUMBERLAND

### IMPRESSIVE FORM

The Northumberland junior team continued their impressive form with a 9-1 win over Cleveland on January 26 at Byker Community Centre. They lost the first boys' singles of the afternoon when Patterson was beaten by Fewsdale, but after that never looked back, even though despite the scoreline, four sets needed a third game to decide them.

RESULTS: (Northumberland names first):  
 Thomas Blackman beat David Fewsdale -19, 17, 17; bt Stuart Miller 9, 11.  
 Keith Patterson lost to Fewsdale -1 0, -13; bt Jabaal Hoque 16, 14.  
 Peter Curry bt Miller 10, 19; bt Hoque -20, 20, 15.  
 Blackman/Curry bt Fewsdale/Miller 15, -15, 9.  
 Clare Mouzon bt Ann Pashley 17, 17.  
 Denise Wilkinson bt Susan Richmond 19, 17.  
 Mouzon/Wilkinson bt Pashley/Richmond 13, -15, 15.

The team was due to travel to Cheshire for their next fixture on February 16 with the seniors joining them on the same day for their match away to Cheshire II. These results will in all probability have missed the deadline for the March issue, so to be on the safe side will be left until April. Also included will be the Crow's Transport Northumberland Junior Closed, due to be played at Blaydon Youth Club the following weekend, on February 23.

Following his recent excellent performance in the Beneficial Trust English Junior Closed, Blackman has been rewarded by being placed at No. 10 in the England boys' ranking list - a jump of 21 places from his previous position at No. 31. He could have been higher but for a disappointing performance in the national ranking trials. Peter Curry is also in the rankings at No. 48, while Darren Shaw, our leading U14 boys, appears for the first time at No. 37 in the Cadet boys list. Clare Mouzon is in the girls' list at No.7, which is a drop of two places from her previous position.

In the Halex National League, Byker Newcastle's first team game with G.K.N. Steelstock Wolverhampton II on January 20 was postponed, as the Midland contingent were unable to travel because of adverse weather conditions. The second team made the journey to meet Unity Leeds but were beaten 2-6 and are still looking for their first point. Andy Hammett and Peter Curry, with victories over Keith M'Kandla and P. Sanderson respectively, scored the side's only successes.

The Northumberland League representative sides made further progress in both the Wilmott and Carter Cups. The 'seniors were involved in a thrilling duel with the Stockton league, and just edged home by 5-4, thanks to Peter McQueen's maxi-

mum. Neil McMaster and Stephen George backed him up by winning one set each. The juniors beat the Tyneside Summer League 6-0 as expected, with Blackman, Patterson and Curry each winning two sets, but Michael Roughley put up spirited resistance for the losers by extending Curry to 21, -7, -22. Stockton, however gained their revenge in the Rose Bowl Competition when they beat the Tyneside Summer League 5-1, with Joan Leslie gaining the only victory. While on the subject of this competition, I must apologise for an error made in my last report when I said that the Northumberland League lost their Rose Bowl match 1-5 to Sunderland in fact, the victorious team was Stockton, who as previously mentioned, went on to beat the Tyneside Summer League in the next round.

I was extremely sorry to learn of the tragedy involving the Norwegian national team as reported in the last issue of this magazine. Newcastle representative teams have enjoyed many North Sea Cup matches and tournaments with Bergen representative sides both in England and Norway, and I am sure officials and players who have been involved will wish to extend their sympathies to their relatives and the Norwegian Table Tennis Association.

Tyne Dock's unbeaten run in the Premier Division of the Northumberland League at last came to an end when they were beaten 7-3 by Byker C.C. 'A'. Tom Trewhitt won twice for Tyne Dock, but Fred Short surprisingly only managed one victory. Neil McMaster (3), Eddie Smith (2), Andy Hammett (1) and the doubles saw Byker safely through to victory. A second interesting match involved Newton 'A' in Div. 2A when they sprang a surprise on Ouston C.C. 'A' by including former England international and Northumberland County Champion Maureen Robson (née Heppell), who returned to the club where she first started her career as a teenager 20 years ago.

Maureen, married to former Newcastle United footballer Bryan "Pop" Robson and now the mother of three children, has not played table tennis for several years, but showed that she still has the ability to win matches in the local league when she defeated two of her opponents. Andy Murphy was unbeaten and Dennis Sparke gained one set as Newton triumphed 7-3.

Two 5-4 results in the Knock-Out Cup involved Revac, winners over Electrics, and Byker C.C., who were victorious over North Shields Y.M.C.A. Pat Tindale and

John Russell both won two sets for Revac, with Jim Jackson getting the vital fifth set. Andrew Clark's maximum and Dave Armstrong's lone set were unfortunately not quite enough for Electrics. Ian Robertson also won three sets in vain for North Shields, whose only other victory came from Malcolm Lusk. McMaster (2), Smith (2) and Hammett (1) safely saw Byker through to the next round.

Brian Hamilton reports from...

## OXFORDSHIRE NEW CHAMPIONS

Neil Harris and Amanda Shufflebotham are the new Men's and Women's singles County champions, following their very impressive performances in the Oxfordshire closed championships, at Redefield Sports Hall.

The men's final was a terrific set, which brought together Neil, the young Vikings No. 1 and Clive Morris, the No.3 seed from the Kidlington Forum club. The final would have graced any open tournament and the spectators were treated to a display of high quality attacking play from both players and a considerable amount of 15-20 ball rallies. With the first game going point-for-point up to 9-9, Neil had an amazing run and strung together several winning shots to take it 21-12. The second game saw Clive take control in the early stages and go into a 11-6 lead and appeared to have the answer to anything that Neil sent across the net. How wrong we all were, as the match took a dramatic turn, with Neil pulling back to 13-13 and from then to 18-18, it went point for point. Clive then got his nose in front again at 20-18, but again Neil clawed his way back and go on to win 24-22, in what was one of the best County finals for several years.

The new women's champion, is fifteen-year-old Amanda Shufflebotham from the Radiators club, who defeated a very experienced opponent in Eleanor Harrison, from Kidlington Forum. Amanda had great difficulty in winning the first game, mainly as a result of being too quick to finish the point, but it did not take too long for her to overcome the problem, winning the first 18 and the second 12.

Harris went on to complete his hat-trick of victories, when he won the Intermediate singles and combined with Amanda to take the Mixed. Results:-

M.S: Neil Harris bt Clive Morris 12, 22;  
 W.S: Amanda Shufflebotham bt Eleanor Harrison 18, 12;  
 M.O: Morris/Abbott bt Bushell/Swift 19, 13;  
 W.D: Harrison/Woodward bt Shuff/Brett 13, -15, 16.  
 X.D: Harris/Shuff bt Morris/Woodward 17, 19.  
 V.S: Brian Varnham bt John Paul 18, -10, 16.  
 I.S: Harris bt Spencer 15, 8.

It was most encouraging to see so many players from the Banbury and District league take part in the tournament. In total about 15 made the trip and although they did not do too well in the main events, they did have one finalist. Mike Spencer reached the final of the Intermediate singles after defeating the Banbury No.3 Steve Joyner, but unfortunately faced the 'Player of the tournament', Neil Harris in the final. However, it was excellent experience for the Banbury lads and should their enthusiasm continue, I feel that this could be where the players of Oxfordshire's future ITlight well come from, as they are a very well organised Association.

The Oxford City Veterans' 'B' team have won Div. 2 of the Midland League. Their last three fixtures ended in, 10-0, 8-2, and 7-3 victories over Kidderminster, Coventry 'A' and Stratford on Avon and the team of Len Pratt, John Paul, and Brian Allen should do well in the higher section next year.

The senior team's defeat at Worcester was a big disappointment and it almost certainly ruined our chance of promotion this year. Worcester were a good side, but Oxon had their chances to get at least a draw, but did not capitalise on early leads. The retirement of Mary Denbow will no doubt make considerable difference to our female strength, but we do still have several county-standard women who can help to fill the gap left by Mary who has carried Oxfordshire's flag well during her fairly short career and the county wish her well for the future.

The county veterans' season is crumbling around them, following another defeat, this time at the hands of Worcs. 6-3, but Brian Varnham did offer some resistance and won both his singles with relative ease. Dave Harse picked up Oxon's other singles, when he beat Brett Davies 17 in the third.

Gerald Green reports from ...

## SHROPSHIRE NATIONAL LEAGUE

Grove won the first and last sets of the day when Ormesby were their visitors in a National League premier division clash.

But that was the sum total of the Drayton side's successes as the North Easterners won 6-2.

Steve Turner gave Grove a superb start by beating Nigel Eckersley.

But victories from Alan Cooke over Alan Fletcher, and David McIlroy over Malcolm Green saw Grove trailing 2-1.

# County Notes

The experience of Richard Yule in beating both Fletcher and Anwar Majid combined with superb displays from Cooke and Eckersley saw Grove losing 6-1.

Majid faced McIlroy in the last set. The two Scottish internationals gave a fine display. But Grove's Majid was the more consistent and 'was the well deserved victor.

Thorn EMI of Ellenborough also proved too strong for Market Drayton's team the Londoners winning 7-1.

Nevertheless, Grove gave a spirited display against a team full of internationals.

Grove's Turner gave his usual determined performances to extend both David Wells and Graham Sandley to three, while Fletcher and Green both extended Wells and Nigel Tyler to the third.

Success for Grove came from Majid who used his hard hitting forehand drives to beat Tyler.

## MIDLAND LEAGUE

Telford went down 9-2 when they entertained Nottingham 'A', the probable winners of the division in the Veterans Div. 1. Mike Beaman won two for the hosts.

In Div. 3 the Telford senior side of M. Langford, D. Russell and W. Herbert travelled to Derby in their rearranged match but lost 7-3.

With only one more match to go against a strong team from Nuneaton - it doesn't look as though Telford will improve on their league position.

## SHROPSHIRE LEAGUE

Grove Junior I and Grove I are locked together in a close fight at the top of the Shropshire Star division one of the Shropshire two-a-side league.

Both sides are unbeaten and the sets difference just give the juniors the lead.

Both teams were in fine form with Telford III, Dyno Rod I and Oswestry I all beaten 4-0 by the in-form duo of Claire Potts and David Morris who carry the juniors' banner. They seem bent on retaining the title they won in November.

Keith Sillitoe provided the backbone for Grove's triumphs. His immaculate display of attack left him unbeaten as Dyno Rod and Video Train fell 3-1 and Grove II were defeated 4-0. Sillitoe's partner was Anthony Harrison.

In the relegation zone, Oswestry I struggled without the services of Allan Roberts as Gary Owen fought valiantly to enable a 3-3 draw with Telford III to be salvaged. But Belle Vue and Grove Junior I were in no mood for charity as 3-1 and 4-0 scores were posted.

The championship for the title in the Angrove Roofing Div. 2 competition is equally tight.

Shrewsbury Hospitals and Ticklerton are locked together on points with the sets difference favouring the hospital team.

Brian Morris was in superb form to remain unbeaten as he and Colin Sayce beat Telford 13-1, Oswestry II 4-0 and Grove Junior II 4-0.

The Ticklerton pair, Tony Madeley and Ian Pennington, were held 2-2 by Telford II.

Concorde Trophies Div. 3 sees Grove Girls in the lead and looking favourites to clinch the title. Pontesbury III are in second place.

## TELFORD RESTRICTED TOURNAMENT

Young Tim McGill emerged victorious from a close final against Steve Tanner to win the final of Telford League's C. R. Jones and Associates restricted tournament at Lille-shall Sports Centre.

McGill took the final 12, -1 8,1 8 after disposing of Richard Fettes 22,14 in his semi, Tanner had beaten Tony Horobin 16, -13,13.

Total entry was 40 and group winners who reached the second round were K. Pritchard, R. Holding, A. Horobin, R. Farnsworth, R. Williams, D. Levinson, M. Jones, D. Owen and R. Fettes.

## SHROPSHIRE SCHOOLS' CHAMPIONSHIPS

Paul Fisher, of Charlton School, Wellington, and Louise Davis, of Oldbury Wells School, Bridgnorth, both gained two titles at the Shropshire Schools' individual championships.

And in each of the competitions, under-16 and under-19, in which Fisher and Davis took part, the runners-up were Mary Webb, Pontesbury, player David Morris, and Shrewsbury High School representative Victoria Boyd.

However, there was to be consolation for Mary Webb School as Neil Thomas gained the verdict in the U-13 boys' singles with a semi-final success over Grove's Edward Knighton and Grove's unseeded finalist Paul Ainsworth, who had ousted the rapidly improved Chris Day a round earlier.

There were no seeding surprises in the U-11 and U-13 girls' events. Claire Marshall marched to the final of the U-11 girls' event to meet Claire Hand, who had ousted the seeded Gail Ottolini (Longlands School) in the quarter-finals.

In the final, Marshall defeated her fellow Market Drayton Junior School player Anne-Marie Williamson.

In the U-13 event, Caroline Ashcroft duly progressed to the final to meet Grove schoolmate Tara Hanley and win the event.

The boys of Pontesbury Junior

School provided an excellent U-11 years competition, as Jonathan Day gained victory over Matthew Alexander in the final.

## GRADED SINGLES

In the Grove School graded singles Potteries-talented Paul Myatt ended Keith Sillitoe's run of victories in the R. and R. Roofing Grade A competition.

The January competitions were played at Grove School with Myatt's win against Sillitoe the climax of the A contest.

Shrewsbury's Russell Davies gave a fine performance in the IMC sponsored Grade B event. He reached the final where he was beaten by Potteries player Michael West.

Nigel Power, of Oswestry, was victorious in the Roofrite Grade C event" beating Grove's Audrey Barnett in the final.

In the Salop Roofing Grade D competition, the winner was Potteries junior player, Stephen Teomans, who beat Grove's Louise Townsend in the final.

The Wylie and Holland Grade E competition was won by Grove's Ottolini, who achieved a narrow victory over Sarah Pigram who also represents Grove.

## COUNTY COACHING

The county association have organised a series of coaching courses at the Grove School, Market Drayton, when Malcolm Green will be taking charge.

Course 3 starts on Saturday, March 9, and course four on March 10. All run from 10am-4pm. Organiser is Ian Marshall, 9 Glendon Close, Market Drayton.

## NEW CLUB

Leading Shropshire player Malcolm Green is running a table tennis club at Telford Racquet and Fitness Centre on Thursdays (7.00-8.30).

Tony Carey reports from ...

## SOMERSET

### THE BLUE TOUCH PAPER HAS BEEN LIT

Before I begin my report on current events I must apologise to the Bridgwater League who recorded two fine wins against strong opposition in the Wilmott and Carter Cup competitions over Swindon 6-3 and Crippenham, Slough 5-3 respectively. Their next opponents will be Poole in the Wilmott and Springfield Kestrels Berks in the Carter. Well played lads. In addition Bridgwater girls started their Bromfield Trophy competition on a high note with an 8-1 win away to Launceston, Cornwall, winning 5-1. The team was Melonie Carey, Sarah Webb and

Fiona Stuart, and for Launceston Esme Stevenson, Karen Broczek and Sandra Hunt, Esme beat Fiona. This was the first match I have seen played in a hotel, the White Hart in the town centre. Perhaps other hotels throughout the country could take note and open their unused ballrooms to table tennis on the same lines as Boxing Clubs used to run. This could have a two-fold effect, the first being to provide better facilities than some of the old wooden halls in present use, and the second being a chance for the hotels to provide good entertainment for their guests than the little box in their rooms. Perhaps also to generate some spectator enthusiasm for the players to respond to. That said, thanks Peter for your excellent hospitality, the refreshments certainly helped to sustain us on our journey home.

Next big event for Somerset players was the Bath' 2-Star Open on Jan. 13. As in previous years this event was run very well with excellent conditions. All events had some good class players which provided entertaining matches and the inevitable upsets to seedings. The star of the tournament was Bath's adopted son from the Isle of Wight, England's No. 1 Junior and No.3 Senior, Carl Preat. His all-action play and total commitment to winning shone brightly on this stage in front of, I was glad to see, a fair number of spectators other than the players. Even the sounds of Bushido in the adjoining hall could not disturb Carl's concentration as he proceeded to win the Junior and Senior titles, in the first against No.2 seed Paul Savins and in the second against No.2 seed Andy Creed. Thanks for the demonstration Carl and I hope some of these fine touches and spin attacks will stay in the minds of those who wish to improve their game.

The majority of our men's squad were in action and although they did not create any great upsets they still played well and gave positive indications that they are still progressing at a steady rate. Those present were David Lee, Lee Sadler, Tony Murrell, John Crabtree and Mark Bryant. In the Boys' event we had Philip Payne, Murray Barter and David Woodbridge with the best performance by Philip who reached the semis before bowing to the superior play of Preat. In the women's event we were represented by our Juniors Melonie Carey, Sarah Webb and Kirsty Withyman. All had successes in their groups, Sarah being unfortunate in only having one opponent due to the withdrawal of Diane St. Leger. But Sarah still had a battle on her hands with

Dana Karachovilla producing the first 'Expedite' of the day, which Sarah won. She then had another close contest before going out to Carol Butler of Devon in the semi, the eventual winner, over another fine player from Devon, Elaine Short.

In the girls' event things started to happen to the fortunes of the Somerset trio. The first upset was that of Sarah, the No. 1 seed, when she lost in the second round to Kirsty who kept her cool to go through to meet No. 3 seed Susan Butler in the semi, who proved too strong for her. Melonie, as No. 4 seed, beat Jennie Neale of Wilts and then the big clash in the semi against No. 2 seed Helen Perrott of Avon, and another win for Melonie to take her into the final. A fine match was to be expected between these close rivals, with Melonie rising to the occasion when 16-19 down in the first to take the match two straight.

Three Somerset teams were in action on Jan. 26, the first team at Taunton YMCA against Cornwall. This was another crunch match we had to win to keep our promotion prospects alive, and I am proud to say that they did just that with an excellent 9-1 win. All rose to the occasion with notable wins by Lee over John Bassett and Ian James and Sadler over Jeremy Williams, the usual anchor two from captain Brian Reeves, and Rebecca Russe and Judy Craig gaining maximums. Cornwall's success was by Ian James over Sadler 19 in the third. Well played you Somerset heroes and I am pleased to see that by competing in Senior tournaments, David and Lee, is starting to pay dividends, following that successful trail set by our Senior lady Becky, a point which readers of this column will notice I have advocated quite frequently as the apprenticeship route to be taken by all aspiring champions.

On the same day our Senior second team travelled to Bath Garraway Boys' Club to do battle with Avon first. A formidable task faced our team of Steve Palmer, Murrell, Bryant, Melonie Carey and Sarah Webb. Lined up against them were Andy Creed, Paul Hooper, Richard Russell, Helen Perrott and Michelle Cohen, the captains being Tony Russe and Mike Lewis. Friends we all are off the table but there were no mixing of supporters in this hall with each team having their own area. The air temperature was below what I would term as shorts and shirt weather, but the action produced on the table made us all forget that. The first set between Murrell and Hooper gave us a wonderful start with Tony playing some of his magical strokes and winning

two-straight.

This set both captains thinking, Tony of a possible upset in our favour if this euphoria spread through the team and Mike using all his experience of captaincy to motivate Richard in the next match against Mark, and it worked with Richard playing his best. Mark played well, the greater experience of Richard providing the trump card. The next set became the perfect stage for the enactment of skills onto which strolled a young man who has been admired by all for his conduct both on the table and off, providing inspiration encouragement at all times to his team or whoever he has been asked to help. I refer of course to Andy Creed, and this day his skill, power and perfection of strokes lit up the room both as entertainment for spectators and a guiding light for his team mates. Unfortunately for Somerset at the other end of the table was one of our, we hope, future stars, Steve Palmer, who fought hard and I am sure learnt from it. The inspiration of this win certainly set the Avon team alight as we started to fall further behind, our ladies losing the doubles as did Bryant and Murrell against Creed and Hooper.

We then suffered another Andy demonstration when he beat Murrell. The battle of the two second string ladies produced a fine display by Michelle Cohen to beat Sarah Webb, but we evened that score between the ladies when Melonie Carey beat Helen Perrott.

We did gain another win to make the score slightly better when Palmer played to his potential in beating Richard Russell. So we eventually lost 7-3. Congratulations to Avon and a special mention to Mrs. Holley and helpers who provided an excellent spread of refreshments. I hope Ian recovers from his injury to play again soon.

Also on this day another Somerset team was in action, this being the Juniors away to Wilts Seconds, and they recorded another good win of 9-1, the team being Payne, Barter, Wooldridge, Fiona Stuart and Kirsty Withyman.

All in all not a bad day for Somerset's future considering that there are other promising players waiting in the wings.

The next day off again in the ice, snow and rain to Croydon for the South of England 2-Star Junior Open, the Somerset flag being carried by Melonie Carey, Payne, Barter, Sarah Webb and Kirsty Withyman. Philip won his group and had a fine win over Paul Amos and progressed to the semi where he met the eventual winner Rodney Thomas from

Dorset who was in devastating form as all who saw his epic battle with Andy Cunningham from Kent in the final will confirm.

Melonie seemed to have a mountain to climb when we saw the draw but she set about her task admirably winning her group comfortably, then beating Kirsty in the first round followed by a fine win against Alison Boxall before meeting a player who I cannot remember her playing before, Lesley Popkiewicz of Surrey, Melonie winning in three. This took her to the semi to meet her friend and rival of the previous day, Helen Perrott. This was not a classic match as both girls were nervous with a place in the final at the end of it. Victory eventually went to Melonie in the third when the memory bank clicked into gear. This brought her to the final against a new English Junior star, Juliet Houghton of Kent, who had put out Sarah in the quarters.

Both girls then put on a display worthy of such an event, with classic strokes flowing from both bats. Melonie took the first 21-14 but Juliet hit back to level in the second 22-20. Then it was heart flutter time in the third before Juliet clinched the match 21-18. Well earned applause for both girls at the end. Helen also had some consolation from the day with a runners-up prize in the doubles with Lyn Trussell, losing in the final to Rachael Knight and Atison Boxall, a pairing I have not seen before. But as is known good players soon learn to adapt and knit together.

A word about Murray Barter before I end. He was playing well at times and perhaps could have scraped a good win but he seemed to forget that table tennis is played with a bat and ball across a net placed across the centre of the table with an opponent armed with a bat as well.

Jack Chalkley reports from...

## STAFFORDSHIRE HIGHEST EVER

A splendid all-round performance by our senior team at the second Premier Division weekend enabled them to finish in the top half of the table, the highest position ever reached by Staffs. In the County Championships - a tremendous achievement and great credit to the whole of the team and to Paul Chester, our team captain.

You will recall that at the first weekend we finished second from bottom with one win from three matches, but victories against Cambridgeshire (6-3), Surrey (6-3) and Berkshire (5-4)

lifted us well away from the relegation zone - to fourth position behind Middlesex, Lancashire and Yorkshire. Our one defeat was by Lancashire (9-1) who were unbeaten over the weekend.

Our selectors took the step of including junior Adrian Dixon in the squad went down to Essex and this was the key to our success. He won both his singles against Surrey and also had singles wins in each of the other three matches. Andrew Bellingham, our No. 1, did well to take both his singles against Cambs. and one each against Surrey and Berks. and Fiona Elliot continued her winning ways with victories against Cambs., Surrey and Berks. but failed to complete an unbeaten championship year, losing to Lancs! Jean Parker, Andy Rich and Craig Bakewell, playing two matches apiece, each contributed a singles win (against Cambs, and Berks. respectively). We gained three mixed wins, losing only to Lancs. and we actually won a men's doubles - our only one of the championships - when Bellingham and Dixon took the Surrey set. Perhaps we can look forward to a few more wins in the future by cultivating this partnership!

Looking back over the championship year, we can consider ourselves a trifle unlucky in not winning third place. The 5-4 defeat by Yorkshire could so easily have gone the other way. All-in-all, it augurs well for the future, and who knows, if we can win the odd men's doubles or two, we may yet finish in the top three.

Staffs Junior II brought back a point from Cheshire. Although we went into a 4-1 lead with wins from Stephen Slater and Adrian Thorpe and two doubles wins, we allowed the lead to slip away and although Angela Sanders gave us the lead again at 5-4, Nigel Tongue was unable to gain us the extra point, losing 16 in the third in the last set of the day. Louise Sherratt was the fifth member of our team. Our senior seconds, still without a point, went down 8-2 against Suffolk, Jill Harris and Bob Murray gaining our only successes.

As reported a couple of months ago, the Woodfield club at Wolverhampton will be staging the Malcolm Scott Restricted Tournament, and the date has now been fixed for April 14. Hopefully, there will be a better response than last year when it had to be cancelled - this year it has the advantage that entry forms and details will be available at the County Closed on March 24. We must express our thanks to Mike Leach and his colleagues for making the effort to run this event again, after recent dis-

## County Notes

appointments. Incidentally, another date for your diary from the Woodfield club is the date of the Woodfield Tournament next year, 2/3 November.

The County Committee were pleased to welcome to their meeting last month Dot and Alan Deeley, and to mark Alan's retirement from the committee the County President, Don Pritchard, presented them with a tea service. An extra note of interest was that the teaset was produced by the family business of Tom Finney, who was, of course, president of the County for many years.

We were beginning, to think that the worst of the weather had passed us by, with Staffordshire being largely unaffected. Unfortunately, at the time of writing, the Midlands were badly hit by snow. A county junior II match versus Warwickshire had to be postponed, and probably several county league matches suffered the same fate.

It's always nice to hear from those who read Table Tennis News and, in particular, the Staffs. column. I was down in Gloucester among my old - well, not so old, really - friends the other weekend, and several of them are regular readers. I was pleased to find that most of them are still playing albeit a division or two lower. So may I send them my good wishes, particularly to Alan Haines, Bernard Mowbray and Norman Saunders, it was great to see you all again.

Mike Cross, who still represents Tamworth on the county committee but now lives in Stafford, tells me that he has obtained a £250 sponsorship from Mr. Andrew Millward of Millward Formwork Ltd., Stone to contribute towards the peripheral expenses of running the junior county teams. This is very good news and I would like to express our grateful thanks to Mr. Millward for his generosity and to Mike Cross for his efforts on behalf of the County. We have not had a great deal of success in obtaining sponsorship at county level, and Mike is keen to continue looking for other sources of support for table tennis in Staffordshire.

Ian Bullock reports from....

### SUFFOLK

#### DOWN AT THE DOME

In their most recent match, the first Senior team entertained Cheshire at the Britannia Dome, Ipswich. The home side began well with a win for John Kitchener against Brian Johns. But Mick Palmer fell to Wayne Percival, as did Stuart Palmer to

Mark Hankey.

Thereafter despite a men's doubles loss, Suffolk went into a 4-3 lead following wins by Sue Welham and Julie Dowsett in the women's doubles and singles successes for John and Sue. However, all hopes of a victory were dashed when Cheshire finished with three convincing singles wins to make the final score 6-4 in Cheshire's favour. Scores:-

J. Kitchener bt B. Johns 16. -15. 11;  
M. Palmer lost to W. Percival 19. -14. -17;  
S. Palmer lost to W. Hankey 18. -19. -19;  
J. Dowsett/S. Welham bt J. Deakin/A. Williamson 14. 20;  
Kitchener/S. Palmer lost to Johns/Percival -19. 16. -17;  
Kitchener bt Percival 19. 11;  
Welham bt Williamson -18. 20. 19;  
S. Palmer lost to Johns -14. -13;  
Dowsett lost to Deakin -15. -12;  
M. Palmer lost to Hankey -10. -14.

At the same venue, the Senior seconds entertained Sussex 'II' with the expectation of a hard struggle. Clive Woollard won both his singles but Charlie Fulcher despite going to three twice deserved better than to lose. Richard Hutchinson, still a junior, must have learned a great deal from more experienced opponents and the same could be said for the Suffolk ladies who fought hard but needed steadier finishing power. The final score 8-2 to Sussex II. Scores:-

C. Woollard bt R. Venner 13. 18;  
R. Hutchinson lost to P. Bartram 21. -9. -18;  
C. Fulcher lost to D. Jemmett -22. 16. -16;  
S. Butcher/D. Harvey lost to S. Heffenden/S. King -19. -14;  
Fulcher/Woollard lost to Jemmett/Venner -15. -16;  
Woollard bt Bartram 18. 16;  
Harvey lost to Heffenden -12. 20. -8;  
Fulcher lost to venner -12. 19. -14;  
Butcher lost to King -15. -15;  
Hutchinson lost to Jemmett -13. -16.

Following the matches a large crowd gathered to witness the presentation of a silver rose bowl to Dennis Barrett who recently retired as County Chairman. Dennis had completed 24 years of service and Mrs. Doris Fox, the President, in making the presentation, expressed the appreciation of all present. Dennis, although somewhat overcome by the occasion, mentioned the undaunting support he had received from his wife, Edna who had been the match and selection board Secretary for many years. Edna received a bouquet of flowers. We sincerely hope that Dennis and Edna will be happy in their retirement and Dennis's health will improve so that they can both continue to enjoy the game for many years to come.

The new year has begun well for Suffolk Juniors.

The boys in particular, were convincing winners in the Carter Cup and the combined team swept aside all opposition to win the Div. 3D title of the County Championships. Their concluding fixtures both resulted in 10-0 victories against Norfolk II and Cambs II.

Ipswich, represented by Shaun

Caraccio, Paul Gooding and Richard Hutchinson in the Carter Cup, reached the Zone by beating Central London 6-0 the scores being:-

Caraccio bt S. Emmanuel 14. 13; bt K. King 17. 7;  
Gooding bt T. Noakes 10. 15; bt Emmanuel 12. 16;  
Hutchinson bt King 12. 22; bt Noakes 11. 10;

Sylvia Kenyon, Olaire Nicholls and Karen Perkins represented Ipswich in the Bromfield Trophy but lost 5-4 against Chelmsford. Scores:-

S. Kenyon lost to H. Platt -15. 19. -16;  
bt S. Vanezis -21. 8. 10; bt K. Gower -18. 17. 10;  
K. Perkins lost to Gower -13. -20; bt Platt 18. -12. 18; bt Vanezis 18. 18.  
C. Nicholls lost to Vanezis -17. 15. -9;  
lost to Gower 25. -19. -19;  
lost to Platt 14. -17. -17;

#### NATIONALSTIGACLUB EVENT

The Britannia Club, representing Ipswich, progressed to the zone final defeating Chelmsford and King's Lynn en route. They have now beaten Norwich to reach the final 8. The Britannia Club's Annual Dinner/Dance is due to take place at the Ipswich Moat House Hotel, Copdock, on Friday, May 3. As the club has been in existence for 30 years, the Committee have arranged entertainment and also a guest speaker. It is hoped that members and friends will support this event and tickets can be obtained from all committee members.

#### NATIONAL LEAGUE

Britannia Deepsure, after a hesitant start, are now beginning to fulfil their true potential with a creditable 4-4 draw against Norwich Foxwood and a more recent 5-3 success against St Neots. Alan Shewan's departure to New Zealand undoubtedly contributed to Britannia's reversal over MBS St Neots.

#### SCHOOLS

In the area finals, Beds. schools proved to be too strong winning 5 out of the 8 events the Suffolk placings being:-

B. U-19: 2 Ipswich School  
G. U-19: 1 Ipswich High  
B. U-16: 4 East Bergholt  
G. U16: 2 Thurleston High  
B. U-13: 2 Old Buckenham Hall  
G. U-13: 3 Gisleham  
B. U-11: 1 Old Buckenham Hall  
G. U-11: 2 Eye Primary

Ipswich High and Old Buckenham Hall progress to the Regional Finals at Orpington. The Dunlop Individual Championships are well under way and the County Finals are scheduled, as always to take place on the first Sunday in March at Orwell Park School. Is there a chance that the ETTA will avoid this date next year when arranging a Regional Squad Coaching weekend at Lea Green? We are in the unfortunate position, as last year, of having players win through and not being able to take part.

Please note that Suffolk Schools' ITA, in conjunction with the Stowmarket League, have purchased 16 second-hand Butterfly surrounds. They are being stored in the Games Room at ICI, Stowmarket and can be collected between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m.. Outside these hours please contact Mr. B. Robinson. Phone: Stowmarket 613338.

As an area promoter of the new Dunlop Skills Awards Scheme I shall be pleased to distribute attractive clear and concise publicity material to clubs, schools and community centres in the Ipswich area, and also to deal with enquiries by encouraging young people to pursue their interest either at coaching sessions or by directing them to a suitable club or centre where coaching is known to take place. Contact me at 91 Larchcroft Rd." Ipswich (Phone: Ips. 49118).

Michael Green reports from....

### SURREY

#### CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS

Super scintillating spheres of spinning celluloid seen in Surrey! They were most noticeable during finals night of the Senior Closed tournament and particularly during the Men's and Women's finals.

The finals were held in a carnival atmosphere. The spectators were vociferous in their support, and although partisan, were generally very sporting in their acknowledgement of good shots, whoever played them. At times their enthusiasm overflowed and Mike Hammond, being distracted by a noisy spectator, told her to "shut up", in his best sergeant major voice, - it was as if Arthur Scargill was shouting at Maggie Thatcher. From that moment the level of their participation, although diminished, was just about right, but the atmosphere remained splendid throughout the evening.

#### MEN'S SINGLES

Hammond began by showing us that his rise to No. 40 on the Lentec Computer is no fluke by taking the first game off Glen Baker. His hitting on both wings proved too consistent for Glen to handle. During the second game, however, Glen's magnificent left-handed counter hitting proved to be the decisive weapon in his armour. And he now began to consistently hit it on. Time and again he rocked Mike back on his heels.

It was exciting to see genuine counter hit winners rather than the block type hits that are more common today. Whatever Mike

did he found the ball returned so fast it was difficult, at times, to keep track of it - as quick as fast forward on a video recording machine. This pattern continued throughout the third game and all Mike could do was to sportingly acknowledge his opponent's winners. Unfortunately, from his point of view, he had too many to count and ended up in the red. Glen's position as No. 22 in England seems justified. In the semis Glen completely outhit Steve Holloway and Mike beat Jerome Jonah. Jerome had an excellent tournament beating Gordon Chapman, David Dewsbury and Rue Bole all 2-straight. For these achievements in particular, and for reaching the Restricted Final, he was presented with the Fred Joyce Memorial Trophy by Ron Craydon, Chairman and President of the Surrey TT Association. Ron presented all the trophies throughout the evening.

## WOMEN'S SINGLES

Michele Hams appropriately brought home the bacon by

beating the holder, Jane Barella, in three. Michele, who missed last year's tournament through injury, began determinedly and gained an early lead, but Jane, who appeared nervous at first, fought back well and by the end of the first game, appeared in control. Her deceptive style of taking the ball late and looping it high with consistent top spin had caused all sorts of problems. It is a style that has elevated her to the top 20 in England. Both girls, however, know each others style and in the 2nd game it was Michele's turn to take and keep the initiative with her usual mixture of looping and flat topspin drives to keep her opponent stretched from side to side. Both girls were keenly supported, but if it seemed that more were shouting for Michele, it was because a large proportion were members of the club where she practises. In the 3rd game Michele took a decisive early lead and her back hand loop was proving difficult for Jane to control effectively. This enabled Michele to dictate the pattern of play and she ended up by win-

ning with points to spare.

In the semis Jane had beaten Linda Clemett who had in turn beaten Debbie Simmonds. In an earlier round Jane had quite a struggle with Hazel Lowe - this game going to 3. Michele's main obstacle to the final was Lesley Popkiewitz who she beat in 3, Lesley looking good in the 1st game but losing it in the 2nd and 3rd -13, -7.

## VETERANS' SINGLES

Warren Holed

Gordon Chapman taking advantage of being seeded No. 2 won the veterans' singles by beating "Connie" Warren deuce in the 3rd. Connie had beaten Frank Hams - seeded 3 in spite of being the holder for the past 2 years - in the semis, Frank having earlier beaten Brian Simmonds his Surrey team mate. Gordon took revenge on Ron Wilde who beat him last year, and then beat John (I hate pimples) Garland in the semis.

I'm afraid I can't describe the final because I was involved in the restricted singles, although those who did see it said it was an excellent match. Alii saw was both players towelling themselves down and looking shattered.

## MEN'S DOUBLES

Hammond/Holloway beat Baker/Chapman 2-straight.

## WOMEN'S DOUBLES

Jane Barella/Linda Clemett beat Michele Hams/Debbie Simmonds 2 straight.

## MIXED DOUBLES

Hammond/Simmonds beat Baker/Barella 2-straight.

## RESTRICTED SINGLES

Most people seemed surprised to find Frank Hams seeded No. 1, particularly as the holder Lionel Faure, was also in the draw and unseeded! Frank eventually lost to a former Nigerian international, from the Abeng Club, who reputedly had taken a game off Des Douglas. Ironically this was after he had beaten Lionel in the previous round.

The impressive Nigerian went on to win the event by beating an in-form Jonah.

I wonder what the seeding committee would have done if they had realised a former international had entered the tournament? Although according to the rules he was eligible I imagine the spirit of the rule was broken.

S.T.A. would like to thank Cornileau for the use of their excellent tables and for Playrite Sports for the balls that bounced on them during the tournament.

## PREMIER WEEKEND

Our first match over this weekend was against Yorkshire; their team was Fletcher, Beadsley, Mills and Melody Hill. Nicky Mason, Mark Oakley, Glen Baker and Jane Barella played for Surrey. We lost 1-8 with Nicky beating Fletcher. Team captain, Mike Kercher, was most disappointed with the result. The second match against Staffs also ended in defeat, 3-6. Their team was Bellingham, Bakewell, Dixon and Fiona Elliot. Our team was unchanged with Nicky (2), and Glen (1), the only winners. The next match on Sunday, against Essex, now took on a new significance - we had to win or face the prospect of relegation. But our opponents also had to win for the same reason. Their team was Andrew, Newman, Charlery and Lisa Hayden. Mike Kercher now brought Steve Holloway and Michele Hams into his squad which gave him more options than a digital watch. His first option was to play Steve and Michele in the mixed which was his only change from the previous matches. Mike's nerves were eased by the team's marvellous spirit. That they won the first 2 sets also helped. Although we lost the next 2 we managed to win the Men's doubles - halfway through and the match 3-2 in our favour.

Essex had surprised Mike with their selection of Lisa for the Women's singles because their reserve had beaten Jane in the past. Anyway both girls were naturally nervous - but it was Jane, who after losing the 1st, fought back from a big deficit in the 2nd to eventually win 19 in the 3rd. If this wasn't enough, Glen then beat Newman also 19 in the 3rd. It was left to Mark to complete the 6-3 victory which meant that Essex were relegated.

In our final match against Berkshire, who played Barr, Wellman, Savins and Mandy Sainsbury - we won 6-3, Mason (2) Baker (2) Holloway (1) and Michele and Steve winning the mixed. Overall Surrey finished 5th.

## ESSEX OPEN

Pride of place for the men goes to Oakley who beat John Souter 2-straight. Hammond could have shared the position but just failed to beat Dave Hannah -19 in the third after looking a winner throughout. Mason also had an opportunity to occupy it when he led Carl Preat 18-14 in the 3rd. Then he stopped hitting and lost -19. Hannah also suffered the same fate against Carl. The outcome of this set again rested on Dave's reluctance to remain positive when in a winning position late in the 3rd.



Michele Hams, the **women's** singles winner in the Surrey Closed, receiving her trophy from Ron Craydon (left) and (right) Jerome Jonah with the Fred Joyce Memorial Trophy, as winner of the Restricted singles.



Gordon Chapman (veterans' winner), Glen Baker (men's winner), Ron Craydon, President, with Steve Holloway and Mike Hammond (men's doubles winners).

Photos by Murray Corbin.

# County Notes

Credit, of course, must be given to Carl for wrestling the initiative away from Dave.

Pride of place for Surrey in the women's event goes to Michele Hams who reached the quarters albeit with the aid of a scratching in the 2nd round. She was eventually beaten by Jackie Bellinger. Jane Barella won her group but then narrowly failed to beat Lisa Hayden whom she beat in the Essex County Match, after having 3 match points.

Murray Corbin has taken me to task for not confirming with him the facts of the Norfolk Match which I reported on in the January issue. I'm sorry if I upset him. In my defence, however, I must refer him to his advice to team captains in Surrey Notes Dec. '80, Nov. '81 and Jan. '82. I'm published and was, damned!

Another matter that has been cleared up is the matter of choice of reserves when a selected player drops out. The team captain has the choice from all the reserves nominated, who are not listed in any particular order. The choice depends on the circumstances at the time.

Richard Jones got to the last eight of the Cotswold 2-Star Select. Matthew Pernet was beaten by A. Houghton in an earlier round.

In the next issue I will give details of the Dulwich Tournament sent to me by Janice Seabrook. Meanwhile the Dulwich League wish to thank the caretaker of Oliver Goldsmith School for the valuable help he provided during and before the tournament.

Forthcoming events in Dulwich are:- Junior and Cadet divisions' top 8's at Oliver Goldsmith's School, Thursday, 28th March at 6.30 p.m.

Senior divisions' at Irving Sports Club 1st April at 7.30 p.m.

Finally, and sadly, Janice tells me she has to retire from the game due to an injured back.

winning the mixed must be high.

It only remains now for Teresa Moore with her unorthodox game to break the stranglehold applied for the past four years by Rachel Mackriell, who has now settled in Sussex.

On paper, and looking at the age groups, Teresa (18), Rachel (23), the younger girl should achieve a breakthrough but Miss Mackriell has provided many shocking performances whilst in Sussex and in contrast has at times played quite brilliantly, raising her game with the theoretical top-40 in England at least.

I cannot see any other player capable of beating Moore or Mackriell. Wait though, there is one, the slim brunette from Horsham - Sally Weston. Watching her come from behind to beat Yvette Brown of Essex in the County Championships last month, I was quite impressed with her top-spin and her strategy.

Keith Horton, the player-manager of Dolphins is the new champion of West Sussex. In an embarrassingly low entry minus Phil Smith, Ritchie Venner and Sally Weston who chose the Essex Open instead - computer points at stake - Horton stopped David Jemmett in the final.

There was some embarrassment however for Phil Richardson the top seed from Crawley. After some strong performances in his opening matches in the National League for Mike Watts's Erreys Print, he fell, to Paul Elphick, the Sussex junior champion.

One of the biggest changes in English table tennis this season - it was starting to happen last season - is the huge increases in the number of players appearing in the large tournaments. Cardiff was slightly embarrassed by the heaving ranks of men in the qualifying rounds from England, and at Bletchley there is a similar picture.

This would appear to be a triumph for the computer points system, but I suspect John Preen will have other thousand-word theories!

- 9 A. Pilgrim (Cov)
- 10 R. Tanner
- 11 P. Demetrius
- 12 D. Parmar
- 13 M. Randle (Rugby)
- 14 S. Bertie
- 15 A. Cockeill

#### WOMEN

- 1 K. Groves
- 2 S. Peakman
- 3 D. St. Ledger
- 4 S. Culbertson
- 5 J. Harden
- 6 D. Bromley
- 7 F. Sutton
- 8 L. Sibley (Learn)
- 9 T. Brown
- 10 D. Robinson

#### GIRLS

- 1 D. Bromley
- 2 T. Green (Learn)
- 3 L. Spilsbury
- 4 A. Ledwitch
- 5 L. Fitzpatrick
- 6 C. Morgan
- 7 C. King
- 8 S. Hoolihan (Nun)
- 9 L. Poole
- 10 R. Ledwitch
- 11 M. Lowe
- 12 K. Nicklin

#### BOYS

- 1 Randle
- 2 N. Mayo
- 3 V. Chauhan
- 4 S. Swallow (Stratford)
- 5 D. Smith
- 6 S. Simon
- 7 R. Todd (Coventry)
- 8 D. Thomas (Rugby)
- 9 R. St. Ledger
- 10 G. Woodcock (Cov)
- 11 G. Cunnington (Learn)
- 12 L. Jeffries
- 13 R. Miller
- 14 P. Atkins (Rugby)
- 15 C. Fisher (Rugby)

\* denotes Cadet

## COUNTY RESULTS

The three County teams still have hopes of some success.

### DIVISION 2A - SENIOR

The senior side have a good chance of finishing top although they lost ground in dropping a valuable point to Bucks. following the withdrawal of our No.1 Carl Morgan. Fortunately Karen Groves and Di St. Ledger came to the rescue, each winning their singles and together the doubles. Barry Johnson and Phil Gunn took the Men's doubles, 'deuce' in the third but in the men's singles only Johnson won against Jon Bradbury.

The match to decide the Championship could be against Leicestershire at Nuneaton on 16 Feb. At the moment Warwickshire have a one set advantage. Our chances rest on the availability of the top men - Morgan, Phil Gunn and the Johnsons, Barry and Duggie.

### JUNIOR DIV. 2A

The Junior 'A' team have won two and lost two. They beat Cheshire at home 7-3, and in an epic week-end up North, lost to Northumberland 4-6 in the afternoon then travelled down to beat Cleveland 8-2, only to lose to Lancashire at Coventry 7-3 in a disappointing display.

It is hoped that in the remaining programme Mark Randle, V. Chauhan, S. Swallow, Dawn Bromley and Tina Brown can salvage some pride and finish as runners-up.

### JUNIOR 'B'

The Junior 'B' side (All Cadets) have one point only from their 3 matches - a draw in the opening fixture against Gloucs. The team of Darren Smith, Richard Todd, Dave Thomas, Lisa Spilsbury and Alison Ledwitch are all 15 or under and are competing against opponents a few years older and with more experience, but I'm sure this will benefit the youngsters in the future.

## WARWICKSHIRE CUP COMPETITION (B. MACKIE CUP)

The first round matches have now been played, results:-

British Telecom M/R	361
Birmingham Housing	W.O.
NALGO (Nun)	rec 45 394
Newman Hall 'A'	365
G.E.C. (Cov)	378
Coton Meth (Nun)	378
Newman Hall 'B'	rec 162 367
Redhill 'A'	
Lucas (York Road)	rec 81 380
Nat Westminster Bank (Cov)	SCR
Shirley Institute	312
Fircoop	rec 99 386
North Solihull	rec 117 341
Four Oaks B.C.	rec 180341
Redhill 'B'	381

2nd Round matches	
Lucas (York) Road	375
Fircoop	rec 198 361
Redhill 'B'	rec 36 353
Coton Meth (Nun)	378
B'ham Housing	rec 108 377
G.E.C. (Coventry)	378
NALGO (Nuneaton)	325
Redhill 'A'	rec 144327

Semi-Finals Draw  
B'ham Housing v G.E.C. (Coventry)  
Redhill 'B' v Coton Meth (Nun)

Matches to be played by Monday, 4th March, 1985.

It is always a difficult task to handicap a competition of this kind, but as can be seen by the results above our handicapping team have done very well in most cases, although possibly the losing teams would have a few comments to make.

## WARWICKSHIRE LEAGUE

The second session matches of this popular competition were held at the West Warwickshire Club on Jan. 27.

The North League side playing their first matches in the competition for a number of years could prove to be this season's dark horses, their first surprise was when they turned up with Warwickshire's No. 2 Woman Sandra Peakman in the squad and secondly taking on the might of last year's winners Rugby beating them 5-4. North's Colin Greene was the main reason for their success beating both Mark and Ian Randle, played Colin. A. Johal and P. Waite made up for the rest of the North side.

Stratford after having rather a lean spell, victory just eluding them on several occasions, beat Leamington 5-4 which must have been very satisfying for the Stratford side of Lanston, Nicky Mytton., Mandy Mytton and Simon Upson.

Second session results:-  
Leamington 4 Nuneaton 5  
Stratford 1 North B'ham 8

John Woodford reports from....

## SUSSEX

### WORTHING TARGET

Something of a record will be created at the 1985 all-Sussex championships at the plush Worthing Sports Centre on March 24 if the Moore family can lift five titles.

Stephen and Adrian Moore will, it is expected, be the top seeds in the men's singles and meet once again in the final as they did last year. The chances of the star Bexhill men losing the men's doubles seem remote and the chances of one of them

Mary Rose reports from....

## WARWICKSHIRE

### NEW RANKINGS

Revised County Rankings (as at 1st February 1985) and monopolised by players from Birmingham are:-

#### MEN

- 1 D. Douglas
- 2 C. Morgan
- 3 D. Johnson
- 4 B. Johnson
- 5 P. Gunn
- 6 L. Gunn
- 7 L. Bertie
- 8 M. Browne

Coventry 3 Rugby 6  
Leamington 4 Stratford 5  
Nuneaton 4 Coventry 5  
Rugby 4 North a'ham 5  
North a'ham 8 Leamington 1

The Final Session will be held at the Phoenix Club, Coventry on Sunday, 10th March in a competition which is now very open.

## COACHING SEMINAR

The Coaching Committee of the Birmingham Association held a one day Seminar on Sunday, 27th January at the Birmingham Athletic Institute which was open to all coaches and participants in table tennis.

Jim Peakman, Chairman of the Birmingham Coaching Committee was in charge.

Donald Parker the ETTA National Trainer/Coach was to have given a couple of talks but due to bad weather conditions and an accident on the motor.. way he was unable to attend. Birmingham University had promised that a lecturer would be present to give a talk on skill training but unfortunately did not arrive. The seminar was still very worthwhile and informative with lectures and general discussion on the future of the Coaching programme.

Phil Burwell a 3-Star Coach gave a very interesting talk on the new Dunlop Skill tests.

One of the aims of the seminar was an attempt to revitalise an interest in table tennis which seems to be waning both at local and national level.

## JUNIOR LEAGUE (BIRMINGHAM)

An idea to combat the malaise of dropping interest and to give a competitive element that seems to be missing is the formation of a Junior League.

The idea is to interest thirty youngsters and form them into ten teams of three.

The Scheme was announced at the recent Birmingham Schools' Individual Championships and received a favourable reception.

If it is success it could be the saving of the game in the Birmingham Area.

## NATIONAL CLUB RESULTS

In the 1st Round of the Women's National Club Competition Birmingham representatives Redhill, entertained Maccabi (London) winning impressively 6-0.

In the Men's Competition Birmingham's representatives B'ham Phones beat Moseley Park (Wolves) 5-4.



## Welsh Corner

By H. Roy Evans  
HOME SUCCESS

Another home success in the European League, this time against Greece, gives Wales its best record for some years. Ironically, whereas in the past, too many matches have been lost because of no success in the women's singles or mixed doubles, this time had not Lesley Tyler played her best ever table tennis, we would surely have lost.

Alan Griffiths, looking as sharp as ever, got us off to a good start with a fine two-straight win over Greek No.2 Dimitris Zikos. Then Nigel Tyler went to the table against the No.1 Costantinos Priftis, and won the first game easily. Too easily, maybe, because in the second game Priftis took charge, and won 21, 18. Nigel looked as if he would now get down to the job of winning, which recent form suggested he would, but he lost touch completely, and with enforced errors and bad shots flowing from his bat, he lost, again at 18.

Now it wasn't looking so good for us because the next set was the women's singles, and we have had very little success in this department in recent years. But Lesley, who has been practising hard, on that practice form and crushed Maria Louka in the first game.

Louka certainly came back in the second and held Lesley to level pegging. But it was Lesley who pulled out the good shots in the end to win 21, 19.

The doubles surely ought to have brought us a win. Nigel Thomas and Nigel Tyler paired up for this, and regrettably Tyler still couldn't get into touch, and Thomas played equally poorly. Neither helped the other to get into form, and a two-straight defeat was the disappointing result.

So now it was two-all, with the mixed to follow, and no great prospect that Nigel would recover to help sister Lesley to victory. But Lesley rose to the occasion again, and was not only the dominant factor in the Welsh pair, but to quote a wag - "was the best man on view!"

With Alan to go on, we

breathed again, and there seemed little doubt that he would beat Priftis. But he did give us some frights.. with patches of looseness in both games. But he won two-straight, and we were home.

Which was just as well, because Nigel Tyler, up against the No.2 Zikos, proceeded to play poorly again, and will want to forget the whole evening, ending as it did with another defeat.

The match was splendidly arranged by the Swansea League, and a good crowd was ever ready to applaud some good table tennis.

Scores:  
A. Griffiths bt D. Zikos 8. 13;  
N. Tyler lost to C. Priftis 11.-18. -18;  
L. Tyler bt M. Louka 5. 19;  
Tyler/Thomas lost to Priftis/Zikos -9. -14;  
Tyler/Tyler bt Zikos/Louka 19. 19;  
Griffiths bt Priftis 19. 17;  
Tyler lost to Zikos -16. -16.

## NATIONAL LEAGUE

The still weak Butterfly Cardiff team continues its downward slide, and relegation is now a real threat.

On Dec. 30, the team went to Dagenham, the only team beaten by us so far in the league. But there was no repeat of that success, and ironically, it was Nigel Thomas who must bear the blame for this 5-3 defeat.

Nigel lost to both Penny and Newman, and although Trevor Manning beat Gibbs and Penny, and Tony Healan beat Newman, Bryn Tyler was unable to make any contribution.

The home match against Bath Toyota was played the day after the thrilling Welsh Open Finals, and proved to be a terrible anticlimax. Carl Preat was, of course, head and shoulders above the others, and although Nigel Thomas did beat Creed in Butterfly's only success, the other sets provided dismal defeats.

Against St. Neots, Brian Everson came into the team in the hope of picking up at least one win at No.4. But it was a vain ploy, and St. Neots won 5-3. This time Nigel Thomas did win his two, and Manning took one, but it was a match best forgotten.

The options are running out for Butterfly, and their remaining matches promise only one possible win.

Cranfield Colours are certainly doing better and following splendid wins against Omega Reading (7-1), Gunnersby Triangle (8-0), and TSP Larkhall, they rose to third position.

But joy was shortlived, because Jacques Fareham Irs brought an unwelcome Christmas Eve gift in the shape of a 5-3 defeat, and this meant a drop to fourth place.

George Evans has withdrawn from the Cranfield side for business reasons, but Warwick Armstrong has filled his place with distinction, winning 6 out of

his eight sets so far. Jeremy Hobbs is (also waiting for his chance.

## COMMONWEALTH AND WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The same sides will represent Wales in both these events. They are - Alan Griffiths, Nigel Tyler, Nigel Thomas and Mark Thomas, with Lesley Tyler and Shirley Cain-Williams constituting the women's team. Brian Everson will be the non-playing captain.

Laurie Selby reports from...

## WILTSHIRE

### SILVER LINING IN GLOOMY SKIES

Three tears but only one cheer - that was the outcome of Wiltshire's latest matches in the County Championships.

The cheer came from the junior's first team who kept up their promotion challenge with a 7-3 victory over Essex seconds.

But the first senior team, desperate for points to avoid relegation, were pipped 6-4 by Kent at Devizes and the senior seconds slumped 7-3 away to Dorset seconds.

There was more bad news from the junior seconds who were thumped 9-1 by Somerset in Swindon.

The top junior side again provided the only silver lining in the gloomy Wiltshire skies pulling off their third win to keep promotion prospects high..

The Wiltshire girls, Jenny Neale and Julie Mills, ended the match undeteated and Paul Tuck and Ian Neate each chipped in with two singles wins.

Bitter disappointment came from the failure of the top senior side to salvage at least one point from their home match. They got back into the chase only to fall at the final hurdle.

Claire Maisey was Wiltshire's only unbeaten player with Kevin Satchell backing up with two good singles wins.

But with no wins coming from the other singles, the pressure is really on for Wiltshire's next match.

This is a relegation battle against Gloucestershire who are holding up the league.

There were only two outstanding features in the senior second team's match. The first was the fine form of Tracy Watkins and Brenda Lee who clinched all the Wiltshire victories.

The second came when Steve Davies of Wiltshire opposed Steve Davies of Dorset. The latter pocketed victory.

Mark Colyer chalked up the only victory for the junior seconds - but it was a fine win against

# County Notes

England-ranked junior Murray Barter.

Senior results:

Wiltshire I v Kent: Kevin Edwards lost to Dave Dodd -13, -11;  
Andrew Oxley lost to John Burliton -14, -16;  
Kevin Satchell bt Andy Dodd 13, 8.  
Claire Maisey/Janet Parker bt Janet Smith/Juliet Houghton -19, 15, 18;  
Edwards/Satchell lost to D. Dodd/Burliton 13, -15, -19;  
Edwards lost to Burliton -20, -13;  
Parker lost to Houghton 15, -12, -17;  
Satchell bt D. Dodd 13, -18, 21;  
Maisey bt Smith 7, -13, 16;  
Oxley lost to A. Dodd -7, -9.  
Wiltshire II v Dorset II:  
Martin Hughes bt Brian Powell 20, 18;  
Steve Davies bt Davies 12, -18, 18;  
John Robinson bt Ray Hughes 12, 8;  
Joyce Coops/Hazel Feltham lost to Tracy Watkins/ Brenda Lee -13, -18;  
Robinson/M. Hughes bt R. Hughes/Davies 16, -18, 13;  
Hughes bt Davies -16, 12, 18;  
Feltham lost to Lee -21, -18;  
Robinson bt Powell 19, 14;  
Coop lost to Watkins -13, 17, -16;  
Davies bt R. Hughes 18, 13.

Juniors

Wiltshire I v Essex II:  
Gary Killington lost to Paul Tuck 20, -11, -20;  
Bao Ma lost to Ian Neate -15, -19;  
Jason Clark bt Ray Powell 16, -17, 14;  
Helen Platt/Catherine Thompson bt Jenny Neale/ Julie Mills 17, -14, 15;  
Clark/Killington lost to Tuck/Powell -14, 12, -11;  
Killington lost to Neate 16, -20, -17;  
Thompson lost to Mills 18, -19, -19;  
Clark lost to Tuck -18, -18;  
Platt lost to Neale 13, -19, -15;  
Bao Ma bt Powell 17, 14.  
Wiltshire II v Somerset:  
Mark Powell lost to Philip Payne -9, -10;  
Clive Simms lost to David Woodridge -18, -10;  
Mark Colyer bt Murray Barter 11, 18;  
Lorraine Cox/Sue Vowles lost to F. Stuart/K. Withyman -8, -5;  
Powell/Colyer lost to Payne/Barter -23, -13;  
Powell lost to Woodridge -25, 19, -21;  
Vowles lost to Withyman -15, -19;  
Colyer lost to Payne -12, -17;  
Cox lost to Stuart 19, -20, -17;  
Simms lost to Barter -4, -8.

## DEVIZES

The queen lost her crown and a remarkable reign came to an end at the Devizes championships.

Alison Boyce was dethroned as the women's singles champion - the first time in at least 15 years that she has been beaten in the tournament.

Alison did not give up her title without a fight and won the opening game against Brenda Lee but then the Swindon teenager got on top and clinched the match -16, 13, 19.

Alison had the consolation of winning the women's doubles partnering Brenda to victory 18, -18, 15 in the final.

Brenda chalked up her hat-trick when she teamed with Brian Powell of Swindon to victory in the mixed.

They beat the Devizes partnership of John Webb and Alison Boyce -16, 19, 6 in the final.

Powell, playing in the championships for the first time, also notched up a hat-trick of titles.

He won the men's singles in a tough battle against Graham Oxley of Cherhill 16, -13, 19.

Powell snapped up his third title beating John Bright of Swindon -19, 11, -14 in the veterans' singles final.

Graham Oxley partnered his father Michael to victory in the men's doubles. They beat Powell and Alan Duke (Swindon) 16 and 19.

The girls' singles was also a

family affair between sisters Julie and Tina Mills of Caine. Julie ran out winner 11, 19.

Mark Colyer beat Clive Sims 15, 18 to take the boys' singles title.

Graham Oxley won the handicap singles when he beat Alison Boyce 15, 16 in the final.

The handicap doubles went to Ronald Muskiet and Jamie Smith who won the final 14, -12, 16 against Graham Oxley and Terry Flowers.

The tournament was held at the Southbroom Centre for the first time.

## SWINDON

A new name appears at the top of the men's list in the latest Swindon rankings.

It's that of Neil Taylor who has come from Down Under to go up top of the mid-season ratings.

Neil, who lives in Cirencester and is playing for Gloucestershire, hasn't lost a set in the Swindon league.

He is ahead of Bryan Merrett, the former England closed champion.

Another new name at the top of the Boys' list is Paul Tuck.

Claire Maisey keeps her stranglehold on the women's section but Janet Parker's departure for Reading gives Tracy Watkins second place.

Full lists are:

Men: 1 Neil Taylor, 2 Bryan Merrett, 3 Steve McBean, 4 Brian Powell, 5 Andrew Oxley, 6 Andrew Oxley, 7 Ernie Howell, 8 Ray Hughes, 9 Basil Thompson, 10 (joint) Steve Davies, Brian Freeman, Raymond Powell and Paul Tuck.  
Women: 1 Claire Maisey, 2 Tracy Watkins, 3 Brenda Lee, 4 Helen Wilson, 5 Claire Hunter, 6 Jenny Neale, 7 Debbie Aldridge, 8 Sylvia Morse.  
Veterans: 1 Merrett, 2 Howell, 3 Thompson, 4 Freeman, 5 Brian Hey, 6 Michael Oxley, 7 John Bright.  
Boys: 1 Tuck, 2 Ray Powell, 3 Ian Neate, 4 Martin Edwards, 5 Mark Powell, 6 Steven Ely, 7 Lee Godbold, 8 Jazvinder Singh, 9 Paul Timmis, 10 Martin Page, 11 Mark Nelson, 12 Colin Worgan.  
Girls: 1 Neale, 2 Lorraine Cox, 3 Sue Rachel Watkins.  
Cadet Boys: 1 Timmis, 2 Nelson, 3 Worgan, 4 Nathan Pickett, 5 Michael Willis, 6 Peter Fry, 7 David Bellamy, 8 Alex Collar, 9 Andrew Willis, 10 Matthew Prior, 11 Keith Quick and Keith Pointer.

Swindon's Jenny Neale has made it into the England ranking lists - the only Wiltshire juniorto do so.

Jenny has crept in at No. 48 in the Girls' section but her form in the ranking tournament at Coventry could put her higher in the next list.

Jenny, who plays for Ferndale, beat Amanda Shufflebotham who is ranked 33 and Caroline Dada ranked 38.

The Swindon girl picked up 15 ranking points from the tournament.

Raymond Powell of Swindon picked up 10 points with wins over Jonathan Huckle, Robert Etheridge and Lee Brown.

Another Wiltshire player, Michael Auchterlonie, picked up eight points and finished 54th on the Cadet list.

Swindon women's 'A' team have chalked up a hat-trick of wins in the Cotswold Ladies'

League.

They beat Cheltenham 'A' 8-2 away with Claire Hunter and Brenda Lee each scoring three and Debbie Aldridge two.

Playing in Swindon, they defeated Leamington 'A' 6-4. Brenda, Jenny Neale and Sylvia Morse each scored twice.

Swindon's third win came against Gloucester who they beat 7-3. Brenda won three sets, Claire two and Jenny 1.

After a day of marathon matches Raymond Powell ran out winner in the Ferndale club's handicap championships.

But he had his work cut out before beating John Kennerly in the final.

John, playing off plus three, took the opening game 21-14 but Raymond, with a handicap of minus five, hit back to take the next two 18, 15.

Raymond had a tough time in the semi before scraping home against Cotin Worgan 21, 20.

But John had an even harder scrap against Leo Godbold before inching out 19, -20, 23.

Doug Moss reports from....

## WORCESTERSHIRE COUNTY CLOSED

The Closed Championships were played at Perdiswell Sports Centre with 12 tables in use. All but one of the titles changed hands. Louise Davis showed her complete supremacy by holding on to the Women's Singles title without dropping a game beating Helen Pogmore 12, 7; Vera Royal 10, 14; Janet Hunt 4, 16; and in the final Lynda Reid 18, 14. Lynda had a goodwin over County team player Sandra Roden in the semi-final.

Murray Jukes regained the Men's Singles after a nail-biting third game in the semi. Steve Dunning was leading 19-12 in the decisive game Jukes made a courageous fight back overhauling Dunning point by point and hitting a tremendous shot to draw level at 20-all. The score then went to 21-all and Murray finally clinched it at 23-21 having won 11 of the last 13 points! This was followed by a scintillating final with Simon Claxton defending his title. Things were even when Murray won the first game at 12 and Claxton replied by winning 13. Jukes got away to a 5-0 lead in the final game which; despite every effort, Claxton was unable to overhaul. Murray took the title by winning 15 in the decider.

Simon and Murray linked up in the men's doubles' meeting Steve Dunning and Mervyn Wood in the final and taking the title with scores of 14, -20, 12. The Women's Doubles final had the

County I team pairing of Louise and Sandra opposing current champions Lynda Reid and Mandy Mytton. This time Louise and Sandra were in dominant form to win 9, 13.

One title which would have been expected to be retained was the Mixed with Jukes and Louise Davis defending their title, but with Nicky Mytton snowbound sister Mandy was joined by Colin Greene (Dudley) and they excelled themselves to win 15, -10, 17.

Ray Dixon (Dudley) in his first season with Worcestershire dominated the Veterans' events. Brian Belcher had to withdraw because of a neck injury but Dixon beat the holder Mervyn Wood in the semi and Brett Davis 10, 17 in the final. Dixon and Davis teamed up in the doubles and, with Belcher not available, Wood partnered Ron Butterton. It was a hard fought contest with Dixon and Davis getting home 10 in the third.

The Veterans' Women's Singles final inevitably brought Janet Hunt, title holder for the past few seasons, and Lynda Reid together. They have met in many finals and Lynda showed again that she often has the edge on Janet by winning 15, 19.

The weather and road conditions had the effect that many of the players from the Evesham area, including John Mytton (the Referee) and family, were unable to get to the Championships. This was a disappointment as there has always been good support from Evesham League players.

County players had some success in the Cotswold Junior Select at Gloucester. Jukes again emphasised his success in doubles events. With Adrian Dixon not available he partnered CliveGuest (Sheffield). They did exceptionally well to win the Junior Doubles title. 13-year-old Nicola Jones (Worcester) played in the national cadet trials to gain a No. 21 ranking. She followed this by reaching the quarters of the cadet girls' singles event, the remaining places occupied by the girls nationally ranked at Nos. 1-7. By virtue of this she has advanced to be ranked No. 13.

Janet Hunt also did very well in the national Veterans' Championships. She reached the semi-final of the Singles losing to Doreen Schofield, the eventual winner, and teamed up with Joyce Coop to reach the final of the Women's Doubles championship.

From the Worcester School of Sport I have arranged for 4 girls, aged 12 and 13, to play a return Cadet girls' match with Leamington. The Worcester team is Nicola Jones, Kerry James, Michelle McDrnell and Sarah Stone. This is to be played in school half-

term at Perdisswell Sports Centre.

The County I team looks well set to win the championship of Division 3C. The team has a 4 points and 20 games lead on nearest rivals Huntingdonshire, who have two matches in hand. The I team visits Avon" team for the last match and a win will almost certainly result in taking the title. The success has resulted from a good team effort this season as the ladies, Louise Davis and Sandra Roden, have gained considerably in experience and confidence which the selectors expected when it was decided to persevere with the girls as a pair last season. Jukes and Claxton have each lost only one singles and have a 100% doubles record. Likewise Louise and Sandra have lost only one singles each and have won 5 of their 7 doubles. The Juniors recently lost 4-6 to Bedfordshire and title hopes have unfortunately receded and the outcome rests upon the possibility of other teams taking points off Bedfordshire and Glamorgan. The juniors last match is against Glamorgan.

Finances are rather strained this season, the lack of sponsorship being a factor. For the first time in its history the Association has made an appeal to Vice-Presidents from which a sum of £80 has so far materialised. The Association has also asked Leagues to help with sale of Draw Tickets, encouraging them by allowing them to retain 50% of the cash from sales.

Les D'Arcy reports from....

## YORKSHIRE

### INNER GLOW

News, like the weather, fluctuates from near zero to quite prorrising. This month an influx of information from two of the smaller Leagues has given an inner glow which helps to counter the severe wintry conditions outside. It is reassuring to know of the enthusiasm and endeavour shown by some of the workers for table tennis throughout the county. Others could do to follow their example, but why?

Geoff Mortimer, one of the Dunlop Sports leading officials, gave the answer at the very successful Yorkshire and Humberside launching of the Dunlop Skills Awards at Sandal Magna Middle School in Wakefield. Thousanas of pounds are channelled annually into table tennis from beginner to international level. The Award Scheme is but another example of this sports 'Firm's tremendous effort to keep table tennis afloat. Unfortunately, according to the speech made by Mr. Mortimer,

the Scheme could be our last chance to develop table tennis through the grass roots into a major sport again. Hope all concerned take up the challenge. E.S.T.T.A. Chairman John Arnold and Regional Coach Rowden Fullen, demonstrated coaching and different aspects of the Scheme to a large and receptive audience.

One of the bonuses of the evening at Sandal was the opportunity it gave to meet friends from all over the County. Coach and international umpire, George Turton, enthused about grand-daughter Emma Preece, who at three years and ten months must be one of the youngest ever to attend - and play - at a coaching school. Emma uses a full size table but stands on a large box to bring her playing arm above table height. Photo shows Emma ready for action. George has also had a great deal to do with the coaching and progress of one of the rapidly rising stars of Pontefract and Yorkshire, Karen Burrows. Tony Trigg, Pontefract/Castleford League reports that Karen is having a marvellous season after being out of the game for two years resulting in an England ranking and a place in the Yorkshire Senior 2nd Team. She is also unbeaten at inter-league and top local levels. Karen's problem is the expense of travelling round the tournament circuit to collect ranking points. Karen, who lives at Laburnum Court, Castleford, W. Yorks is keen to hear of a prospective sponsor.

All the Pontefract/Castleford, Yorkshire League sides are doing exceptionally well this season. The veterans:- R. Fullen, A. Hanson, D. Kelly and D. Wright and the cadets:- G. Cook, V. Carr, T. Pike, D. Toole, J. Roberts and I. Starks have both 100% records in their respective Yorkshire League divisions with seniors K. Burrows, N. Carr and C. White challenging for the Yorkshire Div. 3 title.

### HALIFAX

Top seeds, Alan Dickinson and Tracey Robertshaw retained their singles titles in the Hoechst sponsored Halifax and Dist. Championships. Dickinson who defeated Barry Snowden 15,16 in the men's final and with Mark McGorlick also took the men's doubles title, defeating David Bottomley and Snowden 19, 19 in the final. It was third time lucky for Snowden in the mixed when with Barbara Gee he defeated defending charrlptions, Paul Stansfield and Tracey Robertshaw 13,16 to become the new champions.

Howard Birch, an ex-Canadian Open Champion who won the

Halifax men's singles title 40 years ago defeated Edmund Hindle in the vets. finals 12,11.

Other winners:- Handicap: D. Bottomley. Cadets: Jason Mitchell. Junior: Julian Taliku. Youths: Garry Power.

### ROTHERHAM

Graham Coe the progressive team manager and organiser of the Rotherham-based South Yorkshire National League Club was not too happy about unflattering press comments regarding his talented 1st Team squad whom he is confident will gain promotion into the Premier Division at the end of this season. "Our Premier Division Team next season will be spearheaded by a prominent coloured player," commented Graham. With stars like Que Van Que, Chris Rogers, Steve Mills and Dave Gannon on the books the only coloured player who could demand top place in that team must be the "Des" himself. Opinion has it that Des will be spending a season in England next time round so who knows- unless the ambitious Graham has a contact in China - I'll settle for Des. The mind boggles!

### LEEDS

Joanne Roberts, a pupil of Archbishop Cranmer School coached by Richard Hudson the School's Coach and Rowden Futlen has made meteoric progress in recent months. Her most recent success being to defeat Helen Potts, England No. 16 Cadet in the final of the U-12's at the Cotswold Select after defeating Tracy Hooker, No. 26 in the semi. Keep up the good work Joanne.

### SHEFFIELD

Veteran Sheffield inter-league player Tony Hunt, twice came within one point of registering emphatic wins when playing for Sheffield 2nds against Wakefield 1st Men's team. Tony led 20-15 against Phil Tomlinson, the Wakefield No. 1 in the 1st game lost -20, won the 2nd 18 and led the decided 10-4 before losing the set 21-23. At one game-all and 20-15 up in the decider against county junior Alaric Bassano, Tony must have felt that he would not be going home empty handed. Alas, it was not to be. Alaric decided he may as well hit out and go down in style. Unfortunate for Tony every shot went on to give his opponent the game and set at 22-20. One thing Tony did teach everyone present was how to lose gracefully and with a smile, which must have been very difficult under the circumstances.

The final score of 9-1 to

Wakefield was not a true reflection of the match which was closely contested with most of the games won by the narrowest of margins.

### HULL

14-year-old Hazel Kavanagh showed much promise when winning the Pontefract Open's girls' singles by defeating Sheffield's Joanne Ward in the final. In the veterans' event Ron Jackson lost in the final to Brian Edlington after defeating Mick Farnill in the semi.

In the Premier Division of the Yorkshire League, Hull's draw with Doncaster puts them realistically out of contention for the title, which they so narrowly lost last season. Ironically it was an Humberside player who put paid to their hopes. Dave Skerratt, the Lincolnshire No.1 who plays in the Humberside League, also appears in the Doncaster League. He inflicted only the second defeat of the season on Derek Munt and then went on to complete a maximum as he edged out Mike Harrison 19 in the third to give his side a point.

### COUNTY JUNIORS

Congratulations to the County Junior 2nds: Alaric Bassano, Tony Miller, Chris Oldfield, Ruth Bray and Caroline Dada who retain their 100% record after a 9-1 win against Warwickshire and look set to challenge strongly for the National.

## BADGES

Quality Sew-On

Minimum 20

For friendly efficient service contact:

**S. A. CORY & CO. LTD.**

Glengarriff, Co. Cork, Eire.

Telephone: 010 35327 **63159**

## PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Thorn EMI Ellenborough	8	7	0	1	50	14	14.
2. <b>Ormesby</b> I	7	5	1	1	39	17	11
3. Omega Reading I	7	4	1	2	32	24	9
4. G.K.N. Steelstock Wolverhampton I	7	3	2	2	29	27	8
5. Jaques Fareham I	7	1	3	3	23	33	5
6. Grove Market <b>Drayton</b> I	8	2	0	6	21	43	4
7. Tibhar london	8	0	1	7	14	50	1

Thorn EMI Ellenborough, heirs apparent to the Premier Division crown, have emphasised the strength of their claim by inflicting two more resounding defeats in their latest rounds of fixtures.

Against Tibhar Larkhall England No. 4 Graham Sandley was in supreme form as he overcame firstly Richard Jermyn 10 and 13 and then David Dodd 4 and 18. Dodd's resistance had suffered an early blow when in the opening set he fought valiantly before succumbing to the superior skills of David Wells in a hard-fought three end encounter. In fact this rubber established the precedent for a match in which the 8-0 scoreline did not reflect the strength of Larkhall's challenge. In the final rubber Larkhall No. 4 Gary Spencer came close to breaking the Londoners' duck; recovering to level the score at one game each he battled hard before bowing out at 20 in the third to Ellenborough's improving young Welshman, Nigel Tyler.

Against Grove the following week it was Tyler who conceded the only Ellenborough loss of the afternoon when he was overpowered in straight games by Anwar Majid, but in all fairness it must be said that Majid is currently enjoying a spell of excellent form, in fact he only narrowly missed a second victory when, after recovering from a one game deficit, he was overhauled at 18 in the third end by Ellenborough's Mark Mitchell.

Majid's skills had been much in evidence the previous week when Grove entertained the northern vultures Ormesby. The visitors continued their winning run with a 6-2 victory to retain second place in the League and with a game in hand over the leaders they were well placed to take **advantage** of the slightest Ellenborough slip up.

Although Omega Reading now seem unlikely to threaten the top two teams they have secured both points in a confident 6-2 home win over Jaques Fareham. Only Kevin Satchell, the visitors' No. 3, had cause to rejoice with two fine wins over higher ranked players. He despatched David Barr in straight games to stem the Omega **tide** at 3-1 and kept Jaques in the points hunt by racing to a second good win in three over John Souter at 4-2 but alas support was not to hand. Omega's England Junior Andrew Syed proved himself to be a fair match for Premier division opposition in collecting his second win of the afternoon by holding off the challenge of Glen Baker; meanwhile teammate Barr finished the afternoon by conquering Mark Oakley in straight games.

## FIRST DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt.
1. Bath Toyota	10	7	2	1	53	27	16
2. South Yorkshire I	9	6	3	0	51	21	15
3. Omega Reading II	8	5	3	0	45	19	13
4. Birmingham Optical	9	6	0	3	44	28	12
5. M8S St Neots	9	2	2	5	26	46	6
6. Dagenham FC	9	2	1	6	29	43	5
7. Butterfly Cardiff	10	1	2	7	25	55	4
8. Onnesby II	8	0	1	7	15	49	1

**Postponed** owing to **adverse** travel conditiona - **Ormesby** II v Omega Reading II.

League leaders Bath Toyota suffered an early shock when in the opening set of their away fixture with Welsh side Butterfly Cardiff No. 2 Andy Creed went down in straight games to Cardiffs Nigel Thomas. Unperturbed they responded like true champions, taking the remaining seven rubbers without a hiccough to retain pole League position by the narrowest of margins over South Yorkshire.

South Yorkshire, holding a game in hand over the leaders, collected another two points with a similar 7-1 scoreline against Cambridgeshire club MBS St Neots. The visitors' spirits were dampened even before the match began as No. 4 Peter Taylor, who had incurred an injury during the warm up period, was forced to withdraw from the afternoon's events and in the absence of a reserve

his rubbers were conceded. St Neots' solitary set was provided by No. 3 Keith Richardson who showed little favour in trouncing Dave Gannon. In his second visit to the table Richardson was unlucky to finish at the wrong end of a 21-19 scoreline in the deciding game against Chris Rogers.

Despite this loss St Neots rallied in their next fixture, emerging victorious from a close fought affair with Butterfly Cardiff. The score standing at 3-2 in the Welsh team's favour St Neots in the shape of Stephen Moore, Keith Richardson and Peter Taylor mounted a three set purge to claim both points in an exciting 5-3 finish.

Recovery seems to be the name of the game in this division. Birmingham Optical displayed how the **speed** of hand can defeat the eye by pulling everything out of the hat to fight back from a 0-3 deficit beating Dagenham FC 5-3. Ex-international Duggie Johnson stopped the rot with a two game triumph over Kevin Caldon and from that point on Dagenham were completely dazzled.



G.K.N. Steelstock line-up (left to right): Trevor Washington. Jean Parker. Adrian Dixon. Jill Harris. Steve Dunning. Jill Powis, Fiona **Elliot**, Mark Evans. Andy Rich and Karen Groves.

## SECOND DIVISION NORTH

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pt.*
1. Patsun Target Gold	8	7	1	0	43	21	15
2. March	8	4	3	1	40	24	11
3. Chan Construction	8	3	3	2	39	25	9
4. Sincil Lincoln	8	2	3	3	28	36	7
5. G.K.N. Steelstock Wolverhampton II	7	2	2	3	28	28	6
6. South Yorkshire II	8	2	2	4	26	38	6
7. Byker Newcastle I	7	2	1	4	24	32	5
8. Kingsbro' Insurance Services	8	1	1	6	20	44	3

**Postponed** owing to **adverse** travel condition\* - **Byker** I v Steelstock II.

Patsun Target Gold have lost their 100% record following a 4-4 draw with second placed March, a surprising result as March struggled to earn a point against South Yorkshire in their last outing while the Salford side had comfortably collected two points from each of their fixtures.

Brian Johns and Tony Taylor needed three games to stifle the challenges of Geoff Davies and Stuart Palmer in the afternoon's first two rubbers, then March moved off the mark in the third when Robert Swift rallied to clinch a close contest against Salford No. 3, Tony Boasman. Andy Withers and Palmer added to the March tally giving the visitors a 3-2 lead but two sets from Taylor and Boasman turned the tables once more. In a nailbiting finish Swift saved a match point with a 23-21 third game win over Mike Owen. The result is unlikely to affect Salford's promotion hopes but it is most certainly a confidence booster for their nearest rivals.

Chan Construction handed out a 7-1 thrashing to Stockton based Kingsbro Insurance Services for whom only Malcolm Corking had any measure of success in beating Lester Bertie while South Yorkshire crashed 7-1 to Sincil Lincoln in their third successive defeat. Neil Bailey collected what transpired to be the Yorkshiremen's only success in the opening rubber, No. 1 David Illingsworth was unable to maintain the consistency which he had demonstrated in earlier matches as he fell firstly to Trevor Kerry and then David Skerratt.

SECOND DIVISION UTH		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
1.	<b>Holts Carpets Salisbury</b>	8	8	0	0	48	16	16
2.	TeB Dolphins	8	6	1	1	42	22	13
3.	Jaques Fareham II	8	5	1	2	37	27	11
4.	Cranfield Colours Help	8	4	1	3	38	26	9
5.	Omega Reading III	8	3	0	5	26	38	6
6.	<b>Gunnersbury Triangle</b>	8	2	0	6	22	42	4
7.	TSP <b>Larkhall</b>	8	1	1	8	24	40	3
8.	Spicer New <b>Malden</b>	8	0	2	6	19	45	2

Postponed owing to **adverse** travel conditions - Cranfield v Spicar.

The league leaders ought to be re-named Holts Magic Carpets as they have flown to yet another victory. Their latest victims, Gunnersbury Triangle salvaged two sets but Dave Constance, Tony Clayton and Gary Lambert are proving to be unbeatable in this division and the final 6-2 scoreline was comfortably achieved.

Second place TCB Dolphins were forced to show their true fighting spirit when they visited TSP Larkhall. The **hosts** recovered from an early 2-1 deficit to lead 4-2 but wins by Phil Smith over Derek Holman and Ritchie Venner against Dave Harding saved the day and a point for the Dolphins.

Jaques Fareham left Omega Reading standing after a shaky start in which Omega's Simon Rowlands beat Graham Toole in straight games. The Hampshire team raced to a 7-1 victory which secured the two points which keep them above Welsh team Cranfield Colours.

Cranfield have recovered their winning form in great style with a 7-1 win over bottom club Spicer New Malden. Michael Hammond was the only New Malden player to record a win when he overwhelmed Gary Wilkins in straight games; despite the fact that four sets went the full distance the Sussex side were unable to add to their tally.

THIRD DIVISION NOR H		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
1.	Unity Bradford	8	8	0	0	48	18	18
2.	Unity Leeds	8	7	0	1	46	18	14
3.	South <b>Yorkshire III</b>	8	5	0	3	38	26	10
4.	Ormesby III	8	3	1	4	30	34	7
5.	Vickers <b>Sports Barrow</b>	8	3	1	4	27	37	7
6.	Wsshington	8	2	2	4	28	38	6
7.	Ormesby IV	8	2	0	6	22	42	4
8.	Syker Newcastle II	8	0	0	8	17	47	0

The 6-2 scoreline of title contenders Unity Leeds' win over basement club Byker Newcastle disguises what was in many respects a close run affair. Leeds cruised steadily to a 4-0 lead but were forced to move up a gear in order to capture their second point. In the fifth set Andy Hammett recovered from a game down to beat Keith McKandla then in the sixth set Peter Curry added to the Byker tally with a 23-21 third game win over Paul Sanderson. Here the Byker recovery came to an end as Matthew Connell and Julian Gittens scraped home against Keith Patterson and Rob Dodds respectively to confirm the Leeds team's superior status.

Despite this win Leeds remain in second place as their Yorkshire compatriots Unity Bradford's success story continues following their 7-1 thrashing of Ormesby III. Bradford's Steven Sharpe retained his 100% record by beating Mark Simon and David Fewsdale. Ormesby's consolation rubber came in the sixth set when Chris Metcalfe defeated Craig Render.

Having suffered a setback at the hands of Unity Leeds in their previous fixture South Yorkshire wasted little time in recovering their winning form as Vickers Sports Barrow discovered when they travelled to Rotherham. Maximums by Roberts and Simms and one set each by Bennett and Hopkins led to a 6-2 win and the two points which this secured means that the trio of Yorkshire teams maintain their stranglehold on the top three places in this division.

Ormesby IV float clear of the danger zone following a well deserved 5-3 win over Washington. The Clevelanders snatched both points with a pair of fine wins in the last two rubbers. Stuart Miller fought off the challenge of Tom Trehitt to triumph in three games and Paul Stevenson completed the Ormesby success story by overwhelming Doug Laurence.

THIRD DIVISION SOUTH		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
1.	Medwys	10	9	1	0	60	20	19
2.	The DSC Rsm	8	6	0	2	43	21	12
3.	Cippenhsm	8	5	1	2	40	24	11
4.	<b>Nittaku</b> Ruislip	8	4	3	1	39	25	11
5.	AHW Pioneers	8	2	1	5	27	37	5
6.	Ashford	9	1	3	5	25	47	5
7.	<b>Erreys</b> Print '84	8	1	1	6	20	44	3
8.	Abeng Warriora <b>Stiga</b>	9	0	2	7	18	54	2

Young London side Abeng Warriors seem to have lost the fighting spirit which they had developed in their pre-Christmas fixtures. Two

8-0 thrashings in recent matches mean that they have little chance of catching Erreys Print. especially now that the Sussex side have strengthened their squad with the recent signing of John Green.

Abeng's defeats came at the hands of Cippenham who must have sighed with relief having broken a spell of **bad** luck which has resulted in their drop out of the promotion race. The Londoners were relentlessly crushed **by leaders** Medway who had earlier cruised to a 7-1 victory over Ashford, for whom only David Goode made any impression in beating Paul Amos, but the youngster demonstrated his skills in Medway's subsequent fixture as he defeated Les Wooding and Colin Luscombe helping the leaders to a 5-3 win over AHW Pioneers.

Ashford suffered a 2-6 defeat when they entertained second placed DSC Rams. Despite an opening victory by David Goode over John Dennison, the Rams were not to be denied as they raced to a 4-1 lead. Jonathan Goode kept the Ashford flag flying by scraping home 23-21 in the deciding game of the 6th set against Junior Facey but straight games wins for Dennison over Darryl Windsor and Tony Briscoe over Paul Baker secured the visitors their second point.

Erreys Print collected a point **when** they entertained Nittaku Ruislip. Ruislip were forced to drain their resources to recover from a mid-match score of 1-3 down but as the Erreys lead was eroded team manager Mike Watts must have sighed with relief when No. 3 Phil Richardson emerged victorious in two straight but close games against Dipak Topiwala to secure a point. In the final rubber of the afternoon Erreys veteran Alan Rowden started strongly against England-ranked junior Andrew Cunningham, but the youngster took the final two games with relative ease to ensure that Ruislip's journey had been worthwhile.

THIRD DIVISION EAST		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
1.	EAE Waveney	8	7	1	0	43	21	15
2.	Norwich Foxwood	8	5	2	1	40	24	12
3.	Witham Town F.e.	8	4	1	3	36	28	9
4.	M.B.S. St <b>Neots II</b>	8	3	1	4	32	32	7
5.	Playrite Northampton	8	2	3	3	34	30	7
6.	Sritannia <b>Deepsure</b>	8	2	3	3	30	34	7
7.	Hassy Perfection Soham	8	3	0	5	26	38	6
8.	Crusaders Lincoln	8	0	1	7	15	49	1

Brian Allison was the winner of two crucial sets for bottom club Crusaders Lincoln when they met Playrite Northampton. With the score standing at 3-0 to the Midlands Allison eased to a straight games win over Ian Hawes, a result which inspired teammates Matt Shearer and Brian Hill to follow suit, levelling the match at 3-3. In the penultimate set Playrite's Keith Nicol crushed John Malone and Allison came back to outclass Andrew Edmonds in three and Crusaders celebrated their first point of the season.

Soham moved clear of the danger zone with a 5-3 win over MBS St Neots. Keith Samuels claimed two sets for St Neots but maximums from Julian Wheel and Peter Holliday with a single from Martyn Holliday were sufficient to poach both points.

Soham found the going much more difficult in their latest match as league leaders EAE Waveney raced to an unassailable 5-1 lead. Holliday and **Wheel** saved face by lifting the remaining rubbers bringing play to a close with a 5-3 scoreline. In the previous round Waveney failed to take advantage of a 4-2 lead over Witham Town FC as Russell King fell in straight games to Peter Hayden and Trevor Bunn, despite a spirited revival in the second game, lost narrowly to Robin Lang in 3.

Meanwhile, Norwich Foxwood struggled to hold onto a point when they visited East Anglian neighbours, Britannia Deepsure, in a match so keenly contested that the lead changed hands three times. A draw was by far the fairest result.

THIRD DIVISION WEST		P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts.
1.	Pengelay <b>Sports</b> Torbay	8	8	0	0	51	13	16
2.	Olivers Shoes Hinckley	7	5	1	1	36	20	11
3.	Hereford Times	7	3	3	1	32	24	9
4.	Jolliffe Poole	8	3	1	4	30	34	7
5.	G.K.N. Steelstock Ladies	6	1	1	3	23	25	5
6.	Global Sports Plymouth	7	2	0	5	19	37	4
7.	Grove Market Drayton II	7	1	1	5	21	35	3
8.	Launceston Kernow	6	0	1	5	12	38	1

The weird weather conditions which have swept the South West in recent weeks have devastated the National League programme. The only fixture to be completed was in early January, when the Devon dynamos Pengeley Sports Torbay continued their incredible run of 7-1 victories, their latest prey being Dorset neighbours, Jolliffe Poole. With a massive five point lead the Pengeley squad could almost afford to hibernate until the spring!

# Halex League/Bath 2-Star Open

## FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

### Premier Division

21.4.85 Thorn EMI Ellenborough v Ormesby  
Omega Reading v Grove  
Tibhar Larkhall v GKN Steelstock

### First Division

21.4.85 MBS St Neots v Omega Reading II  
Bath Toyota v Birmingham Optical  
South Yorkshire v Dagenham FC  
Butterfly Cardiff v Ormesby II

### Second Division North

21.4.85 GKN Steelstock " v South Yorkshire"  
Kingsbro Insurance v March  
Byker Newcastle v Patsun Target Gold  
Chan Construction v Halex Sincil Lincoln

### Second Division South

21.4.85 Spicer New Malden v Omega Reading III  
TSB Dolphins v Holts Carpets  
Cranfield Colours v Gunnersbury Triangle  
TSP Larkhall v Jaques Fareham II

### Third Division North

24.3.85 Vickers Barrow v Ormesby IV  
21.4.85 Vickers Barrow v Byker Newcastle II  
Washington v Ormesby III  
South Yorkshire III v Unity Bradford  
Ormesby IV v Unity Leeds

### Third Division South

14.4.85 Nittaku Ruislip v Cippenham  
21.4.85 AHW Pioneers v Cippenham  
DSC Rams v Nittaku Ruislip  
Medway v Erreys Print  
Ashford v Abeng Warriors

### Third Division East

21.4.85 MBS St Neots II v Norwich Foxwood  
Playrite Northampton v EAE Waveney  
Hassey Perfection Soham1v Witham FC  
II  
Halex Lincoln v Britannia Deepsure

### Third Division West

24.3.85 Launceston Kernow v GKN Steelstock Ladies  
21.4.85 GKN Steelstock Ladies v Launceston Kernow  
Hereford Times v Pengeley Torbay  
Global Plymouth v Olivers Shoes  
Jolliffe Poole v Grove"

## BATH 2-STAR OPEN

### CARL TAKES TO THE WATER

by George O'Brien

Despite a low entry and the threat of adverse weather conditions the Bath Open was once again successfully held at the Bath Sports and Leisure Centre with sponsorship from the local firm Bathwick Tyres Ltd.

Play started promptly at 9.30am with all entrants in the Men's Singles being required to play in the qualifying groups. Carl Prean, in the top half of the draw, put together a series of very convincing wins and it was left to those players in the bottom half of the draw to contest who was to play Carl in the final. Paul Hooper of Bristol with good wins over Phil Smith (18,18), Richard Russell (8,15) and Graham Toole (18,12) reached the semi-final where he met his Bath Toyota team-mate Andy Creed who had seen off challenges from Paul Whiting (13,18) and Gary Wilson (13,14). In the semis Carl continued his august way of beating Ray Tilling whilst Creed had the measure of Hooper. In the final Andy tried his hardest but could make no impression on Carl.

In the Women's Singles the No. 1 seed Carol Butler bustled

her way through with wins over Sally Weston (19,9), Sarah Webb in the semis, and Elaine Short in the final. Earlier Sarah had won her place in the semis against Dawn Campbell winning deuce in the third. Elaine had achieved her place in the finals over Julie Dimmock.

With many scratch pairings in the Men's Doubles the seedings were somewhat of a lottery and it is of some credit to the organising committee that three of the seeded pairings found their ways to the semis. In the top half of the draw Creed and Toole found enough rhythm to reach the semis where they met the unseeded Chris Holley and Tilling. In the bottom half Paul Whiting and Paul Giles had little difficulty against the seeded Phil Smith and Richard Venner. In the first semi Creed and Toole disposed of Holley and Tilling although the second semi was a much tighter affair with the Plymouth boys eventually winning 16 in the third. The final was exciting with the advantage moving constantly from one pair to the other before Whiting and Giles got home.

The Women's Doubles produced another title for the strong Plymouth contingent with Carol and Susan Butler putting together a series of positive performances and appearing to improve as the day progressed. After dropping a game against Helen Perrott and Melonie Carey the Butler girls beat Julie Dimmock and Dawn Campbell in the semis and Sally Weston and Michelle Cohen in the final.

The Boys' Singles was dominated by Prean who strolled through with a series of convincing wins to meet Paul Savins in the final. Some brave strokes from Paul could not hide the gulf that existed between Carl and the other competitors and this was reflected by the final score. Philip Payne and Peter Harris were the beaten

The Girls' Singles did not run true to form or at least not true to the rankings. Sarah Webb our No.1 seed lost to young Kirsty Withyman -14,-22 in the second round whilst Helen Perrott our No.2 seed lost to Melonie Carey in the semis. The final saw Melonie pulling back a deficit in the first game but eventually winning in straight games.

#### Results:

M.S.: Semis: C. Prean (loW) bt R. Tilling (K) 9.10.  
A. Creed (Av) bt P. Hooper (Av) 18,10.  
Final: Prean bt Creed 7.10.  
W.S.: Semis: C. Butler (Ov) bt S. Webb (So) 19.10.  
E. Short (Dv) bt J. Oimmoeck (Bd) 18,-11.12.  
Final: Butler bt Short 13.11.

M.D.: Semis: P. Whiting/Po Giles (Ov) bt P. Smith/R. Venner (Sy) 10.-18.16.  
G. Toole (Sx)/Creed bt C. Holley (Ha)/Tilling 13.17.  
Final: Whiti" g/Giles bt Creed/Toole -20.17.18.  
W.O.: Semis: C. & S. Butler (Ov) bt Oimmoeck/Campbell (Bd) 19.14.  
S. Weston/M. Cohen (Av) bt Short (Sx)/O. Whiting (Ov) 12.10.  
Final: C. & S. Butler bt Weston/Cohen 14.11.  
B.S.: Semis: Prean bt P. Payne (So) 9.12.  
P. Savins (Bk) bt P. Harris (He) 12,-19.21.  
Final: Prean bt Savins 21-10, 21-10.  
G.S.: Semis: M. Carey (So) bt H. Perrott (Av) 12.9.  
S. Butler bt K. Withyman (So) 17.-17.8.  
Final: Carey bt Butler 17.15.

## NORTH BOURNEMOUTH 1-STAR

by C. B. Cashell

Several ranked players participated in the North Bournemouth 1-Star Open on February 3 with Avon's Andy Creed and Cathy Ridgard of Hants winning the major singles events. Dorset's Susan Hegarty and Mark Werner were the beaten finalists.

#### Results:-

MS: A. Creed (Av) bt M. Werner (Do) 10. 17.  
WS: C. Ridgard (Ha) bt S. Hegarty (Ha) 19. 18.  
MO: Creed/Po Lewis (Gs) bt S. Moreman/G. Siaeck (Gs) 14. 17.  
WO: L. Harman (Oo)/Hegarty bt R. Jeal (Oo)/B. Clark (Ha) 19. 15.  
Xo: J and S Hegarty (Do) bt S. Rose/L. Kaplan (Mi) 19.17.  
JS: J. Hegarty (Do) bt O. Wooldrige (So) 12. 17.

## 20% DISCOUNT

ON ALL BUTIERFLY, STIGA,  
BANDA, TSP, JAQUES & DUNLOP  
BLADES, RUBBERS, BALLS, TABLES  
& CLOTHING

IRING (0709) 522597 or (0909) 773486  
for prices and availability NOW!

97 Wales Road, Kiveton Park,  
SHEFFIELD



29 Broad Street, Parkgate,  
ROTHERHAM

## 20% D-ISCOUNT AND

NO POSTAGE REQUIRED  
SEND CHEQUES OR POSTAL  
ORDERS TO  
MORTE FOR SPORT  
Freepost, Rotherham S62 6BR

## BENEFICIAL TRUST JU'NIOR GRAND PRIX NORTHERN DOMINATION

By Fiona Brown

Of the ten titles up for grabs in the recent Beneficial Cotswold Junior 'Select', nine went to northerners, the only exception being the Boys' crown which was captured by Berkshire's Jimmy Stokes with a repeat exhibition of the calculated skills which enabled him to clinch the Beneficial English Closed title earlier in the season.

Unfortunately the 1984 Grand Prix winner Andrew Syed had not entered but with vital 'O' levels on the horizon I am sure that we can all appreciate his dilemma in trying to reconcile educational and sporting commitments. In his absence the No. 1 seed Stokes, in supreme form, overcame a strong challenge from Dorset's Rodney Thomas in the quarters and brushed aside Kent's Andrew Cunningham in his next visit to the table, before facing an unexpected final opponent, Mark Randle, from Warwickshire.

As Stokes raced to an early lead in the opening game, the small yet knowledgeable band of spectators showed a little surprise, but any ideas which they entertained of witnessing a swift victory by the Berkshire boy were soon dismissed, Randle rallied to take the first game and Stokes stared in bemused disbelief towards his coach as his opponent refused to submit to a barrage of spectacular shots.

Obviously surprised by this resistance Stokes returned to the table to produce a less flamboyant, yet businesslike performance. Abandoning his high-thrown Showman's service, he exhibited the fleeting footwork and dazzling speed of reaction that champions are made of, to level the match.

In the deciding game Randle was rarely in contention despite a spirited fight to recover from 10-3 down at the change of ends, he bowed out with honour as Stokes celebrated yet another fine achievement.

In the corresponding girls' event the first surprise came when No.2 seed Jill Powis of Staffs failed to qualify for the competition proper as Avon's Helen Perrott advanced from that group. With her main challenger dismissed the No. 1 seed, Joanne Shaw of Yorkshire, appeared to have a clear path to her second Beneficial title of the season, but Cumbria's Debbie Soothill had other ideas as she withstood all of the pressures to

defeat Miss Shaw and earn a place in the final.

Here she met and succumbed to the talents of Lancashire Cadet Holt, the girl whose fortunes had certainly changed overnight since her unexpected defeat in the Cadet girls' semi-final. In the Junior event Miss Holt's steady defence and deep-probing returns, particularly to the backhand wing, unsettled Miss Soothill who appeared nervous throughout an opening game in which she was always fighting an uphill struggle as Miss Holt pulled away to win.

In the second both girls were locked a point for point battle with the attacking Cumbrian quick to utilise her powerful forehand smash but Miss Holt was not to be denied the title and with a consistent display of her defensive skills she proceeded to conclude the match in straight games.

Powis and Shaw gained some consolation for their below par singles performances by winning the Girls' doubles when they triumphed over the relatively inexperienced partnership of Avon's Michelle Cohen and Lisa Hayden of Essex. Shaw and Powis obviously stunned after losing the opening game of this final moved up into overdrive to take the second but Cohen and Hayden, unperturbed by this temporary lapse fought gallantly in the decider before succumbing to their opponents' greater experience.

In the boys' doubles event Murray Jukes, who for some inexplicable reason has only a moderate record in singles play, proved once again that he is an extremely talented doubles competitor. In the absence, through injury, of his regular partner, Adrian Dixon of Staffs, he was paired with Yorkshire's Clive Guest. Much to everyone's consternation this scratch pairing progressed comfortably to the final where both performed with composure and confidence to overcome the challenge of No.2 seeds Paul Amos and Andrew Cunningham of Kent.

In the Cadet singles events the honours went to Derbyshire's rising stars Bradley Billington and Kerry Hall. Billington came to Gloucester with his sights firmly set on this particular title and his confidence was rewarded as he resisted the challenge of No.1 seed, Michael O'Driscoll, to take the applause and the

trophy in a closely contested final.

For the second time in successive Beneficial events, Cheshire's Claire Potts had to satisfy herself with the runners-up medallion in the Cadet girls' singles, as Kerry Hall brushed aside a one game deficit to take the honours. However, Miss Potts did add to her extensive trophy collection when, by Andrea Holt she overcame the Derbyshire duo of Hall Julie Billington, to lift the Cadet girls' doubles title.

In the Cadet boys' doubles No. 2 seeds Da'mian Holland and O'Driscoll, made an early exit, allowing Yorkshire's Neil Simms and Chris Oldfield to make a rather easier than anticipated passage into the final where they overturned the form tables on No. 1 seeds Billington and his Norfolk partner, Neil Pickard.

The outcome of the Under-12 singles competitions did little to reinstate the confidence of the seeding committee as the favourites flopped at every turn. In the Boys' event Brian Mileham, despatched No. 1 seed, Leigh Jeffries en route to the final, but he proved no match for the superior skills, on the day, of Lancashire's Andrew Eden, who cruised to victory.

The Under-12 girls' event provided one of the biggest upsets of the tournament as the unseeded J. Roberts of Yorkshire topped England No. 16 cadet Helen Potts in the final. Taking the first game by the narrowest of margins, she raced to a 21-13 victory in the second providing a result which should be an inspiration to all of those youngsters as yet unrecognised by the hallowed computer!

The Mayor of Gloucester, Councillor Terry Wathen, and his wife must surely have been impressed by the skills of all the young players who had progressed through a long but enjoyable competition to contest the finals in sporting style.

The prizes were presented by Mr. Mike Kitthener, the Regional Manager of Beneficial Trust, who was introduced to the players by Mr. John Bunn, Chairman of the Gloucestershire ITA. Mr. Bunn took the opportunity to thank the players for their support of the tournament and the Organising Committee for their efforts which had been rewarded by a most successful event.

It did not escape my attention that a certain Mr. Doug Young, sitting alone in the corner of the hall, almost fell asleep during the boys' singles final. I think we can excuse him for this slight lapse in concentration as this must have been the first moment since the tournament commenced, early on Saturday morning, that his

attention, as the Referee, was not being sought by at least five people simultaneously!

### Results:

Boys' Singles: Round 2:  
J. Stokes (Bk) bt C. Oldfield (V) 19, 16;  
R. Thomas (Do) bt T. Blackman (Nd) -19, 23, 12;  
A. Cunningham (K) bt P. Gooding (Sk) 8, -18, 17;  
B. Billington bt J. Ellis (Cw) 16, 18;  
G. Kemp (Bk) bt M. Syed (Bk) 13, 12;  
M. Randle (Wa) bt T. West (Ex) 16, 14;  
C. Guest (V) bt R. Hayward (St) 3, 6;  
P. Savins (Bk) bt N. Simms (Y) 5, 17..

### Finals:

Stokes bt Thomas 9, -14, 12;  
Cunningham bt 12, 15;  
Randle bt Kemp 17, 12;  
Savins bt Guest 19, -9, 19.

### Semi-Finals:

Stokes bt Cunningham 11, 15;  
Randle bt Savins 10, -16, 17.

### Final:

STOKES bt Randle -18, 12, 14.

### Girls' Singles:

#### Quarter-Finals:

J. Shaw (Y) bt A. Boxall (He) 11, 16;  
D. Soothill (Cu) bt J. Houghton (K) 16, 10;  
A. Holt (La) bt T. Holland (E) 20, 9;  
L. Hayden (E) bt H. Perrott (Av) 10, 18.

### Semi-Finals:

Soothill bt Shaw 20, 18;  
Holt bt Havden 18, 20.

### Final:

HOLT bt Soothill 16, 19.

### Boys' Doubles:

#### Semi-Finals:

Guest/M. Jukes (Wo) bt P. Savins (Bk)/Thomas -19, 18, 17;  
P. Amos (K)/Cunningham bt Billington/S. Gibson (La) 16, 14.

### Final:

GUEST/JUKES bt Amos/Cunningham 20, 14.

### Girls' Doubles:

#### Semi-Finals:

Shaw/J. Powis (St) bt C. Moulton (Hd)/Boxall 18, 18;

Hayden/M. Cohen (Av) bt C. Potts (Ch)/Holt 15, 17.

### Final:

SHAW/POWIS bt Hayden/Cohen -18, 9, 20.

### Under-12 Boys' Singles:

#### Semi-Finals:

B. Mileham (K) bt M. (Wi) 12, 19;  
A. Eden (La) bt G. Knights (St) 15, 18.

### Final:

EDEN bt Mileham 14, 9.

### Under-12 Girls' Singles:

#### Semi-Finals:

H. Potts (Ch) bt C. Buckley (Bd) -12, 18, 21;  
J. Roberts (V) bt T. Hooker (Bk) 17, 17.

### Final:

ROBERTS bt Potts 20, 13.

### Cadet Boys' Singles:

#### Semi-Finals:

M. O'Driscoll (V) bt A. Houghton (K) 15, 14;  
Billington bt Oldfield 17, 18.

### Final:

BILLINGTON bt O'Driscoll 17, -9, 15.

### Cadet Girls' Singles:

#### Semi-Finals:

K. Hall (Oy) bt Holt 16, 10;  
C. Potts bt J. Billington (Dy) 22, 14.

### Final:

HALL bt Potts -12, 20, 17.

### Cadet Boys' Doubles:

#### Semi-Finals:

Billington/N. Pickard (Nk) bt Mileham/Eden 3, 16;  
N. Simms (Y)/Oldfield bt Houghton/R. Jones (Sy) 18, 11.

### Final:

SIMMS/OLDFIELD bt Billington/Pickard 13, 14.

### Cadet Girls' Doubles:

#### Semi-Finals:

C. Potts/Holt bt J. Wright/T. Scott-Pawson (Dv/Do) 9, 13;  
Billington/Hall bt D. Toole/E. Meddings (Y) 10, 13.

### Final:

POTTS/HOLT bt Billington/Hall -22, 21, 19.

### Boys

1 Jimmy Stokes (Bk)	48
2 Bradley Billington (Dy)	20
3 Clive Guest (V)	16
4 Thomas Blackman (Nd)	14
5 Rodney Thomas (Do)	12
6 Andrew Cunningham (K)	10
Matthew Syed (Bk)	10
8 Adrian Dixon (St)	8
Mark Randle (Wa)	8
Andrew Syed (Bk)	8
Girls	
1 Joanne Shaw (V)	38
2 Andrea Holt (La)	16
Juliet Houghton (K)	16
Jill Powis (St)	16
5 Lisa Hayden (E)	14
Claire Potts (Ch)	14
7 Debbie Soothill (Cu)	12
8 Louise Davis (Wo)	10
9 Julie Billington (Dy)	8
Kerry Hall (Dy)	8

# CORNILLEAU SOUTH OF ENGLAND JUNIOR OPEN

THE NORFOLK NIPPER

By Mike Green

Neil Pickard, the Norfolk nipper, catapulted himself into the limelight at the Cornilleau-sponsored South of England Junior Open held at Monks Hill Sports Centre over the weekend of Jan. 26/27.

The perky youngster did East Anglia proud as he collected three titles. Seeded No.1 in the Cadet Singles, Neil he was a cut above the rest winning the event without dropping a game. His closest match was the final itself, and Kent's Brian Mileham only managed to get 12 and 14 there.

The unseeded Mileham had done exceptionally well in reaching the final. Defeating fifth seed Matthew Pernet, he went on to beat Surrey's Graeme Connelly who had accounted for Damian Holland, and then squeaked home in three in his semi against second seed Andrew Houghton.

Pernet and Pickard paired up in the Cadet Doubles as top seeds. Although struggling to overcome Tom Cutler and Joseph Bitran from Middlesex, they reached the final to be opposed by Richard Jones and Andrew Houghton. A super deciding game had the crowd transfixed as fortunes fluctuated. The top seeds just made it at 21-19.

Young Neil had not yet finished his winning streak. In the Junior Doubles he was paired with Rodney Thomas and what a team they turned out to be. The top-seeded Kent pair of Amos and Curi'ningham had bitten the dust in the semis, their conquerors, Andy Davies (Sy) and Paul Elphick (Sx) thus contesting the final. Thomas and Pickard, working beautifully, were much too strong however.

Thomas didn't have a bad weekend either. In the U17 Singles, seeded at four, he took his expected semi-final place opposed by Philip Payne of Somerset. The unseeded Payne, with one of the upsets of the tournament, had disposed of second seed Paul Amos followed by Tim Holder (Wo) and Bernard O'Grady (Mi). Thomas halted this run 14 and 13.

The other finalist was No. 1 seed Andy Cunningham. He had disposed of Pickard earlier before cruising home comfortably in his semi against Elphick.

The final wasn't all it might have been which was mainly due to Cunningham's hit or bust attitude. Thomas wasn't complaining, however, but the

general consensus of opinion was that Cunningham rather threw it away.

Melonie Carey was the young lady everyone noticed in the U17 Girls. Although unseeded, she really did look a class player timing the ball superbly. She disposed of Lesley Popkiewicz, Alison Boxall, and Helen Perrott who were all seeded in reaching the final.

Juliet Houghton came through the other half without any difficulty, but the top seed soon found Miss Carey quite a handful. Melonie won the opener easily and was miles ahead in the second when Juliet stopped moaning and pulled herself together. The deciding game had some quite breath-taking rallies and could have gone either way. Miss Houghton just managed to scrape home, but even she must have been impressed with Melonie.

The top seeds Rachel Knight and Alison Boxall didn't have too much trouble winning the Doubles, but the beaten finalists, Helen Perrott and Lynne Trussell had off fourth seeds Souter and Harrlmond and second seeds Shufflebotham and Holland.

The Cadet Girls' event went as expected with Julie Norman winning the singles and doubles, her partner there being Julie Brien.

The tournament was sponsored by table manufacturers and suppliers Cornilleau (UK) Ltd. The Surrey TTA are deeply indebted to Cornilleau who have involved themselves unstintingly in promoting the game in Surrey. Their I.T.T.F. approved tables were naturally in use and are once again to be made available to applicants from Surrey at a special price. The excellence of the Cornilleau tables cannot be denied and seem to be universally popular amongst the players.

The tournament committee broke new ground in using the Monks Hill Sports Centre. Our thanks go to the Croydon Corporation, the caterers who did a quite superb job (so don't bring sandwiches next year....) and to John Anthony and his staff who were extremely helpful. (They were there at 2 a.m. on the Friday....). The bravery award goes to Mick Strobe who erected the lighting without taking Mike Kercher's advice to effect Personal Accident Insurance cover. The event was superbly organised by Norman Hooper, Don Beesly

and Johnny Sommerville and supremely refereed by Phil Goacher and Jirrlmy Anderson.

The trophies were presented by Cornilleau's David Taber. David mentioned the Olympics as something to aim for for all the young competitors. He tipped Neil Pickard as a future Olympian. There's no reason why not...

And finally a note to all Umpires... Lisa Robins is disguising herself as Lesley Souter. So beware.... Those who were there on Sunday will know what I mean....

Summary:  
 U17BS: Rodney Thomas (Do) bt Andy Cunningham (K) -19,13,12.  
 U17GS: Juliet Houghton (K) bt Melonie Carey (So) -14,18,18.  
 U17BD: Thomas/Neil Pickard (Nk) bt Andy Davies (Sy)/Paul Elphick (Sx) 15, 16.  
 U17GD: Rachel Knight (Mi)/Alison Boxall (He) bt Helen Perrott (Av)/Lynne Trussell (Sx) 18, 19.  
 U14BS: Pickard bt Brian Mileham (K) 12, 14.  
 U14GS: Julie (Be) bt Tracy Scott-Pawson (DQ) 19, 19.  
 U14BD: Pickard/Matthew Pemet (Sy) bt Richard Jones (Sy)/Andrew Houghton (K) 6, -16,19.  
 U14GD: Norman/Julie Brien (Bu) bt Scott-Pawson/Sarah Kettle (Av) -9, 21, 16.  
 U12BS: Leigh Jeffries (Wa) bt Mike Auchterlonie (Ha) 18, 13.  
 U12GS: Caroline Buckley (Bd) bt Amanda Dewsbury (Sy) 8.

## JUNIOR OPENS YORKSHIRE EVENING PRESS SELBY JUNIOR 1-STAR (9.2.85)

B.S.: s-1's:  
 C. Guest (Y) bt J. Bult (Y) 15,16;  
 M. O'Oriscoll (Y) bt A. Ball (Y) 14,16.  
 Final: O'ORISCOLL bt Guest 19,-15,18.  
 G.S.: s-1's:  
 K. Hall (Oy) bt D. Toole (Y) 21,12;  
 S. Hurry (SCO) bt J. Billington (Oy) 15,-18,12.  
 Final: HALL bt Hurry 15,8.  
 B.D.: s-1's:  
 C. Oldfield/N. Simms (Y) bt Bult/Guest 13,-19,18.  
 Ball/O'Oriscoll bt O. Fewsdale/A. McKeown (Oy) 16,20.  
 Final: OLDFIELD/SIMMS bt Ball/O'Oriscoll -19,13,14.  
 G.D.: Final:  
 BIUNGTON/HALL bt Hurry/L. Hood (SCQ) 16,18.  
 C.B.S.: Final:  
 O'DRISCOLL bt Oldfield 11,-17,18.  
 C.G.S.: Final:  
 HALL bt Hurry 15,19.  
 U-12 B.S.: Final:  
 M. Stephenson (Y) bt K. Horsfield (Y) 9,11.  
 U-12 G.S.: Final:  
 E. Medding5 (Y) bt S. Lawton (Ov) 6,12.

## TSB EXETER JUNIOR 1-STAR (9.2.85)

B.S.: R. THOMAS (Do) bt P. Payne (So) 13, 19.  
 G.S.: H. PERROTT (Av) bt M. Carey (So) 10,-19,9.  
 C.B.S.: M. AUCHTERLONIE (Wi) bt P. Smith (SO) 12,16.  
 C.G.S.: J. WRIGHT (Ov) bt R. Skinner (Mi) 12,10.  
 B.D.: J. HEGARTY/HoMAS bt R. Aitken/G. Hughes 15,14.  
 G.D.: CAREY/PERROTT bt S. Hammond/E. Stevenson 15,14.  
 U-11 B.S.: N. BeVAN (Co) bt J. Maggs 4,13.  
 U-11 G.S.: H. WRIGHT (Dv) bt S. Fowler 9,12.

# HEART OF ENGLAND CADET LEAGUE SEVERE DISRUPTION

by- Brian Aston

The 3rd session of the Cadet League was severely disrupted due to the weather. However a brave Walsall team made the journey together with Coventry and the two Leamington sides.

Played at Automotive 'Products Ltd., Leamington Spa, the new venue provided a warmer climate to play in. Leamington 'A' played Walsall in the first match and it proved to be a very close one. Leamington's Jon Williams lost his 100% record in the first set against James Dufty losing -15,-14.

Walsall's Dufty proved to be the 'man' in form winning his 3 sets comfortably. However, Leamington's strength in depth gave them a 6-4 victory with Williams his two other sets supported by Claire Woodward and Ryan with two wins each.

Coventry gained their first win this season by beating Leamington 'B' 7-3. Marcus Rose won 3 with Cassius John two and brother Peter Rose one. Mark Jackson replied for Leamington with one win and Richard Miles gained 2 victories. Leamington 'B' then took on Walsall and crashed to a 9-1 defeat, gaining a doubles consolation win by Jackson and Miles.

The 1st round of the K-O singles then got underway with wins for Leamington's Claire Woodward and Miles. Due to the shortened programme there will be another extra session on March 2 at A.P. canteen. The final session on March 23 at the same venue will decide the league winners and the final of the K-O singles competition.

TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Leamington IA'	6	6	0	50	10	12
B'gham Schools	5	5	0	46	4	10
Walsall	7	5	2	51	19	10
Northants Schools	5	4	1	34	16	8
Evesham	5	3	2	30	20	6
Leamington 'B'	7	2	5	27	43	4
Coventry	5	1	4	14	36	2
Rugby	5	1	4	9	41	2
Bromsgrove	5	0	5	9	41	0
B'gham Youth Ser.	4	0	4	0	40	0



# ESSEX 3-STAR OPEN

## ALISON WALKS ON THE WATER

by John Holland

The 27th BP/Essex 3-Star 'Open' wasn't too much fun for the admin. team, led by organiser Clive Oakman and referee Mike Watts. Appalling weather conditions caused inevitable delays and scratchings in snow- and ice-bound Harlow. Then there was the water. Some said it was condensation, some that the roof was leaking, all agreed that there was water on the floor. Play was impossible on one table and tricky on others. It was as if Stan the **Bat** was simultaneously performing at both ends on all counts at once. Well almost.

Matters came to a head in the enthralling Women's Singles final between Alison Gordon, the top seed and fourth-seeded Lisa Bellinger. Alison won the first 21-16, but trailed 8-12 as the result of brilliant defence from Lisa in the second. At this point Bellinger slipped in a 'puddle', and fell heavily, in making a chopped return. Alison was first to protest that, mopping up operations notwithstanding, this was too much. To her credit she pointed out the greater unfairness to Lisa covering the more watered territory at the rear of the court. Mike Watts was called and after 'free and frank discussion', and much purposive wiping and sponging, play resumed ten minutes later. Lisa clinched the second end and seemed to have broken Alison's spirit as she established an 8-4 lead in the decider. The England No. 1 came back, however, perhaps aided by a shade too much aggression by Lisa. In a thrilling finale Miss Gordon missed an easy kill at match point, 20-19, but squeezed home (or do I mean squelched) 22-20, to take the £175 winner's prize.

Earlier dramas in this event came when unseeded Jackie Bellinger ousted second seed, Joy Grundy, Round 2. Then there was a highly charged encounter between Karen Witt and Fiona Elliot to decide who should face Gordon in the semi. Fiona won the first at 8, provoking an assault on defenceless barriers by her opponent. Although continuing to be at odds with herself, and resembling a lioness in the smallest of cages, Miss Witt fought back to take the second at 20. She trailed 7-10 in the third, at which point she parted company with her bat, discus fashion, landing the projectile among startled innocents on an adjacent court. 'Don't let it get to you' Fiona urged herself. Apparently it did, because Miss Witt triumphed at 19.

The Men's Singles was mercifully less disturbed by the moisture. For most of the later stages Skylet Andrew, the form player, looked the likeliest winner. He disposed of the Middlesex pair, Colin Wilson (15, 15) and Graham Sandley (17, 16) with something to spare, to reach the semi-final. It was third ball attack played with panache. Against Sandley he returned tight services with remarkable venom. 'Serve short' a well-wisher urged Graham as he ruefully gathered the ball from another Skylet kill. 'I did', protested the No. 3 seed.

Elsewhere Andy Wellman was staging the big upset by beating top seed Alan **Cooke**, in the second round, only to fall heavily to Andy Syed in the next. Philip Bradbury, the sixth seed, then dismissed Syed to face Andrew in the semi.

There was little sign of the tiger who had ousted Sandley as a languid Skylet lost the first end easily. A pep talk from cornerman Dave Tan revitalised the Essex man and Bradbury had no answer to the combination of serve and destructive forehand in the second and third.

In the other half Carl Prean was struggling. He survived a tough three-ender with Nigel Eckersley in the 3rd round and then seemed to be sinking, at 15-19 in the third, to Nicky Mason, in the last eight. The crowd was almost unanimously behind the eighth seed to the extent of cheering every Prean error; the No.2 seed was casting anguished looks over his shoulder. Yet the guts and inner composure of the Isle of Wight youngster did not let him down as he scraped home 23-21.

In the semis Carl's cause again seemed lost against defending champion, Dave Hannah. This time he trailed 13-18 in the third and again seemed about to lose to a faster and more aggressive opponent. Once more tight serving and a mixture of short tough play and aggression saw him home, at 19. The final was anticlimax as Prean comfortably dealt with Skylet's high toss serves and denied him forehand openings.

So the same players have now contested five consecutive 3-star men's finals, and shared the spoils. It was a disappointment for the Essex fans but their man had shown himself underseeded at No. 7 and **justified** his selection for Gothenburg.

Memories of previous eras were evoked in a captivating Veterans' final. Derek **Schofield**

(50's chop) narrowly ousted Peter Radford of Essex (60's slow loop). For Peter it would have been a unique double. He won the Men's Singles title at this tournament in 1971/72.

### Results:

Men's, Singl<sup>st</sup>:  
**Final**: Andrew (Bk) bt Andrew Syed (Bk) 19, 15;  
 S. Andrew (E) b. G. Sandley (M) 17, 16;  
 D. Hannah (Scol) bt D. Wells (M) 18, 10, 14;  
 Carl Prean (1.0.W.) bt Nicky Mason (Sx) 11, -14, 21.  
**Semi-finals**:  
 Andrew bt Bradbury -17, 11, 14;  
 Prean bt Hannah 18, -17, 19.  
 Final: PREAN bt Andrew 14, 11.  
**Women's Singl<sup>st</sup>**:  
**Semi-finals**:  
 A. Gordon (Bkl) b. K. Witt (Bk) 19, 12;  
 L. Bellinger (Rdt) bt J. Bellinger (Bd) 9, -12, 17.

Final: GORDON bt Bellinger 16, -17, 20.  
**Men's Double**:  
**Semi-final**:  
 A. Cooke (Dyj)/Sandley b. A. Bellingham (Stl)/C. Morgan (We) 12, 9;  
 Bradbury/Wells bt Mason/Andrew 17, -12, 8.  
**Final**: COOKE/SANOLEY bt Bradbury/Wells 5, 14.  
**Women's Doub<sup>l</sup>**:  
**Semi-finals**:  
 M. Sainsbury (Bk)/Gordon bt S. Sandley (Ml)/Witt 12, 12, 11;  
 Jan L. Bellinger bt J. Grundy/J. Parker (La) -15, 20, 10.  
**Final**: BELLINGER/BELLINGER b. Sainsbury/Gordon 12, -18, 12.  
**Cl... II Mixed Singl<sup>st</sup>**:  
**Semi-final**:  
 D. Tan (Ml) bt D. Blackburne (Ou) 12, 12;  
 K. Caldron (E) b. R. Gannon (Le) 9, 16.  
**Fin...**: CALOON b. Tan 18, 17.  
**Veterans' Singl<sup>st</sup>**:  
**Semi-finals**:  
 D. Schofield (Chi) b. P. D'Arcy (Chi) 14, 15;  
 P. Radford (E) b. B. Parish (E) 11, 11.  
**Fin...**: SCHOFIELD bt Radford 20, 1B, 13.



Carl and John Prean, the exultant team!



Carl Prean receives the £350 winner's prize in the men's singles from Mike Buckley, Manager of the Office Management Department, BP International Ltd.



Women's singles finalists, Alison Gordon and Lisa Bellinger, debate the perils of the damp with umpire Doris Moors, and Referee, Mike Watts.

Photos by Murray "Hun" Corbin of Wimbledon.

# E.S.T.T.A. Area Team Finals



## English Schools' Table Tennis Association

### AREA TEAM FINALS

by David Lomas

The Area Finals of the Dunlop National School Team Championships were successfully staged on the weekend of January 19/20th. The winning teams were due to participate in one of three Regional Finals on February 24th with the winners going through to the Grand National Finals at Lea Green on March 23rd.

#### NORTH REGION

##### Area 1 (Thornaby)

- 819 Royal Grammar, New castle (Tyne & Wear)
- 816 Biddick, Washington (Tyne & Wear)
- G16 Sidney Smith High, Hull (Humberside)
- 813 Ian Ramsey, Stockton-on-Tees (Cleveland)
- G13 Wold Junior High, Hull (Humberside)
- 811 Neasden Junior High, Hull (Humberside)
- G11 Wold Junior High, Hull (Humberside)

A good day at Thornaby Pavilion for Humberside teams spearheaded by Wold Junior High who are current holders of the national G13 title and former G11 winners. Anthony Wattis of St. Mary's College, Middlesbrough, was the outstanding player in B19 but St. Mary's went out to old campaigners, Newcastle RGS.

##### Area 2 (Leeds)

- 819 Bury Grammar (Greater Manchester)
- G19 Woodkirk High, Wakefield (West Yorkshire)
- 816 Kettlethorpe High, Wakefield (West Yorkshire)
- G16 Kettlethorpe High, Wakefield (West Yorkshire)
- B13 Baneyford Middle, Mirfield (West Yorkshire)
- G13 Archbishop Cranmer Middle, Leeds (West Yorkshire)
- B11 Sandal CE Endowed Middle, Wakefield (West Yorkshire)
- G11 St. Martin's CEo Oldham (Greater Manchester)

Four Wakefield teams amongst the six West Yorkshire winners which include some familiar names led by B13 holders, Bateyford. Bury Grammar and newcomers St. Martin's, Oldham, keep the Greater Manchester flag flying but no success for any of the South Yorkshire teams.

##### Area 3 (Fleetwood)

- 819 Hutton Grammar, Preston (Lancashire)
- G19 Kirkkiewal (Cumbria)
- 816 Parkview, Barrow (Cumbria)
- G16 Lancaster Girls Grammar (Lancashire)
- 813 Bishop Rawstorne, Croston (Lancashire)
- G13 Bishop Rawstorne, Croston (Lancashire)
- 811 Yarlside Primary, Barrow (Cumbria)
- G11 Highfield, Chorley (Lancashire)

Organiser and ESTIA Hon. Treasurer, Bob Wood, was disappointed that no less than FIVE teams were missing (and none of them because of the weather). Kristina Cox (Rainford High, Merseyside) (G16) kept up her remarkable record of never having been beaten in any team event. Newcomers Lytham St. Annes High (B16) should have gone through 5-3 against Parkview but could only draw 4-4 only to lose the "tie-breaker" doubles. John Backhouse, Parkview No. 1, had two good wins

and Martin Thompson of Verdin, Winsford (Cheshire) was defeated in B19 but the event winners were Hutton Grammar-Donald Parker's former school. Bishop Rawstorne, Croston (B13) include Andrew Eden at No. 1.

##### Area 4 (Grantham)

- B19 Derby (Derbyshire)
- G19 Caistor Grammar (Lincolnshire)
- 816 Woodlands, Derby (Derbyshire)
- G16 Kesteven & Grantham Girls (Lincolnshire)
- 813 Gosforth, Dronfield Woodhouse (Derbyshire)
- G13 Gosforth, Dronfield Woodhouse (Derbyshire)
- B11 Cronfield (Derbyshire)
- G11 Gonerby Hill Foot (Lincolnshire)

Five Derbyshire teams through (including all boys' events) with Lincolnshire doing well in girls' categories. Caistor Grammar step up to G19 after their appearance in G16 national Final last year. No joy for any of the six Nottinghamshire teams.

#### MIDLANDS & WEST REGION

##### Area 5 (Market Drayton)

- B19 The Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire)
- G19 Hanley High (Staffordshire)
- B16 Mary Webb, Pontesbury (Shropshire)
- G16 Hanley High (Staffordshire)
- B13 The Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire)
- G13 The Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire)
- B11 Pontesbury CE Primary (Shropshire)
- G11 Market Drayton Junior (Shropshire)

According to organiser Ian Marshall Market Drayton Junior (G11) are very strong and look well set for their fourth national title. He also says that The Grove are strong at G13 and there speaks a man of some experience having coached The Grove to six national titles in four seasons! Two Pontesbury teams add to the Shropshire challenge for honours whilst Hanley High will do well to press the Staffordshire involvement a stage further.

##### Area 6 (Northampton)

- B19 Lawrence Sheriff, Rugby (Warwickshire)
- G19 Highfields, Wolverhampton (West Midlands)
- 816 Moseley Park, Wolverhampton (West Midlands)
- G16 Sir Wilfred Martineau, Birmingham (West Midlands)
- 813 Highfields, Wolverhampton (West Midlands)
- G13 Ryelands Middle, Northampton (Northamptonshire)
- B11 Bilton Grange, Rugby (Warwickshire)
- G11 Wetlesbourne CEo Warwick (Warwickshire)

Some familiar names of schools and players in this Area with the strongest challenge in the senior (U19) events where Lawrence Sheriff include Michael Thomas and Mark Randle in their quartet aiming to retain their national crown. Highfields bid for their fifth title and add a B13 team. Moseley Park are another experienced Wolverhampton team (Adrian Dixon at No.1) whilst the sole Birmingham challengers are Sir Wilfred Martineau.

##### Area 7 (Plymouth)

- B19 Camborne (Cornwall)
- G19 Bridgwater College (Somerset)
- 816 Budehaven, Bude (Cornwall)
- G16 Haygrove, Bridgwater (Somerset)

- B13 Brislington, Bristol (Avon)
- G13 Chilton Trinity, Bridgwater (Somerset)
- B11 Millfield Junior (Somerset)
- G11 Camborne CE (Cornwall)

Three Girls' teams through from Bridgwater but Avon's standard-bearers Brislington caught the eye with two 8-0 wins in B13. Atrocious weather conditions in the West Country threatened to postpone these Area Finals but a decision to go ahead with the arrangements was made and the start put back to 11 a.m. Difficult journeys for Budehaven (B16) and Camborne (G11) but they emerged winners.

##### Area 8 (Southampton)

- B19 Richard Taunton College, Southampton (Hampshire)
- G19 80umemouth Girls (Dorset)
- 816 Hreod Burna Parkway, Swindon (Wiltshire)
- G16 Talbot Heath, 80urnemouth (Dorset)
- 813 Walkhampton, Iymington (Hampshire)
- G13 Talbot Heath, Bournemouth (Dorset)
- 811 Even Swindon Junior (Wiltshire)
- G11 Park North County Primary, Swindon (Wiltshire)

Three Bournemouth girls' teams through. Talbot Heath are in the charge of former ESTIA Schools International, Julie Reading. Raymond Powell of Hreod Burna Parkway had two good wins in his team's B16 5-3 success against Richard Aldworth, Basingstoke whilst Edward Westmacott was outstanding in Walkhampton's B13 team.

#### SOUTH & EAST REGION

##### Area 9 (St. Neots)

- 819 Bedford Modern (Bedfordshire)
- G19 Ipswich High (Suffolk)
- 816 Bedford Modern (Bedfordshire)
- G16 Putteridge High, Luton (Bedfordshire)
- 813 Bedford Modern (Bedfordshire)
- G13 Longsands, 51, Neots (Cambridgeshire)
- B11 Old Buckenham Hall, Ipswich (Suffolk)
- G11 Ramridge Junior, Luton (Bedfordshire)

Old Buckenham Hall's B11 success prevented Bedford Modern's representation in the Boys' events being referred to the Monopolies Commission but even so the Bedford lads have three teams through to Orpington. Local side Longsands caused an upset in winning the G13 against Stopsley High, Luton, thanks mainly to Tracy Slater who won all her matches.

##### Area 10 (Brent)

- B19 Watford Boys Grammar (Hertfordshire)
- G19 Goifs, Chesunt (Hertfordshire)
- B16 Richard Hale, Hertford (Hertfordshire)
- G16 Watford Girls' Grammar (Hertfordshire)
- 813 Kings Langley (Hertfordshire)
- B11 Emmer Green Primary, Reading (Berkshire)

Unprecedented Hertfordshire successes!

##### Area 11 (Brent)

- B19 Stepney Green (Inner London)
- G19 Brampton Manor, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
- B16 Brampton Manor, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
- G16 Mayflower, Billericay (Essex County)
- B13 Mayflower, Billericay (Essex County)
- G13 Woodford County High (Essex Metropolitan)
- B11 Lyndhurst House, Hampstead (Inner London)
- G11 Buttsbury Junior, Billericay (Essex County)



Brampton Manor defend their G19 national title (Gillian Patten at No. 1) and their B16 team look strong with Essex Junior No. 5 Jason Clark leading their line-up. Tanya Holland (Mayflower G16) and brother Damian (Mayflower B13) won all their matches with contemptuous ease.

##### Area 12 (Croydon)

- B19 HaNey Grammar, Folkestone (Kent County)
- G19 Golkestone Girls (Kent County)
- B16 Ifield, Crawley (West Sussex)
- G16 Tamworth Manor, Mitcham (Surrey Metropolitan)
- B13 Downside, Purley (Surrey Metropolitan)
- G13 Hillcross Middle, Morden (Surrey Metropolitan)
- B11 Downside, Purley (Surrey Metropolitan)
- G11 Aldryngton, Reading (Berkshire)

Downside's successful B11 team of last year step up to B13 event but they also have a B11 side through. A Folkestone "double" in U19 events.

Aldryngton G11 are coached by ETIA Selector, Peter Charters, and West Sussex maintain an interest in the shape of Ifield, Crawley (B16). No joy for the Kent Metropolitan and Surrey County teams although Wallop's No. 2 Jason Hole pulled off a good win over David Fulton of Judd, Tonbridge in B13.

Many County Schools Associations have already held their Individual Championships and determined their representatives to go forward to the Dunlop ESTIA Individual Championships at Mansfield, Leisure Centre on Sunday, May 5th.

Lancashire Schools Secretary Geoff Gardiner tells me that in the county's U11 events there are 55 boys and 32 girls. But a NIL entry for Under-19 Girls!

Meanwhile I read in a Derbyshire newspaper that seven-year old Nicola Deaton was the youngest and smallest competitor involved in the Derbyshire Schools Table Tennis Championships which took place at Chesterfield College of Technology on January 27th. Nicola - described as "looking like a real star in the making" - won the Under-11 Girls' title. She could well become the youngest ever player to qualify for the national Individual Championships. She was also described as "a chip off the old block" by writer and father Colin Deaton!

# Midland League Report/Vetts Open Championship

Many thanks to Glennis Hooper of Northamptonshire Schools' TTA who amongst her other activities produces a very interesting 18-page Newsletter. I have just received No. 16.

It is disappointing to note that

there appears to be little or no co-ordinated schools table tennis activities in East & West Sussex, the Isle of Wight, Merseyside, Middlesex, Leicestershire, Northumberland and North Yorkshire. The ESTTA is

anxious to plug these gaps and is making efforts to identify any interested schools in these counties. Please write or telephone the ESTTA General Secretary:  
L. C. Henry,

"Engelberg"  
Badger Lane,  
Woolley Moor,  
DERBY DE5 6FG.  
Tel: Chesterfield (0246) 590164

## MIDLAND LEAGUE REPORT from John Barber

### POTTERIES "A" STILL UNBEATEN

MEN'S SECTION Leicester 10 Chesterfield 10 (conceded);  
Division I Results:- Gloucester 10 Birmingham 'A' 0;  
Wolves 'B' 7 Birmingham 'B' 3;  
Gloucester 5 Wolves 'B' 5;  
Chesterfield 3 Wolves 'B' 7;  
Gloucester 7 Leicester 3;  
Potteries 8 Gloucester 2;  
Birmingham 'A' 3 Wolves 'A' 7;  
Division II Notts 'B' 3 Coventry 7;  
Stroud 9 Wolves 'C' 1;  
Potteries 'B' 5 Notts 'A' 5;  
Notts 'B' 3 Potteries 'B' 7;  
Cheltenham 3 Wolves 'C' 7;  
Potteries 'B' 7 Stroud 3;  
Wolves 'C' 2 Notts 'A' 8.  
Division III Telford 4 Loughborough 6;  
Loughborough 3 Nuneaton 7;  
Nuneaton 9 Telford 1;  
Derby 7 Stafford 3;  
Leamington Spa 'A' 4 Nuneaton-6;  
Stafford 9 Burton 1;  
Derby 7 Telford 3.  
Division IV Cheltenham 6 Leamington Spa 'B' 4;  
Cheltenham 6 Coventry 4;  
Leamington 'B' 1 Notts 'C' 9;  
Dudley 2 Glos 'B' 8;  
Glos 'B' 9 Leamington 'B' 1;  
Dudley 8 Coventry 2;  
Dudley 1 Eastwood 9; Cheltenham 5 Dudley 5;  
Notts 'C' 7 Dudley 3;  
Bath 9 Eastwood 1;  
Leamington Spa 'B' 4 Coventry 'B' 6.

The most notable feature in this section during the month (mid J'an-mid Feb), is the large number of sets which went to the third. Glos. v B'ham 'A' had eight and the home team edged home in all of them and were flattered with a 10-0 victory - not a one-sided match at all.

Leamington 'B' v Coventry 'B' also had eight, each side taking 4. Coventry picked up the other two to win 6-4 (Div. 4). Potteries 'A' have won all their matches in Div. I. Nottingham 'A' are unbeaten in Div. 2 but have been held to a draw three times so this opens up promotion possibilities for Coventry 'A' and Stroud who have each dropped two points. Potteries 'B' are also well placed with 9 points from six matches. In Div. 3, Nuneaton have won all their six matches played, as have Notts 'C' in Div. 4, so both must be favourites to win their Divisions. Martin Simpson (Derby's No.3) won all 3 against Stafford; R. Murray being one of his victims. Leamington 'A' and Nuneaton were engaged in a tremendous match. E. Sweeney inflicted first defeat for P. Muir, of Nuneaton who took the last 3 sets to clinch it at 6-4.

#### JUNIOR SECTION

Division I Coventry 'A' 5 Wolves 5;  
Loughborough 1 Coventry 'A' 9;  
Leicester 0 Derby 10;  
Wolves 4 Derby 6; Loughborough 4 Leicester 6;  
Coventry 'A' 4 Notts 'A' 6.  
Division 2 Notts 'B' 4 Coventry 'B' 6;  
Worcester 'A' 4 Notts 'B' 6;  
Coventry 'B' 5 Birmingham 'A' 5;  
Burton 2 Worcester 'A' 8;  
Walsall 'A' 4 Pontesbury 6;  
Notts 'B' 9 Burton 1;  
Pontesbury 4 Coventry 'A' 6;  
Coventry 'S' 8 Worcester 2;

Birmingham 'A' 9 Burton 1.  
Division 3 Bromsgrove 'A' 6 Coventry 'C' 4;  
Birmingham 'B' 7 Walsall 3;  
Eastwood 6 Walsall 'B' 4;  
Bromsgrove 'A' 7 Walsall 'B' 3.  
Division 4 Worcester 'B' 0 Leamington 10;  
Rugby 8 Leamington 2;  
Leamington 4 Walsall 'C' 6;  
Stroud 10 Walsall 0.  
Division 5 Mansfield 'B' 3 Bromsgrove 'B' 7;  
Bromsgrove 'B' 0 Dudley 10;  
W. Brom 10 Broms 'B' 0 (conceded);  
Dudley 9 W. Bromwich 1.

Nottingham 'A' have won all their games in Div. 1 but were given a close call by Coventry who led 4-3. Notts took the last three, John Holland beating Richard Hayward to edge home in the third. It was Richard's first defeat. T. Sheppard (Notts) and P. Harvey (Derby) have also lost only one set each.

In Div. 2 Coventry 'B' and Birmingham 'A' look set for promotion each having dropped only 1 point (when they played each other). John Lumley took all 3 for Pontesbury in a close match with Walsall, Pontesbury winning the last three sets to win 6-4.

In Div. 3 Bromsgrove 'A' had a win over Coventry 'C', winning 6-4 after being 1-4 down. Tim Holder took his three for the winners. Birmingham 'B' and Stafford are the pace setters in this division. Rugby won well against Leamington and they have the impressive record of 38-2 in 4 matches. Stroud are one better with 39-1.

In Div. 5 Dudley are romping home with three 10-0 victories and a 9-1 win over West Bromwich. Their team is P. Canavan, P. Rollason and Paul Smith. Kidderminster who have played a match less, have also dropped only 1 set. Canavan and Smith are joined by R. Miskowski and S. Scott (Kid.) in winning all their sets to-date.

VETERANS' SECTION  
Division 1 B'ham 'B' 8 Notts 'B' 2;  
B'ham 'A' 8 Leamington 2;  
B'ham 'A' 8 B'ham 'B' 2;  
Walsall 3 B'ham 'A' 7;  
Telford 2 Notts 'A' 8;  
Notts 'A' 9 Leicester 1;  
Telford 5 Walsall 5;  
Notts 'A' 9 B'ham 'B' 1.  
Division 2 West Bromwich 5 Stroud 5;  
Coventry 'B' 4 Cheltenham 6;  
Cheltenham 9 W. Brom 1;  
Oxford 'B' 10 Kidderminster 0;  
Coventry 'A' 2 Oxford 8;  
West Brom. 7 Coventry 'B' 3;  
Kidderminster 6 Coventry 'B' 4;  
Coventry 'A' 6 Stratford 4;  
Stroud 6 Coventry 'B' 4;  
Stratford 3 Oxford 'B' 7.

Nottingham 'A' and Birmingham 'A' each with two big wins are level at the top of Div. 1 with 11 points apiece, five ahead of third placed Birmingham 'B'. With only two matches to go the title might well be decided on the sets ratio of which Notts have the advan-

tage. B'ham 'B' had a closer match with Notts 'B' than the 8-2 score suggests. The home team 5 times edged home in the third, and always had a hard contest. B'ham 'B' team tried hard against their 'A' team but the latter, as expected, proved too strong.

In Div. 2 Oxford 'B' have won all their seven matches and have thus won the title. West Brom and Stroud drew a well-contested match, but D. Preston for the home team injured a leg and had to concede one set. Cheltenham's players' varying styles proved too good for West Bromwich. Stratford seemed set to win at Coventry 'A' when taking the doubles but the home team fought back to make it four wins in a row and to inflict the first defeat for the visitors, who

later also fell to Oxford 'B'. According to the match report, Stroud had a very good encounter with Coventry 'B', winning 6-4.

#### WOMEN'S DIVISION

Birmingham 'A' 10 Derby 0;  
Nottingham 0 Wolverhampton 10;  
Wolverhampton 7 Bristol 3;

Wolves and B'ham have very strong teams. (Notts report that Jackie Bull scored her first gamer) - makes a change to report something different!

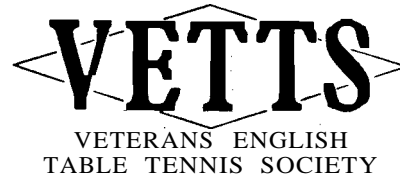
INTERMEDIATE DIVISION  
Rugby 8 Walsall 2; Worcester 4 Hinckley 6;  
Rugby 8 Nuneaton 2; Walsall 4 Hinckley 6.

Two each for leaders Rugby and second-placed Hinckley. M. Thomas and I. Randle both of Rugby have won all their sets. I sign off here as there are no match reports rendered in this section!

## VETIS SOUTHERN OPEN CHAMPIONSHIPS.

### IDEAL SETTING

by Mike Watts



The Exhibition Halls at the Brighton Metropole Hotel was the ideal setting for the Veterans' Southern Open on Jan. 5/6, 1985. The entry of 97 players was also the biggest since the inception of VETTS.

In the two main events the men's and women's singles (over-40) the husband and wife team of Derek and Doreen Schofield triumphed. "Connie" Warren seeded No.8 because of a lack of results fought his way through the final but was crushed by Derek 8, and 10.

Doreen beat Joyce Coop in the third in the final of the women's singles with expedite being called at 18-15 in the decider. The final of the over-50 men's singles was between the top seeds Schofield and Matt Shearer and Matt continued his good form in winning. Pam Butcher won the Over-50 women's singles with a final win over Valerie Gillam.

Predictably the Over-60 men's singles featured Ron Etheridge and Les D'Arcy with the verdict going once again to Ron in a

close third game. Betty Bonner justified her long journey from Somerset to take the counterpart women's event, her final opponent being Dolly Harmer.

The two Restricted singles were again popular. In the men's Warren was a clear winner over Alan Rowden whilst Ivy Kershaw gained her first title in the women's. Her final opponent was Paula Rogers who in the over-40 groups had an excellent win over the No.2 seed Margaret Dignum. Results:

M.S.: Over-40  
0. Schofield (Ch) bt C. Warren (Sy) 8,10,  
M.S.: Over-50  
M. Shearer (Li) bt Schofield 11,7.  
M.S.: Over-60  
R. Etheridge (K) bt L. O'Arcy (Ch) -20,18,16,  
W.S.: Over-40  
D. Schofield (Ch) bt J. Coop (Do) 11.-18,18.  
W.S.: Over-50  
P. Butcher (K) bt V. Gillam (Sx)  
W.S.: Over-60  
B. Bonner (So) bt O. Harmer (Bd) 6,9.  
M.D.: Over-40  
H. Buist (K)/D'Arcy bt Schofield/Shearer  
-20,17,18.  
M.D.: Over-60  
O'Arcy/Etheridge bt W. French/A. Gould (La)  
5,10.  
W.O.: Over-40  
C. Moran (Li)/Schofield bt Coop/J. Hunt (Wo)  
17,9.  
W.O.: Over-50  
Butcher/Moran bt Gillam/P. Wales (Sx) 13,14.  
MRS: Warren bt A. Rawden (Sx) 17,11.  
WRS: I. Kershaw (Ha) bt P. Rogers (E) 13,9.

# LENTECHNOLOGY



... is the title of a descriptive leaflet telling you about our all British table-tennis rubbers. It's good news for British table-tennis, as at last we have a home-produced alternative to Japanese rubbers. They have taken years of hard research and intensive testing to perfect and have involved scientists of The Rubber and Plastics Research Association and top international players in close consultation. There's more good news, too; our comprehensive range will be of benefit to players whatever their style of play, and the best news of all: we've managed to keep the price down.

Obtainable from your specialist table-tennis supplier, or ask for our descriptive leaflet and order form from:



**L. Lenton & Co.  
(Technical Products) Ltd.**

MANUFACTURERS OF TECHNICAL RUBBER PRODUCTS.

SOLE DISTRIBUTORS

John Jaques & Son Ltd.,  
361 Whitehorse Road, Thornton Heath,  
Surrey CR4 8XP

**-where sport & technology meet.**

**STOP PRESS**

## LENTEC SENIOR RANKINGS

· SKY'S THE LIMIT



Skylet Andrew moves three places nearer to achieving his ambition of becoming England's No. 1, having jumped to No.4 in the new (Feb. 27) Lentec Computer rankings. **Desmond Douglas** retains the No.1 spot while Carl Prean reclaims the No.2 position from Alan Cooke. Stephen Scowcroft breaks into the top 10 for the first time but Graham Sandley slips down to No.5.

**Alison Gordon**, who was in danger of being displaced from the No. 1 women's spot when rival, Joy Grundy, scooped a massive points haul in winning the Cleveland 3-Star, maintained her slender lead by claiming an equal number of points as winner of the Essex 3-Star which was the last event to be included in the new lists.

Top 20 in each category (previous position in brackets):

Men	Pts	Women	Pts
1 Desmond Douglas (Wa) (1)	1598	1 Alison Gordon (13k) (1)	997
2 Carl Prean (IOW) (3)	1042	2 Joy Grundy (La) (2)	936
3 Alan Cooke (Dy) (2)	<b>933</b>	3 Karen Witt (13k) (3)	646
4 Skylet Andrew (E) (7)	783	4 Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (4)	594
5 Graham Sandley (Mi) (4)	758	5 Fiona Elliot (St) (5)	593
6 David Wells (Mi) (5)	731	6 Jackie Bellinger (Bd) (6)	515
7 Philip Bradbury (Bu) (6)	670	7 Mandy Sainsbury (13k) (7)	331
8 John Souter (Mi) (9)	651	8 Jean Parker (La) (11)	286
9 Nicky Mason (Sy) (8)	619	9 Jill Harris (St) (9)	285
10 Stephen Scowcroft (La) (1 6)	508	10 Sarah Sandley (Mi) (8)	266
11 Andrew Syed (13k) (11)	469	11 Karen Smith (Le) (10)	219
12 John Hilton (La) (10)	466	12 Carol Butler (Dv) (16)	199
13 Andrew Wellman (13k) (21)	440	13 Helen Williams (Mil) (12)	197
14 Colin Wilson (Mi) (12)	435	14 Joanne Shaw (V) (13)	182
15 Kevin Satchell (Wi) (25)	430	15 Claire Maisey (Wi) (17)	173
16 David Dodd (K) (13)	427	16 Michelle Hams (Sy) (24)	170
17 Nigel Eckersley (Ch) (18)	425	17 Lisa Hayden (E) (22)	168
18 Steve Mills (Y) (17)	422	18 Susan Collier (13k) (14)	163
19 Steven Turner (La) (24)	419	19 Suzanne Hunt (Li) (19)	159
20 Carl Morgan (Wa) (20)	411	20 Helen Bardwell (He)	149

# LANCASHIRE LIFE

CHINESE TAIPEI FOR BOLTON  
by George Yates

Wu Wen-Chia and Huang Huei-Chieh may seem strange names to bandy about in local table tennis circles! But these two Chinese Taipei players, with others, will be participating in the Dunlop Lancashire 2-Star Open to be staged at British Aerospace Dynamics, Lostock, Nr. Bolton on Saturday, April 20.

It will be for the 30th year that these championships, organised by the Bolton League, have been staged at Lostock and to have the influx of players from Taiwan coming to Bolton following the 38th World Championships in Gothenburg will be yet another notable first.

Previous foreign entries to be hosted at Lostock have been teams from Yugoslavia - who will forget Dragutin Surbek's final win over Denis Neale back in 1970 - and the Soviet Union's national side which had their Zaya Rudnova winning the women's singles title in 1972.

The Chinese Taipei Association, not to be confused with the mainland People's Republic of China, are comparative newcomers to membership of the ITTF but they made their presence felt last July in the 1984 United States Open played in Las Vegas.

Not only did they win the men's team title beating the USA 3-1, but their No. 1 man Wu Wen-Chia beat former European champion Mikael Appelgren of Sweden in the final of the men's singles, and, for good measure, captured the men's doubles title as well with his compatriot Huang Huei-Chieh.

Scant prospects then for Derbyshire's Alan Cooke to retain his men's singles title at Lostock in such company, and, indeed for Bolton champion Stephen Scowcroft last year's runner-up. It is also hoped to arrange a match between the Taiwan visitors and a representative side from the North of England on the eve of the tournament.

Entry forms are obtainable from Mr. George Fackrell at 9 Clive Avenue, Orford, Warrington WA2 9FX 'Phone: **Warrington** 0925-59228 the closing date being Saturday, April 6/85.

## MANCHESTER CLOSED

Mark Hankey retained the men's singles title in the Manchester Closed Cham-

pionships in fine style (writes Les Jones). After cruising to the final without dropping a game, he met his Cheshire County teammate Derek Schofield and carried on his winning ways securing victory 13 and 21.

In the semis, Hankey beat Ron Vose (8, 14) and Schofield defeated John Hope (-14, 17, 11). Les Evans and Nick Mooney collected their first Manchester title, taking the men's doubles -14, 18, 18 against Tony Worthington, and Brian Kean.

Lynn Harrison was the outstanding woman player, winning three titles. After she beat Doreen Schofield 13, 21 in the singles, these two won the doubles with a 5, 9 victory over Margaret Jones and Alison Rowbotham. Lynn's third title came in the mixed when she and Keith Weatherby beat Peter D'Arcy and Mrs. Schofield 18, 13.

The junior singles went to the promising 14-year-old **Mansur Khawar** who beat Adam Black 21, -20, 4 and the veterans' singles was a repeat of last year's final as Derek Schofield again took the title by beating D'Arcy 11, 12. In the men's consolation event, Mike Levene beat Peter Lord 13 and 15.

## COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS

Lancashire teams had mixed fortunes on Feb. 16 when, at Bradford, the senior seconds were beaten 6-4 by Yorks II whilst, at Ormesby against Cleveland the juniors triumphed 9-1.

In the Bradford encounter the Tykes could only boast two men, Steve Sharpe and Derek Munt (ex Warwicks) but even conceding two sets did not prevent them **winning**. The only Red Rose casualty at Ormesby was David Carse, beaten by David Fewdsdale. Scores:-

v Yorks II  
P. Aspinall w.o.; lost to D. Munt -24, 16, -13;  
P. **Blake** lost to S. Sharpe -14, -9; w.o.;  
G. **Clarke** lost to Munt -8, -14; lost to Sharpe 18, -18, -19;  
M. Goodwin lost to K. Burrows -20, -13;  
C. Whitehead lost to M. Seaton -10, -12;  
Aspinall/Blake bt Munt/Sharpe 17, -17, 12;  
Goodwin/Whitehead bt Burrows/Seaton 18, 17,  
v Cleveland  
D. Carse bt S. Miller 9, 11; lost to D. Fewdsdale -19, -19;  
S. Gibson bt **Fewdsdale** 22, -20, 15; bt I. Hoque 16, 10;  
L. Brown bt Hoque 15, 11; bt Miller -15, 20, 8,  
L. Harnden bt A. Pashley -21, 19, 20;  
N. McGrath bt S. Aichmorid 15, 20,  
Brown/Carse bt Fewdsdale/Miller -16, 19, 15;  
Harnden/McGrath bt Pashley/Aichmond 19, 19.

# Pompey Parade

The English Table Tennis Association is pleased to announce that **they** have reached an agreement with England's No.1 player, Desmond Douglas.

Desmond will conclude his long association with German Bundesliga team, Borussia Dusseldorf at the end of the current season, returning home secure in the knowledge that his immediate future can be approached with optimism.

This contract will provide a sound financial base and when combined with the income which Desmond can confidently expect to command from trade agreements and personal appearances it will **certainly** enable him to maintain the standard of living which foreign competition has afforded over recent years.

Desmond intends to remain

England's No. 1 for some time to come and to this end he will compete in a minimum of three 3-Star tournaments, the English Senior Top 12 and both the English Open and Closed Championships during the 1985/86 season. With the race now on to secure his services as a National League player there is obviously going to be plenty of opportunity for our leading players to put their skills to the test, but the man who is arguably the best table tennis player that England has ever produced will be seeking to maintain this reputation.

In addition to his increased availability for senior national training camps and team selection Desmond will be helping to promote the Association's Youth policy by assisting at a number of junior camps.



Desmond Douglas, overlooked by England Trainer/Coach Donald Parker, and sandwiched between ETTA Chairman, Tom Blunn, and Selection Committee Chairman, Peter Charters, signs himself for a return to England.



England's squad outside the Mountbatten Centre in Portsmouth prior to their European League match against Federal Germany. From l to r Des Douglas, Alison Gordon, Carl Preat, Alan Cooke, Mike Watts, the ETTA's Deputy General Secretary and, at the wheel, n.p.c. Don Parker.

Photos by Stephen Line, Shoreham-by-Sea.

## PREAN - THE LIMIT

### PREAN - THE LIMIT

Elsewhere in this issue John Prean both in his "Beyond the Isle of Wight" notes and in his "My Critics and I" article has sought fit to lambast both the ETTA Hon. Treasurer, Aubrey Drapkin, and Peter Charters, the Chairman of the National Selection Committee.

Both raise no objections to the publishing of John's latest outpourings only requesting that they be given the opportunity to respond within the same issue. However, from an editorial standpoint, the time has arrived - and I think anticipated - when, like many newspapers, particularly provincial on a local topic, the Editor draws the line by saying "This correspondence is now closed".

That is not to say that criticism of the establishment will not be tolerated, far from it. Controversy is the lifeblood of any publication but in the case of John Prean his constant carpings have become far too repetitive to serve any further useful purpose in this publication.

The Editor.

### My Critics and I

John Prean issues a £1,000 Challenge

Two icy blasts contributed to a chilly January. They came from two members of the ETTA's Inner Cabinet, the Management Committee. They were Selector Chairman Charters and Treasurer Drapkin.

If you cannot take the Heat...

What they complain of is less than clear. The January edition of the magazine had some 56 pages of which perhaps 3 were critical. Not all of these were written by me. If so small a proportion brings such extreme reactions, the recipients should consider seriously whether life in a democracy suits them. I have seen much harder stuff in the columns of The Times. To quote the late President Truman: "If you cannot stand the heat of the kitchen..." it may be time to get out.

Am I the only critic?

It was not I who said the sport may be dying, nor I who said it was 'in the pits', nor I who said it was stagnating, nor I who made comparisons with the Titanic. There is a substantial body of opinion within the Sport that is

highly critical of what is happening or, if you like, what is not happening. If you read The Daily Telegraph of the 14th January you will have noted the view that "Some ETTA Officials are not doing their job".

Et Tu, Desmond....

That opinion came from Desmond Douglas, who a year earlier was quoted in another National Newspaper and had spoken about "a bunch of clowns". HE, of course, is too big, but I apparently may serve as a consolation prize.

My terrible crimes.

I am not a member of any central ETTA committee. I find the often repeated statements that "the ETTA is all of us" very confusing. I am not responsible for the state of the sport except at local level where I am active and have a little influence I have no influence at National level - indeed our rulers take great pleasure in doing the opposite of what I advocate. I saw the decline of the sport long before 'my talented son' began to play. I have spent many hours on my typewriter, so that all our children would inherit a better sport, indeed so that there would still be a sport when they reached our time of I. What I have argued has been done in a consistent and moderate way. I have broken no bones, bunglers' have remained anonymous, no one has been hurt. To have two members of the ETTA Cabinet descend in this manner on one rank and file member I find unrepresentative and pathetic.

My £1,000 Challenge

Yes, Aubrey Drapkin, I have written endlessly to Officials complaining of travel schedules which, in MY opinion, lost us match after match and equally 'endlessly' nothing was done. However, in the end that battle was won and in part because I refused to lie down, but kept going. Selector Charters should congratulate me for achieving what HE should have done. Instead he came out against me. HE did not support the players. I did. I have made numerous constructive suggestions to Treasurer Drapkin. The most constructive of all was to look at the ETTA Books ("Challenge Accepted" TT News Dec. '83) to see whether money could not be saved and spent on things we all want to see done. I received no positive response. I now repeat the challenge. I shall donate £1,000 to the Sport, if, upon seeing the ETTA Books, I can find no instance where money has not been wasted. I make only

two conditions. 1) Officials will co-operate fully in my enquiries; 2) My findings will be published in full in this magazine.

Only SMALL men are never wrong.

Big men make plenty of mistakes and are prepared to admit them. If I find that everything in the garden is lovely, I shall say so. It will be a pleasure to write my cheque. Till then I hope to be spared such generalities and bromides as being "determined to attack every facet of the workings of the Association" (Drapkin) and being "in conflict with so many ETTA committees who do not hold the same opinions" as myself (Charters). Any conflict is not on MY side. If pressed, I would say this: I would be far happier to see our remaining televised event of the season in the hands of the Tournament Committee than the anonymous one who invites all those unknown foreigners, I wish too that the players were as well organised and represented as the Umpires and Referees.

Government Spokesman

It is sad to see Selector Charters in this role, whether he is muddling up MY facts, getting lyrical about plastic balls, defending rotten travel schedules or feeding into the computer some very strange ranking data. He, more than anyone else, should be standing with the players.

In the end HE will be judged by his success as our No. 1 Selector, not as an Establishment apologist. He will not survive many more disasters of the Moscow variety, no matter how much goodwill he builds on other fronts. With apologies to Mr. Vidal Sassoon, if the players don't look good, he won't look good. His position is no more secure than that of the player. There is a great future for 'government spokesmen' within the ETTA. There is much to explain. However, that is not the job of our principal selector. It is his job to produce strong England teams and that means putting up a rather stronger fight inside the ETTA than he appears to be doing. Victories against John Prean (if that is what they are) count for nothing in the international arena. They will attract no sponsors. They will achieve nothing except temporary relief for a few officials who think they have been under attack. The truth is that no one is under attack from ME. I am not hard to please. I just want the Sport to get better.

More at stake now than Table Tennis

The late Bill Shankly, when asked whether he regarded football as a matter of life and death,

replied that it was more important than that. For once, I disagree with the Sage of Anfield. Passionately though I feel about OUR sport, people we have elected to high office, seek to restrict our basic freedom of speech and expression, then we have sunk very low. Already three paragraphs of mine have been banned. National Council approval of this undemocratic act is being sought.

Free Speech

Whether you agree with me or not is not important. My right, YOUR right to say what we are thinking IS important. Whether the attempt to ban me will succeed is, as I write this, uncertain. If it does, that will not be the end of it. Those responsible will be challenged via the Ballot Box in 1986 and the issue will not merely be their competence to run the sport, but, more vitally, whether this is to be a free sport or an authoritarian one. I cannot imagine our members voting themselves into slavery at that time.

Me, anytime, in response ...

AUBREY.DRAPKIN writes ...

I find it quite unbelievable that such articles can be written by a member who elsewhere describes himself as a businessman. The inference that I have wasted the ETTA funds is quite disgusting and most objectionable as well as casting doubts upon my own professional integrity.

Prean, of course, has his own ideas as to where the membership's money should be spent. His suggestion to donate £1,000 if he can find no instance where money has not been wasted is not a challenge, as every single member has his/her own ideas of what is necessary expenditure and what is not - it is only a matter of opinion. In most cases the expenditure, or lack of it, is the result of democratic decisions taken by committees as a result of policies laid down by National Council or following the wishes of the members at the Annual General Meeting.

One paragraph of my article in the January notes was also withdrawn because of the anticipated National Council debate. In it I criticised Prean for attacking our Sponsors in print. At no time have I attempted to 'ban' his right to free speech, what I did write was that I hoped that he would put away his pen and paper.

In the February issue Prean states that Peter Charters and I both seem to suffer from identity problems, and that we think we

# Lentec Juniors/Cadets Rankings

and other officials are the sport- this comment was quite unwarranted and distasteful.

And

PETER CHARTERS writes ...

In reading with some little arTUSement John's two offerings in this edition of Table Tennis News, I am convinced that John much prefers to dish it out rather than take it.

The fact that I had the audacity to contradict his statements re: Moscow, the fact that I preferred the reports given to me by people with international experience, the fact that I preferred the opinions and conclusions of ex-international players but perhaps most importantly that I preferred reports given to me by these and other people who were actually there, sets me up for this lyrical assault. You will notice dear reader that John has not answered the points that I made in the January issue of T.T. News.

I do not propose to quote ex-presidents of America, to give

you my life history, or my vital statistics, nor am I going to break into deathly prose in an attempt to either inflate myself or humiliate John - I have no wish to do either and anyway what good would that do for Table Tennis? I will however continue to act as counter puncher to John's more misleading, more outrageous or factually incorrect statements.

For example I am reliably informed that the secretary of the Federal German Table Tennis Association was written to in April of '84 giving him the date of the 'Charles Church' event. This date was fixed because of the suitability for television. The German Bundesliga finalise their dates in May. In all fairness, how can the ETTA be blamed for that when other bodies dictate these clashes?

He is inconsistent as well. In one paragraph he writes that he has no influence at national level and in the next John claims that it is he who has changed the travel schedules of the England

teams. Neither of course is true. One last word on travel arrangements; what is regarded as ideal for one player is not necessarily suitable for another. Some of our top players prefer to sleep in their own beds for longer than John would advocate before major competition - as usual a is called for.

As far as my identity problem is concerned I suggest to John that he stand for the post of national councillor for the Isle of Wight. This would provide him with the forum he seems to want and it would help him realise that those who manage the affairs of the ETTA are accountable to others, have to accept the majority view even when it conflicts with their own, and stick to the job when they don't always get their own way. They also annually put themselves up to be shot down. That is democracy and that is not only MY identity within the ETTA, but also the position of members of the National Council and Management Committee.

I like to think of myself as a 'Players' Administrator.

At the end of our sport are the players supported by coaches, parents, administrators, sponsors etc. That is my philosophy and my actions are based on this attitude. I resent John's implications to the contrary.

I support Parker 100% in the task set for him, the Selection Committee and the Coaches to produce a successful England team over the next five or six years. I genuinely and sincerely believe that John's constant public sniping may well have a demotivating effect on the people who matter most - the players.

Unity is needed, we all want the same thing - success for the whole of the English team whoever the in that team may be. It is time to stop this wrangling, this bitterness. Things are getting better, we are on the right path, there is great promise for the future, none greater than Carl.



## LENTEC COMPUTER RANKINGS JUNIORS/CADETS ANDREA OVERHAULS JILL

No change in the 'top five positions in boys Lentec computerised rankings issued in February but in the girls' list Lancashire's Andrea Holt displaces Jill Powis of Staffs in the No.2 position behind Yorkshire's Joanne Shaw.

Similarly in the cadet boys' list Bradley Billington of Derbyshire takes over the No.2 position from Yorkshire's Michael O'Driscoll behind Matthew Syed of Berkshire.

Both Carl Prean from the Isle of Wight and Miss Holt retain their top positions in the boys' and cadet girls' lists. Moves of significance otherwise involve Cumbria's Debbie Soothill in the girls' list, from No.9 to No.5 and Leigh Jefferies of Warwickshire in the cadet boys' list from No.17 to No.8.

Revised rankings and points (Previous position in brackets):-

BOYS	Pts
1 Carl Prean (IOW) (1)	1528
2 Andrew Syed (Bk) (2)	882
3 Jimmy Stokes (Bk) (3)	540
4 Adrian Dixon (St) (4)	459
5 Matthew Syed (Bk) (5)	419
6 Andrew Cunningham (K) (7)	413
7 Bradley (6)	385
8 Mark Randle (Wa) (8)	354
9 Rodney Thomas (Do) (11)	329
10 Clive Guest (V) (9)	318
11 Thomas Blackman (Nd) (10)	292
12 Paul Amos (K) (12)	269
13 Michael O'Driscoll (V) (13)	261
14 Graham Kemp (Bk) (19)	248
15 Murray Jukes (Wo) (14)	243
16 Paul Savins (Bk) (20)	231
17 Richard Hayward (St) (15)	214
18 Nicholas Newton (V) (17)	189
19 Chris Oldfield (Y) (34)	189
20 Sean Gibson (La) (16)	188
21 Jonathon Goode (Mi) (18)	179

22 Paul Elphick (Sx) (21)	167
23 Paul Gooding (Sk) (38)	165
24 Kevin Lawrence (St) (22)	161
25 Tony West (E) (26)	156
26 Philip Payne (So) (30)	152
27 Philip Szekeres (Mi) (23)	151
28 John Bult (V) (24)	138
29 Andrew Henry (Dy) (25)	135
30 Neil Pickard (Nk) (28)	135
31 Barnard O'Grady (K) (27)	133
32 Mark Ball (K) (41)	125
33 Matthew Connell (V) (29)	124
34 Paul Bumpus (Le) (31)	121
35 Matthew Pemet (Sy) (33)	116
36 Peter Harris (He) (56)	115
37 Andrew Taylor (Ch) (32)	113
38 Martin Firth (V) (-)	108
39 Darren Smith (Wa) (40)	108
40 Bernard Wentworth (Ch) (42)	108
41 Tim Holder (Wo) (-)	107
42 C. Pertez (Mi) (35)	104
43 Lee Brown (La) (36)	101
44 Andrew Davies (Sy) (62)	101
45 David Fewsdale (Cy) (39)	98
46 James Griffiths (E) (43)	98
47 Barnard Lazarus (E) (37)	93
48 Andrew Eden (La) (51)	92
49 Greg Barden (K) (52)	91
50 Alaric Bassano (V) (45)	88
51 Stephen Slater (St) (44)	88
52 Simon Jones (Ch) (54)	79
53 Gavin West (Oy) (49)	78
54 Murray Barter (So) (60)	78
55 Stuart Craggs (Cv) (46)	77
56 Andrew Ball (V) (47)	77
57 Damian Holland (E) (-)	76
58 Peter Curry (Nd) (48)	76
59 Andrew Houghton (K) (-)	75
60 David Thomas (Wa) (50)	75
61 Graham Reed (Co) (67)	69
62 Michael Harrison (K) (66)	66
63 Michael Rutherford (K) (30)	65
64 Tim McGill (Sp) (58)	65
65 Gavin Black (Bd) (-)	65
66 Adrian Bolton (Ng) (55)	64
67 Mark James (Co) (65)	64
68 Shaun Carracio (Sk) (63)	63
69 Nicholas Ashman (Ca) (-)	63
70 David Carse (La) (68)	62
71 Tony Miller (V) (64)	62
72 Richard Aitken (Dv) (-)	57
73 Richard Jones (Sy) (57)	57
74 Paul Ward (La) (59)	56

GIRLS	Pts
1 Joanne Shaw (Y) (1)	585
2 Andrea Holt (La) (3)	387
3 Jill Powis (St) (2)	358
4 Juliet Houghton (K) (6)	355
5 Debbie Soothill (Cu) (9)	327
6 Claire Potts (Ch) (4)	316
7 Kerry Hall (5)	293

16 Adrian Thorpe (St) (16)	135
17 Nicky Ryder (V) (15)	130
18 Andrew Whiteley (V) (18)	121
19 Gary Knights (25)	118
20 Jonathan Taylor (Ch) (19)	105
21 Brian Mileham (K) (34)	104
22 Mark Ward (V) (20)	102
23 Andrew Eden (La) (24)	102
24 Matthew Pemet (Sy) (21)	97
25 Wayne Renton (La) (22)	94
26 Jason Swain (V) (23)	91
27 Will Hollingworth (Dy) (28)	77
28 Simon Cooper (Sp) (27)	76
29 Paul Smith (So) (30)	74
30 John Collins (Ca) (28)	72
31 Mark Mullet (Dv) (38)	198
32 Andrew McKeown (Cv) (29)	172
33 Michael Auchterlonie (Wi) (-)	169
34 Mark Bawden (Bd) (31)	164
35 Robert Till (St) (35)	152
36 Scott Greenbrook (Sx) (33)	145
37 James Nicholson (Cv) (32)	137
38 Darryl Sneyd (La) (-)	130
39 Michael Parker (Ch) (43)	127
40 Robert Yong (Ng) (36)	118
41 Darren Shaw (Nd) (37)	108
42 Andrew Bevan (Co) (-)	100
43 Ian Humes (V) (39)	99
44 Michael Roughley (Du) (40)	92
45 Kevin Sangster (Jy) (41)	86
46 Robert Scott-Birchall (Dy) (42)	82
47 Graeme Connolly (Sy) (-)	78
48 Graham Cook (V) (-)	71
49 James McIvor (V) (44)	70
50 Wayne Noon (Li) (45)	67
35 Cox (La) (34)	64
36 Nicola McGrath (La) (-)	63
37 Lynne Trussell (Sx) (42)	62
38 Jane Roberts (V) (30)	60
39 Jenny Neale (Wi) (48)	59
40 Julie Clegg (La) (39)	58
41 Hazel Kavanagh (V) (31)	58
42 Debbie Simmonds (Sy) (41)	57
43 Kathryn Bray (V) (36)	54
44 Linda Thompson (Li) (40)	52
45 Julie Brion (Bk) (-)	48
46 Helen Gipp (Ca) (43)	47
47 Susan Richmond (Cv) (45)	46
48 Dawn Bromley (Wa) (-)	42
49 Helen Platt (E) (-)	39
50 Lynne Hamden (La) (-)	38
36	36

CADET GIRLS	Pts
1 Andrea Holt (La) (1)	702
2 Claire Potts (Ch) (2)	616
3 Kerry Hall (Dy) (3)	577
4 Julie Billington (Dy) (4)	287
5 Jane Wright (Oy) (5)	195
6 Tracy Scott-Pawson (Do) (7)	195
7 Debbie Toole (V) (6)	184
8 Julie Norman (Bk) (9)	158
9 Forster (Le) (8)	153
10 Cheryl Bateman (Sy) (11)	132
11 Nicola McGrath (La) (10)	128
12 Julie Brion (Bk) (18)	108
13 Nicola Jones (Wo) (21)	108
14 Caroline Buckley (Bd) (12)	102
15 Ellen Meddings (V) (13)	94
16 Anne Pashley (Cv) (14)	91
17 Susanne Lawton (Cv) (15)	88
18 Helen Potts (Ch) (16)	86
19 Janine Harrison (V) (20)	80
20 Kate Gower (E) (17)	70
21 Victoria Boyd (Sp) (19)	57
22 Audrey Barnett (St) (22)	44
23 Elizabeth Connell (V) (27)	41
24 Barbara Smallwood (La) (23)	36
25 Rachel Skinner (Mi) (31)	36
26 Elizabeth Bryant (Le) (24)	33
27 Lisa Coulson (Bk) (25)	33
28 Joanne Roberts (V) (-)	32
29 Tracy Hooker (Bk) (26)	30
30 Judith Grant (Du) (28)	29

CADET BOYS	Pts
1 Matthew Syed (Bk) (1)	815
2 Bradley Billington (Dy) (3)	625
3 Michael O'Driscoll (V) (2)	586
4 Chris Oldfield (V) (4)	373
5 Neil Pickard (Nk) (5)	284
6 Andrew Houghton (K) (6)	244
7 Damian Holland (E) (16)	244
8 Leigh Jefferies (Wa) (17)	204
9 Dale Saunders (Gs) (8)	197
10 Neil Simms (V) (9)	196
11 Philip Szekeres (Mi) (10)	182
12 Richard Jones (Sy) (11)	161
13 David Morris (Sp) (12)	157
14 Michael Rutherford (K) (13)	152
15 Stuart Miller (Cv) (14)	149



## ANOTHER MESSAGE CONCERNING DOOM AND GLOOM

,By Malcolm Brown



This month I intended to write about the merits of long pimped rubber and Lentec Swing in particular but in view of the I.T.T.F. proposals this will now have to wait until after the World Championships in April.

To avert the risk of being stereo-typed as just another article containing 'doom and gloom', I would like to say immediately that this article contains more optimism than most in recent issues of this magazine, all due respect, and I feel that we all could use some optimism after seeing so many authors of recent articles showing the less constructive areas of the sport.

It seems quite an oddity that within the many good articles and items in this magazine, there are very few views from the people who matter most in the sport, the players. Perhaps I see things in a different light after having 'retired' for nearly two seasons now, but I know that even when I was playing just before then, I was playing better than ever and our county was gradually making its presence known at the cost of quite a few senior and especially junior national rankings; so you see, when I left the game I was involved in a lot of change and development, most of it for the better. Now that I have recently turned my attention to the playing scene again I cannot understand, from what I read, why everything is in such a bad state..... or is it?

I look at the local rankings and leagues and find fresh names and faces doing battle with the 'old hands' for premier positions in ranking and league. 'Yes' but there are less leagues now someone might add, well I think there is a dividing line here between those who play just for fun, and the 'serious' competitor. Who wants to be involved in a league where 60 or 70 per cent of its total players are made up from new cadets and junior players eager for famous scalps? All the 'casual' type of player wants to do is socialise and enjoy his or her free time by playing a sport that is comparatively cheap to be involved in, (a bat, shirt and a pair of shoes), and is readily available to play in any reasonably sized building. I think the fall in numbers of players is due to organisations. Perhaps players might be asked when registering themselves or a team, whether they want to play at a higher standard or start to receive coaching, or be placed in their own 'type' of league(s). I

know a lot of people who have been put off and do not play any more because they were not asked these questions.

A side note here; our coaching system is developing junior talent far too fast for the 'casual' player's liking. Funny how the 'serious' side of the game does not think that we have enough depth of new talent when people less 'involved' think they are besieged!

As I took to even higher levels of the game, I again see new faces in high places, challenging for a chance to represent their town, county or even country. What is wrong there? These players are young, younger and with better technique than players of their age used to have. Let us not get confused between making progress and wanting everything at once. Alright, so we are not the number one table tennis nation in the world, (yet; let's keep this optimistic), but why should we complain when we are improving all the time, why be like impatient parents who wait for their child to start walking! Isn't it better to be helping with the first steps than to sit back and wait?!

I think we are not sitting back, and I believe this country has a great amount of extremely dedicated people who put time and effort into the game. Why accuse them of not producing five world champions overnight?! Perhaps some aspects could be better, but why complain that nothing constructive is happening?

What of the future then?

What is there to look forward to?

Let us have a look at equipment (come on, you've read this far)."

Despite attempts to alter laws on equipment, there seems to be little help in this area. The reason being that the wrong laws are being changed without proper consultation with manufacturers and people who have researched this area with great care and thoroughness.

The wrong attitudes prevail in this area because the majority of the manufacturing industry for table tennis is concerned with profit. People are forgotten. To try to sort through the puzzle of providing a product that the customer wants, the manufacturers have resorted to flooding the market with a variety of names and descriptions of what their products do, (the I.T.T.F. has a list of over 300 of them), and yet in the final analysis there are less than 10 different types of rubber

surface you can play with! The buyer seems to be spoilt for 'choice'. This is all very well for normal production of goods, but where the person has to rely on those goods in order to use the product more constructively, then he must have the product accurately described otherwise 'saturation' will only cause confusion. Have you noticed the mistakes in translation on the one paragraph you sometimes get on the back of the wrapper?! There is a way to overcome this and it's called 'standardisation'. - Unfortunately this is what some I.T.T.F. affiliated countries are trying to put forward now, but I say unfortunately because (and this is the pessimistic part of the article) it is very frightening. Why? because they are trying to correct faults when they do not know the cause. It is like banning an aircraft design as unsafe when the test pilot was the one who caused the crash.

To standardise on the wrong properties of the bat combination will be disastrous. Who can say that they have been bored watching an attacker playing a defender? With some of the proposals being made, it is doubtful whether you will ever get another chance to make your mind up. How can you defend consistently against today's attack when trying to use an attacking combination yourself. Bye-bye defenders!

Some of the proposals for the Gothenburg meeting call for an even tighter limit on pimple length, and some call for the same surface rubber to be used, and better still, the introduction of a brand new high technology innovation, a wooden striking surface! Limits on pimple length would mean no more long-pimped rubber.

Limits on different types of rubber surface mean not only lack of variation from the defender, but also for the attacker too, and even the beginner or intermediate player who finds a different type of rubber on his or her backhand helps with that all important factor which makes the rallies longer, control! And do you want to play a loop-drive with a piece of wood? Have you tried, it's great exercise.

You may have noticed that I seem to have strayed from any optimistic track! Well here is the best part. LENTEC are producing for the new season a new range of table tennis rubbers and sponges called the "21 UP" SERIES. Within this range is a

combination to suit every modern style of play and each combination will be available for three levels of skill, namely; Intermediate, Advanced and the all important Beginners stages. To coincide with this range of equipment, the LENTEC TABLE TENNIS MANUAL will be available. The manual will explain what each combination does in playing terms, together with the scientific proof and data as to just how it works!

No 'player tests', no 'marks out of ten', just plain scientific results taken from impartial testing machines, and impartial facts taken from research scientists.

With this kind of information at the coach's fingertips (and indeed the player's) there will be no cause for doubt or concern. No cause for equipment, and thus scope of playing styles and control over play to be limited for the wrong reasons.

Let us hope that other countries will have the same viewpoint when it comes to the proposals to restrict equipment even further when they vote in Gothenburg soon.

It seems that the countries who have not had research carried out on equipment are the proposers of the demise of the game. Strong words perhaps, but then again I think justified, because if ever there was a time when we, as a country, can contribute to the growth of table tennis on a larger scale, it is now.

The proof of LENTEC's goodwill lies in the pages of the manual itself. Research into the effects of equipment has long been overdue, we belong to the only sport that will tolerate inadequate information and help from manufacturers on the subject of the equipment they produce for the sport.

LENTEC realised the fault when they set out to document the effects of the equipment they wished to produce. As I said before though, the proof of LENTEC's concern and will to help is in the manual.

Not only has there been extensive research on the LENTEC range, but also on the popular rubbers, sponges and blades already in use. LENTEC have produced a new range of combinations and researched into the effects of others to produce an 'owner's manual' on how to use them and more importantly, which are suited to a player's individual needs.

Now if all this isn't proof enough of LENTEC's intentions

# The Tarmac Open Championships

to provide the game with adequate information so that a player can improve his own performance rather than a manufacturer's own financial perfor-

mance. then what is?

If LENTEC were thinking about profit at the start of their four year research program. surely they would only have recommended

their own range of equipment in such a publication. Better still. they would not have gone into the field of table tennis at all. From what I have heard it is not

the ideal sport to put money into.

More next month!!

**Tarmac**  
Quarry Products

## The Tarmac Open Championships From Novices to Nationals

by David R. Hall

Despite appalling weather conditions. 60 competitors took part in the Tarmac Open Championships at the Pavilion Gardens. Buxton on February 9. The event staged by the Buxton & North Derbyshire TTA and sponsored by Tarmac Roadstone Ltd. North West was being held for the third year running and the blizzard conditions did not prevent competitors travelling from the Midlands and North West to take part.

Spectators and competitors were rewarded with an abun-

dance of skilled and competitive play as aspiring novices competed against league. County and Nationally-ranked players in a two-man team handicapped competition which lasted from 11 am and climaxed at 8pm with the finals of both the main and consolation event.

In a repeat of last year's final, the main event was won by Fallinbroome 'A' when the youth of Keith Deaville and Simon Mear overcame the experience of Cheshire Veterans. Eddie Griffiths and Mike Tew. repre-

senting Bollington Cons. Both teams play in the Premier Division of the Macclesfield League who were hard pushed to beat Buxton youngsters Michael Bradbury and David Ashfield.

At the Presentation Disco that followed. attended by some 300 people Mr. Brian Ashfield, League Chairman. in thanking the Pavilion Gardens Management and Tarmac Roadstone Ltd. North West for their support, stated that the League was beginning to achieve its objective in popularising the sport

locally. and attracting more players to strengthen the local league which at the present time has only two divisions but whose players compete well in the Derbyshire Inter-League at junior. senior and veteran level.

When presenting the prizes, Alan Rahilly. Regional Director of Tarmac Roadstone Limited North West expressed his pleasure at the Company's involvement with the sport and indicated their intention of being associated with the league next year and in the foreseeable future.



Mike Tew and Eddie Griffiths are seen here shaking hands with Mr. A. F. Rahilly, Regional Director of Tarmac Roadstone Ltd.. North West alongside event winners Keith Deaville and Simon Mear.

Photo by Rod Leach, Burbage. Buxton.

# The First 6 Months

---

## THE FIRST SIX MONTHS

by Donald Parker,  
National Trainer/Coach.

With the first half of the International season now over and indeed the first half in my capacity as National Trainer/Coach it is quite interesting to reflect on some of the happenings. All the results have been reported in the magazine and it is obvious that most players have done reasonably well. On the last training camp I had a meeting with the players to discuss the first half of the season and the areas that had gone well and the areas that could be improved. With regards the latter, there were several areas on which I would like to elaborate.

Firstly, it is important that care is given to preparation for training as well as preparation for competition. Some players were turning up for five day training camps mentally and physically exhausted from competition and travel. Clearly players must compete, but nevertheless a compromise must be achieved whereby a player can still practice hard so as to improve. It therefore requires careful planning when entering tournaments so as to make sure time is allocated for improvement. It is most unfair on tournament organisers to withdraw on the day of the event and with the above careful planning this situation can be avoided. No two players are the same, some need more competition than others and therefore each individual must plan around his or her needs.

The team spirit among the players has been excellent, a fact that has pleased me considerably. I have always stressed that while being an individual sport, team members can lift a player and help him or her to play to their full potential. Unfortunately, having stressed this point, some players are now going on the table and as well as worrying about playing they are conscious of who is supporting them and who is not. On several occasions, I have seen a player visibly distressed because certain members of the team have not been supporting. It could well be that they were practising, eating or resting, all which take priority over supporting, but nevertheless particular players have allowed absenteeism from 'the bench' to affect their performance. It is the team captain's responsibility to sort out the daily programme for the players and his responsibility if someone is not supporting who should be. There are certain variables over which a player, when competing, has little control i.e. the attitude of his team mates, his opponent's luck, the non-playing captain, the umpires etc. and these factors should not therefore affect a player's concentration. A player should concentrate and worry about the factors he can directly affect i.e. playing positive, serving well, behaving in a sportsmanlike manner etc.

From a technical point of view we have worked very hard and will continue to do so on the area of service and receipt along the lines suggested in previous articles. It surprises me that some people expect instant results but like any complex skill it will take time to develop and only some players will put in the necessary time. These will be the players

who will make it to the top. We are also trying to topspin a little closer to the table, not necessarily off the bounce all the time, with equally strong backhands as forehands.

To maximise the rate of improvement, my own personal feelings are that it is essential to spend as many hours on the table practising as possible. To increase the number of hours for players on training camps there are two possibilities. Firstly, there could be more money and therefore more camps, but unfortunately there is not a lot of extra money available at present. Secondly, there is the possibility of more cost effective camps which is what I have tried with the younger players. These players are accommodated in someone's house, altogether of course, and a hall is booked nearby. Obviously everyone has their own bed, a good diet, but at the same time be prepared to help out at meal times with the clearing away. Using this system, it is possible to get twice as many hours on the table for the same cost. At senior level, this is not practical; however with the juniors and cadets, the idea has worked successfully. Critics would say that the status of camps has declined, my answer quite simply is that the number of hours on the table has doubled. Some players actually prefer the family atmosphere in the house although it must be said that a few suffer from what I would call the "Crest Hotel" syndrome. In other words, they now expect the comparative luxuries that one associates with high fly hotel life.

The selection committee are giving some of the young players an opportunity to develop by selecting them for crucial matches and tournaments. If we

are to become a leading force in Europe and the World, then in my opinion, we must be prepared to take chances and give these young players the opportunities to gain the necessary experience. Playing safe all the time with selections will result in a fairly mediocre short term future and a comparatively poor long term future. We must be prepared for some possible short term set backs if we are to become a force in the long term future. Comments that Desmond Douglas has been dropped from some European League matches may be sensational journalism but is as naive as it is inaccurate. In fact in the two matches Desmond has missed, Carl Prean beat Europe's 1 and 3 men, while Alan Cooke opened his individual account in the European League. Hopefully these may be significant stepping stones to greater things and at the same time give them more confidence for this year's Commonwealth and World's campaigns.

It is very pleasing to see keen coaches visiting the training camps at Lilleshall. Communication has always been a problem and actually visiting one of the camps, talking to the coaches is an ideal first hand way of keeping up-to-date with the National and International scene. Should you wish to attend a camp for a day, please do not hesitate to contact me on 0524-791 866 and we can arrange for a visit. The provisional dates of the camps at Lilleshall for the rest of 1985 are below, but to be certain, it is best to ring first to check the camp is still on.

May 27-30.

July 1-5.

September 9-13.

September 30-October 4.

October 28-November 1.

December 16-20.

---

## O.C.S. SPORTS SCHOLARSHIP at the UNIVERSITY OF BATH

Applications are invited for three Sports Scholarships to be sponsored by Office Cleaning Services Ltd. Nine Scholarships have already been sponsored by the company since 1976. A scholarship may be awarded to a student who is qualified for admission to the University of Bath in 1985, either at undergraduate or postgraduate level, or to a student who is already attending the University. The scholarship scheme will allow

the holder to extend his or her academic course in the University by one year or the equivalent as well as offering financial assistance for sports equipment, training expenses, travel etc. so that he or she will be able to devote more time to achieving excellence in sport.

Applicants must be of high academic calibre; they must also be of international standard in their event, or able to produce

evidence (e.g. from a national coach) that they are likely to achieve international standard if awarded a scholarship.

The successful scholar will receive a full technical back-up to support his or her training programme. This will include physiological and psychological testing and analysis, medical and dietary screening and technique analysis using video. In association with the specialist coach the scholar will be given

expert advice on a complete conditioning programme to prepare him for international competition.

For further details and an application form apply immediately to Mr. W. J. Vennard, Secretary of the Sports Committee, Room 1 West 3.12, University of Bath, Claverton Down, Bath BA2 7AY. Telephone Bath 61244 ext 210. Completed applications must be returned by 1st May 1985.

# Dunlop Invest in Skills Awards Scheme

By  
Alan Priest, Marketing Operations Manager, Dunlop

The Dunlop Skills Awards Scheme was launched in London on December the 13th last year. It was almost a year since Jack Carrington had spoken to me about the content and presentation of the awards and considerably longer since he had first discussed the Awards with Dunlop Table Tennis Manager, Alan Hydes. In the months that followed, Alan and I worked with Jack, Bob Oldfield, John Arnold and other senior members of the English Table Tennis Association and English Schools Table Tennis Association to produce a structured award scheme that would challenge the skills of those already in the game and more importantly, encourage some "new faces".

Eleven months may sound a long time, but in retrospect it could easily have been longer. Fortunately, we were spurred on by the fact the game needs such a scheme if we are to lay down the foundations for tomorrow's players.

This is a theme often referred to in speeches but I wonder how many are guilty of tunnel vision when they set their sights on tomorrow's players?

In launching the Dunlop Skills Awards Scheme, we have set our sights on those who have perhaps never given table tennis a single thought, and in doing so, we must be realistic. We are entering a competition where the prize is a young person's time and devotion. Our competitors are many and growing. Not only are there other sports seeking time and attention, there are a vast number of alternative forms of entertainment.

It was Bob Oldfield who said to me that we must challenge our youth with table tennis and went on to throw in a free headline for some advertising. "You might get 5,000 on the 'Space Invaders' - but are you fast enough to play table tennis?"

And so it is that we challenge young people to "Find out how good you really are" with our skills awards. In return we offer a sense of achievement recognised by the award of certificates and badges.

In actual fact of course we know we offer much more, because we all know that table tennis is exciting, healthy, friendly and fun and this is our justification for seeking young recruits.

As a company, we justify our decision to support table tennis and in particular an award scheme, when we measure the potential that the game has to offer. When we look to the future however we see that little is being done to realise that potential.

In the face of a number of other sports which are growing in interest, we could see it as 'hard work' but we don't think it will be, because table tennis has a rare quality not often found in some of the other games - the unquestionable commitment of the people who are in it.

Table Tennis has suffered more than most in the recession but the players, coaches and administrators who love their game have never been deflected from their cause and have always managed - somehow.

This determination is surely our strongest ally in the fight to

make the awards scheme a success.

Printed on the literature produced for the scheme, you will find the following message.

"Dunlop acknowledge with sincere thanks the help of the English Table Tennis Association/English Schools Table Tennis Association, **together**

with the many thousands of volunteers throughout the country, without whose help this scheme would not be possible".

We are pleased to have the opportunity to repeat it again here and to place on record our commitment to help build the future of table tennis.



Members of the ETTA/ESTTA and Dunlop face questions from the press at the London launch of the Skills Awards Scheme.



Senior Staff Coach David Fairholm advises youngsters from Hillcross Middle School. Looking on are, from the left, Tom Blunn, Geoff Mortimer (Dunlop) and John Arnold (Chairman, ESTTA).



The scheme is backed by an explanatory leaflet and comprehensive organisers pack available from: The Awards Organiser, ETTA, 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex, TN34 1HA.



Local message: Dunlop take the show on the road as guests of Scandal Endowed School, Wakefield, for the Yorkshire Regional Launch in January.



## LET'S SET A PLAN

Feeling rather down after losing both my sets in a County match, I decided that it was about time I answered the question to myself - do I enjoy playing? The answer was yes but only in the right circumstances. To explain this I analysed the following and on a majority of matters agree with Peter Charters.

1) Premises and Clubs. The time has definitely come when each league must obtain a purpose-bunt table tennis centre or, for the present, one must be available in each county. In High Wycombe there are numerous squash clubs, plentiful tennis clubs and an international-standard badminton centre. The majority of matches are played in community centres, works canteens or in cold, out of the way, village halls.

There are no facilities for changing, no showers and, like at many matches, everyone sits there, in utter silence, until it is time to go home. High Wycombe is not uncommon, the same can be said of nearly all leagues in the country. Whilst my club has several teams, this is in name only, the link being that we use the same premises, but of course on different nights. Without premises that generate a club atmosphere, younger people cannot be introduced to the game. If you look at the majority of leagues there are probably more veterans than juniors, and as players retire, leagues reduce in member teams.

2) Equipment. There is no doubt in my mind that the introduction of 'funny' rubbers is killing the enjoyment. Whilst I appreciate that players must learn to play with their own combination, it is normally required to make up for a deficiency in their own game. Whilst it would not be practicable for all to play with the same rubbers, the choice available must be reduced. I would suggest that any pimped-out rubber be banned and that there be a maximum of six rubbers to choose from. Le.

topspin (2), attack (2) and defence (2). At least then, the players and public would understand the game.

3) County Matches. With a young family and an understanding wife, I can look back on the season to date, pleased that we played Yorkshire, Lancashire and Cheshire at home. A recent match against Staffordshire, meant that I was out of the house for 9½ hours and in that time spent 30 minutes playing. Five hours were swallowed up in driving to and from the match, 3½ hours watching my teammates and 30 minutes for the usual after match refreshments.

Surely the time has come for all county matches to be played along similar lines available to the Premier divisions. A Social could also be arranged for the Saturday night in order that players could get to know the opposition better. The actual cost could be shared between the participating counties' or local sponsorship obtained.

4) Tournaments. Like Peter Charters it never fails to amaze me how much time is spent sitting around waiting to play. This is true of nearly all local tournaments. The men are asked to attend early in the morning, play several rounds and then stop, whilst the women, and the veterans take over. Play for men is then recommenced at a late hour and the final played at the end of the evening when most people have long gone. At a recent tournament in Oxford, I was away from home for over 12 hours, playing for 1½ hours at most. For one period, I waited four hours, for my next call. My wife often asks the question "Why do you bother?"

5) Television. If this sport or to succeed it must be promoted correctly. Television has virtually ignored us and press coverage is minimal. Whilst I have been involved with county table tennis for 16 years, playing in numerous counties, I know I would recognise the majority of snooker players rather than any leading table tennis player.

Whilst table tennis will continue to be played at holiday camps, youth clubs etc., the organised matches will become fewer and fewer, so the trend must be stopped. Many people now realise this, but a constructive plan must be agreed at all levels of the game. Interest is there, from junior players, but it must be fostered and the game treated seriously as a sport and not still considered as just Ping Pong.

Personally I am giving up table tennis, at county level, unless the format is changed. Squash

and tennis are becoming more appealing each week, and I wonder how long it will be before I call it a day.

K. L. BUSHELL  
30 Sunters Wood Close,  
Booker, High Wycombe,  
Bucks.

## ESSENTIAL POINT

I certainly go along with Dick Hopkins' views (Jan. T.T.N.) on the need to experiment with ways and means of encouraging rallies. The essential point is of course that these must be entertaining rallies, rather than going the other way and ending up with long, dull, pushing encounters.

Over the years the suggestion of raising the net back to 6½ inches seems to have come up on a number of occasions but, as far as I am aware, never got any further. I would be grateful if someone could explain why.

Whilst I'm not so keen on Dick's other proposal that the server has to serve into the right hand court of the receiver, surely the main point is that such thoughts should at least be given serious consideration and commented on by the hierarchy and not merely ignored.

B. J. McKenzie  
45 London Road,  
Thatcham, Berks.

## MEMORIES BESTIRRED

The account by Mike Watts of the Midlands Veterans' Open mentions Percy Hydes playing in the over 60's event. Surely the name should be HYDE who I played and beat in the English Open at Brighton in 1962.

I possess the English Open Championships programme of 1939-40. It took place at the Polytechnic Extension, Little Titchfield St., W1 on March 13/15, 1940 there, and the finals were played at Wembley on March 16.

In the results for that year Barna and Osborne were given as winning the mixed doubles, but Victor played with Dora Beregi according to the programme, and Miss Osborne was not named in the list of competitors.

I had a knock with Dora at my club, and she bet me in a hard-hitting game. I only played lawn tennis with Victor. Shortly afterwards I was in the Army, and I was stationed in Cairo 1943-45 where I had some games of table tennis with a sandpaper bat.

K. WOODWARD  
5 Birchwood Road,  
Tooting,  
London SW17 9BO.

## BRIGHT IDEA

A word to Mr. Woodard (TT News, February 1985) and to all those club players who are a little uptight about the two colour bat rule and threatening to give up the game which they have enjoyed for so many years. There is no need to take such drastic action. Many shoe stains will take to a rubber surface, and the black stain is particularly effective, so unless you have a black bat your problem is solved.

I am indebted to Gordon Martin of the Stafford League for this bright idea. Although not required in the local league, Gordon had to do something in order to play in the County League for Stafford Veterans, and his answer is certainly practical and successful, and he assures me has no affect on the playing characteristics of the surface.

If you have a black bat you will have to experiment with some of the bright coloured stains. I would think you stand a reasonable chance with a couple of coats of red. Fortunately the Barna bat doesn't come in a black version - at least I've never seen one.

Let me finish by assuring Mr. Woodard of the necessity of the two colour rule as an important step in taking some of the nonsense out of table tennis. The next logical step, if we want to increase spectator appeal for the general public, is to ban the combination bat altogether.

JACK CHALKLEY  
Chumleigh,  
Cross St.,  
Gnosall,  
Stafford ST20 0BX.

## OPEN TO DEBATE

I do not know to what trade, profession or calling Mr. Corbin belongs, but judging by his comments concerning certain events at the second premier weekend made in his article in the last edition of Table Tennis News, he should be a politician, or a writer for one of the more sensational popular newspapers. He shows an adeptness to present selected information in a somewhat emotive way which ranks with the best, and gives of course an impression to the reader which is somewhat less than the whole picture. Just for the record, and for the benefit of readers who are unaware of exactly what he was talking about, I wonder if he would explain just what the evening meal which he mentions was and how much it would have cost to send a party of six to it?

Everyone, including in particular the ordinary paying members of those associations which

took part and any sponsors whose money might have been thus spent could then decide for themselves the merits or otherwise of the Staffordshire decision not to finance their party for this event. It really must be open to debate as to whether the considerable amount of money involved could not be better spent in some other direction, when ALL the facts were taken into account, particularly as it appeared to be an "extra" on top of what was inevitably a fairly expensive weekend anyway.

As to his remarks about counties who in his opinion fail adequately to fund their teams, with Staffordshire being singled out in this respect, Mr. Corbin really must be prepared to present balanced comments, rather than to try to make quick Brownie points at someone else's expense. I do not know what yardstick he uses to measure whether a county is properly funding its team or not, but I would make the following points. Staffordshire currently have both their senior and junior teams in the premier divisions. It was not any of their players who turned out in rather scruffy or incorrectly coloured kit at the first senior premier weekend. Their senior team finished up nearer the top than the bottom, and positions currently held by the whole range of our players in the ranking lists suggest that prospects for the future are encouraging. By my yardstick that looks fairly satisfactory but obviously he uses a different one.

Sponsorship? Yes of course we try as hard as most, and yes of course we know that we might get something from somebody next year if we keep at it. But decisions on entering and funding teams have to be taken this year and budgets prepared with this year's available money in mind. Even if sponsorship is available, to plan and budget on the continuation of hand outs is not the way to sound financing as the ETTA themselves have had to learn. Rather it can be the first step along the rocky road to disaster.

This brings us to the final point of where the money does come from if it does not come from gifts. Ultimately you then come down to the members, or to fund raising (which all too often again comes down to the members). Now I am a member of a very small local league in Lichfield with just eighteen teams. The majority of our players have no table tennis horizons outside their regular weekly match. We are however extremely supportive of both our county association and the national body and will continue to be so. But as their representative I cannot and will

not keep going back to them for more and more money to be spent on the elite few. In fact this year we did in Staffordshire ask them for more money, a move which I supported, but only as part of a package which included match fees from the county players. We are not the only county which has such a system and table tennis is not the only sport which has such a system.

I stand by the decision. It is not unreasonable that in return for two all expenses paid weekends players might be asked to pay a fairly nominal match fee by way of a small contribution. If table tennis is in a pit, (and I do not accept that it is, although there are those who appear to be digging furiously), the players as well as administrators must do their share of getting us out of it, and all too often that simply does not happen.

Come off it, Mr. Corbin. We would all like to think big, but there are those who realise that if the balloon gets too big it will burst altogether. Let us have constructive comment by all means, but let us also have credit where credit is due. It is hard enough to find administrators as it is; public attacks from outside, particularly when they only put across half the story, hardly helps. One keen, reliable and efficient worker is worth a lot of sponsorship. Let not spend our time discouraging them, or we will finish up with nothing to sponsor.

GEOFF C. WILLIAMSON  
Brownsfield Cottage,  
Brownsfield Lane,  
Lichfield, Staffs.  
WS138EH.

## WIND OF CHANGE

I was very interested to read in the February issue of Table Tennis News the article written by Peter Charters. There is no doubt that something needs to be done to make table tennis more attractive to potential new players and the general public, we also need that "something" to make the game more enjoyable to the regular T.T. player at all levels of the sport.

I am in total agreement with Peter Charters that the vast variety of spin that can be obtained with the present type and range of T.T. bat is not good for the game. In my opinion this is the main cause of the decline of the game in recent years. If we reduce the variety of spin by standardisation of equipment it would improve table tennis immensely, rallies would again come to the fore, games would be won by the more skilful player; in the present situation it is often a matter of a player not able to cope with his opponent's

equipment, rather than his opponent's skill.

In addition to the points raised by Peter Charters, I would offer the following:-

1. A bright coloured ball, say, fluorescent orange, with perhaps a black band around it, so that the ball can be readily seen and the band would show the amount of spin on the ball.

This would be very beneficial to counter the many dingy halls with poor lighting that many of us have to contend with in our league table tennis. In addition it would help to avoid losing sight of the ball against a background of badminton court lines that are often encountered at our venues.

2. The service was originally intended to simply put the ball into play, nowadays many players win their games because they mastered a good serve and although this itself is applauded by many, it is not conducive to long rallies and exciting table tennis. As the majority of "good" serves are executed by the forehand side of the bat would it improve matters if we were to allow service with the backhand side only? I believe this would reduce the server's advantage, thereby allowing the receiver to return the ball at a reasonable height to avoid the "third ball kill" and hence allow some form of rally to materialise.

3. Peter Charters mentioned using a "doubles serve", this alone would give considerable advantage to left handed players, therefore it could elaborate on this by giving the server the choice of which side of the table he will serve, or alternatively have the server serve five consecutive times to one corner and the next series of serves to the opposite corner.

Changes have to be made if the game is to flourish in the future; the current decline in popularity of the game proves that the existing rules on equipment and general play have not been successful.

D. J. JONES

Small Mead,  
Wood Lane,  
Sonning Common,  
Reading, Berkshire.

## DIFFICULT TO FOLLOW

As a parent on the Junior table tennis circuit, I find the attitude of the Kent Schools' TTA difficult to follow.

In Brian Mileham of Margate they unquestionably have a 'hot favourite' for the All-England Under-11 title at Mansfield in May. Apparently, however, they chose to change the date of their qualifying tournament to Saturday,

Feb. 2, the day of the ETTA's Cotswold Junior 'Select' where Brian had the opportunity to win the Under-12 title and further enhance his reputation amongst cadet opposition.

What a pity Brian's parents had to choose between the two, particularly when the Cotswold date had long been a fixture on the tournament calendar. Disappointing too that Brian may now miss the opportunity of representing England Schools in the July triangular international tournament.

It is such short-sighted bureaucracy that certainly makes parents, spending considerable amounts of money and time on the junior tournament circuit, question their participation in table tennis at both county and national levels.

Fortunately, here in Staffordshire, schools table tennis is most efficiently and sensitively organised by Dave Roberts to whom may I convey best wishes for a speedy recovery following a recent illness.

IAN KNIGHTS

10 Captains Lane,  
Barton under Needwood,  
Burton on Trent, Staffs.

## SPRINGTIME ON THE TITANIC

I have studied the Titanic News for February very carefully, from cover to cover, and can assure relatives that there is no official announcement, mention, or even the tiniest hint of any trouble ahead.

Now I don't want to worry you, but I do have to add that a lower deck officer, namely Peter Charters in a "Personal Viewpoint" does state that "there is concern about the real problems we face". Also, alas, that stowaway, John Preen, has somehow got his two-penn'orth in and says we are "IN DANGER OF DROWNING OR FREEZING TO DEATH". Really, the sooner this 'stowaway' is made a castaway the sounder we shall all sleep in our cabins. It's bad enough as it is with those ice-burges banging the sides. And they seem to be getting bigger all the time!

On to personal messages. Thank you Robbie Robinson for your "Drastic Action Needed". I respect your opinion that standardisation is the answer and in an ideal world it could be; but my own view is that the realities of life make it impractical. John Preen's article on this subject in February effectively sums up the case against. If though Robbie, you still think you have the answer, try it out on the first ten players you meet. My guess is that you will get ten different ideas of what the "standard" bat

# Postbag/What's On and Where

should be. Discounting, of course, those who will be vehement that it should not be standardised at all. For example Mr. K. Woodard, who in his letter headed "Not At My Age" says he will not even comply with the two-colour rule! Like it or not, Mr. Woodard speaks for a significant number of players.

John Hyland suggests that the proposals I support - a higher net and restricted service area - would end up a real Mary Rose. I liked that analogy; very amusing. But I do question John's contention that the serve is a great part of the game. I don't think Mr. Joe Public would go along with that. And by the way John; if you as a lower Division player can successfully screw up a First Division player with your guileful serves - what on earth is he perpetrating on you when he (or she) serves?! As to your fears that serves to the right hand court would be easily blasted back, this does not happen in doubles, John.

Finally back to Peter Charters who states that the proposals I support "have inherent weaknesses". What are the weaknesses Peter? Let us in on the secrets because this is what we need; a serious discussion of the real problems facing our sport with a reasonable consideration of the obvious, logical remedies already put forward. I doubt if asking for further, more novel, proposals is really constructive. Of course you could consider a table that is round or curved; a ball that is like an egg or a balloon and a bat that is hollow or perforated. I am sure there are lots of other similarly daft suggestions which could be made but surely the practical realistic options available are strictly limited and already known i.e. a higher net to give a fairer balance between attacker and defender plus a restricted serve area to give a better chance of safely returning the serve.

Meantime it is springtime on the Titanic. The chief Officers smile benignly from the Bridge, confident bulletins are issued, and many games are organised. Though few attend.

DICK HOPKINS  
12 Woodside Grove.  
Henbury. Bristol BS10 7RF.

May I reply to John Woodford's "CLEARING UP THE POINTS" in the February issue.

I do accept John's point about his Editor possibly re-writing his copy, but knowing how he likes to go for the sensational type of reporting I feel that he had more of a hand in things.

To correct an impression given by him, I did not personally make

the decision about the Rowdens, this was made by a committee as I have already explained in my earlier article. Both players' registrations were cancelled, they were not suspended. Neither player at that stage wished to play in the league, so why be registered?

I have since received from one of the largest clubs in the league (not my own) a letter in which they supported every action taken by the executive committee, and am willing to show this to John.

I too remember Gordon Steggall as a member of our league some years ago and whilst recognising his achievement in gaining a high position in our sport would ask what is it to do with him or any other person who is not a member of our league. The decision was taken in accordance with league rules and the committee is answerable only to our members.

Our Executive Committee is not in disarray, indeed this matter was the only item to bring the members together this season.

DEREK WILKINSON  
36 Desmond Road.  
Eastbourne. East Sussex.  
BN227LE.

## DURHAM COUNTY 2-STAR

Due to lack of sponsorship the Durham County 2-Star Open, scheduled for Sunday, March 31/85 has had to be cancelled.

### GEOFF HARROWER TROPHY

The Committee of the International Table Tennis Club of England have decided to award the Geoff Harrower Trophy for 1984/85 to Elsie Carrington, bearing in mind the amount of work she has done in connection with the Coaching Committee of the ETTA. The International Club Committee felt that Elsie was an appropriate winner particularly as she has now retired from the ETTA function that she had devoted so much time and energy to. Also the award this year underlines the recognition of the many different facets that are a part of our game of Table Tennis.

### wHARs ON AND WHERE

- March  
8/10 ENGLISH CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS, Bletchley Leisure Centre, Princes Way, Bletchley, Milton Keynes, Bucks.  
9 EUROPEAN LEAGUE-DIVISION 2 - SCOTLAND v WALES (Glasgow)  
10 Lancashire 2-Star Junior Open. Oldham Sports Centre (from 9 a.m.)  
16/17 Beneficial Trust Derby Junior Select. Derby Sports Centre. Moor Lane. Derby.  
17 East of England 2-Star (Grantham)  
17/23 8th COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS, Palace Lido. Douglas. Isle of Man.  
23 ESTTA National Team Finals (Lea Green Sports Centre. Matlock. Derbyshire.  
24 Hoechst Yorkshire 2-Star Open. North Bridge Leisure Centre. Halifax.  
24 Cheshire Junior 1-Star (Birkenhead).  
28 38th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (Gothenburg)
- April  
5 Northern Region Open Veterans Championships. Macclesfield Leisure Centre. Priory Lane. Macclesfield. Cheshire.  
6 County Championships (7) and Junior Premier Weekend (6/7) at St. Neots.  
7 Edinburgh Youth and Junior 2-Star (Meadowbank)  
13 South Yorkshire 2-Star (Rotherham) C.D. 23.3.85. Forms from S. Wainwright. 129 Mount View Ad. Sheffield. S8 8PJ. Phone: 0742-585260.  
13/14 Beneficial Trust Essex Junior Salact, Harlow Sportcentre. Hammerskjold Ad.. Harlow. Essex. CD 16.3.85 Forms from 8. R. Granger. 14 Galsworthy Ave.. Chadwell Heath. Essex. RM6 4QA.  
14 Bedford 1-Star Open. CD 23.3.85 Forms from K. Beddall. 3 Springfield Ave.. Kempston. Bedford. Phone: 0234-851022.  
20 Dunlop Lancashire 2-Star Open. British Aerospace Dynamics, Lostock. Bolton. CD 6.4.85. Forms from G. A. Yates. 43 Knowsley Ad. Bolton. BL1 6JH. Phone 0204-42223.  
20/21 Grieson. Grant Tunbridge Wells Junior Open 2-Star. Sandown Court School. Blackhurst Lane. Tunbridge Wells. Kent. CD: 19.3.85 Forms from J. Butler. 108 Stephens Ad.. Tunbridge Wells. Kent. TN4 9QA. Phone: 089222288.  
21 Halex National League (121  
27 Evening Chronicle Northumberland 2-Star Open. Concordia Leisure Centre. Cramlington. Northumberland. Forms from A. Drapkin. 49 Beach Ave.. Whitley Bay. Tyne & Wear. NE26 1DZ. Phone: 0912-514983.  
27/28 Beneficial Trust Yorkshire Junior Salact.. North Bridge Leisure Centre. Halifax. CD 20.3.85. Forms from R. Balmford. 30 Glebe Ad.. Wawne. Hull. HU7 5XA. Phone: 0482-821279.

### 'EVENING CHRONICLE' NORTHUMBERLAND 2-STAR OPEN TOURNAMENT

PRIZE FUND OF £1.365

This tournament will once again be held at Concordia Leisure Centre, Cramlington, Northumberland. The date is Saturday, April 27th, 1985 and the top prize of £300 will go to the winner of the Men's Singles. The Women's singles carries a first prize of £100.

Events to be held are men's singles and doubles, women's singles and doubles, Class 2 singles and veterans' singles. Entry forms are available from Mr. Aubrey Drapkin, 49 Beach Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne and Wear. (phone: 091-251 4983). The closing date for entries is Tuesday, April 9th, 1985.

### 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.

