



TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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**1066
AND ALL THAT**

Publicity of the wrong kind hit the headlines last month when, in the Sunday Express of October 8, "PING-PONG DING-DONG" ran the banner heading followed by "Fists and chairs fly as tears flow at the village hall".

The fracas occurred at the National League match involving TSB Dolphins and Spicer New Malden in a Division 2 South encounter at Hurstpierpoint which might better have been staged at Battle, nr. Hastings. in a re-enactment of 1066 and all that. But the affair did not enhance the image of table tennis or, indeed, the Halex National League.

Such consequential matters we can well do without unless this be a ploy to entice spectators with gladiatorial combats being the draw rather than the play. This, however, is extremely doubtful, despite the ever dwindling numbers attending such matches.

Even the Quadrangular international matches at Llandudno in late September suffered this fate with spectators being conspicuous by their absence. Indeed players and officials far outnumbered the paying public.

Happily this was not the case at the Spectrum Leisure Complex at Willington, Crook, Co. Durham, on the occasion of the England versus Hungary European League match when an appreciative crowd of some 500 people were enraptured by the play and the cry went up for more.

**ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS
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**ON THE INTERNATIONAL
FRONT**

By THE EDITOR

**JUST TWO TEAMS
UNBEATEN**

Only two teams in the Super Division of the European League can claim unbeaten records after two matches with Sweden in pole position and Czechoslovakia in second place on the grid.

England's exploits in beating Poland (5-2) and losing to Hungary (3-4) are written up elsewhere, by Mike Watts and Fiona Brown. but what of Sweden's 4-3 victory over Hungary in Edsbyn on Sept 19?

Ulf Bengtsson, the reigning European champion, opened the match against Zsolt Kriston and squeezed home 19 in the third, a win that was nullified in the next set when Tibor Klampar edged home even closer beating Janave Waldner 20 in the third.

Yet another three games followed when Zsuzsanna Olah put the Hungarians in front by beating Marie Lindblad only for the Swedes to level when Waldner and Erik Lindh saw off Klampar and Kriston. Two subsequent victories, by Lindh/Lindblad in the mixed, and by Bengtsson over Klampar, gave Sweden a decisive lead, Kriston winning the final set to inflict a double defeat on Waldner. Scores:-

u. Bengtsson bt Z. Kristan 21. -20, 19;
J.D. Waldner lost to T. Klampar 17. -15, -20;
M. Lindblad lost to Z.Olah 15. -16, -13;
E. Lindh/Waldner bt Klampar/Kriston 18, 20;
Undh/Lindblad bt J. Molnar/Olah 13. -14, 18;
Bengtsson bt Klampar 15, 12;
Waldner lost to Kristan 8. -20, -17.

Subsequently Sweden, away to the Netherlands in Gorsel on Oct 17, saw off the promotees 6-1, the one to escape them being the final set when Henk van Spanje beat Lindh. Scores:-

R. van Spanje lost to Lindh -11, -20;
H. van Spanje lost to J. Persson -18, -15;
J. Jansma lost to Lindblad -19, -19;
H. v Spanje/A. Vlieg lost to Lindh/Persson -15, -19;
Vlieg/Jansma lost to Lindh/Lindblad -22, -15;
R. v Spanje lost to Persson -9, -7;
H. v Spanje bt Lindh 22. -1, -22.

Czechoslovakia, the defending champions, began with a tight 4-3 success in Pribram where Yugoslavia, the visitors, took the first two sets when Stefan Kovacs beat Jindrich Pansky and Bela Mesaros beat Vladislav Broda.

But back came the Czechs to win the next three sets, both doubles, and a women's singles when Marie Hrachova accounted for Branka Batinic. But not yet was the match over as Mesaros beat Pansky in the penultimate set to level the match score but Broda was more than equal to the task of beating Kovac to give the home side victory. Scores:-

J. Pansky lost to S. Kovac -18, -18;
V. Broda lost to B. Mesaros -10, -12;
M. Hrachova bt B. Batinic 17, 14;
J. Javurek/Pansky bt Kovac/Z. Primorac 14. -15, 19;
Pansky/Hrachova bt Kovac/Batinic -19, 14, 11;
Pansky lost to Mesaros 20. -19, -19;
Broda bt Kovac 12, 10.

Next at home to Federal Germany in Ruzomberok on Oct 10, the self same Czech team again found the going hard with the scoreline no different than in their first match 4-3 in their favour..

George Böhm beat both Pansky and Broda with Böhm again successful in the mixed when partnered by Susanne Wenzel against Pansky and Hrachova. Scores:-

Pansky lost to G. Böhm 19. -20, -16;
Broda bt E. Hüging 23, 16;
Hrachova bt S. Wenzel 15, 15;
Javurek/Pansky bt Böhm/J. Rebel 16, 12;
Pansky/Hrachov8 lost to Böhm/Wenzel-18, -20;
Pansky bt Hüging 16, 7;
Broda lost to Böhm -17, 19, -20.

Prior to, away to the Netherlands in Heerlen on Sept 19, Federal Germany had triumphed 6-1 their only loss, predictably, being the women's singles in which Bettine Vriesekoop beat Wenzel. Scores:-

H. v Spanje lost to Böhm -14, -15;
R. Potton lost to Hüging -11, -17;
B. Vriesekoop bt Wenzel 12, 13;
H. v Spanje/R. v Spanje lost to Bohm/W. lieck 18. -18, -19;
Potton/Vriesekoop lost to lieck/Wenzel-J 8. -13;
H. v Spanje lost to Hüging -11, 20, -10;
Potton lost to Böhm -9, -12.

Poland, following their 5-2 defeat by England, next travelled to engage Yugoslavia in Prilep where they won 5-2, this having been behind 1-2 when Ilie Lupulescu beat Leszek Kucharski and Batinic beat Weronika Stelmach. Scores:-

Mesaros lost to A. Grubba -17, 15, -13;
I. lupulescu bt L. Kucharski -14, 20, 18;
Satinic bt W. Stelmach 14, 7;
Iupulescu/Primorac lost to Grubba/ Kucharski -12, -16;
Iupulescu/Batinic lost to Grubba/Stelmach 18. -18, -16;
Mesaros lost to Kucharski -18, -17;
Iupulescu lost to Grubba -8, -13.



FIRST DIVISION

France, last season's demotees from the Super Division, would appear intent on a quick return as - to date - they have polished off Austria, Norway and Spain although dropping 5 sets in the process.

They began their comeback trail against Austria in Baden bei Wien on Sept 22 winning 5-2. Francois Farout losing to Dietmar Palmi in the first set whilst Patrick Renverse and Nadine Daviaud lost the doubles.

A similar result was obtained in St Quentin on Oct 6 against Norway when both doubles were lost but against Spain in Gerona on Oct 13 it was only the men's doubles that went astray. Scores:-

v Austria
D. Palmi bt F Farout 21, 23;
P. Gockner lost to P. Renverse -14, -19;
E. Maier lost to B. Abgrall -18, -19;
E. Amplatz/Palmi lost to Farout/Renverse -7, -10;
Amplatz/Maier bt Renverse/N. Daviaud 15, 17;
Palmi lost to Renverse -11, -7;
Gockner lost to Farout -15, -20.

v Norway
P. Birocheau bt T. Johansen 13. -14, 14;
Renverse bt E. Rasmussen 15, 18;
Oviaud bt T. Folkesson 14. -12, 20;
Farout/Renverse lost to Johansen/Rasmussen -18, 16, -22;
Renverse/Daviaud lost to Johansen/Folkesson -16, -13;
Birocheau bt Rasmussen 14, 16;
Renverse bt Johansen 22, 13.

v Spain
J. Pales lost to Farout -23, -19;
R. Casares lost to B. Parietti -7, -12;
M. Sanahuja lost to M. Monteaux -5, -14;
M. Caymel/Pales bt Farout/Parietti -9, 14, 16;
Pales/A. Godes lost to Farout/Monteux -13, -15;
Pales lost to Parietti -16, -11;
Casares lost to Farout 15. -9, -17.

SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	I	F	A	Pts
Sweden	2	2	0	10	4	2
Czechoslovakia	2	2	0	8	6	2
Federal Germany	2	1	1	9	5	1
England	2	1	1	8	6	1
Hungary	2	1	1	7	7	1
Poland	2	1	1	7	7	1
Yugoslavia	2	0	2	5	9	0
Netherlands	2	0	2	2	12	0

November Fixtures

7th Hungary	v	Czechoslovakia (Salgotarjan)
Sweden	v	England (Stockholm)
Federal Germany	v	Poland
14th Yugoslavia	v	Netherlands (Cerknica)

International News

Denmark, the only other undefeated team in the division, had a tight 4-3 win at home to Finland in Frederiksvaerk on Sept 22 when, in the final set, Jan Harkamp got the Danes home with a final victory over Jarmø Jokinen. Subsequently, again at home, to Austria, in Esbjerg on Oct 11, they shed but one set when Charlotte Polk lost to Barbara Wiltsche. Their third match, away to Italy, was not due to be played until Oct 30 in Verona. Scores:-

v Finland
C. Pedersen bt J. Jokinen -16. 1 16;
J. Harkamp lost to J. Ikonen -16. -14;
C. Polk lost to S. Grefberg -14. -10;
Harkamp/Pedersen lost to Ikonen/Jokinen -22. 16. -15;
Pedersen/Polk bt Jokinen/Grefberg -6. 12, 19;
Pedersen bt Ikonen 14. 11;
Harkamp bt Jokinen 15. 15.

v Austria
Harkamp bt Amplatz 18. 18;
Pedersen bt Palmi 10, 10;
Polk lost to B. Wiltsche 14, -14, -18;
J. Hauth/Pedersen bt Amplatz/P. Eckel -12, 12, 14;
Pedersen/Polk bt Palmi/Wiltsche 17. 13;
Harkamp bt Palmi 19, 19;
Pedersen bt Amplatz 13, 14.

But the surprise result was that obtained by Belgium who, in La Louviere on Sept. 19, beat Italy 4-3 which must have shaken the very foundations of Rome as the Italians were very much in the running for promotion last season up until their final meeting with the Netherlands.

Remo de Prophetis was the Belgian hero beating both Massimo Costantini and Giovanni Bisi in singles combat and sharing a mixed doubles success with Karien Bogaerts. Belgium's other win came in the women's singles with Barbara Lippens beating Marina Cergol.

Next away to Luxembourg in Bertrange on Oct 6, Belgium won 5-2 with European cadet champion Jean-Michel Saive taking over the starring role from de Prophetis in beating both Yves Maas and Andre Hartmann in singles as well as partnering Bogaerts to a mixed success. Didier Leroy supplied the other, win in the final set against Hartmann.

The bubble was, however, burst in Huy on Oct 17 when at home to Norway the visitors won 4-3 although young Saive won his two singles, against Tom Johansen and Eric Rasmussen.

Leroy also had a win against Johansen. Scores:-

v Italy
R. de Prophetis bt M. Costantini 20, 16;
D. Leroy lost to G. Bisi -15. -8;
B. Lippens bt M. Cergol 14, 16;
de Prophetis/Leroy lost to Costantini/So Pero -20. -10;
Bogaerts bt Costantini/Cergol 13, 13;
de Prophetis bt Bisi 14, 19;
Leroy lost to Costantini -20.

v Luxembourg
Y. Maas lost to Leroy -16. 1 -10;
A. Hartmann lost to J.-M. Saive -15. -11;
C. Risch bt Lippens -16. 15, 19;
Hartmann/Maas bt M. Lambert/Saive 10, 15;
Maas/Risch lost to Saive/Bogaerts 14. -19. -18;
Maas lost to Saive -16. -16;
Hartmann lost to Leroy -15. 14. -13.

v Norway
Saive bt Johansen -16. 16. 12;

Leroy lost to Rasmussen 22, -19. -1 6;
Lippens lost to Folkeson -15. -18;
D. Christophe/Saive lost to Johansen/Rasmussen -18, -16;
Saive/Bogaerts lost to Johansen/Folkeson -8. -12;
Saive bt Rasmussen 18. -15, 18;
Leroy bt Johansen -15, 15, 13.

Other results:-

Norway 5 Luxembourg 2
Rasmussen bt Maas 15, 15;
Johansen bt Hartmann -22, 23, 13;
Folkeson bt Risch 15. -15, 13;
Rasmussen/Rasmussen lost to Hartmann/Maas -10. -13;
E. Rasmussen/Folkeson bt Maas/Risch 18. 20;
Rasmussen lost to Hartman -17. -13;
Johansen bt Maas 14. 20.

Spain 1 Finland 6
Casares lost to Ikonen -10, -18;
Pales lost to Jokinen -6, 18, -12;
Godes lost to Grefberg -12. -11;
Caymel/Pales lost to Ikonen/Jokinen -14. -19;
Pales/Godes lost to Jokinen/Grefberg -13. -6;
Casares lost to Jokinen -15. -19;
Pales bt Ikonen 7. 18.

Finland 5 Austria 2
Jokinen bt Palmi -17, 12, 10;
S. Soderberg bt Amplatz -15. 14, 18;
Grefberg lost to Wiltsche -19. -22;
Ikonen/Jokinen bt Amplatz/Eckel 17. 15;
Jokinen/Grefberg bt Palmi/Wiltsche 12, 20;
Jokinen lost to Amplatz -18, -20;
Soderberg bt Palmi 15, 19.

	DIVISION 1					
	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
France	3	3	0	16	5	3
Finland	3	2	1	14	7	2
Denmark	2	2	0	10	4	2
Belgium	3	2	1	12	9	2
Norway	3	2	1	11	10	2
Italy	1	0	1	3	4	0
Luxembourg	2	0	2	4	10	0
Spain	2	0	2	2	12	0
Austria	3	0	3	5	16	0

November Fixtures

10th	Belgium	v	Spain
	Denmark	v	Luxembourg (Olstykke)
	Italy	v	Finland (Isernia)
	Norway	v	Austria
	Free date:		France
28th,	Luxembourg	v	Finland

SECOND DIVISION

The composition of Division 2 has been further decimated by the withdrawal of Portugal, in addition to Ireland, leaving but five countries to contest the championship namely:- Bulgaria, Greece, Scotland, Switzerland and Wales. Just two matches have been played thus far, the Wales versus Greece match, scheduled for Sept having been put back to Feb 9/85.

Scotland made the long trip to Athens to take on Greece on Oct 13 and were beaten 5-2 with Carole Dalrymple beating Starn Loyca, immediately forrowed by Richard Yule and David McIlroy winning the men's doubles. But that was all. In the only other match played on the same date in Geneva, Bulgaria beat Switzerland 6-1, the home set being won by Thomas Busin in the very last set. Scores:-

Greece 5 Scotland 2
D. Zikos bt D. McIlroy 15, 13;
K. Pritis bt R. Yule 16, 11;
S. Loyca lost to C. Dalrymple -18. -12;
Pritis/Zikos lost to McIlroy/Yule 10. -18. -18;
Zikos/Loyca bt Yule/Dalrymple -18. 17, 10;
Zikos bt Yule 10, 16;
Pritis bt McIlroy 17. 16.

Switzerland 1 Bulgaria 6
T. Miller lost to S. Stefanov -17. 26, -17;
T. Busin lost to M. Lukov -16, 12. -1 6;
B. Hirzel lost to D. Guergelcheva -13. -19;
Busin/Miller lost to Lukov/Stefanov -8. -17;
S. Renold/Hirzel lost to Lukov/Guergelcheva -17. -16;
Miller lost to Lukov -12, 17. -17;
Busin bt Stefanov -19, 27, 20.

November Fixture Wales v Switzerland

EURO-ASIA TOURNAMENT

Final arrangements are now in hand for the Euro-Asia Tournament to be played in Hong Kong over the period Jan 4/7, 1985. Twelve men and nine women, together with four coaches, have been selected to make the trip and they are:-

Men	Women
Ulf Bengtsson (SWE)	Valentina Popova (URS)
Andrzej Grubba (POL)	Marie Hrachova (TCH)
Jan-ave Waldner (SWE)	F. Iura Bulatova (URS)
Mikael Appelgren (SWE)	Gabriella Szabo (HUN)
Jacques Secretin (FRA)	Bettine Vriesekoop (Hal)
Erik Lindh (SWE)	Zsuzsa Olah (HUN)
Dragutin Surbek (YUG)	Branka Batinic (YUG)
Zoran Kalinic (YUG)	Narine Antonian (URS)
Jindrich Pansky (TCH)	Marie Lindblad (SWE)
Desmond Douglas (ENG)	Patrick Birocheau (FRA)
Tibor Klampar (HUN)	
Reserves	Reserves
Andrei Mazunov (URS)	Edit Urban (HUN)
Zsolt Kriston (HUN)	Kirsten (FRG)
Leszek Kucharski (POL)	Gordana Perkucin (YUG)

It will be from the foregoing lists in conjunction with the Cadets that the invitees to the Euro Junior Top 12 will be selected. The tournament will take place over the weekend of Jan 5/6, 1985 in Serravalle (San Marino) and will be jointly organised by the Italian and Sammarinese Federations.

CADET RANKINGS

BOYS

1. Calin Greanga (ROM)
2. Dmitriy Mazunov (URS)
3. Matthew Syed (ENG)
4. Dmitriy Gusev (URS)
5. Koroly Nemeth (HUN)
6. Romulus Revisz (ROM)
7. Samuel Vardanian (URS)
8. Vladimir Mihocko (TCH)

GIRLS

1. Otilia Badescu (ROM)
2. Eis Billen (BEL)
3. Pavia Rampova (TCH)
4. Jasna Fazlic (YUG)

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

It is announced that the 28th European Youth Championships will take place over the period July 13/20, 1985 in the Netherlands, probably in Den Haag.

EUROPE TOP 12

The Senior Europe Top 12 Tournament, 1985 will take place in Barcelona, Spain, at the Palacio Municipal de Deportes of the Catalan capital on Feb 1/3, 1985. Would be spectators should make contact with VIAJES ESTEL, Enrique Granados, 44, Barcelona 8. Phone: (93) 323 37 52 (From 9 a.m. to 8 p.m.) Telex: 9861 4 ESTL E.

Journalists should make contact with:- Luis FurnellsAbaunz, Sant Jervasi Cassoles, 102, Esc.A, Barcelona 22. Phone: (93) 247 49 39 (From 8 p.m. to 11 p.m.).

EUROPE CLUB CUP OF CHAMPIONS

Hassy Perfection, Soham were beaten 5-4 by the Bronderslev IF club of Denmark' in Round 1 of the men's competition. In the women's competition Omega Reading are at home to BTK 61 Roskilde, also of Denmark. The 2nd round draw reads:-

Men

- De Blaauwe Werelt - De Veluwe (Hal) v TTC Simex Julich (FRG)
- TTC Klotten (SUI) v ASZ Gdansk (POL)
- TTC Raiffeisen Langenlois (AUI) v Royal Villetre Charleroi (BEL)
- Club de 7 A 9 Barcelona (ESP) v Kremlin-Bicetre (FRA)
- Vasutas Budapest (HUN) v DT Echtermach (LUX)
- STK "Vojvodina" Novi Sad (YUG) v Stockholms Sparvzgars (SWE)
- Polisportiva Vita (ITA) v Borussia Dusseldorf (FRG)
- Vitkovica (TCH) v Bronderslev IF (DEN)

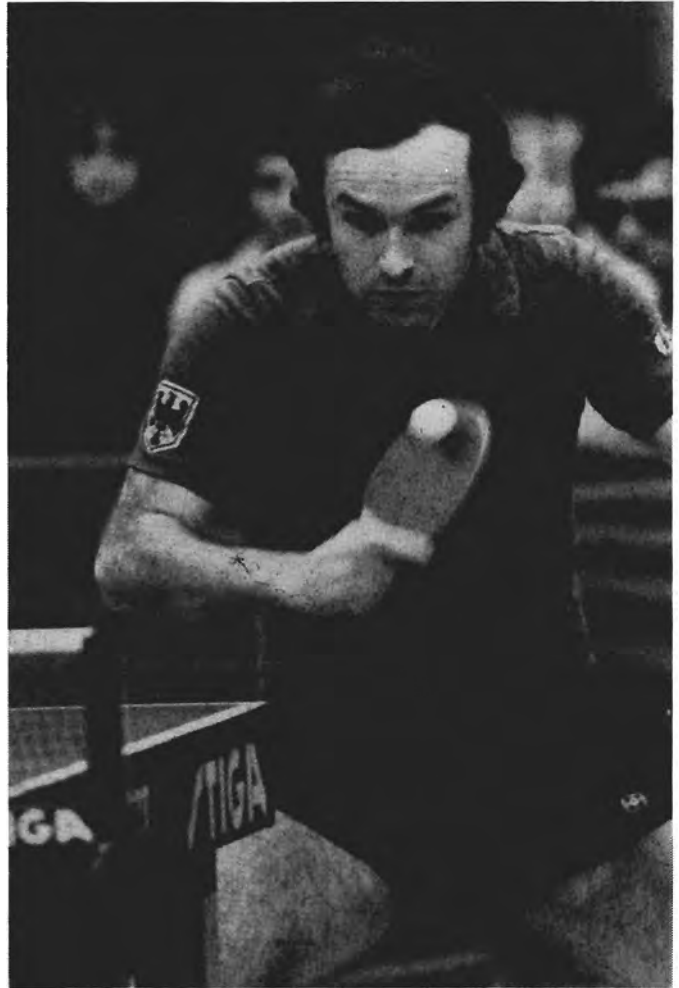
Women

- Statistzika Budapest (HUN) v ITC Uster (SUI)
- Torenstad TTV Zutphen (Hal) v Grupp Dramatico Ramiro Jose (PaR)
- Omega, Reading (ENG) v BTK 61 Roskilde (DEN)
- CS Kras Sgonico (ITA) v STK Mladost. Zagreb (YUG)
- Vitkovica (TCH) v Kieler rTK Grun-Weiss (FRG)
- CIT Corenna (BEL) v Club de 7 A 9 (ESP)
- ATUS Judentburg-Sparkasse (AUT) v VarbergBTK (SWE)
- A.L. Bruz (FRA) v Tolnai Voros Lobogo (HUN).

The ties were due to be played by Oct 27/84.



Vladislav Broda of Czechoslovakia who had a singles success in the matches against Yugoslavia and Federal Germany.
Photo by Tony Marshall. Southfleet.



Wilfried Lieck who, for Federal Germany, figured in two doubles successes against the Netherlands in Heerlen.
Photo by Don Morley. Morden. Surrey.



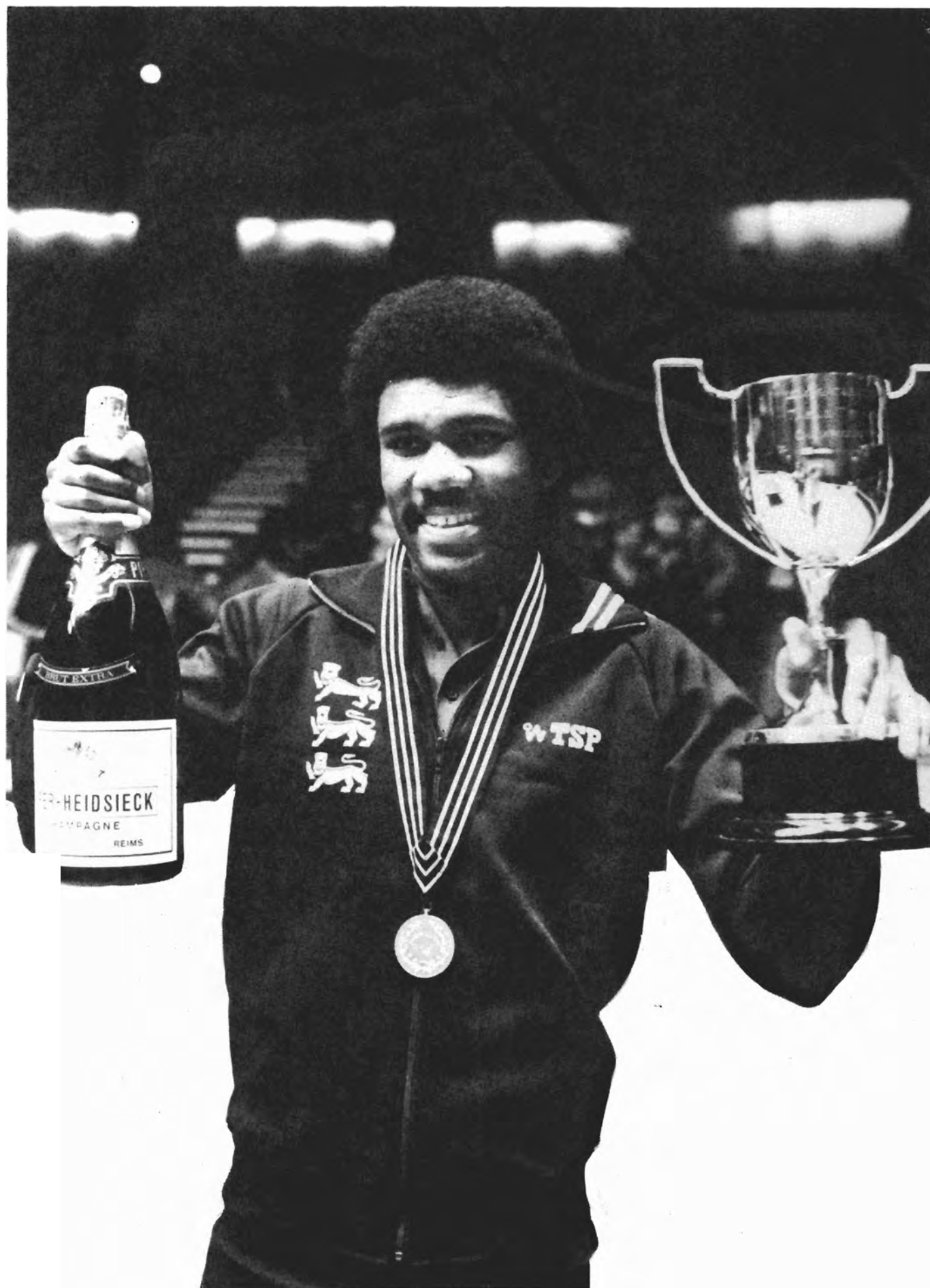
Engelbert Hugging, back in the Federal German team, and conqueror of former English international Bob Potton as well as Henk van Spanje of the Netherlands in Heerlen.
Photo by **RZEPKA**, Delmenhorst. Federal Germany.



Sweden's Erik Lindh who figured in two doubles successes against Hungary in Edsbyn. Photo by Ian Ball. Hampstead. London NW3

FRONT COVER

Alison Gordon of Berkshire, women's singles winner in the Lewisham, Wiltshire and Sussex 2-Star Opens and a European League victory over Poland's Jolanta Szatko under her belt.



England's Desmond Douglas who has a unique hat-trick of victories in the Charles Church Championship.

Photo by Don Morley, Morden, Surrey.



CHARLES CHURCH Championship

CHARLES CHURCH ANNOUNCES £1 00,000 SPORTS SPONSORSHIP

Charles Church, the Surrey-based housebuilder, is giving £100,000 to English table tennis over the next four years, which will secure the continuation of the sport's major English events and make Charles Church the biggest sponsor of the sport in the country.

The new sponsorship has been co-ordinated by the English Table Tennis Association.

Charles Church will sponsor the English Open Championship for the first time in January 1986 when some 200 of the World's best players, representing 16-20 countries, will gather in Brighton for the four-day event.

The company will also continue to sponsor the main invitation event, the Charles Church International Invitation Championship, which it supported for the first time in November 1983.

The budget for the event has been doubled, with eight top-ranking international players invited to compete for the title and prize money of over £5,000.

BBC 2 televised the first Charles Church Championship and BBC's Grandstand is planning live coverage of the second which will be at the Wembley Conference Centre on Saturday, January 12th, 1985.

Announcing his company's financial support, Charles Church managing director, John Duggan, said: "Quarter of a million people play table tennis at some level in England; English players rank with the world's best and the sport deserves support and encouragement."

"In 1988 table tennis will become an Olympic event for the first time and we would be delighted if our added support could help British players win places at Seoul."

The company first became involved in table tennis by supporting local events in the south east of England, its main area of activity.

Charles Church is one of the largest private housebuilders in the country. It was established by the chairman, Charles Church and his wife Susanna in 1966 who now head a team of five enthusiastic young directors.

It is well-known for building and designing to very high stan-

dards and is holder of the top prize for the South East region in the National House Building Council's quality competition.

THE CHARLES CHURCH INTERNATIONAL INVITATION CHAMPIONSHIP 1985

The second Charles Church International Invitation table tennis championship will take place at the Wembley Conference Centre on Saturday, January 12th, 1985.

Following increased financial support from Charles Church, eight top ranking international players have been invited to compete, compared with six in previous years, and the prize money has been increased.

Players from England, Czechoslovakia, France, Poland, Sweden and Yugoslavia have provisionally accepted invitations to take part and acceptances are awaited for the last two places from Japan, Korea or China.

Current title holder and European No.10 Desmond Douglas may have to defend his title against stiff challenges from European No.1 Ulf Bengtsson of Sweden; European No.2 Andrzej Grubba of Poland; European No.5 Jacques Secretin of France; Yugoslavia's Ioran Kalinic (No.8) and Czechoslovakia's Jindrich Pansky (No.9). The Asian players are still to be named.

As well as the Charles Church trophy, the winner will receive £3,000. Total prize money is in excess of £5,000.

Matches will be played between two groups of four players with semi-finals and a final. Play is scheduled to start at 10am with the first semi-finals at 2.30pm and the final at 3.30pm.

Tickets are available from December 1st from the English Table Tennis Association which has organised the event. Prices are £4.50 and £3.50. The ETTA is at 21 Claremont, Hastings. Tickets will also be available from the Box Office at Wembley Arena.

BBC Grandstand is planning live coverage of the championship.

PLAYERS IN THE 1985 CHARLES CHURCH INTERNATIONAL INVITATION TABLE TENNIS-EVENT (Provisional)

(In alphabetical order:)

1. Ulf Bengtsson, Sweden
Ulf Bengtsson is ranked European No.1 and World No.9. He

won the European Championships in Moscow earlier this year as the fifth ranked Swedish player and astounded critics by capturing the European Men's Singles title. A left-handed attacking player, Ulf competed at Wembley in November 1982.

2. Desmond Douglas, England
In 1983 Desmond Douglas was briefly displaced from the No. 1 spot in the Lentec computer rankings by the rising young star Carl Prean. However, in the mould of a true champion he came back in 1984 to regain top spot.

In a very successful season which saw him become National Champion for a record seventh time, he also completed a unique hat-trick of wins against formidable European opposition in the Charles Church Championship.

Desmond lives in Birmingham but commutes to play in the professional German League where he is renowned for his speed of reflexes and his blocking style of play. Currently ranked No.10 in Europe and No. 18 in the world.

3. Andrzej Grubba, Poland
Andrzej Grubba has made rapid progress since 1979 when he first became a European ranked player and is now ranked No. 2 in Europe and No. 7 in the World.

World Student Champion in 1980, he captured the European Mixed Doubles title in 1981 partnered by Bettine Vriesekoop from the Netherlands.

However, 1983/4 must rank as his most successful season. His performance in the European Top 12 final saw him finish in second place and gave him an immediate jump to No.4 in the European Ranking, his highest ever position.

In the Moscow European Championship his consistency, added to that of his compatriots Leszek Kucharski and Stefan Dryżel, saw Poland capture the silver medal. Andrzej followed this with a magnificent run in the Men's Singles, he reached the final but faltered at 21-19 in the fifth to Ulf Bengtsson of Sweden. He is also 1984 winner of the Federal German Championships. A popular visitor to these shores Andrezej has been invited to the last four invitation events at the Wembley Conference Centre.

4. Zoran Kalinic, Yugoslavia
Ioran Kalinic is European No.8 and World No. 15. Often overshadowed by his compatriot Dragutin Surbek in the past, Ioran has been quietly building his reputation.

Ioran partnered Surbek for a

marvellous Men's Doubles victory in the 1982 World Championships.

He was European Youth Boys' Singles Champion in 1976 and since then has also partnered Surbek to success in the 1982 European Championship Men's Doubles and retained the title in 1984 in Moscow.

His unorthodox grip often confuses his opponents, being somewhere between penholder and normal 'shake hands' grip.

5. Jindrich Pansky, Czechoslovakia

Currently ranked No.9 in Europe and No. 21 in the World, Czechoslovakian Jindrich Pansky has had a mixed season.

Following his recent performance in the Top 12 held in his own country when he finished as runner-up with 8 wins out of 11, he immediately jumped to No.5 in the European Ranking.

Indifferent form from then on reduced his ranking by four places. However, his two wins against Sweden in the European Group match ensured at least a bronze medal. He beat Jan Ove Waldner and Erik Lindh, a quarter finalist at the Swiss Open and winner of the Scandinavian Team Event. Further victories over Swedish players Mikael Appelgren and Ulf Carlsson summarised his best performance in 1983/84.

6. Jacques Secretin, France
At 35, France's popular Jacques Secretin shows no sign of easing up although he no longer represents France in the European League.

In 1982, galvanised by his drop to No. 13 he increased his training and promptly tilted the crown of European Champion Mikael Appelgren in the final of the Norwich Union Welsh Open in Cardiff in January 1983.

In February 1983 he finished fifth in the European Top 12 in Cleveland.

Secretin had made his point and as illustration of his popularity and good sportsmanship was awarded the Swaythling Cup Fair Play Award in Tokyo. More recently he won the Joola Trophy for the most effective player in the 1984 European Team Event in Moscow where his consistency played a major part in the French Team success in beating Poland in the final.

In 1976 Secretin won the European Championships and 1977 he won the World's Mixed Doubles with Claude Bergeret. In 1980 he won the European's Men's Doubles title with Patrick

Charles Church International

Birocheau and in the recent Europeans won the Mixed Doubles title with Valentina Popova (USSR) and reached the semi-final of the Men's Doubles with Patrick Birocheau. He is currently ranked No. 5 in Europe and No. 12 in the World.

CHARLES CHURCH. YOU'RE A BRICK

Local builder Charles Church has given the Aldershot Table Tennis League an immense boost for next season.

Young players from the League are to benefit from a coaching and development

scheme made possible by a sponsorship of £2,000.

League officials are particularly delighted that the Charles Church company has not forgotten local talent now that they sponsor a major invitation televised event at Wembley, won last year by Desmond Douglas.

Frimley junior Andrew Davies, who recently transferred from Hampshire to Surrey with his eye on Junior Premier County play, and Hampshire county juniors Paul Hudlass (Fleet) and Bryan Mansell (Cove) will spearhead a very promising squad.

Hampshire cadet champions, Robert Maries (Frimley) and Peter Burgess-Allen (Sandhurst)

are others who are making great progress.

BUILDING

Aldershot League coaching officer Derek Seager says: "We think the Charles Church company are supporting us because they recognise the talent we have can be developed into something worthwhile. You could say they are building on a firm foundation."

Nicky Jarvis, the former England NO. 1 and now an international team captain, will also travel south from Teeside to

coach the league's squad for three days at the end of this month.

More than 20 youngsters will be expected to benefit from the sponsorship, including the Aldershot League's Under-12 squad who recently won the Tilehurst Inter-League's event against Newbury, Reading, Maidenhead and Swindon.

Graham Connelly (Frimley), Edward Connell and Bryant Gonsalves, both Camberley, featured in the Inter-League success while Martin Nash (Bagshot), another promising prospect, would surely have done had he not fallen ill the day before the event.

GOLD IN ROTTERDAM

Following their dismal showing in the European Championships in Moscow earlier this year, when England's men lost their Category One status in the team events, Desmond Douglas and Carl Prean brought about a revival in Rotterdam over the period Oct 19/21 when they struck gold in winning the men's doubles event in the Dutch Open.

In the final they accounted for Zhou Ping and Zhu Xiaoyong of the People's Republic

of China (23-21, 21-19) after dismissing Tibor Klampar and Zolt Kriston of Hungary (21-4 (ll), 21-13) in the semis.

In an all-Polish men's singles final Leszek Kucharski beat his higher ranked compatriot Andrzej Grubba (18, -16, 15; 19) whilst the host country's Bettine Vriesekoop beat Marie Hrachova of Czechoslovakia (14, 17, -18, 15) in the final of the women's singles watched on the Sunday afternoon by 2,500 spectators in the Ahoy

Stadium.

Hungary's Gabriella Szabo and Edit Urban beat Chen Shuping and Ni Xialian of China (14, -12, 13) in the women's doubles final whilst, in the mixed final, victory went to Sweden's Erik Lindh and Marie Lindblad who beat Grubba and Vriesekoop (23, -19, 16).

England's women, Alison Gordon, Joy Grundy and Lisa Bellinger, took bronze medals in the women's team event beating Poland (3-0) and

Austria (3-2) before falling in the semis to the Soviet Union (0-3) and another bronze was secured by Prean in the men's consolation event won by Andrei Mazunov of the USSR.

The eventual winners of the team events were China's women and Poland's men with respective wins over the Soviet Union (3-1) and Hungary (3-2). A full report with detailed scores will appear in the December issue. Ed.)

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,

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-where sport & technology meet.



ETTA Chairman Tom Blunn (left) and John Duggan, Managing Director of Charles Church Developments Ltd., sign the sponsorship agreement.

Photo by John Stone, Charterhouse Square, London EC1.

Speech by Tom Blunn, Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association

ETTA WEICOMES NEW SPONSOR

At a time when even the more exotic sports are finding it increasingly difficult to secure sponsorships, it is extremely pleasing to announce the generous support that this Association is to receive from Charles Church Developments Limited.

This sponsorship, valued in excess of £100,000 over the next three years, must surely bring our sport to the attention of a wider audience.

News of the company's

support for the 1986 and 1988 English Open Championships is welcomed with immense enthusiasm by this Association.

We at the ETTA are well aware that progress, in terms of increasing the public's interest in our sport, is closely allied to the media exposure which we can attract. To this end we are delighted that this new sponsorship ensures that the English Open Championship will again be held in a prestigious venue with a strong international entry, continuing the important precedent set in 1984 at the Brighton Conference Centre.

The overall sponsorship also takes in the second year of the Charles Church Invitation event in January 1985 which takes place at the Wembley Conference Centre. The company's decision to double the annual input into this event, to £16,000 has enabled us to increase the prize money substantially and to invite eight players instead of the customary six, whilst holding tickets at last year's prices. All of this is news which will be welcomed by players and spectators alike.

This is the type of support which is eventually ridding us of

the "dining room table" image and through which our champions are at long last beginning to gain the recognition which they so richly deserve.

On behalf of all concerned with table tennis, I would like to say thank you to Charles Church Developments Limited for their support and to express the hope that this will prove to be a long and mutually beneficial association.

Tom Blunn,
Chairman of the English
Table Tennis Association.

11th Quadrangular

11th QUADRANGULAR, LLANDUDNO

SAME AGAIN FOR ENGLAND
by George Yates

In sunny Llandudno over the weekend of Sept 28/29, at the Aberconwy Conference Centre, England maintained their supremacy over the other home countries to chalk up their eleventh success in accounting for Ireland (5-0), Scotland (6:2) and, finally, Wales (5-0).

From England's original selections Kenny Jackson and Karen Witt withdrew the latter with a recurrence of her troubled back, their replacements being Skylet Andrew and Joanne Shaw. Ireland also had a replacement in Mervyn Kelly in the place of Thomas Heasley.

But, sadly, Wales missing Alan Griffiths and Mark Thomas, and Scotland, missing David Hannah, together with Ireland without Colum Slevin - all now engaged in the Federal German Bundesliga - strengths were much diminished and lamented.

Not surprisingly England had matters very much their own way except in their meeting with Scotland when a 3-0 lead was narrowed to 3-2 when Joanne Shaw was surprisingly beaten by Anglo Janet Smith to be followed by David McIlroy and Richard Yule getting the better of Andrew and Nicky Mason.

Much then rested on the shoulders of Fiona Elliot making her senior international debut in this series when she was called upon to face the much more experienced Carole Dalrymple. But one need not have worried for the Wolverhampton girl was more than equal to the task in alleviating fears of an equating scoreline by beating Scotland's No. 1 girl in straight games.

This, of course, took the pressure off Andrew, next to face Yule the pride of Aberdeen. Here again the Essex man showed no respect for his elder and it was left to David Wells, the most impressive of the English men, to finish off the proceedings with a more than convincing win over McIlroy.

Much more was expected of Nigel Tyler, the Welsh winner of the Irish Open in June, but on this occasion his wins were limited to victories over Scotland's Anwar Majid and Jimmy Robinson and Kelly from across the Irish Sea. Messrs. Yule, Mason and Wells were his conquerors.

Ireland's sole success was achieved by Robinson with a win over Nigel Thomas who, as a result, was dropped from singles play in favour of Andrew Jones against England in the final engagements on the Saturday evening.

To complement the fine weather, and the sponsorship of Mike England Trophies of Wrexham, a smiling Eddie Thomas, Chairman of the Table Tennis Association of Wales, presided over affairs in his usual affable way. He led the speeches at the concluding reception to be followed by n.p.c.s Patrick O'Brien, Donald Parker, Eric Sutherland and Brian Everson with ETIA Chairman, Tom Blunn (from the pulpit) extolling the virtues of H. Roy and Nanke - in other words Roy and Nancy Evans the former having departed for an engagement in Federal Germany but the latter enjoying, as did all, the conviviality of the occasion.

Caroline Leonard, making her international debut for Ireland, was duly presented with her 'cap', signed by all and sundry, the only blemish of the weekend being the absence of spectators ... but is not this, unfortunately, the trend!

Results:-
ENGLAND 5 IRELAND 0
S. Andrew bt J. Robinson 14, 12;
F. Elliot/J. Shaw bt C. Leonard/J. Reid 8, 16;
N. Mason bt M. Kelly 12, 13;
Shaw bt Leonard 18, 13;
Mason/D. Wells bt Kelly/Robinson 14, 18;
Elliot bt Reid 16, 12;
Andrew bt Robinson 19, -19, 2;
Mason bt Kelly 10, 14.
WALES 3 SCOTLAND 5
N. Tyler bt A. Majid 15, 16;
L. Tyler/S. Williams lost to C. Dalrymple/J. Smith -15, -17;
N. Thomas lost to A. Yule -17, -12;
E. Wright lost to Smith 17, -12, -16;
Thomas/Tyler bt Majid/Yule -19, 17, 17;
Tyler lost to Dalrymple 20, -1a, -11;
Tyler lost to Yule -16, -18;
Thomas bt Majid 12, 21.
WALES 7 IRELAND 1
Tyler bt Kelly 8, 10;
Tyler/Williams bt Leonard/Reid 13, -22, 9;
Thomas lost to Robinson 7, -13, -21;
Tyler bt Leonard 15, -1, 8;
Thomas/Tyler bt Kelly/Robinson 13, 12;
Wright bt Reid 18, -25, 17;
Tyler bt Robinson 12, 16;
Thomas bt Kelly 13, 12.
ENGLAND 6 SCOTLAND 2
Andrew bt D. McIlroy 14, -19, 16;
Elliot/Shaw bt Dalrymple/Smith 15, 14;
Wells bt Yule 12, 17;
Shaw lost to Smith -13, -14;
Andrew/Mason lost to McIlroy/Yule 15, -20, -15;
Elliot bt Dalrymple 19, 17;
Andrew bt Yule 15, 12;
Wells bt McIlroy 17, 7.
ENGLAND 5 WALES 0
Wells bt A. Jones 16, 11;
Elliot/Shaw bt Tyler/Williams 16, 25;
Mason bt Tyler 23, 18;
Shaw bt Williams 6, 19;
Andrew/Mason bt Thomas/Tyler 17, 12;
Elliot bt Tyler -18, 13, 16;
Wells bt Tyler 12, 10;
Mason bt Jones 17, -19, 16.
SCOTLAND 5 IRELAND 0
McIlroy bt Kelly 15, 21;
Dalrymple/Smith bt Leonard/Reid 12, 16;
Majid bt Robinson 7, 9;
Dalrymple bt Reid 12, 11, 11;
Majid/McIlroy bt Kelly/Robinson -14, 7, 15;
Smith bt Leonard 14, 16;
McIlroy bt Robinson 15, 22;
Majid bt Kelly 11, 13.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pt.
ENGLAND	3	3	0	22	2	6
Scotland	3	2	1	15	9	4
Wales	3	1	2	10	14	2
Ireland	3	0	3	1	23	0



Eddie Thomas, Chairman of the TTA Wales, presents the trophy to Donald Parker, NPC of the winning English team.

Photo: B. D. George



Mrs Nancy Roy Evans presents Caroline Leonard (Ireland) with her first senior cap!

Photo: B. D. George



The Mayor of Aberconwy - Mr Gordon Williams and his wife, with Eddie Thomas, Nancy and Roy Evans, Tom Blunn and Harry Baxter.

Photo: B. D. George



The English team at the Mayoral Reception at Llandudno.

Photo: B. D. George

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

ALL CREDIT TO RICHARD

by **Brown**

I would be surprised if many of you out there have heard the result of our latest European League match, played at Crook, County Durham. The only pressman who braved the journey north was the Guardian's Richard Eaton, and all credit to him as he was due in Portsmouth the following morning!

Well, who won I hear you say, they did unfortunately. The Hungarians that is, 4-3. It might seem that I am being rather frivolous considering that we didn't win nor did we hit the sporting headlines but if you had been there I am sure you would agree that there are times when winning is not absolutely everything.

Sure, it would have been cause for celebration if we had picked up the point but a 3-4 result, which included wins by Desmond against Klampar and Kriston and the second mixed win in consecutive matches for Desmond and Alison, was in fact a much closer outcome than the visitors could have anticipated.

In the opening rubber Graham Sandley met Zsolt Kriston, the European No. 13, and playing his first Euro singles of the season he was obviously keen to prove his worth and impress Trainer/Coach Donald Parker. Graham a shaky start and a string of unforced errors, due mainly to nerves, gave Kriston an early lead at 11-4. Whenever Graham looked like pulling back Kriston simply moved up a gear and took the first and without breaking into a sweat.

Whatever Don said during the break was effective for it was a much more relaxed and confident Sandley who returned to the table, to pick up two quick points from the Kriston serve, then won his own five. Kriston recognising the danger opened up, having depended up to that point upon containing the Sandley loop he moved into his own attacking style with ease to establish a four point lead at 16-12.

The new-found confidence which Parker has instilled in the entire England squad then began to show through as Graham fought back gamely taking four points from his opponent's serve. When he served at 18-17 almost the entire crowd of 450 were on the edge of their seats, two nets in Kriston's favour looked as if they would bring him victory in straight games and when he levelled at "deuce" Sandley's temperament was put to the test but with the crowd firmly behind

him he saved two set points before taking the game at 22.

The third lived up to expectations with a fair share of controversy. A disputed net on the opening point unnerved the Englishman and with Kriston leading 6-5 the umpire issued a long-expected warning to the Hungarian delegation who had been exercising their vocal chords throughout. Kriston looked decidedly uncomfortable when Sandley swung the play from side to side but he brought the game back under control with a selection of superb short blocks which denied Graham the chance to fully utilise his destructive loop.

When a match point was saved at 19-20 the crowd bolstered their man with tremendous applause but a repeat of the previous game's success was denied as the Hungarian with two flashing attacks clinched the set 22-20.

Graham left the table, devastated in the face of defeat not only for himself but for the team, only too well aware that this result could be the one on which the match hinged.

Next to the table was Desmond who faced Tibor Klampar. Currently ranked fifth in his home country Klampar has recently enjoyed a return to the form which made him three times European champion. Although the meeting lacked the spectacle of the opening rubber it was a very workman-like performance by Desmond who comfortably contained the Klampar loop in the first game, accumulating points from Klampar's mistakes, only occasionally revealing his own blistering attack. Five points from a service early in the game gave Desmond an 8-2 lead, and effectively ended any aspirations the Hungarian may have held as the England No. 1 moved to a comfortable 21-12 win.

Having proven that he was, on the night, unlikely to out-hit Douglas, Klampar approached game two with a more controlled and varied style. Making use of wide angle shots to both wings interspersed with very short balls he moved into a 10-5 lead and despite flashes of brilliance from Desmond, such as a screaming backhand down the line at 15-8 Klampar took the game at 17 with relative ease. Had Klampar continued in this vein he might well have won the decider but inexplicably he returned to the all-out attacking approach which he had adopted in the

opening game. Douglas obliged thrilling the crowd with display of masterly blocking to level the match score at 1-1.

Alison Gordon, confident following a fine win against the Polish star Jolanta Szatko at Mansfield was brought back to earth by Zsuzsa Olah who demonstrated why she is ranked at No. 6 in Europe and No. 15 in the World. Olah was never under any severe pressure playing close to the table her fast counter-hitting style and early receipt of the ball ideally equipped her to deal with Gordon's fierce topspin loop, with a variety of highly deceptive services she streaked ahead. At 7-17 Alison's problems were highlighted when in her efforts to serve long and in so doing unbalanced her opponent she faulted the point.

Her next set of services were considerably better as she clawed back from 10-20 to 15-20. By the time she won the first point of the Hungarian's service the crowd were once again biting their nails but Olah soon dashed their hopes of witnessing a dramatic recovery and sealed the first game at 21-16.

In game 2 Alison began confidently taking a 6-4 lead but Zsuzsa replied with five points from five services, in fact the Olah service was very much the key to success throughout as she moved swiftly to a 21-13 victory and a match score of 2-1.

Parker kept faith with the doubles partnership of Douglas and Carl Pream who had triumphed in their previous outing but the combined experience of Klampar and Kriston lead them safely to victory as the English duo struggled to find position. Consequently neither Carl or Des were able to settle, the scoreline was flattering to say the least and the crowd had little to cheer as the gap widened to 3-1.

Douglas was spared little time to consider the flaws of this partnership returning almost immediately to partner Alison in the mixed. They faced Kriston and Gabriella Szabo, cruising comfortably through the first game. The disadvantage of order affected progress in the second and Alison repeatedly finding herself exposed to the Kriston loop for which she had no consistent answer.

Clearly a substantial lead was required early in the third end, Gordon served well to Szabo then Douglas attacked the serve to consolidate and the English pair led 10-3 at the change. As

expected the Hungarians were by no means beaten and clawed their way back to 12-15, but with Douglas' serve still to come they were fighting to keep heads above water. Kriston saved one match point before conceding to the inevitable at 16-21.

For the second time during the evening Sandley approached the table, knowing that a win would almost certainly seal the match for his country, the crowd who by now had realised that Des was more than capable of winning the final rubber were behind Graham throughout but alas the Klampar superiority was never seriously challenged. The exciting atmosphere which had pervaded the arena when the scores were level at 10-10 in the first game dissolved as Klampar drifted almost effortlessly to a 19-11 lead then took the game with the loss of only two further points.

Graham excelled to match the Hungarian to 15-all in the second end but could not contain him beyond this, for the second time he left the table bitterly disappointed having proven to himself that he could get to within striking distance of his opponent and then fail to capitalise on his efforts.

The match beyond redemption Desmond's two-game drubbing of Kriston which could so easily have been the vital decider became a mere showpiece, nevertheless it was enjoyed by the crowd who showed their appreciation at having been entertained to a feast of top class table tennis. In these days where aggression and controversy are all too prevalent in top level sport, this contest which left the victors delighted by their success and the vanquished disappointed but with realistic optimism for the immediate future should be recognised as a success.

If our National team are to progress as we would like them to then support is what they need. The next home match is against Czechoslovakia at the Corn Exchange, Ipswich on 12th December. I hope to see you there.

Scores:-

G. Sandley lost to Z. Kriston -8, 22, -20, ;
D. Douglas bt T. Klampar 12, -17, 13;
A. Gordon lost to Z. Olah -16, -13;
Douglas/Pream lost to Klampar/Kriston -12, -16;
Douglas/Gordon bt Kriston/Szabo 18, -18, 18;
Sandley lost to Klampar -13, -18;
Douglas bt Kriston 15, 14.

International News



ENGLAND IN COMMAND
By Mike Watts

At Mansfield Leisure Centre on Wednesday, 19th September, 1984, England began their European League programme with a match against Poland.

In Moscow at the European Championships, the Polish team had pulled off an amazing feat finishing with the Silver Medal after earlier defeating hot favourites Sweden, and Andrzej Grubba had only just failed to capture the individual crown losing 19 in the fifth to Sweden's Ulf Bengtsson. Whilst all this was going on, England's Men were having a torrid time finishing twelfth and suffering relegation to Category Two for the first time. So this was the background to the opening encounter although it must be said that in four previous meetings in European League matches, England had remained unbeaten.

At this stage our sincere thanks must be recorded to the Mansfield and District League who, at very short notice (six weeks) took on the monumental task of organising the match. Aided and abetted by the Manager of the Leisure Centre, Bill Turner, a near disaster when the previous sponsors had pulled out in late July, was quickly turned into a successful promotion thanks to the generosity of the Nottinghamshire County Council and the Mansfield District Council. The only disappointment being the crowd of 350 but when Mansfield Town have a home league match and Nottingham Forest a home European Cup tie on the same night problems were expected.

Donald Parker, the new National Trainer/Coach faced a number of dilemmas in this his first match. Should he play Carl Preen at No.2 Singles knowing that Carl has a good record in the past against Poland, or should he continue to play Graham Sandley who picked up one singles in each of his last four European matches in 1983/84? Would Alison Gordon be a better proposition than Lisa Bellinger against the awkward anti-spin of Jolanto Szatko? Should he split the successful pairing of Douglas and Sandley in the Men's Doubles? All difficult decisions.

However Don made his selections early, the players responded magnificently and England triumphed.

The opening singles saw Preen in opposition to the European No. 2 Grubba. Those who thought this would be a walkover for Grubba were soon put in their place as Carl matching Grubba shot for shot fought hard throughout. After dropping the first game, he came back strong to clinch the second and began to play some brilliant table tennis to lead 6-1 in the third. At this point Grubba showed character and tremendous composure refusing to panic and gradually fought his way level and to finally go on to win 15 in the third. Full marks to Carl for his efforts.

Douglas then opposed Kucharski who, whilst occasionally producing some outstanding results, is also inclined to lose heart very quickly. The first game saw Kucharski at his best with Desmond finding difficulty in controlling Kucharski's service.

However a couple of lucky nets in the second half of the game were sufficient to see Des through at 18 in the first and, with his confidence now sky-high, the other side of Kucharski's character showed through as Des raced to a 21-7 result.

Alison Gordon next opposed Jolanto Szatko. Taking her time and working hard for every point she quickly moved into a 7-3 lead in the first. At this time she seemed to panic and the advantage she had worked so hard to achieve vanished and she was soon 8-12 down. Back to the hard graft she pulled back slowly to 15-all and on to 20-all before dropping the first game 23-21. Back came Alison in the second to lead 8-2 and although once again there were some anxious moments as Szatko fought back to close at 19-16, Alison took the game at 16. In the third Alison again took the initiative to lead throughout but at 17-13 up with Szatko serving she went back to pushing the serve allowing her opponent to hit hard with the anti-spin and suddenly the lead was cut to 18-17. However, Alison quickly took stock of the situation, served well following up with her attack and the game was won at 17 putting England ahead 2-1.

Now came the decision which to my mind changed the whole course of the match. Don paired Des with Carl, a comparatively inexperienced pair, against Grubba and Kucharski one of the best Men's Doubles pairings in Europe. But what a partnership! The Poles were literally "poleaxed" by the English pair who hardly made a mistake winning 21-12, 21-15

in under fifteen minutes and utterly demoralise the Polish Team.

In the Mixed Des and Alison opposed Grubba and Szatko and quickly saw them off 11 in the first. However with Grubba now serving to Alison the tables were turned. The Poles lead 10-5 but the English pair clawed their way back to 15-15 where, at this point, Grubba serving, the Poles raced away to 19-16 and 20-17. Back came the English pair to 20-all but the final two points went against them. The order right again in the first half of the third, the English pair quickly established an 8-0 lead and the change took place at 10-4. Holding onto their advantage the score advanced to 16-9, 17-13 and 19-16 but then the Poles really tightened the screw. Back they came to 19-18 and despite Des putting away an easy kill for 20-18, two more Grubba thunderbolts brought the scores level at 20-all. Everyone waited with baited breath. This game was vital. Desmond and Alison did not let England down and to tremendous applause clinched the final two points to give England a winning 4-1 lead.

This left England in a happy position of playing two "dead" rubbers although personal pride and ranking was at stake and Don was obviously conscious of last season's final table which

saw England finish joint third but sixth on games average.

Carl then played Kucharski in the penultimate singles going down 18 and 17 despite leading in the early part of the second game. This result avenged an early win by Carl over Kucharski in the Norwich Union Masters in Hong Kong during the summer.

The final set of the evening saw Des in opposition to Grubba. The first went to Des 14 and the second to Grubba at 8. The third was a delight for the connoisseur. Some of the rallies were breathtaking as Des dominated the early part of the third leading 10-7 at the change then 12-8. Back came Grubba to level at 14-all and to advance to 17-14. Back came Des to 17-all and then it was level pegging to 20-all and at this point Des got an edge. It was just the tonic he needed. The next point went to Des giving him the game but full marks to Grubba who accepted defeat in the true sporting manner we have come to expect from this great player.

Scores:-

C. Preen lost to A. Grubba -17, 18, -15;
D. Douglas bt L. Kucharski 18, 7;
A. Gordon bt J. Szatko -21, 16, 11;
Douglas/Preen bt Grubbs/Kucharski 12, 15;
Douglas/Gordon bt Grubba/Szatko 11, -20, 20;
Preen lost to Kucharski -18, -17;
Douglas bt Grubbs 14, -8, 20.

Photos by Gordon Howlett, 2 Southgreen Rd., Mansfield.



WORLD GRAND PRIX OF TABLE TENNIS

The International Table Tennis Federation is pleased to announce that, in co-operation with the International Management Group, it will present a World Grand Prix for men and women which, in its first year, will run from October 1984 to March 1985.

The Grand Prix will be comprised of existing events in Asia, Africa, America and Europe.

The culmination of the Grand Prix will be a Finals Tournament, carrying prize money of US \$45,000, to be held in May/June 1985 at a venue to be announced.

The 1984/85 World Grand Prix Circuit will consist of the following events:

Date	Event	Classification
1984		
Oct 19/21	Netherlands Open	2
Oct	South American Championships	4
Oct' 20/28	7th Asian Championships	2
Nov 1/4	Italian Open	1
Nov 15/18	Yugoslav Open	1
Nov 30/Dec 2	French Open	1
1985		
Jan 17/19	Welsh Open	1
Feb 14/17	Czechoslovak Open	1
Feb 15/25	7th African Championships	3
Mar 1/3	Romanian Open	1
Mar 17/23	8th Commonwealth Championships	3

	Points Allocation			
	Category 1	Category 2	Category 3	Category 4
Winner	1000	500	350	250
Runner-up	800	400	250	200
Losing S/Finalist	600	300	200	150
Losing O/Finalist	400	200	130	100
Last 16	300	150	100	75
Last 32	200	100	65	50
Last 64	100	50	35	25

The Finals will be for sixteen men and twelve women and will be held at the end of May/early June 1985.

The twelve men and nine women leading the points classification table, after all Grand Prix events have been played, will have direct entry into the Final. The remaining players will be "wild card" entries.

Entries to the Grand Prix Final are subject to the restriction of not more than three players from

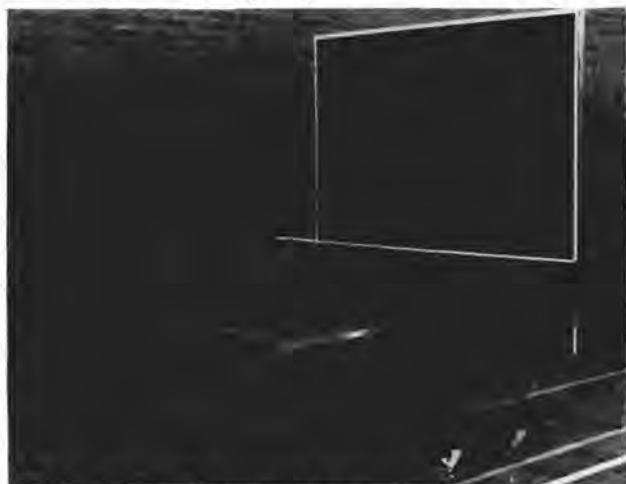
one country in each event. Total Prize Money will be:

Men US \$30,000

Women US \$15,000

Note: Some Open Championships are "Major" by tradition, and newer ones which are not limited by geographical location or date clashes have been given the same classification. Thus, the Netherlands Open has been given Category 2 classification as it clashes with the Asian Championships.

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E.T.T.A. Chairman TOM BLUNN asks WHICH WAY?

I am not a person who craves for the good old days gone by, but I do believe in taking advantage of past experience. We are all apt to remember the good things of the past and dismiss from our minds the bad ones. We remember the exciting matches but forget the miserable expedite ones.

I do not want to consider particular methods of play at this stage but rather the circumstances that provided the successes and also the failures.

A change in policy has taken place this year for the meetings of the National Council. I felt we took far too long discussing detail whilst not giving sufficient consideration to the game itself. So this season I have introduced a discussion session at the conclusion of the normal business under which particular aspects of the organisation of the game are discussed in detail following an introduction paper by the vice-chairmen concerned. This has so far produced some very

useful and searching discussions and has certainly created much interest with the councillors.

The topic at the October meeting was on the subject of competitions and ranged over the past, present and future. My thoughts went back to the years just after the war when the only source of competition was the open tournament. These tournaments spread very quickly over the country and a large group of good players soon emerged. The cost of travel was very low; very few players had cars and the general movement was by coach. It was not unusual to see ten or a dozen coaches parked outside the local drill hall sports halls were still only a good idea!

It became obvious that mass participation improved the competitive player and even the "rabbits" considered a win in the first round as an achievement. The spirit of co-operation as well as competition increased over the years and the basis of the future England teams was formed.

Better facilities became available and a better standard of organisation was demanded and achieved. The ETTA formed a tournaments committee and standardised the regulations. I can remember the first player in the tournament I ran each year

turning out in a full track suit and correct playing clothing - the image of the game was about to change.

I was prompted to think of the past by a suggestion for the future. This was that we should be now looking for the larger sports halls and putting on tournaments using twenty or even thirty tables. This is the pattern now in some countries. The idea is not just to open the door to more competitors but to organise more events to make participation worthwhile and get better value for the cost of travel, which is now mainly by private, though comparatively expensive, transport.

The additional events would include an extension of the graded singles on the lines of the very popular Grade 2 singles now organised by many tournaments and also more group competitions. It is our job to provide as much competition as possible but also to maintain and improve the standard. These super tournaments could be the answer.

We must not, however, neglect the team competitions and good progress has been made in recent years in this direction. The National League is now well established and regional club leagues are now permitted where there is a

demand. The County Championships weekends are more successful each year and are setting a very high standard of presentation - a factor which must not be neglected if the image of the game is to be maintained and eventually improved.

I was very impressed with the ideas which arose from the discussions and also in the way current and future problems were stated and faced up to. Without doubt the greatest problem is the congestion of the playing calendar - not a new problem - but one that will have to be resolved. The 'season' now spreads over into the summer months and both the ITTF and the ETTU have announced plans for additional competitions which will be of great interest to the top players. Something will have to give. Maybe we try to organise far too much and should let local and probably regional competitions cope with their own problems. There will be further discussions on this topic and I fully expect some good, sensible and positive results.

I am not asking for a debate, but just letting members know that the ETTA (which of course is the members) is not just concerned with rules and regulations.

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IS EUROPE NEARER TO CHINA? .

Another look at the European Championships by John Prean.

I was not in Moscow. Neither was Gibbon present at the Decline and Fall of the Roman Empire. I draw on the experiences of friends and correspondents all over the world, particularly long conversations, often deep into the night, during the recent European Youth Championships.

Changes MEAN 'NO CHANGE'

The Sport is not quite what it was in Tokyo. The combination bat, a big factor in China's all-conquering superiority in Novi-Sad as well as Tokyo, has been tamed - not on the tables where such things should happen, but in the voting lobbies of the I.T.T.F. Different colours on the two sides of the blade have disadvantaged the twiddlers hugely. China and England were the main sufferers, but the former's immense resources of men and skill, the flair of their analysts and coaches will quickly render this an only temporary setback. Perhaps China will not win all 7 titles in Goteborg, but she will win more than anyone else. England's ordeal began in Moscow as our Men were relegated, ending in 12th place. Those above us included Italy, Bulgaria and Norway. It was an abject and humiliating defeat not just for the players, but for English Table Tennis.

Better news from the Ladies?

It has been said, on the other hand, that there is no need to look for reforms in our system as our Ladies were a great success, so providing some vindication. Hats and bonnets should not be thrown too high. In Tokyo our girls were the 3rd best of the European nations, in Moscow the 6th best. Alison Gordon and Joy Grundy had good tournaments, but Lisa Bellinger, a great success in Tokyo, was a victim of the new rule as was Carl Prean among the Men. Flowing, attacking Table Tennis?

Alan Ransome has written that the Championships heralded a return to open attacking Table Tennis and that the Game was beginning to flow again. If all that were written about English Soccer or Test Cricket I would join in the celebrations. Table Tennis has been moving in the opposite direction for so long that the defender of the sponge era always looked the pauper at

the feast. Among 50 or so Category 1 Players only 3 were defenders or 6%, which I regard as a miserable percentage. They were the German Hucing, the Russian Solopov and the Yugoslav Mesaros.

Like victims in ail Agatha Christie play . . .

For England John Hilton did not make the trip, though in Tokyo he had still been formidable. Duggie Johnson, mysteriously omitted from every match in Tokyo, had gone into semi-retirement, Kreis, semi-finalist in Duisburg, failed to gain Hungarian selection. Martin was not in the French side. Plum had a poor German season. In short, through no fault of their own, defenders had vanished - like victims in an Agatha Christie play.

We are all All-Rounders now, or are we?

Most of the above may be described as all-rounders who can attack and loop when the opportunity comes and the gallant three defenders who DID survive yet again in this attack-age, winning about half their matches, managed this as much because of their hitting as retrieving skills. Not only Defence, but playing AGAINST defence is becoming a lost art. It is possible to become a world class player (viz Josef Dvoracek) and yet blissfully lack any idea of how to play against chop and float.

No defender has won a major title since the end of the hard bat era. Attackers have been on top for 30 years. Whatever the problems of the Sport, this was not one of them.

The All-Rounder as a vanishing species . . .

The all-rounder too seems destined to disappear. Perhaps Hans Alser was the last one. Perhaps it was John Hilton who displayed, when you think about it, such astonishing versatility. After all, he chopped, floated, blocked and looped, sometimes in the same rally, with two vastly different rubbers. All other European Champions and World Champions sought to get the point over with as quickly as possible one way or another using a lightning forehand and little else. Rallies occurred only by accident or unusual reflexes. Yet rallies are precisely what spectators want to see. What future has a Sport which so obstinately frames its rules to give its cash customers the opposite of what they want?

A worthy champion . . .

Certainly Ulf Bengtsson was a worthy champion of this age, looking for an early hit as is the fashion, hitting very hard and with a good appreciation of the percentages. His encounter with

Andrzej Grubba was not a classic Final according to my sources and the Pole, a graceful and fluent player on both wings, rushed things in the modern manner forsaking his natural style too often. The score alone provided excitement for the partisan if not the purist, Fortunes fluctuated wildly.

"What will they do now?" remarked a cynic.

"Ban Mark V?"

Bengtsson was only the Swedish No. 5 and his victory was as big an upset as John Hilton's victory in Berne. That had led in time to the neutralizing of Hilton's bat and the cynic was referring to Man's seemingly unquenchable desire to drag down those who had tasted success. Bengtsson did make the Swedish team in the end because Appelgren was injured and Carlsson off form. The Swedes still looked good until bundled out by the Poles in the semi-finals, the sensation of the championships. Most of my contacts were agreed that Grubba was the outstanding player in Moscow. His play in the team events was compared with that of Douglas in Duisburg ('78) and Andreadis in London ('54). My description of the winner as a worthy champion is not without irony, but in the main is sincere, as I feel his style is closer to modern techniques than that of the Pole, who is, of course, the infinitely more attractive player. In short, my assessment is the opposite of Alan Ransome's. I think the Game has become progressively more brutal and ugly. The thing of beauty - the rally - is almost a thing of the past. Once again legislation hit savagely at the rally players, the defenders and all-rounders, leaving the third-ball-bashers free to continue to ruin the Sport.

Forward into the Sixties!
The big question whether any-

thing was seen to discomfort the Chinese remains. I think they will revert to basics, to their traditional methods that proved successful in the 60's. I expect their front line troops to be Jiang Jialiang, He Zhiwen and Xie Saikie, all play penholder style with short pimples backed by strong services and crisp hits. None keep the rally going one moment longer than is necessary. They are superb players who take no prisoners. Artistry and Flair do not often accompany them on their journeys. If they play each other, they can be guaranteed to empty any European stadium. They are thoroughly modern players. Only Sweden has the depth to match these players and they will depend greatly on Mikael Appelgren's return from a stubborn injury. The great Hungarian era seems to have died with the departure of Zoltan Berczik. Has enough talent remained for one last Hurrah? A greater challenge may come from Japan and South Korea whose star is in the ascendancy.

A Moratorium on new Rules please!

One wish that will not be realised is that for once we shall have no new rules, particularly on Services, the cause of most rows and quarrels in the international arena. Each new rule seems to bring new arguments and new confusions to a Game that already has too many. Once introduced the rule, no matter how poor, seems there for all time.

The new rule on different colours of rubber on the same bat will continue to haunt us. It was meant to bring Chinese standards nearer to European. I do not think these hopes will be realised, but it has brought English standards closer Norwegian and in less than a season made us a second class nation. An inquest on that disaster in the next issue.

POET'S CORNER

TABLE TENNIS

Table Tennis is our game,
Hope We're on the road to fame!
Back-hand push and forehand
drive,
Wonder if we're still alive!!
Follow-through and then the
chop,
Won't coach ever let us stop?

Practise then to do the loop,
Heavens! We forgot to stoop.
Move your feet... twist your seat,
Saints! I think we've found the
beat!
Now... to make that small ball
spin
If we can think above the din!
Somehow we'll make that final
smash,
Instead of just an angry bash!!!

Maureen Blakey



THE LENTECSYORY

by Malcolm Brown

What do you recall about 1977? Was it the year you won your first tournament, or earned your first coaching 'Star'? Did your team win the league title? Or, did you visit the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham?

Ah the World Championships at the NEC! What do you recall about 1977 now?

The World Championships meant the Chinese team who dominated most of the events and the superb play that year of Stellan Bengtsson and Istvan Jonyer.

It was hoped that the World Championships would, start a resurgence for Table Tennis in this country, but it seems as if the tide has never really reached its highest level. There have been some promising 'swells' and moments to savour on the way to today's state of affairs, such as John Hilton's successful experiments with a combination bat, and more recently Carl Preat's adaptation tousing long-pirrpiled rubber for attacking play.

But, unfottunately, the high-lights have been few and far between within the great number of English players who have experimented with a rubber sponge and blade combination in order to produce a very specific effect around which their whole game could have its foundation.

For too long in this country we have seen so much talent falling by the wayside because of bat combinations being of the wrong type for the player. Without knowing why, it is easy to criticise players for faults that are not entirely of their own making.

"But what has all this got to do with 1977?" I can hear you ask. Going back to the World Championships, Stan Lenton, a leading member of the organising committee, came to the conclusion fairly early on that the game in this country lacked the specialised equipment back-up that the Chinese had at the tournament. And, more importantly, he began to watch the play in a different perspective.

It seemed to him, as it did to many, that the Chinese in particular could produce a greater variation of spin at critical times during a game. Obviously technique and practice at set pieces were a key, but there was something more:

The Chinese did not seem to have any difficulty at all when disguising a shot, whether it was chopped or floated, blocked with spin or without. It had to be the bat's properties which allowed a player to make only the smallest of adjustments to totally alter the type of return he was playing.

The more Stan Lenton watched the Chinese players' progress through the tournament, the more he was convinced that they were gaining a significant advantage from the rubber, sponge and blade combinations they were using.

Not being one to avoid a challenge, Stan Lenton decided to do something about it. He financed and instigated an initial research project that was to take some three years to complete.

The Chinese combinations were analysed to determine what the exact differences were between them and the Japanese 'copies' that the rest of the world was playing with. 'Western Technology' could also be applied to the problem of developing a bat combination that would aid the English players. It could even come to a point where a copy of the Chinese combination could be made and tested.

During the three years that followed, test results were analysed on more than 50 different Table Tennis rubber and sponge combinations. The Chinese rubber was analysed and reproduced successfully and a new company was formed - Lenton Technical Products.

The next problem was to transform all this research into something which could aid and benefit the game as a whole. Other companies had tested bat combinations, that was true, but none had successfully solved the 'maze' of rubber and sponge types that are available to the player.

The solution seemed to be a Table Tennis equipment manual. If each combination could be broken down into types so that a player could tell at a glance which properties he should be looking for, depending upon which style of game he played, then everyone would benefit. If that manual also contained information that could be used by the coaching system in this country, then there is no limit to the kind of changes it would cause!

The 'LENTEC TABLE TENNIS MANUAL' will be published shortly and, to coincide with the publication, LENTEC are developing a new range of rubber and sponge combinations. These are

based on more recent research into rubber types used in Table Tennis equipment and the sponge backing properties which are, of course, as equally important. The combinations being introduced by LENTEC will cater for every aspect of the modern game. A lot has happened since 1977!

As you may well know, LENTEC already have rubbers on the market. These early rubbers are reproductions of the original Chinese combinations used at the NEC. But, as expected, 'Western' players were not used to the same effect from combinations as the Chinese, and these rubbers and sponges have been somewhat of a dark horse for many players. The best results with these combinations were seen from young players who had not established their technique fully before they tried LENTEC combinations. The differences in progress were very significant, even though the sponge was of a totally different type than anything they had used before.

In the coming months, we will be looking at just how the Chinese and Japanese combinations differ and why the Japanese 'copies' are less effective. You can look forward to extracts from the 'LENTEC TABLE TENNIS MANUAL' too, with examples of how the manual can specifically help coaches.

Unlike China and Japan, we do not have so many world champions becoming coaches that they seem like off-the-shelf commodities, but we know for sure that we still have some of the 'Finest in the world. It seems as if the major sore point in England coaching is in the area of advice on the equipment a player should use.

The 'LENTEC MANUAL' does not claim that everyone will interpret the information in the same way. If that were possible, what an unimaginative state of affairs it would be! But, any experienced person using the manual in the way it is intended to be used will not give completely contradictory advice.

Think of the satisfaction you would have knowing that when your best cadet asked you which rubber and sponge he should use next, you could tell him without hesitation. You would also know any other coach he should ask would tell him almost exactly the same thing.

If there is any doubt that LENTEC are on the right track with the rubber/sponge com-

binations so far produced, one only has to look at the excellent performance of Carl Preat at the highest level. Carl uses LENTEC long pimped rubber and, in a future article, we will examine how this affects his game.

When John Hilton experimented with his now famous bat combination before the European Championships win, he tried several permutations of sponge supplied by LENTEC. When he finally came upon the 'winning combination', he had proved that the LENTEC idea of a combination giving specific effects for a certain style of play, had worked for him. To my mind, his superb command of this combination totally dismissed any critics who said "the bat won the tournament".

With all 'ideal' situations there are always pitfalls and one can only hope that the most common pitfalls, those of preconceived and prejudiced ideas, will not come to light now. There can be no place for these in the abundant future of Table Tennis.

LENTEC aim to provide a sound platform for all who wish to take on the challenge British and International Table Tennis presents and it hopes that Stan Lenton's ideal, of this country's players being equally armed as the Chinese, will be realised in the very near future. In the meantime, LENTEC are certainly going to prove that they are not just a computer rankings consultancy!

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COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS ROUND-UP

By Murray Corbin



PHONE! KEEP PHONING!
Hello everyone! I hope that you are well and fit enough to withstand the rigours and demands of the season.

Let me at once congratulate those of you who were responsible for phoning through the match results to Hastings after the first batch of matches were played in September. We received thirty-six out of the forty-four results. Thanks very much, but you now have to keep this up.

RANKING LISTS

I understand from our County Championships Administrator-Leslie Smith, that a few Counties did not comply with regulation 21.1. which states that at least ten days before playing its first match, each County shall register all players by supplying the Administrator **with** separate list, in order of merit, of Men, Women, Boys, Girls, Veteran Men and Women, etc. etc. etc. I will wait to see what action will be taken against the offenders at our next Committee meeting. I should also explain that after the initial lists have gone in, any later changes may only become effective from the first of the month, after the month in which the required changes were submitted. Please remember this.

HANDBOOKS: NEW COVER

This season, the cover of the handbook has been redesigned with the help of the PUBLIC RELATIONS COMMITTEE, who must be applauded for the work they had to put in. We also changed printers and unfortunately experienced teething problems before the press could keep rolling; proofing took up most of the time and caused the late delivery of the books, which I hope are by now in possession of the regular players of each team. Each County should have been supplied with twelve books per team. It is important that every player is totally conversant with the rules and regulations of the Championships. You now have my permission, if this is what you were waiting on, to badger your Captain for one, if it is not easily forthcoming.

CHRISTIAN NAMES. PLEASE!

TEAM CAPTAINS/UMPIRES/REFEREES are requested to use Christian Name of each player at least once on the Match Score Sheets before a match is played. Should this be overlooked, a piece of paper carrying this information may be attached to the score sheet. Please make every effort not to write on the back of the score sheet as this makes the important information of the

front of the sheet, illegible. I will not review a match that **does** not meet this polite request. I was appalled to find that our Handbook does not carry the Christian name of at least one Team Captain. I was under the impression that an effort to put this right was discussed at a Meeting and the Counties were going to be asked to furnish Christian Names with their Ranking Lists. Well, I could be wrong.

CONGRATULATIONS

To (1) IAN WHITESIDE, the new Vice-Chairman for Administration, who did a splendid job as Chairman of The County Championships Committee, (2) AUBREY DRAPKIN, his successor on The CCC, (3) FIONA BROWN, the new development Officer, and (4) to ALAN HYDES and the DUNLOP COMPANY for producing their PREMIER DUNLOP TOURNAMENT and TOURNAMENT DUNLOP Balls. It must have been very tough for Alan to have to take all of the mud that was slung at Dunlop amidst the Barna Ball flare-ups last season, and not being in a position to tell what was going on behind scenes during the production of these two new balls. Well done! Alan. Regarding Ian Whiteside and Fiona Brown, it will be interesting to see what changes they can achieve this season. I wish them much luck.

MATCH RESULTS

SENIORS 2A: Suffolk 3 Warwickshire 7. Yorkshire 2nd 8 Cheshire 2. Staffordshire 2nd 2 Leicestershire 8. Buckinghamshire 5 Lancashire 2nd 5.

STUART PALMER got Suffolk off to a good start by dishing out a pair of eighteens to Phil Gunn of Warwickshire. Unfortunately, Suffolk could not build on this impact and when LESTER BERTIE and BARRY JOHNSON went through Mick Palmer and John Kitchener in quick succession, the writing was on the wall. Warwickshire then picked up the Men's and Women's Doubles to take the score to 4-1 in their favour. Stuart and John returned to the table to take care of Lester and Phil in the singles, to bring Suffolk's successes to three, whose Julie Dowsett and Sue Welham found lively KAREN GROVES and the industrious SANDRA PEAKMAN to be holding all the aces. This was a fine performance by the Midlanders. The Referee was JOYCE LOVE, whom I have not seen for a long time. Hello Joyce.

STAFFORDSHIRE'S Jill Harris, Tricia Brookes, Greg Hallam,

Stan Deakin and Mark Evans took a hiding from KAREN SMITH, JULIE REVILL, CHRIS ROGERS, the energetic DAVE GANNON and MARTIN PICKLES of LEICESTERSHIRE, when the Teams met at Norton, under the watchful eyes of Referee A. G. BURGESS. Staffordshire's victories came from HALLAM over Gannon and JILL HARRIS: S pair of thirties to Karen Smith. Well done Leicestershire.

SENIORS 2B:

Dorset 5 Sussex 5. Kent 7 Devon 3. Gloucestershire 4 Essex 2nd 6.

KENT recorded a great victory over DEVON at Kings Park, South East London. Devon made a terrific start when the tall skilful GARY LAMBERT beat the ailing John Burleton in the third to put Devon one up. Then in came showman ANDREW DODD, who lost the first at 9 to Paul Whiting. However, through superior backhand and forehand skills, he took the other two games at 20 and 16 to level the match score 1-1. Devon slid from here and they were only able to add to their initial success, when WHITING thrashed Burleton, and the petite CAROLE BUTLER just managed to overcome the still improving Juliet Houghton, in the third. KENTS other victories came from DAVID DODD over Gary Wilson; both doubles; TINA STEWART, who was subbing for the also ailing JANET SMITH, had a tremendous win over the offensive play of Amanda Hegarty; DAVID DODD against Lambert and ANDREW DODD finishing off the match well against Gary Wilson, to give KENT their 7-3 victory. Bravo to Cliff Carder in his first match as the Kent Captain. The Referee was the amiable ALAN OPENSHAW.

SENIORS 3A: ~~Lincolnshire~~ 6 Durham 4. LEICESTERSHIRE 2ND have withdrawn. Please note. Nottinghamshire 7 Northamptonshire 2nd 3. Clwyd 5 Northumberland 5.

~~heads of IO THY DUNG. LOUISE FORSTER. ALAN OOOKE. STEPHEN VALLOP and young BRADLEY BILLINGTON OF DERBYSHIRE, on their own home ground at Weston Hyde Recreation Club, where Referee ROGER VARDON witnessed the "whit. was". Lyn Harrison, Karen Tonge, Tony Worthington, Steve Green and Keith Deaville did their best, but obviously this was not good enough on the day. I am confident that they will bounce back.~~

Honours were eventually shared when NORTHUMBERLAND travelled down to Castell Alun Social Club, North Wales, to play CLWYD. The home team was SUE ROBERTS, KAREN BUCKLE, TREVOR MANNING, TERRY TURNER and JOHN HOOK, while KAREN & DENISE WILKINSON, PETER McQUEEN, EDDIE SMITH and THOMAS BLACKMAN, made up the visitors. The Referee was M. Buckle.

SENIORS 3B: Avon 9 Dorset 2nd 1. Gloucestershire 8 Wiltshire 2nd 2. Somerset 2nd 5 Isle of Wight 5.

At the end of the ninth set, SOMERSET were leading 1.0.W. 5-4 and hoping to gain both points when John Crabtree came out to face wily JIM DALY to make it 6-4. Instead, John found Jim a tough nut to crack and he lost -16, -13. The match was well staged by Referee JIM SADLER at Westlands Sports & Social Club, Yeovil. This draw is a very good result for a young Somerset side including three Juniors and TONY MURRELL making his debut. MELONIE CAREY versus Regina Stevens of the 1.0.W. was voted the best set of the match, which Melanie won in the third at 18. Four other sets also finished in the third and we can assume that this was the result of skilful and competitive play. Along with John, Tony and Melanie for Somerset, there were also SARAH WEBB and PHILIP PAYNE, and for the ISLE OF WIGHT, there were JACKIE URRY, CARL PREAN and MIKE TURNER, in addition to Regina and Jim.

GLAMORGAN'S CATHRYN JONES, JAYNE SULLY, JEFF MORGAN, NICK WILLIAMS and NEIL JONES, had a very comfortable 8-2 victory over Tracey Watkins, Brenda Lee, John Chandler, Andrew Oxley and Raymond Hughes of WILTSHIRE, whose two rubbers came in the Men's Doubles and in a singles when OXLEY overcame Neil Jones. The Referee at Pyle Leisure Centre was TONY JOHNSON.

Counties Round-up

SENIORS 3C: "Northamptonshire 4 Bedfordshire 6. Worcestershire 2nd 2 Oxfordshire 8. Hertfordshire 3 Worcestershire 7.

HERTFORDSHIRE took a bit of a whipping at their Barnet TIC when the WORCESTERSHIRE hit squad of LOUISE DAVIS, SARAH RODEN, my good friend MURRAY 'Spectacles' JUKES, SIMON CLAXTON and the one and only LEWIS SIKET, paid them a visit. Hertfordshire's successes came when BARRY WHITE and PERRY SOMERS defeated Siket, and from White's win over Claxton. I note that defender John Taylor was beaten by Jukes and Claxton. The home team was also made up of Karen Morton and Jeanette Maybanks.

NORTHANTS just failed to get a point, when, in the last match of the day, IAN RANDLE was beaten by the much sharper IAN DOUGHTY, to enable BEDFORDSHIRE to chalk up a 6-4 victory at Ling Forum, Northampton. Captain Dudley Smy made an unregistered appearance for Bedfordshire probably because he was let down at the last minute. JULIE DIMMOCK informed me at Wiltshire 2-Star that she is now hitting one in fifteen, as a direct response to my calling her "Push-Push Dimmock". She really laid it on me heavily. I dare not ask her to set a target of one in five. Beside Ian Randle for Northants, there were Margaret Maltby, Mandy Brown, Graeme McKim and Ian Hawes, while DAWN CAMPBELL and DAVID SHARPE, along with Dudley, Julie and Ian Doughty, made up the winning Bedfordshire squad. The Referee was KEN MARCHANT.

SENIORS 3RD: Surrey 2nd 6 Kent 2nd 4. Essex 3rd 4 Middlesex 2nd 6. Cambridgeshire 2nd 6 Suffolk 2nd 4. Norfolk vs Norfolk 2nd?

CAMBRIDGESHIRE, with HILARY FINCH, ALISON EDGE, PETER HOLLIDAY, MARTYN LIVERMORE and TREVOR SMITH, pulled off a good result at Impington YC over Dawn Harvey, the unregistered Rosemary Bullock, David Henderson, Chris Shepherd and Malcolm Davis of SUFFOLK. The Referee was the conscientious GEOFF WATERS.

When MIDDLESEX visited ESSEX at Fellows Cranleigh, Plaistow, East London, their 7-3 result was amended to 6-4 because their Captain got their ranking order in a mess. The home team was a composition of Kim Hayden, Sandra Aldborough, Richard Darnell, Neil Sweeting and David Cole. MIDDLESEX was represented by ANGELA & MARK MITCHELL LAURA GOLD-SMITH, DIPAK TOPIWALA and PERCY COLLINO. The Umpires

were R. FRANKLIN & G. PARKES.

A weakened SURREY played cOrripetently to beat a very good KENT, comprising Jill Farthing, Karen May, Chris 'The Serve' Bartram, Andrew Cunningham and Richard 'Backhand' Beckham. Surrey was spearheaded by MICHELE HAMS, DEBBIE SIMMON, STEVE HOLLOWAY, MICHAEL 'Mean Machine' HAMMOND and DAVID HARDING, to whom I am most grateful for stepping in at the last moment, to help replace the incapacitated GLEN BAKER. The skilful Debbie made her debut in the Seniors and played extremely well. Referee TERRY VANCE had to fault Cunningham once on his serve and I thought that Terry was more than lenient towards Bartram in this same area.

JUNIORS 2A: Staffordshire 2nd 8 Leicestershire 2. Cheshire 2 Yorkshire 2nd 8. Northumberland 5 Lancashire 5. Cleveland vs Warwickshire?

HELEN LOWER, DAWN GARDENER, STEVE SLATER, PAUL FISHER and IAN MILLER of STAFFORDSHIRE, with all round superior skills, gave Tracey Clark, Gail Chapman, Paul Bumpus, Mark Laywood and Ian Brown, a match to remember. This LEICESTERSHIRE Team, is in no way a walk-over or easy. It is nice to see PAUL BUMPUS starting the season well on beating Fisher and Slater. Referee DEREK SHERRATT reported that newly promoted Staffs proved too strong for the visitors, who were without the injured RICHARD GRIMLEY. He also pointed out that Fisher can well be satisfied with his performance on his debut; MILLER maintained his 100% record, and HELEN LOWER continues to make good progress. Thank you Derek, and I am sure that you will join me in hoping that Richard Grimley has made a speedy recovery.

NORTHUMBERLAND failed to grab both points at Byker CC, where, in the last match, Peter Curry tried very hard but could not get the better of LEE BROWN of LANCASHIRE, and lost 13, -17, -15, which is a good effort.

Peter's teammates were DENISE WILKINSON, ELAINE HOPPER, THOMAS BLACKMAN and KEITH PATIERSON, while Lyn Harnden, Nicola" McErath, David Carse and Nigel Greenwood, gave good support to Brown for Lancashire. S. R. HOLT was the Referee. This was a very good result for both Teams in sharing the honours and points.

JUNIORS 2B: Dorset 4 Sussex 2nd 6. Wiltshire 7 Devon 3. Sussex vs Northants and Herts vs Middx 2nd?

The ebullient ALAN SHEPHERD took his ESSEX Team to

DORSET and returned with a 6-4 result in spite of playing his girls in the wrong order. His Team was Catherine Thompson, Helen Platt, Jason Clark, Gary Killington and Paul Pesce. For DORSET there were Tracey Scott-Pawson, Deborah Applin, Rodney Thomas, Jason Hegarty and Dino Ciorra. The Referee was M. POPE.

JUNIORS 3A: Nottinghamshire 6 Cheshire 2nd 4. Huntingdonshire 4 Cleveland 2nd 6. Cumbria 3 Lincolnshire 7.

Referee, Miss C. E. ROSE, may have been a little disappointed to see her Cumbrian side lose the first four sets to a very good visiting LINCOLNSHIRE. However, the rot was halted in the Boys' Doubles and soon afterwards, another two victories came when KAREN GRIFFITHS and JOHN BACKHOUSE proved too good in the singles against Helen Stephens and Martin Burwell, respectively. CUMBRIA were also represented by Karen Backhouse, Stephen Holland and David Holmes, while LINDA THOMPSON, CHRIS MAY & WAYNE NOON added to the force of Helen and Martin for Lincolnshire.

JUNIORS 3B: Bedfordshire 10 Oxfordshire 0. Gwent 4 Gloucestershire 6. BUCKINGHAMSHIRE have withdrawn: Please note.

At the end of the seventh set at Cwmbran, GWENT were 3-4 down to GLOUCESTERSHIRE. Out came JEFF TURNER to dispatch Craig Saunders to level at 4-4. At this stage, Referee GREG JONES must have thought that his home team could be among the points, but he was wrong. JENNY ELLERY & DALE SAUNDERS imposed their authority on Lisa Mogford and Mark Farrow with respective scores of 7, 7 and 13, -16, -19, to bring victory to Gloucestershire, whose CLAIRE SYMONDS & HOWARD WILLIAMS must have jumped for joy. GWENT were also made up of Sian Evans, Paul Jones and Mark Farrow.

JUNIOR 3C: Wiltshire 2nd 0 'Cornwall 10. Somerset vs Avon?

Oh dear! Captain Mrs. and Referee Ted Fisher could do nothing but watch the spanking Wiltshire received from ESHE STEVENSON, KAREN BROTCZEK, MARK JAMES, GRAHAM REED & MALCOLM PETERS of CORNWALL. The scores show that this could not be termed a total demoralisation, but WILTSHIRE, with Lorraine Cox, Susan Vowles, Martin Edwards, Mark Collyer and Clive Sims, may have been a lot happier had at least one set gone to three. Never mind and better luck next time.

JUNIORS 3D: AT THE TIME OF WRITING, I have had no report from any source in this Division.

VETERANS

PREMIER: Lincolnshire 8 Middlesex 1. Huntingdonshire 1 Essex 8. Nottinghamshire 2 Kent 7. Hertfordshire 1 Cheshire 8.

Wow! After BABS ADEDAYO had given Middlesex a good start at Louth, when he thrashed Brian Allison, LINCOLNSHIRE picked themselves up and never looked back. Well, with the suitably combined skills and styles of CONNIE MORAN, MATT SHEADER & BRIAN EDLINGTON, plus BRIAN ALLISON, one should expect this. Two sets went to three and the other scores were just average. In the circumstances, Babs, Kathy Nunn, Bill Brookham and Norman Slifkin, learnt something hopefully, from this excursion. The Referee was W. V. MORAN.

My favourite Team CHESHIRE, travelled down to Barnet TIC and were in complete command of the situation until they dropped the Men's Doubles to HERTFORDSHIRE; that was it. I am not prepared to say anything more about what a terrific Team Cheshire is and how much I love to see them play, especially a certain Derek Schofield, because he has not yet squared me for last year's publicity. I will live in hope, just like Margaret Harris, David Seaholme, Derek Somers and Alan Lamprell of Herts and hope that the next time, we can get the better of the lovely DOREEN SCHOFIELD, PETER D'ARCY, EDDIE GRIFFITHS and that other little chap they carry around with them. The Referee was PAUL TARRANT.

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

This "whitewash" of Hertfordshire by Cheshire must have ensured a miserable evening for their Premier and 2A Teams. It appears that Cheshire get much better as they get older.

LEICESTERSHIRE with Pat Kilsby, John Iliffe, Geoff Aldwinckle and Colin Truman were level with BUCKINGHAMSHIRE after the sixth set, but in the seventh and eighth, LEN PRATT and ALEC WATSON pulled off two great victories over Geoff and John, to give Bucks the result they deserved. In the last set, Colin Truman for Leicester, brought a little consolation to his team when he beat Frank Earis. I also note that SYLVIA COOMBES did herself proud by beating Pat Kilsby. The Referee was GLENYS ODAMS.

VETERANS 2B: Middlesex 2nd 6 Hampshire 3. Surrey 4 Dorset 5. Avon 4 Sussex 5.

With four sets going to three, MARY SYMES, DON & JOHN

Counties Round-up - Official Information

SMITH and TONY TAYLOR must have pooled their tricks to get MIDDLESEX this good result at Ashford TTC over the visiting Ivy & Fred Kershaw, Ray Lush and Ro Bennett of HAMPSHIRE. The Referee was Q. S. HOWES.

VETERANS 3A: Yorkshire 9 Cheshire 3rd 0. Essex 3rd 7 Huntingdonshire 2nd 2. CUMBRIA and CLWYD have

withdrawn. Please note.

ESSEX took on HUNTINGDONSHIRE at Dagenham and only lost two sets when Dave Finlayson and Fred Lockwood lost in the singles to ROY FISHER and BRIAN SPITTLEMOUSE. Then Essex picked up both Doubles along with two singles from LAURIE FOUNTAIN, and one each from PAULA ROGERS, DAVE FINLAYSON & FRED LOCKWOOD. Huntingdonshire

was also represented by Shelly Holland and Ken Green. The Referee was J. ANKER.

VETERANS 3B: Sussex 2nd 5 Kent 2nd 4. Dorset 2nd 4 Hertfordshire 3rd 5. Hampshire 2nd 6 Sussex 3rd 3.

HAMPSHIRE made a very determined start to the season on their homeground at Portsmouth against SUSSEX, whose NORMAN BEANEY made a great

debut by inflicting great pain on Ken Giles and Maurie Shave. JOHN HARVEY, the Hants number one, won his two against Ted Cramer and Alan Hayes, after losing the first game of each set. His Teammate ANN ABRAHAM had a comfortable win over Liz Whittaker at 9, 10. The officials in charge were RAY YATES & REG GLOVER. Well done Hants and until next month, May God Bless You All.

OFFICIAL INFORMATION

By Albert Shipley

AFFILIATION FEES

Our thanks go to all those leagues who have paid promptly but we would ask Secretaries of those leagues who have not yet paid to ensure that the affiliation forms sent out with Bulletin No. 1 in August have been passed on to their Treasurers.

LINCOLN LOTTERY

Once again we are offering this NO RISK chance for leagues to raise funds because at least half of the income from ticket sales is returned, whether it is £5 or £500. Prizes have been increased and full details are enclosed.

PUBLICATIONS

E.T.T.A. Rules: A copy of the E.T.T.A. Rules for 1984/85 is enclosed. Should you wish to receive extra copies for your Committee members please let us know.

Law Booklets: Unfortunately our supply of these Norwich Union law booklets has finally been exhausted and because Norwich Union no longer sponsor any E.T.T.A. events, we have lost our source of replenishment. We shall seek an alternative sponsor for this popular publication but in the meantime we can supply the laws of table tennis in sheet form at the same price of 2p per copy. Address List: This booklet, containing the names and addresses of all national, League and County officials will shortly be going to print so please ensure that we know of any change in Secretary for the 1984/85 season.

Tournament Diary: This specialist diary, running from September 1984 to August 1985, contains the dates of all U.K. tournaments, names and addresses of all tournament organisers and the Closing dates. Price £1.75 each or £17.50 per dozen from the E.T.T.A. office.

E.S.T.T.A. Handbook: A copy of the 1984/85 Handbook is enclosed and we would recommend all leagues to make contact with

local or regional schools' officials because schoolchildren are potentially future members of your league.

SCHILDKROT BALLS

It has been brought to our notice that there is a grade of ball made by Schildkrot and carrying the name and photograph of John Hilton on the pale blue box. The wording on the box could possibly be construed to read that the contents are 3-Star quality whereas they are in fact practice balls. One retailer sold these balls at 3-Star price but they should only cost around 10p per ball.

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

It is not too late to take out a season's subscription of £6.50 for the eight issues of the official magazine, as the 56-page October edition is still available to new subscribers.

TABLE FOR SALE

One second-hand table, which has been fully reconditioned by

Messrs. Jaques, is available at a cost of £285, ex-works. The renovation has made this table superior in quality to a new table of modern manufacture. It is the last of a batch of six tables and there are five satisfied customers already - you could be the sixth. Please contact the E.T.T.A. office if interested.

Brand new Jaques and Dunlop tables are still available under the E.T.T.A. purchase scheme of four annual instalments of £57.50 or cash of £195.50; full details on request.

INTERNATIONAL MATCH

Following their 5-2 win over Poland and a narrow defeat 3-4 by Hungary, the England team take on Czechoslovakia in a European League match at the Corn Exchange, Ipswich, Suffolk on Wednesday, 12th December 1984, commencing at 7 p.m. Enquiries concerning tickets to Mrs. Joyce Love, 8 Dorset Close, Ipswich (telephone 0473 217704).

BENEFICIAL TRUST ENGLISH JUNIOR CLOSED

Entryforms for these championships (closing date 15th November) are available from the E.T.T.A. office. The event will be held at Hinckley Leisure Centre, Coventry Road, Hinckley, Leics. on Saturday/Sunday, 15th/16th December, 1984.

TELEPHONE ANSWERING MACHINE

May we remind you that out of office hours you may leave messages on the answering machine - 0424433121 - but if you do, please speak slowly and spell out any address given.



Competition Tables

J. SECRETIN FULL-SIZE TABLES NOW AVAILABLE FOR ALL LEVELS - HOME - CLUB - COMPETITION.

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County Notes

Mary Williams reports from....

BEDFORDSHIRE FINE START

The opening match of the season saw the juniors off to a fine start with a 10-0 win over Oxfordshire.

Using the Luton Regional Sports Centre as a venue for the first time the results were as follows:-

G. Black bt S. Townsend 10. 9;
N. Apps bt P. Knight 17. 14;
P. Edwards bt P. Barlow 7. 10;
L. Robins/J. Mitchell bt N. Brett/E. Smith 8. 8;
Edwards/Black bt Townsend/Barlow 18. -19.11;
Black bt Knight 9. 9;
Mitchell bt Smith 6. 1;
Edwards bt Townsend 16. 7;
Robins bt Brett 14. 14;
Apps bt Barlow 21. 12.

The seniors travelled to Northampton and like the juniors gained their first win of the season.

David Sharpe, Ian Doughty, Dudley Smy, Julie Dimmock and Dawn Campbell won 6-4.

Sharp and Doughty won all their sets as did both Julie and Dawn. The opposition took Smy's sets and both the men's and women's doubles.

The veterans were away to Oxfordshire. Jim Wooliscroft, Peter Cutting, Colin Gill and Audrey Robinson lost their first match of the season 3-6.

In the Sussex 2-Star Julie Dimmock beat Helen Williams ranked 15 in England but then went out to Mandy Sainsbury.

Caroline Buckley won the under-12's in the Wiltshire 2-Star.

However, in the under 14 competition and after having the advantage twice she went out in an earlier round 23-21, 21-5 to Kerry Hall.

AHW Pioneers in the National League visited Abeng Warriors (London) and obtained a 5-3 win in first game this season.

Brian Halliday reports from....

BERKSHIRE

IMMEDIATE MARK

The county have released the first of this season's rankings. There are few changes at the top of the senior lists, however two newcomers make an immediate mark in the veterans' section. Maidenhead's Gil Knightley gets the No. 1 spot here after her consistent performances last season. Her improvement in standard has been dramatic and Gil could well make her mark on the England Veterans' list before the end of the season. In the men's veterans' list Syd Montgomery comes straight in at No. 2.

No apologies for kicking off these notes by highlighting the 20

Berkshire veterans' set-up. From a county standpoint the keenness and loyalty shown by the older players is again much in evidence. The men's veterans' list now reaches 20 and there is healthy competition to get into one of the two county teams.

If the veteran scene is set fair then the senior section gives cause for concern. The three players that have dominated Berkshire table tennis with distinction have again indicated that they will honour county commitments. Dave Barr, Andy Wellman and Dave Reeves will form the basis of the first team along with internationals Mandy Sainsbury and Sue Collier. A strong squad with which to go into battle. The close season however brought forward the news that Berkshire's talented trio of junior/cadet internationals did not feel that it was in their personal interests to play County Championship table tennis at either senior or junior level. Never before have Berkshire had a chance of winning the Junior Premier Championship of England and the hopes and aspirations of both officials and supporters have been dashed on the combined altar of self interest and, dare I say it, - National League.

The counter arguments, and to be fair there are some, have been given much prominence in the local press by your correspondent but in fairness to all parties, this column must give the county point of view. Many officials and hundreds of Berkshire players support and nurture the county set-up. It is still an honour to represent the Royal County, and of course the vast majority of players get that opportunity - surely they should expect a little in return from their star performers, especially as it involves only two weekends out of the entire season. I sincerely hope that the whole subject can now be closed and of course everyone in Berkshire wishes these three lads the very best of luck and a whole hatful of tournament successes.

The local league scene has begun. Cippenham have already announced their intention of winning the Maidenhead League again. Their powerful squad is spearheaded by the evergreen Alec Watson. The master defender is playing as well as ever and with the signing of Clive Young, Graham Trimming has got together a very useful squad indeed. Although strictly speaking a Bucks outfit, the Cippenham club's interests spread into Berks and this progressive club are intent on setting new standards especially regarding facilities and general outlook. Top administrators are as rare as top players but already Graham

Trimming has demonstrated a flair for club management that is the envy of many of his Berkshire counterparts.

The Bracknell League may again be a two horse race between reigning champions Moss and the Woodley club. Newbury's championship may rest on the availability of star players at the Thatcham and Wootern Hill clubs.

The destination of the Reading title is in the lap of the gods. It certainly looks as if the Omega stranglehold will be broken as their top players may not be available. Tip for the top must be Woodley who have Steve Everard, Graham Outrim and Daryl Windsor with Malcolm Hayes as first reserve. Five other clubs all have outside chances and this could be the most open of championships in the last decade.

Reading's National League side, Omega, have started the season in great form. The summer of continued practice and training paid early dividends for the junior players and their results so far have exceeded all expectations. The progress of Omega II side in Division 1 has been sensational and no team in the country would be confident of success against this talented quartet. The signing of Chris Bartram from Kent seems to have been an inspired move as he has fitted into the team extremely well - they might even win the title and that would be something to tell their grandchildren about!

Les Wooding reports from....

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE EXCELLENT DEBUT

Newly promoted to the 1st Division of the Veterans' League, the representative side had an excellent debut beating Leicestershire 5-4 away. Their opponents were unlucky to be relegated last season having lost some of their Premier Division matches by the narrowest of margins so the future for Bucks looks quite rosy. Alec Watson convincingly won both his matches and England's No. 3 lady Sylvia Coombs was also unbeaten. The best effort of the day, though, was reserved for Len Pratt's excellent victory over Leics. No. 2 Geoff Aldwinckle ranked No. 1,9 in England.

LEICESTER 4 BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 5

Results:
A. Watson bt G. Aldwinckle 14. 6;
L. Pratt lost to Colin Truman -12. 19. -11;
Frank Earis bt John Illife 20. 16;
Pratt/Sylvia Coombs lost to Illife/Pat Kilsby -8. -9;
Watson/Earis lost to Truman/Aldwinckle 18. -17. -17;
Coombs bt Kilsby 5. 19;
Pratt bt Aldwinckle 17. 11;
Watson bt Illife -19. 16. 5;
Earis lost to Truman -16. -18.

Not quite so successful a start for the County Senior side making their first appearance in Div. 2. They were disappointingly held to a 5-5 draw by Lancashire II.

Julie Richards, however, made an excellent debut. The former Welsh International recaptured some of her past glory with a tremendous win over Amanda Goodwin. The home side did well to fight back from 1-4 down to force the draw but with Philip Bradbury leading the side, we must start favourites to win most matches.

BUCKINGHAMSHIRE 5 LANCASHIRE 5

Jon Bradbury lost to P. Aspinall -19. -12;
Karl Bushell lost to S. Bevan 16. -16. -17;
P. Bradbury bt A. Gray 19. -12. 8;
Linda Phelps/Julie Richards lost to A. Goodwin/P. French -17. -9;
P. & J. Bradbury lost to Gray/Aspinall 19. -16. -18;
J. Bradbury bt Bevan 15. -17. 18;
Phelps lost to French -7. -10;
P. Bradbury bt Aspinall -18. 16. 9;
Richards bt Goodwin 18. 23;
Bushell bt Gray 8. 17.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Cippenham continued their impressive start to the new Halex National League season when a 6-2 victory over local rivals Ashford gave them their third win in as many matches. Richard Beckham, Ray Tilling and Alec Watson all maintained their 100% records.

The biggest attendance at a Cippenham match for 3 years saw the Bucks. side take control of the match right from the start. Tilling was far too clever for Darryl Windsor, one of two former Cippenham players in the Ashford side. However, it was the next two sets that really gave Cippenham the lipper hand. Neither result could have been predicted before the start of play. First Beckham emerged intact from a tough battle with David Goode and then Watson beat Jonathan Goode, 26 years his junior after having been hammered in the first game. After these wins the result was never in doubt although Ashford did gain some compensation when Jon Goode overcame a spirited resistance from Clive Young.

CIPPENHAM 6 ASHFORD 2

Tilling bt D. Windsor 13. 13;
Beckham bt David Goode 24. 17;
Watson bt J. Goode -11. 9. 20;
Young lost to Mark Butler -21. -6;
Tilling bt D. Goode 18. 15;
Beckham bt Butler 15. 12;
Watson bt Windsor 18. 13;
Young lost to J. Goode 17. -7. -19.

ERREY'S PRINT 1 CIPPENHAM 7

Beckham bt Paul Rowden 15. 17;
Tilling bt Pete Bartram -20. 14. 15;
Steve Everard lost to Alan Rowden -8. -17;
Watson bt Mike Watts 7. 8;
Ray Tilling bt P. Rowden 20. 13;
Alec Watson bt Bartram 8. 8;
Richard Beckham bt A. Rowden 17. 14;
Steve Everard bt Watts 14. -14. 16.

A.H.W. Pioneers were less successful beating Abeng Warriors 5-3 in Brixton but then losing 3-5 to D.S.C. Rams in New Cross. Lisa Bellinger was unbeaten in the first match and Les Wooding in the second. However, with Lisa on International duties or competing regularly in the prestigious Swedish National Ladies' League the Pioneers will

find it hard to achieve their ambition of winning the Division.

ABENG WARRIORS 3 A.H.W. PIONEERS 5
Jackie Bellinger bt Farhat Rasul -17, 10, 8;
Lisa Bellinger bt Lionel Faure 16, 17;
Colin Luscombe lost to Neville Miller -18, -22;
Ian Doughty bt Janel Smith -14, 9, 16;
L. Bellinger bt Rasul 12, 17;
Doughty DSL 10 Faure 9, -15, -20;
J. Bellinger lost to Miller -11, -18;
Luscombe bt Smith 18, 8.

D.S.C. RAMS 5 A.H.W. PIONEERS 3
Ies Wooding bt Des Chadery 21, 14;
J. Bellinger lost to John Dennison -16, 16, -14;
Jon Bradbury lost to Pandu5 Ademakinwa ., 6, -15;
Doughty bt Tony Briscoe 17, -3, 23;
Bellinger lost to Chadery -18, -7;
Doughty lost to Dennison -8, ., 6;
Wooding bt Ademakinwa 9, 9;
Bradbury lost to Briscoe -19, -17.

INTER-LEAGUE

The National revival in the interest of Veterans' Table Tennis is reflected in the fact that for the first time ever the County will be running 2 Veterans' Divisions.

It was decided that the attempt would be made to construct them so that the 2 Divisions would be of equal strength. The teams finishing 1st and 2nd in each Division will then be invited to play semi-finals and a final in Slough on a date to be fixed in April. Once again our friends from Maidenhead in Berkshire are supporting our competition and for the first time we welcome a Veterans' team from Leighton Buzzard in Bedfordshire.

COUNTY CUP COMPETITIONS

Following the very successful launch last season of two County Cup competitions, the County is being even more ambitious this season with a plan to run the Subsidiary Knock-Out Cup, Having recognised the need to sell our services to every registered member of the Association this competition will be restricted to teams competing in the bottom 3 Divisions of Aylesbury or High Wycombe Leagues, the bottom 2 Divisions of Chalfonts, thilthorn and Milton Keynes and the bottom Division of the Slough League.

COUNTY RATING LIST

Again along the theme of selling our services to as many players as possible the first Rating list based on the principles of the Lentec Computer Ranking System will shortly be published. The objects of the scheme are:-
(a) To encourage players to play REGULARLY in at least one Buckinghamshire League;
(b) To encourage players to enter their local league Championships;
(c) To encourage participation in the County Cup Competitions;
(d) To reward successful players in the Inter-League championships;
(e) To encourage all players to enter in the County Closed Championships.

It is also hoped that eventually the list will prove to be a suitable replacement for the Ranking List.

but, as with all new ideas it must first be allowed to settle down.

All the Leagues have promised their support as the system obviously depends on full and detailed information being provided by all the Leagues to maintain interest to all the players.

SPONSORSHIP

The Milton Keynes League which is sponsored by EASY JEANS have formed a sub-committee to decide the most effective way of using the sponsorship money. Already there are plans to provide additional events for the benefit of ALL levels of players. Cippenham of Slough have gone even further commissioning a professional consultancy firm to sell their Club. It is evident that with hard work and dedication sponsorship can be found and all members of the Association are asked to make every attempt to get sponsorship to help fund Coaching and other Competitions which all help to make up a successful Association. In the immediate future we should very much like to hear from any Company or individual who would like to sponsor or present trophies for the County Intermediate Knock-Out Cup (Open to all teams not competing in the top division of their League) and the County Subsidiary Knock-Out Cup. We are all very conscious of the fact that every player, regardless of their standard of play deserves our help.

JACK CARRINGTON

It was with very great regret that I learned from Sylvia Coombs of the untimely death of Jack. There were many players from Steeple Claydon in the Buckingham League that enjoyed with me and my father Bill those unforgettable Table Tennis weeks in Skegness. Jack was one of the 'gentlemen' of our sport and was an example to us all. Thank you Jack for your friendship and all the enjoyment you brought to Elsie who with Jack formed an unparalleled partnership.

HANDBOOK

I should like to publicly thank all those excellent Companies who offered to help us publish our first County Handbook for many years. Unfortunately, we decided to undertake the project too late and rather than produce a sub-standard handbook this season we decided that we should ask for their kind support next season when we shall form a sub-committee to produce a handbook worthy of our Association and the Companies who support us.

PHILIP BRADBURY

Congratulations to our No. 1 Philip Bradbury who with the

help of cries of 'Yo' became the first Buckinghamshire man for many decades to win a major 'Open' tournament in this County when he captured the Sussex 'Open' title at the expense of Colin Wilson.

Geoff Waters reports from ...

CAMBRIDGESHIRE

USEFUL START

With Senior 1 and the juniors involved in weekends later in the season, there has been only one County Championships match during the last month. The senior second team made a useful start with a 6-4 win over Suffolk II in a Div. 3 match at Impington Village College.

The home county's superior women gave them the edge with Hilary Finch and Alison Edge winning all three of their sets.

However, the men did their bit with Martyn Livermore, Trevor Smith and Peter Holliday, on his senior debut, each winning a set.

This is a repeat of last season's opening match, but I hope the rest of the season doesn't follow the same pattern, as it was the only match that this team won.

The senior first team open their first Premier Division season on Nov. 24/25 when they meet Essex, Middlesex and Surrey.

The matches will be played at the British Telecom Technical College, Yarnfield, Nr. Stone, Staffordshire.

Hassy Soham, the National League champions have suffered a player crisis and have not as yet played a match. Dave Hannah has left to play in the German Bundesliga, while Nicky Mason had already given notification that he would be playing for Fareham this season. The final nail in the coffin came when Kenny Jackson revealed that his new job would take him away on a 24 week course at the start of the season.

This left just Paul Day and John Souter of last season's championship winning team and Soham offered to resign from the League. However, the ETTA have given them more time to try and complete their team.

OBITUARY

It is with deep sadness that I have to report the sudden death of Ralph Rust at the age of 73.

Ralph's table tennis life went back to 1928 when he played for College Servants in the old Cambridge Federation League and he used to tell me that, in those days they used to play under oil lamps.

When the Cambridge League was formed in 1936, he was one of the league's most enthusiastic members and he was still playing in it on odd occasions when he was over 70.

After the war, he helped the league to get back on its feet again and encouraged many youngsters amongst whom were those post war giants John Cornwell and John Thurston, who share 15 Cambridgeshire men's singles between them.

Although never in the top rank as a player, his unorthodox play - he played completely on his back hand - was often a match for all but the best. He will be best remembered, however, as the popular secretary of the Torchbearers club and right up to his death he ran four teams in the Cambridge League.

Whenever the club had a home match, he was always the first at the venue putting up tables and making preparations for the matches.

Although a meek and very modest man, he was nevertheless a great character and loved by all who knew him. He will be greatly missed in Cambridge table tennis circles.

Brian Hudson reports from ...

CHESHIRE

DEFLATION

Our 'Air of Confidence' of last month was a little deflated after the first series of County games in September. With the honourable exception of our Veterans, the results went the wrong way, although as an exiled Yorkshireman, the fact that three of the defeats were against the White Rose County leaves me with mixed feelings!

The Seniors went to Yorkshire 2nds and lost 2-B in a match where the score reflected fairly the relative standard of the teams. ~~It is a young Derbyshire team, spearheaded by England international Alan Cooke - how nice, incidentally, to see such a player supporting his home county in the lower divisions of the County Championship. Our 2nd team could feel a little unfortunate, their overall performance merited a kinder score-line, with 5 of the sets going to 3 games, and ... liberal smattering of "deuces".~~

The Veterans, as befits their position as National Champions, and including three of the top fifteen Vets in the country, comfortably beat Hertfordshire 9-1, and the Vets 2nd team equally comfortably beat Hertfordshire 2nds 9-0. Not such a happy story for

our Vets 3rd who went across to Yorkshire for a 9-0 defeat.

The next County Matches are on Nov. 24 and Dec. 1 - your support is very welcome, and the players will be very pleased to see you.

The leagues have started now, and I have been totally overwhelmed by the information flooding into me! Seriously, I can only report news that is relayed to me, so please 0625 8751 51 if you have anything of interest.

The Stockport Association issue a newsletter at regular intervals and I am indebted to compiler Chris Lancashire for a copy of volume 4 of 'Three Star'.

Stockport have reversed the trend of recent seasons in that they have increased the number of teams this season; we all hope this increase will start a new trend. Division One is looking to be a close-run race with five teams - Civil Service, Weston Hyde, Handforth Hall, Lancashire Hill and Hyde YMCA - all fighting hard; and Division Two looks like being equally tight.

Jeremy Williams reports from....

CORNWALL

PREMATURE RETIREMENTS

After two years of rapid improvement among the table tennis players of Cornwall, the close season has seen a number of setbacks with several of the county's top prospects now disappearing from the scene.

The biggest blow so far has been the premature retirements of Jon Woollins and Barry Cornelius ranked 3 and 4 in Cornwall last season. Launceston number 1 Woollins has had to devote more time to University studies; while Cornelius, 1982 Cornish champion has taken a year break after a fruitless 1983-84. It is hoped that both players will continue playing in some vein but it has had a effect on the County senior team and the Launceston Kernow, National League team. The retirement of Cornelius signifies the almost complete disintegration of top class table tennis in St. Austell. Another setback for Launceston will be the unavailability of promising Vietnamese youngsters Phong Tran and Du Ly who have moved away from the county. Nevertheless, County selectors are confident that the remaining experienced players coupled with a new batch of youngsters will build up another strong squad.

Finally, Barbara Rapsey has decided to stand down from her

post as County Secretary and her new replacement will be Mrs. Sylvia Stevenson. All enquiries should now be sent to Sylvia at 26- Ho'llabury, Road, Bude, Cornwall. Tel: Bude 3309.

The County rankings have obviously seen a few changes and are shown below. The Men's list is now headed by Jeremy Williams whilst leading Junior Mark James moves up to 3. Yorkshireman Melvyn Starkie makes a big jump to 6 and old war horse Dennis Williams re-enters the list at 14 and present form suggests a higher ranking still. Ian "Slim" James has also shown good form and moves up to 4. The Women's list is now without leading players Sharon James and Shirley Collins neither of whom are playing in the top flight at the moment but there are adequate replacements in new champion Gail Davies and Alison Clemens. There are a few omissions in the boys' list; Mark James retaining the No. 1 position despite losing his title to Graham Reed. Much must be said for the improvement of Bude's Kevin Stevenson who enters the list at 5 whilst his sister Esme takes on the role of No.1 Junior Girl now that Alison Clemens has progressed into the Senior ranks.

MEN

- 1) J. Williams (Fa) (2)
- 2) J. Bassett (St.I) (1)
- 3) M. James (Ca) (5)
- 4) I. James (Fa) (6)
- 5) G. Reed (Fa) (7)
- 6) M. Starkie (Re) (11)
- 7) R. Prendergast (Re) (8)
- 8) M. Peters (Fa) (-)
- 9) R. Jacobs (Tr) (12)
- 10) S. Lobb (Re) (-)
- 11) G. Marquand (La) (-)
- 12) N. Cock (Pe) (10)
- 13) A. Hunt (La) (-)
- 14) D. Williams (Fa) (-)

- 1) G. Davies (Tr) (3)
- 2) A. Clemens (Ca) (1)
- 3) S. Rapsey (Tr) (2)
- 4) E. Stevenson (Bu) (6)
- 5) J. Menzl (Ca) (7)
- 6) S. Yorke (Ca) (-)

WOMEN

BOYS

- 1) James (1)
- 2) Reed (2)
- 3) Peters (5)
- 4) Hunt (3)
- 5) K. Stevenson (Bu) (-)
- 6) X. Ly (La) (6)
- 7) P. Rees (St.A) (8)
- 8) M. Stanley (Bu) (-)
- 9) S. Cleworth (Bu) (-)
- 10) K. Hockridge (La) (-)
- 11) D. Clarke (Fa) (-)

GIRLS

- 1) Stevenson (2)
- 2) K. (La) (3)
- 3) L. Jewell (Fa) (4)
- 4) S. Hunt (La) (5)
- 5) M. Broczek (La) (-)
- 6) T. Logg (La) (-)
- 7) R. Plummer (St.I) (-)
- 8) L. Clarke (Fa) (-)

Key

- Bu - Bude
- Ca - Camborne
- Fa - Falmouth
- La - Launceston
- Pe - Penzance
- Re - Redruth
- St.A - St. Austell
- St. I - St. Ives
- Tr - Truro

COUNTY MATCHES

The only County action involving Cornwall so far this season was the visit to Wiltshire " of the Junior 1st team with a superb 10-0 win being achieved in straight games. Promotion could be on the cards again from Division 3C although 3 of the present team will be too old next season. Fortunately the inclusion of the 2nd team has proved an ideal stepping stone for the

lesser players to progress to the first team.

Wiltshire II v Cornwall I

M. Collyer lost to M. James -16. -24. lost to M. Peters -14. -11;
M. Edwards lost to G. Reed -15. -15; 10stto James -14. -12;
C. Sims lost to Peters -19. -15; lost to Reed -14. -14.
Miss L. Cox lost to Miss E. Stevenson -11. -16;
Miss S. Vowles lost to Miss K. Broczek -11. -15.
Edwards/Collyer lost to James/Reed -15. -23.
Cox/Vowles lost to Stevenson/Broczek -18. -17.

LAUNCESTON KERNOW

Cornwall's only Halex National League team, Launceston Kernow once again compete in a strong division 3 West and a much changed squad is now likely to be based around Jeremy Williams, John Bassett, Mark James, Ian James, Graham Reed and Andy Hunt. Results up to 14th October:
Launceston Kernow 4 Grove II 4
Launceston Kernow 1 Jolliffe Poole

Launceston Kernow 4 Grove II 4
Launceston Kernow 1 Jolliffe Poole 7
Olivers Hinckley 6 Launceston Kernow 2
Global Plymouth 5 Launceston Kernow 3

The worst start to a season in the history of Launceston Kernow but availability problems and new players mean that there will now be a transition period for a while. A hard earned draw at home to Grove was followed by a dismal home defeat at the hands of Jolliffe Poole. An improved performance away to Hinckley could well have been a draw as could the defeat in the local derby at Plymouth. What a cliff hanger that proved to be - Mark James just failing to clinch a draw against Gary Wiltshire.

Global Plymouth v Launceston Kernow

T. Sweet lost to M. James -19. 18. -17; bt J. Williams 18. 20;
M. Short bt I. James 10. 15; bt Williams 22. 17;
G. Wiltshire bt M. James 14. -19. 21; bt G. Reed 19. -13. 16.
M. Shearman lost to I. James 19. -11. -19; lost to Reed -18. -20.

VETERANS' TOURNAMENT

What eventually became known as the "Pat Archdale Veterans' Tournament" took place at the White Hart Hotel on Sunday, October 16th. Initially 12 teams were to take part but when Launceston College became unavailable this number was reduced to 4. Unfortunately, I am told due to some unusual circumstances, Cornwall were unable to field a team. Eventual tournament winners were the powerful Cheshire team who overcame Hampshire and Cheshire with convincing victories.

Major table tennis attractions in Cornwall before Christmas will be the Region I ranking tournament (Juniors and Cadets) at Launceston College on Sunday October 21st and on Sunday 23rd December there is the Halex National League Jocal derby Launceston Kernow v Pengeley Torbay.

Malcolm Allsop reports from...

DERBYSHIRE

GOOD START

The season got off to a good start for the county team when a convincing 10-0 win over Cheshire 2nd was achieved in what will, hopefully, be the first step in regaining Division Two status. The team was led by Alan Cooke, with juniors Bradley Billington helping Stephen Yallop and To Thuy Dung.

The second match provided a setback when we were held to a 5-5 draw by Lincolnshire at the Chesterfield Activity Centre. The strength of the Lincolnshire girls was anticipated, but even more vital when Marilyn O'Sullivan had to drop out at short notice when husband Frank went into hospital and Joanne Weightman, on her senior debut, appeared unprepared to fight.

Martin Kinsella deputised well for Alan Cooke, on International duty, and David Hinchliffe played well enough, often enough, to gain 2 victories. Stephen Yallop won his first set, but lost his way in combination with Kinsella in the doubles, and then lost his second singles.

Scores:

Stephen Yallop bt Stuart Worrell 16; lost to Dave Skerratt -14. -16;
Martin Kinsella bt Skerratt -20. 21. 18; bt Andy Thompson 4. 17;
David Hinchliffe bt Thompson 17. -19.14; bt Worrell 10. 14;
Yallop/Kinsella lost to Skerratt/Worrell 16. -19. -15;
Joanne Weightman lost to Susan Radley -14. -16;
To Thuy Dung lost to Suzanne Hunt -17. -9;
To Thuy/Weightman lost to Radley/Hunt -16. -11.

Robert Chadwick passed his County Umpires' practical at this match, and I understand that Robert has adopted Derbyshire as his County, despite living in Ratcliffe-on-Trent (where the kennels are), Nottinghamshire.

I take this opportunity of wishing Frank, a former County player, a speedy recovery - especially as Derbyshire need Marilyn!

DERBY LEAGUE

Ian Johnson is the new secretary of the Derby League and I have been most impressed by his enthusiasm and efficiency, and I am sure that the Derby League will prosper and expand under the guidance of Ian and the prospect of a new headquarters in the coming season.

Mechanics 1st started off the season intent upon retaining their Premier Division Championship with four Derby Men's Singles Champions, Doug Chris Francis, Trevor Kerry and Dave Stilis together with Robert Albutt in their possible line-up.

Philip Vickers returns to St. Andrews 1st to partner Steve Yallop to provide the main challenge for Mechanics 1st; but with the four-point system in operation it could mean the other teams in the Division will

decide the ultimate home of the Championship.

In Division One, early results have been mixed and I believe the promotion contenders will come from those teams wanting to play in the Premier Division, and there are not many who wish to risk that fate. Darbus 1st (Ian Seager, Kevin Gillot and Charlie Horn) look potential champions but their fellow demoted sides still appear demoralised from last season, with Sardiacre 1st possible relegation candidates after losing their 'best players.

EASTWOOD LEAGUE

Eastwood Juniors got off to a good start in the Midland League with an 8-2 win over Coventry, with maximums from Stephen Taylor and Adrian Weightman.

Vic Hallam table tennis teams have lost their playing quarters with the closure of the Hallam Social Club at the end of October, but fortunately alternative premises have been found for them to play matches.

Harry Black reports from ...

DURHAM SENIOR DEBUTS

Durham opened their season with a 4-6 reverse away to Lincolnshire at the Crusaders Club, Lincoln on Sept. 22. We had two players making their senior debut, Sunderland's Stephen George and Gary Webstell of Bishop Auckland.

Durham started well when David Blackburne beat Stuart Worrell but a nervous Webstell lost to Andy Thompson. George too was a little pensive but was unfortunate to lose to Dave Skerratt but the scores were levelled after the women's doubles.

Lincs then took a 5-2 lead with singles wins for Worrall and Skerratt and this twosome taking the men's doubles. Blackburne pulled one back but Sue Radley's win over Shirley Gelder clinched the issue although George beat Thompson in the final set.

Scores:-
D. Blackburne bt S. Worrall 15,18; bt D. Skerratt -19,17,13.
S. George lost to Skerratt -7,17,-17; bt A. Thompson 15,19.
G. Webstell lost to Thompson -16,-18; lost to Worrall -15,-8.
Blackburne/George lost to Skerratt/Worrall -13,17,-18.
S. Gelder lost to S. Radley -13,-15.
L. Spensley lost to J. Wingad -20,-15.
Gelder/Spensley bt Radley/Wingad 17,19.

Washington TTC is still going strong and providing high class facilities for table tennis having teams in both the Philadelphia and Northumberland leagues. Furthermore they also have teams in the North Regional League and also in the Halex National League. Despite all this membership remains open and

those wishing to become full members should apply to Doug Lawrence of 6 Morris St., Usworth, Washington. 'Phone: Tyneside (091) 4162376.

The Washington Community TT Coaching Scheme, launched six months ago, has proved so successful that a second coach has had to be employed to cope with the demand. Twenty different coaching sessions are now in operation in schools, community centres and youth clubs.

In the Halex National League, Washington have had a mixed start in Div. 3 North. In their first match they beat newcomers Ormesby IV 7-1 with Tony Gelder, Philip Stafford and Don Mciver gaining maximum wins and Robert Reed losing to David Hughes. But in their next match it was down to earth with a bang when they travelled to meet South Yorkshire III and were beaten 7-1. Only Reed succeeded in beating Brian Bennett.

Gelder, with two wins, helped them to a 4-4 draw at home to Vickers Sports, Barrow with Reed and Allan Thompson gaining one win each.

The Durham County Senior League has had a small change in format this season with only one women's team entered. This has been placed in the Senior Division and will be known as Sunderland "C". Nine teams comprise the division with Peterlee defending their title from chief challengers Sunderland "A". New teams, other than Sunderland "C" are Darlington and Durham. South Shields have not re-entered.

The Junior Section has five teams with Bishop Auckland defending their title from last season's other three entrants, Peterlee, Philadelphia and Sunderland. Philadelphia have also entered a second team.

This season the Sunderland League will comprise 46 teams in 4 divisions the newcomers being Northumbria Centre and Apex Builders. Darlington has 32 teams in 3 divisions with 8 teams in the first playing each other three times.

Finally two dates for your diary:-

Dec. 9 - Durham County Closed at Peterlee Sports Centre.

Mar 31 - Durham County 2-Star Open at Easington District Leisure Centre, Peterlee.

John Holland reports from.....

ESSEX

KNOCKING ON THE DOOR

Let me start by correcting an error in my October notes. David

Lomas has pointed out that the Schools International in Birmingham in July, was sponsored by the City Council. It was not the 'Dunlop International' that I styled it, though Dunlop supplied the equipment.

Lisa Hayden has done extremely well in recent tournaments. Her outstanding achievement was a career-best win over Jackie Bellinger in the semi-final of the Wilts 2-star. In the same tournament she twice defeated Joanne Shaw. Lisa can now expect an England women's ranking inside the top twenty and she could be knocking on the door for international selection in the girls.

Our senior 2nd and 3rd teams have made promising starts as well. In Div. 2B of the County Championships the 2nd team scored a 6-4 away win over Gloucestershire. The team comprised John Dennison, Steve Dorking and Paul Sayer for the men; Kim Mudge and Yvette Brown were our women. The eight singles were shared but the doubles proved decisive, both going to Essex. Yvette was the only unbeaten player on view.

Our 3rds were Richard Darnell, Neil Sweeting, David Cole, Kim Hayden and Sandra Alborough. They had a tough home encounter with the powerful Middlesex II who must be favourites for the title in 3b since they feature such luminaries as Angela and Mark Mitchell. We lost 3-7 but both Darnell and Cole beat Percy Collino and Sandra toppled Laura Goldsmith. The match score was subsequently amended to a 4-6 defeat because Dipak Topiwala played out of order.

The veterans' 1st team, Ray Murray, Peter Radford, John Holland and Shelagh Hession, won 8-1 at Hunts. Peter Radford had a notable win - over Roy Norton - on his debut. The 3rd team had a 7-2 home win over Hunts II. The team was Fred Lockwood, Laurie Fountain, Dave Finlayson and Pam Rogers. Laurie and Pam were unbeaten.

In Junior 2B our second team travelled to Dorset and achieved a creditable 6-4 win. Full details are not available at the time of writing but our team comprised Jason Clarke (No.1 boy on this occasion after an exceptional Junior Trials where he third), Gary Killington, Paul Peace, Helen Platt and Catherine Thompson. Only Catherine had previous County experience.

Helen Platt is a much stronger player this term. She finished third to Lisa Hayden and Holland in the Essex Junior Trials and then second to Gillian Patten in the Regional Trials at B'arnet - scoring 10 victories and suffering only two defeats. So Gillian and Helen can join Lisa and Tanya in the forthcoming national ranking tournament. None of our boys

had automatic entry to the latter competition by virtue of their national ranking. In the first stage of their Regional Trials, on Oct 14, at Barnet, our Nos. 1 and 3, James Griffiths and Tony West came through as group winners and will now contest the Round Robin second stage.

Apart from Lisa Hayden our juniors and cadets have been having a fairly quiet time at the recent 'Opens'. Highlights have been Tanya Holland's defeat of Fiona Elliot (in the Women's Singles) at Wilts 2-star. Partnered by Amanda Shufflebotham (Oxon), Tanya suffered narrow defeat (1-9 in, the third) in the Girls' Doubles final in the Grove 2-star. The victors were Sara Hammond and Lesley Souter. Partnered by Neil Pickard (Norfolk), Damian Holland was a losing finalist in the cadet boys' team event in the North Yorkshire 2-star. They lost 1-3 to Chris Oldfield/Neil Simms (Yorks).

I have previously had good reason to praise this normally very well run tournament. Again there were good features such as the introduction of an U-12 doubles category. It was good to see so many promising under twelves, Caroline Buckley (Berks) and Brian Mileham (Kent) particularly caught the eye. They won the U-12 singles event showing advanced attacking skills for their years. Unfortunately, the Saturday schedule at Halifax was over-ambitious. Events ran several hours late, fatigue, ill-temper (mine especially!) and shambles ensued. It all provided fresh insight into the lunacy of ping pong parent and player I reflected - as I bowled down the M1 at 2 a.m. Never again! Of course, the memory is short so I was back to the treadmill at Market Drayton just a week later. And I was delighted to be there.

This was a super tournament and I should like to extend my warmest appreciation to Ian Marshall, his wife, Sue, and all the officials at the Grove for their consideration and friendliness. Everything ran to time without any heavy-handedness. The finals were well staged before appreciative audiences well before the dead of night.

Two of our players who were impressive at the Grove were the improving Kate Gower, our cadet No.1, who reached the semi-final of the U-14 girls' singles, repeating her Lewisham success over the luckless Cheryl Bateman. I say luckless not to take anything away from Kate, but to encourage Cheryl who has the core of an excellent game, if only she would believe it. In the semi, Kate competed well with Julie Norman although losing in straight games. The Essex sur-

County Notes

prise at the Grove was the performance of 10-year-old Delia Holland. She had her best win over Tracey Hooker (Berks) in the semi-final of the U-12 girls' singles and then stood 14-8 up in the third game of a rousing final with Caroline Buckley. Caroline staged a storming finish to win 21-16. It was a magnificent contest full of hard-hitting rallies though, no doubt, my commitment to the loser has endowed it with a certain rose-coloured tint.

In the National League, Witham Town have begun their campaign in Div. 3 (Æ) in fine style with successive away wins at the expense of Britannia (Ipswich) and Lincoln. For both matches the team was Nicky Standen, Keith Fellows, Robin Lang and Terry Dowsett. The score was 5-3 on each occasion. At Lincoln this was achieved only after victory in each of the last three sets. Robin Lang and Terry Dowsett are both unbeaten so far. Hil Dowsett attributes some of their improved form to the better match practice they are receiving in the Dagenham League. Robin must be catching the eye of the Essex selectors in his current mood?

Meanwhile, in the more rarefied atmosphere of Div. 1, Ian Kenyon has broken his duck and the Dagers 'have scored their first win, by 6-2 at Ormesby. In this encounter the home side fielded a squad of Scottish internationals in David McIlroy, John Brae, R. Brunskill and Brian Wright. Steve Dettmar and Tony Penny both achieved maxima for Dagenham F.C.

RANKINGS

Boys	Girls
1. J. Griffiths (S'town)	1. L.Hayden (S'Wood)
2. S. Lazarus (Oag)	2. T. Holland (S'wood)
3. T. West (S'wood)	3. G. Patten (Oag)
4. O. Holland (Oag)	4. H. Platt (Chelm)
5. J. Clark (Oag)	5. C. Thompson (S'Tree)
6. O. Griffiths (S'town)	6. S. George (WF)
7. G. Killington (Oag)	7. J. Cook (S'Wood)
8. P. Peace (Iit)	8. K. Gower (S'Wood)
9. J. Tendler, (WF)	9. K. Bennett (WF)
10. S. MA (Oag)	10. M. Hicks (S'wood)
11. J. Davis (Rom)	
12. M. Critcher (WE)	
13. K. Kelly (Oag)	
14. G. Taylor (Oag)	
15. M. Cole (S'wood)	
16. L. Courtney (Chelm)	
17. K. Adams (WF)	
18. I. Harris (WE)	
19. P. Walker (Oag)	
20. S. Solder (Oag)	

Cadet Boys	Cadet Girls
1. O. Holland (Oag)	1. K. Sennett (WF)
2. P. Pesce (Iit)	1. K. Gower (S'wood)
3. J. Tendler (WF)	3. M. Hicks (B'wood)
4. J. Seddall (WE)	4. O. Holland (S'wood)
5. G. West (Oag)	5. A. Gower (S'wood)
6. S. Cullen (S'tree)	6. A. White (S'wood)
7. G. Perera (Oag)	
8. M. Reid (S'wood)	
9. S. Hayden (Oag)	
10. R. Thornton (S'wood)	
11. T. Gocher (50S)	
12. K. Gowlett (S'tree)	
13. J. Clover (Burn)	
14. N. Parkhurst (Chelm)	
15. J. West (Oag)	
16. R. Tolley (Oag)	
17. R. Cleminson (S'wood)	

Alf Pepperd reports from ...

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

DEEP SLEEP

Is table tennis dying, or perhaps, as some think, nearly dead?

"Good Heavens no", it's merely in one great big deep sleep.

Certainly in many parts of the Country (Glo'shire being no exception) membership is again on the decline.

But I'm convinced that it will one day surface again and take its place alongside other popular indoor sports, BUT IT WILL NOT if considerably more of the enthusiasts already in the game do not show the necessary interest in keeping it alive.

I mention this because throughout the entire length and breadth of the Country many well established Leagues are losing members, many old buildings housing T.T. Clubs are being torn down for re-development and T.T. facilities not being replaced.

We have a very well-known club in Gloucester City that is shortly to fall under the developers' axe, namely "The Gordon League". Sooner or later that club will totally disappear to make way for a new projected roadway but I'm sure the Gordon League will re-emerge elsewhere, if by far too big and too good a club not to, but having said that I fear that there are many clubs that simply will go for good, and that in itself is a tragic pity.

In some cases the cost of replacement is just not possible, but I feel very strongly that where replacement is possible the members should rally around their Club Leaders and try to do something positive about their dilemma. No one else will.

Last month I reported that Nina Tsakarisanos had left these shores to spend a season in West Germany playing for "Neukolin" in the Oberliga League in Berlin. Unfortunately she has had to return home because of re-occurring back trouble, while still in Germany. She saw a Physio who it appears could not really get to the root of Nina's problem.

However since her return in September Nina has seen her Doctor, X-Rays have been taken but at the time of writing nothing specific has been identified.

I did ask Nina if she was contemplating returning to Germany this season, her reply to this was an emphatic "NO", not this season.

Nina said that it is extremely 'unlikely that she will play any competitive table tennis prior to Christmas.

We can but only offer her our best wishes for a speedy return

back to active play when she is pronounced fully fit.

COUNTY MATCHES

I can but cover only two County Matches to date, our Seniors who won Division 3C last season played Essex who likewise won Div. 3D, we lost 4-6, but our Juniors travelled to Cwmbran to play Gwent and came away with a 6-4 victory.

Let us deal with the Senior 2nd Division match first, played at home and somewhat surprisingly in front of quite a larger than usual crowd (who did towards the end somewhat dwindle). I must be honest and say that in the early stages several opportunities were squandered by Glo'shire who very soon found themselves 0-5 down. However, our newly-appointed team Captain, Andrew Golding, stopped the rot by beating Essex's Paul Sayer 23-21, 21-18. This was followed by three more home wins, Darren Griffin beat John Dennison 18, 18, Christine Iacopi beat Kim Mudge (who is 55 on the Lentec rankings) 16 in the third and Graham Slack beat Steve Dorking 19 in the 3rd. Glo'shire played as well as they could but Essex played just that little bit better, let's face it Gloucestershire will miss the services of Paul Jackson and Nina Tsakarisanos.

The Juniors who faced Gwent finished on a much happier note winning 6-4, Craig Saunders our No. 1 played with impressive style and paired with his brother Dale won the boys' doubles.

Jenny Ellery's performance was most impressive winning her singles v Lisa Moxford (7,7). Howard Williams and Dale Saunders, both making their County debuts, overcame early nerves to win one each, Clare Symonds was unlucky to lose to Sian Evans who beat her 23-21 in the second game, so closet.

Nailsworth T.T.C., incorporating Nailsworth Boys' Club celebrates its 25th anniversary this year, so what more appropriate than to celebrate the club's history with a write-up.

The club was formed in 1959 by Mrs. Edna Guy, the Commandant of the local Red Cross Detachment, as a recreational facility.

As it was a Ladies' Detachment in Nailsworth, the original membership of the table tennis club was fourteen ladies and three men.

Word of this Utopia soon spread amongst the local lads and male membership rapidly increased. The Club joined the Stroud & District League a year later, and performed quite happily in the 3rd Division for a couple of years.

It was not until Brian Elms and Geoff Furley were demobbed

from the R.A.F. and joined the Club that table tennis in Nailsworth was really taken seriously.

The Club's first table had been made by two members at a local builder's yard, this was supplemented by an Alec Brook model, and the team began a rapid climb to Division 1, and very soon its first championship honours.

Today Nailsworth has won the League Championship more times than any other club in the League's history.

It runs six teams, three of them in Div. 1, but unfortunately has only three female members at present.

One feature Nailsworth is proud of, is that it started a coaching scheme for local primary school children fourteen years ago, and this was the forerunner of the Stroud League coaching scheme.

It is interesting to read that the original coaching sessions had 26 pupils, and somehow managed to coach on only two tables.

those early beginnings Nailsworth club members have been largely involved in Junior coaching ever since.

There is a very good relationship between the Club and the local Boys' Club, with many of the latter progressing on to the Senior Club, and as long as this relationship continues then indeed Nailsworth will always be a club to be reckoned with.

Concluding Nailsworth's T.T. activities with due regard to more recent times, one family from that Town simply cannot be left out: "The Goldings".

Starting with the Head of the family Trevor, he has actively been connected with Nailsworth Boys' Club for a very long time and has done sterling work not only in the coaching field but also in the role of a very competent County Umpire, whose services are much appreciated by the County at all times. (Yes we are still short of Umpires!).

Jean, Trevor's wife, has in the past turned out for Glo'shire many times, she is currently the County's Hon. Team Sec. and Chairs the County Selectors, a combination of two rather rigorous occupations.

Finally son, Andrew, has been playing for the County numerous years, and this season he has accepted the playing Captaincy. He was for many years, the Singles Champion of Stroud and a regular player in last year's newly-formed County Premier League.

One could indeed go on & on, but that's Nailsworth in a nutshell and thanks' are due to Ray Westbury for helping me to compile these notes.

County Premier League Plans are well afoot to get this League active for this season.

John Boyd, the League's Chairman, informs me that play will actually commence on three tables at Chosen Hill School, Churchdown on Friday, Nov. 9.

If in the second year of its formation it is as highly successful as in the first then I have no qualms.

It is hoped to print all current County rankings in the December edition.

BITS AND PIECES

A quote from Mrs. V. Roffe (at the 2nd Div. Essex v Glo'shire match in September), "When my husband and I were courting, his idea of a good night out was to take me along to some table tennis function to take notes for him. My husband after many years of T. T. activity now has virtually handed the reins over to me and gone into table tennis seclusion".

FOOTNOTE: And what a great job you are doing Mrs. R. as Gen. Sec. of Essex encompassing some 16 or is it 17 Leagues, you have indeed plenty to cope with, "Well done".

More and more club Secretaries in Glo'shire are producing excellent news-letters, joining the ranks of established news-letter producing clubs like:- Larkay (Editor/Sec, Alan Perratt) and Cinderford (Ed/Sec, John Freeman). Now comes a well-edited 11-page news-letter from the Rudford/Highleadon Club (Ed/Sec, Stenneth Salisbury). I would be most pleased to hear from any club Secretary anywhere in the County who might propose embarking upon the same venture OR perhaps unbeknown to me has already got a news-letter going.

Communications are a vital part of existence, a club with a news-letter is by far a much healthier club than one without one.

More news on the Rudford Club. Congratulations to Richard Pepper for producing a very successful sound and vision video of their new Clubroom opening ceremony way back in the summer, the video runs just over an hour.

Grateful thanks to St. Marks Club in Cheltenham, especially Dave Shill, for inviting me to their Final's Night, it was a most enjoyable evening, I hope I did the presentations in the correct order, Congrats to some really superb play that night from Stuart Beattie, I rather thought that Godfrey Browning's usual display of cold calculated jammy play (Nets & Edges) is still very much evident. Just do not know how he gets away with it! It's really embarrassing.

We have a new Hon. Tournament Sec. on the County Committee this year. Welcome to Graham Lee whose first major job will be handling the County Closed which this year will be held on Sunday, Nov. 25 at the Cheltenham Cricket Centre, Pittville Sports Complex. I am pleased to report that PIMSEAL (Parker International Marketing Services) are helping with some of our admin expenses, therefore enabling us to maintain the entry fees at last year's level.

Referee for the big day, I understand, is Andy Seward, Cheltenham's very active Chairman. It is hoped that as many players as possible will enter. It should be a great day's table tennis.

David Cosway reports from....

HAMPSHIRE

DIMINISHING REGULARS

It is strange but it seems an awful long time since I wrote my last notes but not a lot appears to have happened since. This is unusual because in the past often the close season is the busiest time of the year. Is this a further example of the ill that is apparent in our game which has led to apathy and lack of interest? Again this season has meant a loss of regular players as evidenced by the diminishing local leagues.

I was speaking recently to a very good friend, Keith Summerfield, former Hampshire champion, and still a youngster, as to why he turned his energies from table-tennis to squash. One reason, which may not please my fellow scribe, John Preat, is the advent of "funny bats". He considered that if he, at his level, lost points for no reason other than the fact that his opponent "twiddling" this was not losing to a more skilful player but to the bat. If skill and playing ability were not to be the criteria he felt it was time to play a game where it was.

In squash he has now reached county status and considers, therefore, he made the right move. A further factor Keith mentioned to me was the social aspect. Who these days when spare time is at a premium wants to sit around in a draughty, cold, uncomfortable hall until late at night only playing a third or a quarter of the time and watching your team members for the rest of the evening? If you chat while a game is in progress, you, quite rightly are told to be quiet, minimal refreshments are the order of the day and you finish after the pubs have closed. Is that everyone's idea of a nice social evening?

At top level this may not be a factor, but for the average club player it is certainly a reason to desert our game. At squash, I am told, you play your game, in consistently good conditions, have a shower, if you wish, and then can enjoy a chat, drink or even a meal in the inevitably comfortable club room, and still be home at a reasonable time. This, fellow table tennis fans, is what we are up against. So what is the answer? Let all with the future of table-tennis at heart try to fathom that out. Would it be possible to play more matches in multi-tabled venues where social amenities are at hand? The problem here is the suitability of playing conditions, the large cost and fact that players would have to adjust to having other matches going on around them. Tournament players are used to this, but the grass roots player may not be able or wish to adjust!

After the English Junior Open at Portsmouth in May the Jill Hammersley-Parker Foundation had a coaching seminar attended by both England and Swedish juniors at Redbridge Sports Centre, Southampton. It was a success and culminated in two matches between the two countries. Out of season, and poorly attended from a spectator point of view these matches nevertheless provided a good taste of international experience for some of our up-and-coming players. England lost both "A" and "B" matches 2-5. Carl Preat won his singles and Amanda Hagarty won her singles and Juliet Houghton combined with Southampton's own Sarah Hammond to win the girls' doubles in the "B" match. The quality of the Swedish players certainly showed how far England must progress to catch Europe's top nation.

Peter Thorne in particular must be congratulated on the time and effort he put into making this event so enjoyable for the participants. I am glad to see the English Junior Open is again to be staged in the excellent Mountbatten Centre, Portsmouth under the sponsorship of the Beneficial Trust. I have said it before, but repeating it might eventually get through to the powers that be in my City. What a marvellous centre Portsmouth have been blessed with - we need one in Southampton! The dates of the Junior Open for your diary are May 11/12, 1985. While you have your diary out here are a few more dates to note! All events at Redbridge Sports Centre.

Sun. Nov 25- Hampshire Senior Closed.

Sun. Dec 2 - Hampshire Schools' Team Finals

Sun. Jan 20- Area No.8 Schools' Team Finals

Sun. Jan 27 - Hampshire Junior Closed

Sun. Feb. 10 - Hampshire Schools' Individual Tournament

The Hampshire Junior, Senior and Veteran trials resulted in the following ranking list being issued by the team management and selection committee:-

Men	Women
1. G. Toole (G&F)	1. C. Buttery (S'ton)
2. D. Holman (Bo)	2. J. Green (Bas)
3. V. Sinanon (Po)	3. S. Hammond (S'ton)
4. R. Bhalla (Aid)	4. B. Clark (Aid)
5. N. (An)	5. A. Longland (S'ton)
6. C. Shetler (S'ton)	6. J. Turley (G&F)
7. C. Wilshere (S'ton)	7. M. McCabe (Aid)
8. C. Young (Bas)	8. L. Savaker (G&F)
9. M. Wilding (SEH)	9. A. Wilson (G&F)
10. A. Whitcher (S'ton)	
11. T. Duffield (Bas)	
12. N. Maguire (S'ton)	
13. G. Green (Bas)	
14. G. Pointer (S'ton)	
15. A. Ely (S'ton)	
16. J. Oklosieme (S'ton)	
17. G. Longland (S'ton)	
18. G. Mitchell (S'ton)	
19. K. Donaldson (G&F)	
20. D. Burnham (Bas)	
21. R. Cox (G&F)	
22. C. Hamides (S'ton)	
23. P. Wheaton (G&F)	
24. A. Charles (S'ton)	
25. D. Groves	

VETERANS

Men	Women
1. F. Kershaw (S'ton)	1. I. Kershaw (S'ton)
2. R. Lush (Po)	2. A. Abraham (G&F)
3. R. Bennett (S'ton)	3. M. Clegg (Aid)
4. G. Holley (Po)	4. K. Lyne (Po)
5. J. Harvey (Aid)	5. D. Winmill (G&F)
6. M. Shave (S'ton)	6. M. Barron (Po)
7. K. Giles (Win)	7. A. Waters (Bas)
8. N. Stagg (Po)	8. W. Lewis (G&F)
9. R. Powell (Bas)	
10. H. Davies (Bo)	
11. G. Philpott (S'ton)	
12. E. Milsom (S'ton)	
13. A. Nixon (S'ton)	
14. P. Wilding (SEH)	

JUNIORS

Boys	Girls
1. Paul Hudless (Aid)	1. Sarah Hammond (S'ton)
2. Sean Pickin (Bas)	2. Laura Savaker (G&F)
3. Paul Lawrence (Aid)	3. Caroline Jenvey
4. Paul Whyton (An)	4. Lisa Rice (Po)
5. Brian Mansell (Aid)	5. Gillian Melham (Bas)
6. Matthew Crammond (Aid)	6. Dawn Taylor (Bas)
7. Stuart Ottley (Bas)	7. Allison Finnegan (G&F)
8. Jason White (Bas)	
9. Dominic Giles (Aid)	
10. Martin Johnstone (S'ton)	
11. Robert Kinnison (Bas)	
12. Jason Hicks (Bas)	
13. Richard Gorman (G&F)	
14. Mark Thorne (S'ton)	
15. Michael Thornton (Aid)	

Team Management & Selection Committee:
R. Yates (Secretary)
Members: R. Wilshere, P. Thorne (Consultative only), K. Donaldson and C. Barker.

On the day in the senior men, Derek Holman was the outstanding player dropping only one game in a 2-1 win over Graham Pointer. All his other sets were 2-straight, including a 16 and 15 win over county champion Graham Toole. Miki Sinanon lost only to Holman 18 and 17 and included in his wins 2-straight victories over Rhamish Bhalla and Chris Shetler. Miki has always had the ability, but in the past his temperament, dedication and reliability have been suspect. Hopefully these problems are behind him and his selection for the County's first match is his chance

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to prove the selectors' confidence is justified,

On the female side we are well blessed with ladies and from that point of view it is unfortunate that no second team has been entered because some established County players will be without a game. At the trials Jill Green was unbeaten including an 18 and 16 win over former No. 1 and County Champion, Sarah Hammond.

In addition the County have acquired Cheryl Buttery currently ranked No. 21 in England, who is now working and resident in Southampton. Welcome to Hampshire Cheryl and I hope your stay is a long and happy one. On the veteran scene it is welcome to Fred and Ivy Kershaw now moved into the County from Dorset and immediately making their presence felt by heading both the men's and women's veterans' rankings\,

At junior level the talking point is Cadet, Michael Aucterlonie. After doing well in the trials and probably justifying a third ranking he told the County not to consider him for selection. He lives in Hampshire at F. Irthingbridge, but plays some of his table tennis at Salisbury and could, therefore, look to his future in Wiltshire. So why enter the Hampshire Trials? Certainly Hampshire need him and hopefully he will decide to give his loyalties to his resident County. In the Regional Cadet Trials, Mark Thorne, international umpire Peter's offspring, emerged the winner but must have been a bit disappointed with the Hampshire Trials which only gave him a No. 14 ranking.

Our National League Club Jaques Generation at Fareham must have been devastated by the loss of their top two players in Prean

and Carl moved to Bath is a matter I wait with interest for John to explain, especially with them in the first division. It can't be to improve his game can it! Generation's supremo, Charlie Charles tells me the parting was on amicable terms.

The best Generation can achieve this season is to keep in the Premier Division. They have gained Nicky Mason and Kevin Satchell at the top of their order and this should keep them clear of the relegation zone, but last season the club's sights were set much higher than survival. In their first matches a draw at Wolverhampton, due to two sets each from Nicky and Kevin, was followed by a 2-6 defeat to Ellenboro with Nicky beating Dave Wells and Glyn Baker having a good victory over Mark Mitchell. Unfortunately Generation's match with Ormesby was

postponed at the last minute by their opponents- hardly the best way to attract spectators! After three matches Generation's second team are unbeaten with wins over Reading and Gunnersbury and a draw with New Malden.

Harry Stevens reports from....

HERTFORDSHIRE

The Senior Team (Div. 3C) were at home to Worcester on Sept. 22nd at Barnet IT Centre and represented by John Taylor, Perry Somers, Barry White, Karen Morton and Jeanette Maybanks lost 3-7, Barry White (2) and Perry Somers (1). M.D. and W.S. were hard fought to 3 games with Herts player of the match Barry White.

Junior Ranking Trials held at Barnet on Sept. 2 resulted:-

BOYS

1. P. Harris (WA)
2. D. Rogers (HE)
3. P. Witchalls (WA)
4. L. Rosso (BW)
5. M. Boardmann (HH)
6. H. Rabheru (WA)
7. R. Cook (NH)
8. J. Patterson (WH)
9. M. O'Connor (HE)
10. J. Foley (HE)
11. E. Taylor (WH)
12. C. Lacey (BA)
13. A. Dennis (NH)
14. C. Grethe (HE)
15. R. Grethe (HE)
16. W. Warrender (HH)
17. M. Greenberg (BA)
18. S. Grassick (BA)
19. I. Black (SA)
20. A. Anderson (CH)
21. D. O'Connor (HE)
22. M. King (BA)
23. H. Hartmann (BA)

GIRLS

1. A. Boxall (CH)
2. T. Baines (NH)
3. V. Margerrison (BA)
4. C. Seaholme (WA)
5. M. Williams (BA)
6. E. Hurling (HH)
7. K. Felstead (NH)
8. L. Flewers (HE)
9. J. Felstead (NH)
10. T. Greenberg (BA)

CADET BOYS

1. J. Patterson (WH)
2. E. Taylor (WH)
3. R. Grethe (HE)
4. M. Greenberg (BA)
5. S. Grassick (BA)
6. I. Black (SA)
7. D. O'Connor (HE)
8. H. Hartmann (BA)

Dairy Dates - Barnet Centre.
Junior Tournament Dec 9 '84
Senior Tournament

Feb 23/24 '85
Senior Inter League Nov 18
Veterans' Inter League Nov 25
Junior Inter League Nov 25
County Training Nov 15

John Prean looks beyond the

ISLE OF WIGHT

KILL THE MESSENGER, IGNORE THE MESSAGE

"I have no doubt that our membership figures will be down", I wrote in May. EITA publicity had been notable only by its absence. Our last chance to make some impact on the media and wider public faded as a result of the fiasco in Moscow. Since the Sport was played in near-secrecy, I concluded that potential new members would not find us. Certainly we had given few signs that we still existed. The drift towards better publicised, more visible, apparently more glamorous sports would continue. Despite a very big local effort we lost 10 teams from one season to the next and now have only 60. "You are lucky," commented a friend from another league, "our numbers halved in a few years. Our numbers were up during the World Championships in Birmingham. Since then it's been down, down, down all the way."

Messengers with such unhappy news were killed off in some ancient 'civilisations' and I too have endured much in that cause. However, in the Sept. issue of 'The Coach', Tony Russe, one of the best thinkers in Table Tennis, writes: "I have a feeling in my water, which does not often let me down, that this game of ours could be dying in this country, unless we all do something about it. It is not just a matter of coaching new players, it is a matter of spreading the gospel, selling the game in the cities, in the villages... We must rally our resources from top to bottom, re-examine our system, our motives, our abilities.... Let us not allow this game of ours to die without making a better fight than we appear to be making of it."

STAGNATION

I quote from the A.G.M. of the International Club: "The main concern to emerge was the feeling that our Sport was in a state of stagnation."

~ We are on a very slippery slope and we are sliding fast. There is still time to do something, to listen, to act, but every day that slips by sends us further down the Road to Nowhere. It gives me no pleasure to record all this, but, until we clearly understand that the sport is in a mess, no one will lift a finger to change things. If we go on as before, nothing can halt the funeral.

TIME FOR POSITIVE THINKING

Tony Russe says it well, We have to promote Table Tennis and that means Promotions and Events that people will want to

see which newspapers, at least local ones, will want to write about. This means NEW events.

I see no future for tournaments with the format of the current 2 Star and 3 Star events. Their charm, if any, seems to be that any Tom, Dick and Harry may play Graham Sandley in the first round (Des has long ceased coming). Sports Centre rents being exorbitant. Overheads are heavy and often too many entries are accepted which means that things drag on for 12 or more hours. Then, when all but a few ashen-faced relatives of the finalists have gone home, the Finals start amidst empty benches. After that the survivors rush to their cars for their dawn patrols down the motorway, many arriving in the early hours of the morning. Despite much family success, the only thing I enjoy about English Table Tennis Tournaments is missing them. Nearly all the competitors, apart from the odd local lion, are the same 100 or so players one sees everywhere else.

THESE GHOST SONATAS MUST END

In their place must come Elite Tournaments for the best 16 or so players (as in Tennis) and these should last no more than 6 hours (still long compared with Football's 90 minutes). All other tournaments should be regional and graded into at least 3 divisions and players should fight for the right to move up a grade. Organisers could charge more as the costs of competitors would be greatly reduced. Money that now goes to boarding houses and petrol stops would stay in the Game. Players would welcome it. Class 2 Events are already more popular than the open events. The Elite Events would attract spectators and at last there would be a chance to sell tickets. All English Tournaments of the present completely ignore the spectator dimension. That must now be our first concern, as it has to be in any professional sport that wants to pay its way.

NEW PRODUCTS

New products are the lifeblood of any business and in a Sport there has to be a flood of new promotions and events which can be offered to local associations. That way local people will work together for the Sport. From time to time I have written about such enterprises all over the country, It CAN be done. Why not a series of Test Matches against an attractive foreign country? Or an English Match-Play Championship as in Boxing or Chess, defended periodically by the holder? Cost-effective ideas, that will break no piggy-banks, but will get us back

on the sports pages. Why not a real effort to attract women into the Sport? In Germany 140,000 women play league table tennis, in England 2 or 3,000. Why not a membership drive? Does clothing really have to be quite so drab and yet expensive? Should not someone find out what has happened to all those disaffiliated leagues? Should the ETTA not go out and sell itself to the membership? Should there be quite so much red tape? Should there not be a few Working Parties examining some of the urgent problems that confront us? WHY are WE losing members? Why are other sports gaining? Should we not find out? Is it enough to blame the recession? I hope all this is constructive enough. Now let's get moving and make the Sport great again.

WELL DONE, DUNLOP

Warm praise though for Dunlop. After the controversy about their plastic balls, Dunlop could have sulked in their tent and told players that they don't know what's good for them. Instead they responded admirably by producing a celluloid baU (Dunlop Premier Tournament Ball - 3 Star) which both Carl and I felt the equal of any we had ever played with. The current plastic ball is a big improvement on the old Barna and has a big 'price advantage. I continue to favour celluloid and congratulate Dunlop on an excellent product. This is NOT an advertising job. Neither Carl nor I have asked for or received money or goods for these comments which it is a pleasure to make. Well done, Dunlop.

LOCAL NEWS

It seemed to me that the state of the game was an absolute priority, but next time I shall definitely deal with local matters. Our first county match brought our first away point for 3 years when we drew with Somerset 2. Jim Daly's first victory over a combination bat player, the debut of Regina Stevens, our best-ever lady, who still lost to Melonie Carey - a fine player. She tells me she is No. 28 Junior. She has my personal guarantee that she will be a lot higher this time next year. It was a cracking match. We had Carl Prean in the side this time, but will miss him quite often this season, though he wants to play. Fixture clashes remain part of a chaotic scene.

CONTROVERSY?

"Buy Table Tennis News. Read John Prean. Controversy Unlimited." So runs an advertisement in a local hand-book. I hope it sells copies in which case a lot of people will soon look forward to their copy as I do to mine every month. This Magazine is the ETIA at its best,

the whole scene from top to bottom. I also recommend "The Coach" (Tony Russe, Tel. 0934 27988 - home) excellent for serious students of the game.

These notes are carefully written. I hope they are carefully read. I hope that the message that this is a great sport is never absent. I have gone over the top to praise people who have done a great job in organising a special occasion when Table Tennis is seen at best. I have tried to show the errors of their ways to those who mess things up. A lot of our standard events are in urgent need of reform. For 30 years I ran a successful and somewhere on that road one develops a nose for impending disaster and I am getting the wrong vibrations about Table Tennis. I could retire amidst cries of "Well done, chaps" and quietly take up another sport and fade away as so many of our rank and file, indeed stars, done.

Instead I have hammered away in the hope that I could play a small part in making the sport better. I have not tried to head popularity polls and I sympathise with those who feel I have been less than fair to them. It is hard for those at the top to feel that a sport that has propelled them to their high positions is less than perfect. They are doing their best. Nevertheless I recall the example of the late Leonard Lord who advised. motoring correspondents who asked for a heater in their cars to wear an overcoat. He headed what was to become British Leyland, an example of what happens to those who forget who is the customer and become the arbiters of what is good for their customers. Leyland reminds me in many ways of the ETTA, a decent, but unaltering product and, like the car without the heater, there is not enough warmth, but the biggest fault is the unwillingness to change, whilst life IS changing. It will be interesting to see how many of the suggestions I have made will be accepted, at least tried. They can't ALL be bad.

FRANK KENNEDY

I greatly appreciated the comments by the Irish Junior Captain in last month's issue. I hope I got across to him my admiration of him and his team, their effort in getting to the European Youth and their performance on the table, their triumph in the end over difficulties we in England could not imagine, let alone overcome with our present comfortable outlook and attitude. I hope Funds will be forthcoming more plentifully in the future for Ireland's juniors and in Frank they have a man who will give them very good

value and repay their confidence many times over.

Iris Moss reports from.....

MIDDLESEX WHAT'S GONE WRONG?

Can anyone tell me what is wrong with Middlesex table tennis players? Or conversely what is wrong with the Middlesex Senior Closed Championships? Admittedly we "boobed" a bit on the date which clashes with the Humber-side 3-Star but I would have thought that only affected the top players, not the rank-and-file. In order to improve the entry of our Senior Closed, we decided to issue Entry Forms via Leagues and Clubs, and took the trouble to get the forms to the Leagues in time to issue with their Handbooks. This entailed issuing over 1,000 forms and at the closing date we had 58 entries. I have had the usual phone calls from people who let the date pass without sending in their forms, but despite that we have under 70 entries. Surely it can't be the venue; Ellenborough Club provides excellent conditions; David Miller opens the bar and his sister, Elaine, caters to the inner man in a delightful manner. So PLEASE, Middlesex players, WHY DON'T YOU ENTER? I would be very interested to get some replies to this question as we all feel that we are wasting our time running a tournament that the vast majority do not want.

Three of our County teams played their first matches on Sept 22 and the results were 2 wins and 1 loss. Our new team Secretary for the Senior 2nd team had some difficulty in getting a team together but having managed it they beat Essex III 7-3. The honours of the match go to Mark and Angela Mitchell and Dipak Topiwala, but Laura Goldsmith and Percy Collino did not have a good day. Our Veterans' 1st team were somewhat overshadowed by Lincolnshire, but there is plenty of time for them to improve during the season. The Veterans' 2nd team also did well, beating Hampshire 6-3, with Tony Taylor and Don Smith acting as the anchor-men. Our Junior 2nd team's match against Hertfordshire was postponed, and with both our Senior and Junior 1st teams playing in their respective Premier Divisions on set weekends, we do not feel that we have made too bad a start.

Our youngsters took part in the Regional Junior Trials on Sept 30 and achieved the following places: Boys: Kevin King 10; Michael Kowaleski 11; Girls: Lesley Souter 1; So Chin Man 12;

Cadet Boys: Joseph Bittran 5; Daniel Parnes 6; Tommy Cutler 8; Simon Rockall 11; Cadet Girls: Rachel Skinner 2; Lynne Moore 3; Sandy Lynes 6. Rachel Knight was exempt from the Trials and Philip Szekeres could not take part because of an injured Wrist.

Finally, entry forms for the Middlesex 3-Star Open have been issued, and have started to come in, although at the moment we still do not know whether the Greater London Council will support us financially. Unfortunately their timetable and ours do not fit in very well, and we have had to take the gamble of issuing the forms before we know the outcome of our application. David Miller has taken over the task of Tournament Organiser but I am still issuing and receiving entries and generally helping with the donkey work. So I am hoping that my work will not be wasted and that the Middlesex 3-Star will go ahead.

Ray Hogg reports from.....

NORFOLK TOO "HOT"

Sunday, September 2nd dawned clear and sunny so after breakfast I came the trousers and on went the shorts and out into the garden I went. The temperature rose steadily to the mid seventies (F) then I was suddenly reminded that today was the opening day of the National League starting time 2.30 p.m. The opposition was the old "enemy from Ipswich complete with John Kitchener - surely a match that should have been programmed for during the winter months as it would have been a great crowd puller. As it was many of our regulars didn't know the match was on as they weren't expecting so early a start to the season. I was amazed to hear that after winning the division last season Nottingham have dropped out and that Norwich Foxwood have not been promoted. - Also this season I hope to see more detail of matches other than the Premier division as Vic Bennett sends screeds of detail after every home match and virtually nothing was printed.

With the County our new committee is getting to grips with the problems of running 2 senior and 2 junior teams. Our Secretary Alan Pickard has made great strides in obtaining sponsorship for our closed championships, with the cost of the hall, the trophies and the hire of tables all covered. Also May & Baker Ltd., of Norwich, celebrated their 150th anniversary this year and

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have donated the money for shirts suitably inscribed with Norfolk for the senior teams.

A foretaste of things to come is surely the agreement of teams in Junior 3D to play most if not all matches over 1 weekend Dec. 1st/2nd.

In the Norwich League I notice that more and more of established players are opting to play in the lower divisions. After 30 years or more of top flight play the hassle and some of the Bright Young Things get a bit too much so down to the basement where things are much more enjoyable.

I attended the VETTS tournament strictly as a spectator with my wife Ruth who competed and we both fully agree with the comments made in the September issue of an enjoyable tournament without a tantrum in sight and we made many new friends over the weekend and we hope to be at Coventry for the first of this season's competitions.

Had the pleasure of playing both in Germany and France during the summer, and found the standard of the ordinary run of the mill players far greater than ours and we had some, as we thought, very handy players with us. Also in Germany the standard of facilities leaves us back in the dark ages and the dedication of the players is such that they are expected to practise - or train as they say - regularly to keep a place in the team.

Just confirmed County Senior Champs. at Drayton L.C. Sunday Dec. 9th.

Dennis Millman reports from....

NORTHANTS FULL COMPLEMENT

Another new season has dawned, and for once Northants finds itself with a full complement of officials together with a new coaching structure and some generous sponsorship from the Midland Bank.

Peter Trott, who took over as Chairman towards the end of last season, continues in that office, and returning to the fold are Dorothy Marsh as Senior Match Secretary and Arth'ur Palmer as Umpires Secretary. My best wishes for their ultimate success are not only sincere, but optimistic, for a more enthusiastic dependable trio it would be hard to find. At the sametime Barbara Gibbs as Honorary Secretary and Brian Dangerfield as Treasurer, encouraged by last season's initial skirmish with legislation, continue in office, and their continuing presence should be enough to ensure another year of progress.

On the league front, Abington Nomads' Keith Jones, Brian D'Hooghe and Tim Chamberlain set out to defend their Northampton Premier Division title, with new challengers, if only by name. Lings, who fell apart towards the end of last season, retain the same players and premises, but now attempt to wrest the title away under the name of their sponsors, Malcolm Dilley Associates, who should be assured of a good run for their money, as the team will be playing in shoes provided by Unisport, through the auspices of many times County Doubles Champion Brian Bond.

Ling's team of Graeme McKim, Chris Handshaw and Andy Edmonds, joined by Brian Dangerfield and Mark Nannery, represent Chapman's in the Wellingborough League, where the main challenge could come from Higham Band's Steve Brown, Andy Trott, nationally-ranked Cadet Gavin Black and a much improved Pat Coleman.

Strangely enough, Handshaw and Edmonds are joined by Trott in the Kettering League, where under the banner of Kettering Town 'A', they attempt to retain the title Town 'A' won last season. Then McKim was instrumental in holding on to the trophy, but now he represents Corby, with Gary Alden also named in a line-up which is completed by Terry Cardwell and Alan Bell. Rothborough's Keith and Ken Nicoll, supplemented by David Steele, Wellingborough's Ian and Alan Hawes plus Steve Kendall, and Team Electric's Steve West hopefully assisted by the as yet unfulfilled potential of Graham Ball and Mark Cole make this the most open and interesting of the County Leagues.

The County Selectors came up with an early ranking list, but this will be subject to early alteration after a second series of trials in November. For the time being however it stands as follows:-

1. Graeme McKim
2. Ian Hawes
3. Iain Randle
4. Keith Jones
5. Keith Nicoll
6. Steve Lyon
7. John Sanders
8. Brian D'Hooghe
9. Phil Snelling
10. Chris Handshaw
11. Steve West
12. Tim Chamberlain
13. Dave Marsh
14. Andy Edmonds
15. Ken Nicoll
16. Mark Nannery
17. Andy Trott
18. Steve Kendall
19. Steve Silk
20. Ashley Bennett
21. Richard Elliott
22. Raymond Jacobs
23. Glen Robertson

WOMEN

1. Margaret Maltby
2. Mandy Brown (Wallis)
3. Glennis Hooper
4. Joyce Porter
5. Maxine Shears
6. Dorothy Marsh
7. Donna Furniss
8. Connie Bane
9. Ann Lenton

10. Barbara Gibbs
11. Anne Nicoll
12. Julia Kendall
13. Sue Nannery
14. Debbie Kimbell

BOYS

1. Andy Trott
2. Richard Elliott
3. Raymond Jacobs
4. Ian Bird
5. Stephen Rogers
6. Lee Fraser
7. Jonathan Clarke
8. Richard Ambrose
9. Lee Dunnage
10. Paul James
11. David Waples
12. Darren Underwood

GIRLS

1. Maxime Shears
2. Joanna Abbott
3. Suzy Hunt
4. Caroline Worth
5. Alison Ambrose
6. Caroline Perkins

CADET BOYS

1. Ian Bird
2. Neil Atkinson
3. Robin Betts
4. Mark Brimley
5. Alistair Worth
6. Garry Weston
7. Graham Bird
8. Peter James

CADET GIRLS

1. Caroline Worth
2. Caroline Perkins
3. Nicola Jordan
4. Elinor Williams
5. Clare Waples

Despite the abundance of names on the ranking lists the early season matches were not rewarding, for the Firsts have so far lost twice, the Seconds once, while the Juniors and Veterans have still to make a start to their programmes. It is perhaps a sad commentary on the County Championships that matches can be postponed on the flimsiest of excuses, and that because of the long distances often involved some teams can wait until they see which way their fixtures lie before deciding to make a graceless exit.

When Bedfordshire turned up without their Number Three, who had been taken ill at the last moment, and when his late substitute had been beaten twice and Northants had taken the two doubles matches to lead four two, an opening win seemed in prospect, but it was not to be, and Dawn Campbell, David Sharpe, Julie Dimmock and Ian Doughty accounted for Mandy Brown, Graeme McKim, Margaret Maltby and Iain Randle respectively to give the visitors a win by six rubbers to four.

Two weeks later at Worcester, with McKim, Randle and Mandy Brown missing, worse was to befall the team for Steve Lyon's success over Ken Walton was the solitary ray of sunshine in a drab result.

Lyon had been one of three winners in the seven three defeat at the hands of Nottinghamshire, giving the County Seconds an early lead when he beat Ransford Scott 25-23 in the third. Maxine Shears and Chris Handshaw also contributed useful wins but in the end it was the story as before.

For a real success story one

has to travel to Essex, where it was pleasant to see former County Chairman Peter Edwards, now Essex County Cricket Secretary, joining in the players' celebrations after Essex had so narrowly won the County Championship. No doubt Peter's drive and enthusiasm has played an important part in their rise to prominence. Now let us hope that those who have succeeded him in his many former capacities within the county, will have their share of success.

Pauline Long reports from....

NORTHUMBERLAND NEW RANKINGS

The County Ranking and Selection Sub-Committee have issued ranking lists for September based mainly on last season's League results, although it is intended to organise practice sessions instead of trials for future ranking assessment. These are as follows:

MEN

1. Chu Van Que
2. Peter McQueen
3. Neil McMaster
4. Ian Robertson
5. Andrew Clark
6. Eddie Smith
7. Thomas Blackman
8. Andy Hammett
9. Malcolm Lusk
10. Peter Whiteman
11. Alan Matthewson
12. Tom Trewitt
13. Keith Patterson
14. Peter Curry

BOYS

1. T. Blackman
2. K. Patterson
3. P. Curry
4. Steven Waugh
5. David Watson
6. Darren Shaw
7. Damien Linskill
8. Andrew Beattie

WOMEN

1. Clare Mouzon
2. Caron Buglass
3. Burke
4. Pauline Long
5. Karen Wilkinson
6. Denise Campbell
7. Denise Wilkinson
8. Lily Aust
9. Elaine Hopper
10. Brenda Grice

GIRLS

1. C. Mouzon
2. D. Wilkinson
3. E. Hopper
4. Tracy McMaster
5. Lisa Redhead
6. Judith Drapkin

However, since these ranking lists were formulated, it has become known that apart from the availability doubts surrounding Chu Van Que and Andrew Clarke, Ian Robertson has requested not to be considered for County or League play at the present time. In addition, Northumberland Closed champion Caron Buglass has (temporarily we hope) also disappeared from the County scene; while Pauline Long, although still ranked at No.4, feels that with younger players now obviously gaining selection preference, there is no longer any point in making herself available, thus ending a 15-year association with the County. Amended ranking lists will be published as soon as they are available, but while there are probably enough young and promising players in the men's list to overcome these departures, the women's list must now be giving cause for concern, especially if Clare Mouzon is not available and the

other two juniors are needed for a junior match. Clare is now ranked No. 5 in England, and as this will be her last season as a junior, she is naturally making an all-out effort to break into the national side by travelling to as many tournaments as possible, which I fully support.

Unfortunately one of these, the Wiltshire 2-Star Open, clashed with both the opening County fixtures of the season, the juniors at home to Lancs. on Sept. 22, and the seniors away to Clwyd on the following day. Both these matches ended in 5-5 draws, but the junior team in their first Div. 2A match must have felt slightly disappointed after leading 4-1 and then 5-3. All their sets were won by the boys, with Thomas Blackman taking both his singles and the doubles with Peter Curry, who also won one singles. Keith Patterson took the other set. The seniors, already without Clare Mouzon and Neil McMaster, had to make two further changes with Blackman replacing Jan Robertson and Denise Wilkinson taking the place of Christine Burke, who was on holiday. The two juniors rose magnificently to the occasion, with Blackman winning both his singles for the second time in two days, and Denise putting out late stops in her singles. Peter McQueen, although very much under the weather with a 'flu bug, managed to win one of his singles plus the doubles, for which he should be given every credit, and given all the circumstances, a draw was an excellent result.

Byker Newcastle "entertained Kingsborough Insurance Services of Stockton in their opening Div. 2 (North) Halex National League match on Sept. 16, and started off on the right foot with a 5-3 victory. Results:

N. McMaster bt I. Plummer 16, 17; lost to M. Corking 21, -8, -14.
E. Smith lost to Corking -7, -17; lost to T. Murphy -23, -1.
T. Blackman bt Plummer 14, 18; bt S. Cooper 21, 21;
S. George bt Murphy 13, 15; bt Cooper 13, 11.

Unfortunately, Byker Newcastle II could not emulate the first team's performance, and crashed to their second successive defeat in Div. 3 (North) on Sept. 30 against Ormesby IV. Only Keith Patterson and Maurice Cheek registered any successes. Results:

A. Hammett lost to D. Hughes -14, -19; lost to G. Jordan -13, -14;
K. Patterson bt Hughes 20, 17; lost to M. Burrell -20, 1B, -22.
P. Curry lost to Jordan -16, 14, -17; lost to A. Watson -18, -22;
M. Cheek lost to Burrell -13, -19; bt Watson 17, 14.

Roy Williams reports from....

NORTH WALES

The T.T.A. TO THE RIBBLE

County Championships match played at Castell Alun. Hope on Sept 23.

Peter McQueen had little trouble beating Terry Turner in the opening set and Thomas Blackman swept aside John Hook with ease to put the visitors two sets up. Eddie Smith won the second set against Alan Morgan and the match was in command before the end.

Sue Roberts and Karen Buckle had a thriller in the women's doubles and just edged home but Northumberland won the men's doubles; Blackman beat Turner followed by Karen Buckle losing to Denise Wilkinson. With the score 5-2 in the visitors' favour all looked lost as the athletic McQueen forced Eddie Smith to retire.

Karen Wilkinson and Hook turned on the heat to beat Smith for a well deserved draw. The match was a thriller and the visitors were to Nigel Tyler and he was also the losing finalist in the men's doubles.

NORTH WALES ASSESSMENT

The Junior N.W. Assessment organised by the T.T.A. of Wales, was held at Castell Alun Leisure Centre, for the first time on Sunday, Sept 9. The event has previously been held at Lilleshall. Len Elias was in charge, assisted by Alan Harris. Results:-

Main Group	Girls Group
1 Tim Turner (E.F.)	1 Tracy Sambrook (W)
2 Lee Thacker (E.F.)	2 Sharon Buckle (W)
3 Lynne Bowen (E.F.)	3 Lesley Hatton (RH)
4 Justine Thomas (E.F.)	4 Natasha Williams (RH)
5 James Tapp (E.F.)	5 Natalie Hughes (RH)
6 Mark Ellis (W)	6 Nicola Harris (W)
7 Craig Thomas (RH)	7 Beverley Roberts (RH)
8 Andrew Harrison (AH)	
9 Spencer Harris (W)	
10 Malcolm Roberts (RH)	

Key
E = East Flintshire
RH = Rhuddlan TIC
W = Wrexham

SAD LOSS

The death occurred on Monday, Sept 24, of Ron Bishop (46). Deputy Headmaster of Queensferry School, a table tennis enthusiast who played in the East Flintshire League. Ron, an International Umpire, had officiated at four international matches in North Wales but in his local league had been a tower of strength to up-and-coming

youngsters. Ron was also a cricket coach but his real love was soccer. Players to have represented his school team included Ian Rush (Liverpool). Kevin Radcliffe (Everton) and Grenville Millington (Chester). The East Flintshire Wrexham and N.W.C.T.T.A. were all represented at St Marks Church, Connahs Quay, on Friday, Sept 29, by Henry Maddison, Noel Ralphs and Roy Williams.

Current rankings:

Men	Women
1. Clive Morris	1. Mary Denbow
2. Norman Swift	2. Stephanie Haddrell
3. Arthur Chilvers	3. Amanda Shufflebotham
4. Neil Harris	4. Julie Woodward
5. Peter Jones	5. Eleanor Harrison
6. Alf Davies	6. Carrie Filmer
7. Ian Mead	7. Jackie Windle
8. Brian Hamilton	8. Oisa Wingent
9. Stan Hahn	9. Carol Pullen
10. Clive Alcock	10. Shirley Burton

Denis George reports from....

SCOTLAND

HANNAH IN BERLIN



David Hannah, our NO. 1 is now living and playing in Berlin, however he expects to play in a few Scottish/UK events during the season and will be available for two of our European League matches.

Several of the top Scottish players are participating in the HALEX English NATIONAL LEAGUE - in fact ORMESBY have a decidedly Scottish look nowadays. David McIlroy had a good first outing against DAGENHAM to win his two from the No. 1 spot. The experience gained outside Scotland can only be to their own and ultimately Scotland's benefit.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Division 2

The withdrawal of Ireland, and now Portugal, from Division 2 has reduced those countries participating to only five which makes the competition this season somewhat a non-event as Bulgaria is expected to have little trouble in winning promotion and there is no threat of demotion!

With scheduled home matches against the two withdrawn teams, and very expensive away matches to Greece and Bulgaria, serious thought will have to be given to whether continued participation in the European League after this season is financially justified.

9.9.84: STTA SENIOR CLASSIFICATION TOURNAMENT.

The Scottish season opened with the Senior Classification tournament which was played in four category groups for the men and two groups for the women. Richard Yule and Carole Dalrymple went through the day undefeated in their respective top categories. McIlroy, Anwar Majid and John Broe finished in positions 2 to 4, whilst for the ladies Janet Smith, despite an unexpected loss to Pat Calder, was second, followed by Eleanor McIlroy and Lynn Johnston.

Hannah, in Germany, and Brian Wright, at the Butterfly Training Camp in Tokyo, did not compete.

County Notes

23.9.84: NATIONAL GIROBANK JUNIOR/CADET ASSESSMENT TOURNAMENT, Meadowbank, Edinburgh.

This season the NATIONAL GIROBANK (Scottish Office) are sponsoring the development of our young players, including the assessment tournaments in September and February. After a series of qualifying groups the Junior Boys competed in four category groups of 8, the Junior Girls in two groups of 5, the Cadet Boys in three groups of 8 and the Cadet Girls in two groups of 4. The final results were more or less as expected with Gordon Waddell, Sarah Hurry, Christopher Woess and Lorraine Anderson taking the top places in their respective junior and cadet categories.

NEW RANKING LISTS:

Following the senior classification and junior/cadet assessment events new ranking/seedling lists for the first half of the season are:-

- MEN**
- 1 P David Hannah (Surrey)
 - 2 (2) Richard Yule (Waf S)
 - 3 (3) David McIlroy (W of S)
 - 4 (5) Anwar Majid (Edn)
 - 5 (6) John B.oe (W of S)
 - 6 (4) David Campbell (Edn)
 - 7 (10) Graeme Docherty (W of S)
 - 8 (7) Brian Wright (W of S)
 - 9 IS Calum Gerrard (Waf S)
 - 10 (10) Ian McLean (W of S)
 - 11 (9) Jim Graham (Waf S)
 - 12 (12) Alan CoUiar (Edn)
 - 13 (19) Ian Stokes (Waf S)
 - 14 (17) Martin Crawford (Stg)
 - 15 (15) Peter Shaw (W of S)
 - 16 (16) Tom Reid (WO)
 - 17 (-) David Low (Abo)
 - 18 I-I Stuart Wallis (WO)
 - 19 (18) Gordon Cummings IW of S)
 - 20 I-I John Proctor (Edo)
 - 21 I-I Gordon Waddell (Stg)
 - 22 (-) Jim Wilson (Edn)
 - 23 I-I David Thomas IW of S)
 - 24 (-) Tom Haldane (Edn)

FOR SEEDING PURPOSES: 13A (13) Bert Kerr
14A (14) Gordon Clancey

- WOMEN**
- 1 (1) Carole Dalrymple (Stg)
 - 2 (2) Janet Smith (Kent)
 - 3 (6) Eleanor McIlroy (W of S)
 - 4 (3) Lynn Johnston (Stg)
 - 5 (4) Liz Robb (Fif)
 - 6 (5) Diane Greig IW of S)
 - 7 (B) Pat Calder (SO)
 - 8 H Sarah Hurry (SO)
 - 9 (-) Isobel Lappin (Waf S)
 - 10 (-) Lynne Davren (W of S)

- BOYS**
- 1 Gordon Waddell (Stg)
 - 2 Ian Stokes (Waf S)
 - 3 Jonathan Wilson (Edn)
 - 4 David Low (Abn)
 - 5 Gordon Cummings (Waf S)
 - 6 George Innes (Waf S)
 - 7 Gavin Turnbull (Edn)
 - 8 Steven Woess (WDI)
 - 9 Jim Wilson (Edn)
 - 10 Paul Gardiner (W of S)
 - 11 Colin Carmichael (Waf S)
 - 12 Danny Mather (Waf S)
 - 13 Jim Weatherston (W of S)
 - 14 James Rowan (Waf S)
 - 15 Scott Walker (EK)
 - 16 Scott Gilbert (Lan)
 - 17 Neil Cameron (SO)
 - 18 P. Campbell
 - 19 Mark Hunter (SO)
 - 20 Graeme McKinnie (Pth)
 - 21 Billy McNeil (EK)
 - 22 Peter Sloan (Pth)
 - 23 Ian Allison (Edn)
 - 24 Mark Hastings (Edn)

- GIRLS**
- 1 Sarah Hurry (SD)
 - 2 Pat Calder (SO)
 - 3 Maureen Cusick (W of S)
 - 4 Linda Hood (Edn)
 - 5 Karen Sturrock (Lan)
 - 6 Eileen Cusick (Waf S)
 - 7 Dominique McNeill (Lan)
 - 8 Vicky Campbell (Lan)
 - 9 Catherine O'Neill (W of S)
 - 10 Vicky Morrall (WD)



National Girobank Junior/Cadet Assessment Tournament 23.9.84. Pat Calder - Junior Girls 2; Sarah Hurry - Junior Girls 1; Lorraine Anderson - Cadet Girls 1; Lesley Reid - Cadet Girls 2.

Photo: B. D. George



Scottish Team Cup 1984. The Winners - Central (Glasgow). Jim McGregor NPC, John Broe, Graeme Docherty, David McIlroy and Ian McLean.

Photo: B. D. George



Scottish Team Cup 1984. The Ruiner-up - Tynecastle (Edinburgh). Willie Mabon, Allan Colliar, John Proctor and David Campbell.

Photo: B. D. George

CAOET BOYS

- 1 Christopher Woess (WD)
- 2 Martin Shields (Waf S)
- 3 Henry Wong (Fif)
- 4 Euan Walker (EK)
- 5 Paul Clark IW of S)
- 6 Alan Smith (W of S)
- 7 Andrew Bruce (WD)
- 8 Gregg McMaster (W of S)
- 9 Gerard Bradley IW of S)

- 10 Edward Craig (SO)
- Steve Aspin (Edn)
- 12 Kevin McKellar (WDI)
- 13 James Dyson (Dun)
- 14 Hammish McGregor (Edn)
- 15 Colin McKellar (WD)
- 16 Euan Scott (Edn)
- 17 Kenny Campbell (Dun)
- 18 Tommy Martin (Pth)

- 19 Alan. Cornet (Edn)
- 20 Darren Perry (Edn)
- 21 Richard Blackey (Stg)
- 22 Gregor Goodwin (Ayr)
- 23 Scott Riddell (Edn)
- 24 Stephen Neilson (Ayr)

CADET GIRLS

- 1 Sarah Hurry (SO)
- 2 Lorraine Anderson (W of S)
- 3 Lesley Reid (Stg)
- 4 Jennifer Hook (Edn)
- 5 Claire Hood (Edn)
- 6 Karen Sloan (EK)

KEY:

Abn	Aberdeen
Ay.	Ayrshire
Dun	Dundee
Edn	Edinburgh
E.K.	East Kilbride
Fif	Fife
Ian	Ianarkshire
Pth	Perth
SO	Stirling District
Stg	Stirlingshire
WO	West Dunbartonshire
WafS	West of Scotland

28/29.9.84: 11th HOME COUNTRIES QUADRANGULAR TOURNAMENT, The Aberconwy Conference Centre, Llandudno

Scotland finished a creditable second to England in this year's Quadrangular, despite the absence of Hannah we defeated Wales 5-3 and Ireland 8-0 and, as last year, were the only team to have any success against England. Yule and McIlroy combined well to win the doubles from Skylet Andrew and Nicky Mason and Janet Smith comfortably defeated Joanne Shaw 13 and 14. Janet, in fact, played her best table tennis to date, showing much improved footwork and speed in attack to win all three singles matches.

7.10.84: STTA TEAM CUP, Meadowbank, Edinburgh.

This annual event is restricted to the two top teams of the top division of all our affiliated leagues during the 1983/84 season.

CENTRAL (Glasgow), retained the title of premier Scottish club, making it 5 times in a row and 9 times in the past 11 years since the long run of GAMBIT (Edinburgh) was broken in the 1974/75 season.

Eleven teams competed in two groups with CENTRAL topping one group and TYNECASTLE (Edinburgh) the other. In the Final the Glaswegians were shocked by the defeat of Scottish No. 3 - McIlroy - by Campbell and Proctor before winning 5-3. Broe, of Central, went through the day undefeated.

Gerald Green reports from....

SHROPSHIRE

TOUGH AT THE TOP

Grove I are finding it 'tough at the top' in the Premier Division of the National League, losing 1-7 at Ormesby and 2-6 at Wolverhampton. Kevin Beadsley was the only winner at Ormesby, but the game against Wolverhampton was much closer than the score suggests. Steve Turner lost 23-

25 in the third to Skylet Andrew with Beadsley and Malcolm Green also losing in the third to Steve Scowcroft and Andrew Bellingham respectively. Consolation came in the last two games for Grove when Turner's top spin proved too consistent for Bellingham and Green gave an excellent display to beat Scowcroft.

Young Claire Potts, at the age of 13, proved to be Grove Irs star player despite a 6-2 defeat at the hands of league leaders Hinckley.

The England No.1 cadet girl was impressive in all her matches, particularly against the highly-rated Leicester star Maurice Newman.

He found Potts' hard-hitting style too difficult to master and a victory in favour of the Grove girl was the outcome.

Grove's other success came from Stan Deakin against Martin Pickles. Despite fighting displays by Keith Sillitoe and Joe Deakin, the Grove II side went down 6-2.

MIDLAND LEAGUE

Telford seniors turned in a good show to force a 5-5 draw with visitors Burton in the Midland League. M. Langford grabbed three wins and D. Russell two.

SHROPSHIRE INTER-CLUB LEAGUE

Results:

Sept 24 at Grove School.
Grove 7 Grove Juniors 1
Belle Vue 7 Fitzalan 1
Shrewsbury 6 Telford II 2
Ellesmere 6 Telford I 2

SHREWSBURY LEAGUE (PREMIER)

Belle Vue YC "A" started the defence of the championship of the Shrewsbury League with a convincing 9-1 won on their visit to Pontesbury "C" with Dean Pountney and Mike Beaman each winning three.

Pontesbury "C" suffered a further defeat on their visit to Corporation "A", this time 7-3 with Justin Goodah winning all. The Caton Hill team were due to be relegated at the end of last season but due to the loss of a number of teams they have remained in the premier. They have lost Mike Dudley to Hospitals and have promoted Phil Harvey from their "B" team. They gained a second win on their visit to Pontesbury "B" with a 6-4 win with two wins each for Rob Mansfield and Paul Richards. Stephen Morris won his three for Pontesbury.

Pontesbury "B" had previously beaten Shrewsbury CC "B" 7-3 with Brian Andrews and David Morris unbeaten. The Cricketers had previously lost 8-2 at Belvidere Saints "A" for whom Motto Jones and Nicky Roberts were undefeated.

Legion started with a convincing 9-1 home win over Pontesbury "D" with Steve Dixon and John Bebbington unbeaten.

Last year's runners-up, Pontesbury "A", just managed to win 6-4 at Belle Vue YC "B" thanks to Barry Ruddick who was unbeaten.

OSWESTRY LEAGUE

Oswestry have seven divisions in addition to the women's division. There are more teams competing than ever.

The league are being sponsored by American Express and the main interest at the top will be centred on who will come through as the main challenger to Brookside "A" in Div. 1.

The standard of play has improved considerably during the last two seasons and there will be plenty of lesser known clubs determined to make their mark.

TELFORD LEAGUE

The Telford League, who open their league programme on Oct 1, have for the first time full sponsorship for league and all other tournaments.

C. R. Jones Associates is the name to be associated with all the league's competitions, their marketing director being John Bailey, who has been connected with the league as a player with Wades, Court and GKN, and also as a member of the management committee.

The league will have four divisions with eleven teams in each. The handicap and restricted tournament is on Jan 27 and the close tournament on Feb 24, both at Lilleshall Hall.

GRADED SINGLES

David Morris (Grove) won the Grade A singles title in the Grove School graded singles tournament.

Morris clinched the title with a victory over clubmate and tournament favourite Keith Sillitoe.

Kirk Roberts of the Potteries captured the Grade B title, beating John Macdonald.

Roberts reached the final following victories in group matches over Mike Roberts and Cheryl Jones of Oswestry and Matthew Jeffrey of Grove.

He scored a semi-final success over Simon Edwards. Macdonald had a quarter final success over Grove's Derek Sherratt and a semi-final win against Potteries colleague Denis Butcher.

Oswestry's David Powell won the Grade C event beating Pontesbury's Chris Day in an excellent final.

The Grade D singles was won by Desmond Brayne of Oswestry who beat clubmate Ralph Croke.

The Grade E event saw Potteries player Samantha Edge winning the final match against David Marshall of Grove.

REGIONAL TRIALS

Grove's Victoria Boyd com-

TOURNAMENTS

Market Drayton players David Morris and Victoria Boyd were the in-form players at the North Yorkshire Junior Open at Halifax.

The Grove players reached the latter stages of the under-14 events in a tournament which attracted a strong nationwide entry.

Morris accounted for the top Scottish cadet Colin Woess, and England-ranked Neil Simms of Yorkshire.

In the quarter-finals Morris met the tough Cheshire star John Taylor but again played well to achieve victory.

In the semi-final Morris met the player of the day, Neil Pickard of Norfolk. Morris fought a battle but fell by the narrowest of margins. Pickard went on to win the tournament.

Victoria Boyd carried the Grove banner splendidly in the under-14 girls' singles. In a series of dazzling displays she first accounted for Yorkshire girl Helen Shadbolt, and then defeated two England-ranked stars.

Boyd reached the quarter finals where she fell to top seed Andrea Holt, who went on to win the section.

But Boyd, after her string of wins, must now have booked a place in the national ranking list. Boyd reached the quarter finals where she fell to top seed Andrea Holt, who went on to win the section.

The tournament attracted entries from a wide area with Herefordshire, Shropshire, Staffordshire, West Midlands and Warwickshire all represented by strong teams.

Boyd underlined her recent progress and finished well clear of a group who included all the region's top girls. Her nearest opponent suffered two defeats.

Boyd has now qualified for the national trials in January where she will be joined by three club colleagues - Claire Potts, her sister Helen, and the rapidly improving Audrey Barnett.

Claire is not required to qualify. Sister Helen emerged victorious in the North West region.

Barnett, who came fourth, clinched the last qualifying place losing only three in a tough competition where strength of character was of utmost importance.

Also joining the female quartet will be Grove player Matthew Jeffrey who returned consistent performances throughout the day to qualify in fourth place in the under-14 boys. He joins Simon Cooper and David Morris, of the Grove, in the under-14 national trial.

With these performances by Grove's rising young stars the Drayton club will be sending more players to the national trials

than any other club in the country.

Tony Carey reports from....

SOMERSET EVERGREEN

Away we all go again into another new season of Table Tennis Competition with high hopes of success for Somerset players of all ages in League, County and Tournament play. I view this season as providing a testing time for them in various ways. The first being stamina for those just starting out on their first full season of Tournaments, and the older ones who have to combine County matches with theirs. The second being dedication for those who want (rather than would like) to reach the highest standard and position possible at whatever level their ambition is, be it League, County or England Rankings, and are prepared to put the work in to achieve that. The third test is character for those who when the chips are down will still stick to their task and believe that things will soon come good.

We have players in the County who I am sure will pass all these tests and others who have a decision to make.

The Cadet and Junior element of our players started their season on 8th and 9th, September at Torquay when they competed in the Regional Preliminary trials held to select 10 players of each age group to attend the final trial at Launceston on Sunday 21st October when they will all play in a round robin to decide the candidates to attend the England Ranking Trials on 5th and 6th January at Coventry.

Somerset did very well in the first trial providing 10 players of different age groups from the 40 selected. But we must not be too complacent about this as I am sure the other competitors will be preparing themselves well for the final trial when the numbers selected will be Cadet Girls 3, Boys 4, Junior Girls and Boys 4. An added incentive being the computer points that can be won in this trial which I consider myself to be a good thing as it could enable some players to go to the England Ranking Trials on a par with players from other Regions and therefore make all competitors fight harder.

Our first big Tournament test for this season came at the Wilts 2 Star Junior and Senior Open held in the Oasis Sports Centre, Swindon, a very good venue both for players and spectators.

This popular event once again attracted a very good line-up of both Junior and Senior players, some drawn no doubt by the

attractive prize money and the chance to flex their muscles in competition against old rivals and perhaps gain an early win and psychological advantage. Others were chasing those elusive computer points to gain a first foot on the ladder or to improve their position. There were successes in this field for Somerset with Melonie Carey on the Saturday recording her first win against that very fine and respected player Rachel Knight of Surrey in a nail biting, three game set. She then followed this with an **a** **nail biter** **against** **KR** **£.U** **at** **revill** **in** **the** **wed** **lag** **in** **emerging** **the** **w' 11p** **in** **these** **games**. But the success run stopped in the quarter-finals when she met another fine player Jill Powis and although Melonie fought hard the greater experience of Jill prevailed and she won two straight. All in all though a fine start to Melonie's first season as a junior. I was unable to see much of the play in other matches going on except ones that I was on umpiring duties for, but I have it on good authority that some of our Cadet girls and boys showed some encouraging promise recording fine wins in their groups. Our other Juniors had their battles, with Murray Barter having the unenviable task of trying to contain England's No. 1 Junior Carl Preat, an interesting match I was told.

On the Sunday in the Senior men's and ladies' event we had our share of successes, Lee Sadler and David Lee having some tough matches in their groups but still winning some and giving good account of themselves in the others. It was also encouraging to see Mark Bryant and one of Yeovil's other stars John Smeeton competing in this event but a bit disappointing that Philip Payne and Murray Barter did not consider it to be worthwhile putting their game to the test against senior opposition. In the ladies' event we were represented by Rebecca Russe, Melonie Carey, Sarah Webb and Fiona Stuart. The luck of the draw was unfortunately not on the side of Rebecca, her first round opponent being that fine up and coming junior Joanne Shaw from Yorkshire for whom the percentage game paid off. Melonie again had Rachel Knight to play in her group along with another fine player Helen Perrott from Avon. Rachel threw down the gauntlet by beating Helen in the first match then Helen retrieved the situation by beating Melonie in the second. Then it was Melonie's turn to pick up the gauntlet against Rachel. This proved to be another nail biter with Rachel pulling back well in the second to force a third game which finally went to Melonie. 34

This meant a threeway tie on matches but Rachel went into the next round on games.

Sarah was unfortunate from the playing angle in not having much opposition in her group due to Amanda Shufflebotham having to pull out to attend a Regional Trial at Southampton. This could have been as interesting as their two previous encounters have been. Fiona had a good match in her group but failed to make the first round.

All in all not a bad performance for the Somerset squad, with some encouraging results to build on.

Somerset II v Isle of Wight. Yeovil, 29th September, Westlands Sports Club. 14.30.

Once again this fine venue was witness to an exciting County match, graced once again by the presence of Carl Preat who gave a classic demonstration of positive play, with great emphasis on speed and spin. But it was disappointing that there was such a small spectator interest from both local players and County coaches, especially as we had three players making their debut at senior individual level, Melonie Carey, Tony Morell and Philip Payne, the other members of the team being John Crabtree and Sarah Webb. Each of these players won a singles match which resulted in a creditable draw with the score alternating from one side to the other throughout the match, one of the crucial matches being between Melonie and Regina Stevens from Germany, now resident in the Isle of Wight, with Melonie recovering well after losing the first game to win. An encouraging start to our Senior County programme. And to conclude this report I would like to ask players, coaches and parents to support their local National League teams whenever they can, as I can assure them that if they want entertainment coupled with top class play then this League is for them. After hearing glowing reports from parents and players of matches that they had attended at Bath Y.M.C.A., the home of Bath Toyota, I decided to see for myself on the first free Sunday. The match we attended being against M.B.S. St. Neots. The venue is very well set out with adequate seating and an uninterrupted view of the playing area. The presentation and organisation was good, the refreshments very good and reasonably priced too.

The teams were:-
BATH: Carl Preat, Andy Creed, Paul Jackson and Adrian Moore.
M.B.S. Stephen Moore, Keith Richardson, Peter Taylor and Mark Harper

The first match saw Carl give an impressive performance, even

greater than he had given against our County side. This started Bath off well, then M.B.S. evened the score and took the lead in the next but back came Bath with a fine win by Adrian to make the interval score 2-2, sending us off to our cups of tea with anticipation of an equally enthralling second half, and we were not disappointed with Carl once again setting the trend. Andy increased Bath's lead with a fine win. We then witnessed a nail-biting match between Paul Jackson and M.B.S. No. 2 Keith Richardson, both teams needed a win here, M.B.S. to restore their hopes of a draw and Bath to give them a winning lead. But there was also a personal battle being waged by Paul who was having a bad patch (as I am sure quite a few players have experienced) and needing a win to restore confidence in his abilities. All these ingredients were present for a good match, and this it proved to be with Paul finding his rhythm, and touch to pull himself back from the brink of defeat to win to the delight of himself and all in the hall. Adrian then won the last match to give victory to Bath Toyota by 6-2. Well played all and thanks once again for an entertaining afternoon.

Stop Press. Progress continues as was shown at the Aberdare Open on Sunday, 7th October when a strong Somerset contingent once again invaded the lair of the Dragon. Both Seniors and Juniors gave a good account of themselves in the various events, winning some matches against good opposition. The major honours being achieved by Melonie winning the Junior Girls' Singles after a fine match against her doubles partner Helen Perrott of Avon (who also reached the ladies' semi only losing 19 in the third to Sandra Peakman). And Paul Smith winning the Cadet Boys' singles with a display of good strokes and hard hitting. Well played all who took part.

In conclusion I would like to correct an error in my previous report referring to the International Schools Championships. They were in fact sponsored by the Birmingham City Council with equipment supplied by Dunlop.

Jack Chalkley reports from...

STAFFORDSHIRE

The County Championships programme commenced with both the Staffs. second teams at senior and junior level playing Leicestershire first teams. The strong Leicestershire senior side, recently relegated from the

Premier Division, once again showed that they were more a match for our first team than the seconds but the 18-2 victory was not completely one-sided. Stan Deakin lost the first set against Chris Rogers but Mark Evans was unlucky in being on the wrong end of the narrowest of scores, losing 28-26 in the third to Martin Pickles. Greg Hallam had a win over David Gannon but then Jill Harris and Tricia Brookes lost the women's doubles 19 in the third. Jill, ousted from No. 1 in the County rankings by Fiona Elliot, gained the only other Staffs. win, beating Karen Smith 13 and 13. Hallam did well to stretch Rogers to three games.

Results:-

Deakin lost to Rogers 3 - 11;
lost to Pickles 6 - 5;
Evans lost to Pickles 14 - 6, 26;
lost to Gannon 13 - 7;
Hallam bt Gannon 19, 17; lost to Rogers 12, 20, -15;
Hallam/Evans lost to Rogers/Gannon - 9, -15;
Harris bt Smith 13, 13;
Brookes lost to Julie Revill 19 -20, -8;
Harris/Brookes lost to Smith/Revill -14, 19, -19.

At junior level our second team, promoted last year to Div. 2A, did well in beating Leicestershire 8-2. Only Paul Bumpus, ranked 29 in the national lists, provided any serious opposition, winning both his singles, but the Staffs. team of Paul Fisher, Ian Miller, Stephen Slater, Helen Lower and Dawn Gardener made a clean sweep of the rest.

County League positions have been drawn up as follows:-

Div. 1 - Patt. "A", Wton "A", Walsall "A", Stafford "A", W. Brom "A", Leek "A",
Div. 2 - Leek "B", Stafford "B", Wton "B" and "C", Lichfield "A", Pott "B",
Div. 3 - Stafford "C", Walsall "B" and "C", Tamworth "A", Pott "C" and Ladies.
Div. 4 - Stafford Vets., Lichfield "B" and "C", Wton "0", Tamworth "B",
Div. 5 - Stafford "0", Stone, Lichfield "0", W. Brom "B", Tamworth Juniors.

First matches are on Nov. 17.

The following additions have been made to the County ranking lists as reported last month:-

Men - 16. J. Deakin, 17. M. Harvey
Cadet Boys - 4. R. Clarke, 5. J. Duffy, 6. D. Stokes, 7. P. Middleton, 8. D. Ellis, 9. J. Moston.
Cadet Girls - 3. J. Eaton, 4. D. Hodgson, 5. E. Carlton, 6. S. Edge, 7. L. Rowley, 8. L. Adams.
Boys 'A' list (alphabetical order) - R. Brisset, A. Dilger, D. Gamble, J. Hartland, I. Hodgetts, C. Jones, S. Richardson, K. Roberts, M. Stretton, R. Till, J. Wooton.

Staffs. players topped three of the four Regional ranking lists and altogether 14 were listed.

Boys - 1. S. Slater, 2. K. Lawrence, 4. P. Fisher, 7. N. Tongue.
Girls - 1. H. Lower, 3. K. Rogers, 5. O. Gardener.
Cadet Boys - 1. A. Thorpe, 2. R. Till, 7. R. Clarke, 9. J. Duffy.
Cadet Girls - 2. S. Hawkes, 9. J. Eaton, 10. D. Hodgson.

A Lilleshall weekend is being organised for Staffs. players on Dec 7/9 by coaching chairman Ron Harvey and secretary Graham Povey. Information will be available in good time but anyone interested should make contact with one of these two officials.

Preparations are going ahead with the organisation of the Senior Premier Weekend at the British Telecom Technical College at Yarnfield, near Stone. Admission will be £1 and tickets

are available through league secretaries or from Geoff Williamson on Ilichfield 55410. A number of helpers are still needed for the Saturday morning and as stewards during the three sessions on Saturday afternoon and evening and Sunday morning.

I'm pleased to be able to report that the Potteries' chairman, Geoff Platt, is making a good recovery from his recent illness and he hopes it will not be too long before he is back in action. Our best wishes to you, Geoff.

John Woodford reports from.....

SUSSEX

ARRESTING POSSIBILITIES

Sussex are set to bring on the Big Guns in the veterans' divisions of the County Championships! Robin Stace, the flame-haired looper from Lancing is making his debut shortly.

Following the Stace debut, an entrance that should shorten the length of some of the matches as he is an attacking player of quality.

Perhaps depending how Stace gets on waiting in the wings for next season will be 12 times Sussex senior champion Roger Chandler! If Chandler takes the plunge, it is quite possible that the former Nigerian international! Sammy Ogundipe might also take time off from his duties as a Brighton traffic warden to make a few arrests.

All three are renowned for taking no prisoners at table tennis, so there could be another challenge for Sussex to make the veterans' premier division.

Such a pity that such enthusiasm and skill and class is not waiting to break into the Sussex junior ranks. Paul, Elphick (Haywards Heath), a budding sports journalist I am told, is in a class of his own in his last junior season.

Lynne Trussell (Crawley) is still taking many of her rivals by storm. She has been under-rated on several occasions in the past two years and it will be disappointing if she is not seeded in the women's singles at the all-Sussex championships, scheduled for March 24 and possibly at the Worthing Sports Centre.

The major event has no organiser and no venue, but the arm-twisting is going on right now.

Sussex seniors started off with a hard-fought draw away to Dorset, with Sussex at full-strength. Stephen Moore lost both his singles and the men's doubles against Dorset, but a few weeks later they hit back hard to take

their second ever open men's doubles title in the Stamco Sussex Open at Hastings Sports Centre.

And for good measure, partnered by the vivacious Bellinger sisters the brothers and sisters reached the Sussex open final. The youngsters Adrian and Lisa held at least nine match points before they eventually lost to their seniors, Stephen and Jackie.

Press and publicity officers in the county have had no trouble getting space in newspapers so far this campaign. The National League violence at Hurstpierpoint was splashed in every newspaper around, all radio stations and finally in the Sunday Express.

There is also a huge row exploding in the Eastbourne league over the suspension of the town's two top players from the local league, Paul and Alan Rowden. A 'gang of four' from the six-man executive committee, masterminded by league secretary Derek Wilkinson has made the move.

Huge repercussions seem certain to extend throughout the next two months involving possible special general meetings, a petition aimed at the 257 registered players who must be told why the father and son have been axed. They play in the National League of course, so they are still eligible for most other events.

Laurie Selby reports from....

WILTSHIRE

SWINDON BOMBSHELL

The biggest bombshell ever to hit Swinpon table tennis exploded in the close season when it was decided to form an alternative league.

Called the Thamesdown Table Tennis League, it has swung into action with three divisions.

The Swindon and District League is this season operating with a total of five divisions - three fewer than last season.

Controversy surrounded the formation of the new league and it was branded as a "pirate" and "breakaway" league at the annual meeting of the Swindon and District League.

But at the inaugural meeting of the Thamesdown League chairman Mrs. Gwen Hazell, who has been connected with Wiltshire table tennis for many years, said the new league would affiliate to the ETIA.

If they didn't, she added, they would be outcasts-"and this we certainly are not."

She went on to set out the aims of the new league. "The

sole concern is for the enjoyment of our sport,' enjoyment being the operative word. We play because we enjoy playing. We want our evenings of table tennis to be played in good conditions in a friendly and social atmosphere with the games played competitively and in the right spirit, win or lose."

Under the rules of the new league only one junior would be allowed in each team.

Officers are: Chairman- Gwen Hazell; Secretary/Treasurer - Frank Fisher; Results Secretary- Nicci Chambers; Committee: Elsie Turk, Doris Kirk, Ron Glass and Colin Bendall.

Although Wiltshire TT has subsequently agreed to affiliate the new league, no mention of its formation was made at the county's annual meeting.

Although it was in most people's minds, the question of the new league was never raised.

But a lot was said about a proposal to introduce the two colour bat rule into three Wiltshire competitions, the inter-town championships, the closed tournament and the club championships.

There was a firm "no". All Wiltshire leagues have refused to bring in the rule.

Treasurer Doug Parsons reported a profit of £16.73p on the season but warned that without donations of £142 there would have been a big loss.

Four committee officers resigned and votes of thanks were given to Len Smith, Chairman; Cliff Mills, Secretary; Ted Fisher, Umpires' Secretary; and Sylvia Morse, Coaching Officer.

Nobody was willing to take on the job of secretary and this was left vacant.

Officers elected were: President: Roy Hazell; Chairman: John Webb; Secretary: Colin Bendall; Treasurer: Doug Parsons; County Match Secretaries: Doug Parsons (senior firsts), Alison Boyce (senior seconds), Val Clack (junior firsts and seconds), Dennis Waters (veteran John Bright (veterans second); Coaching Officer: Val Clack; Umpires' Secretary: Lee Kelly; Press Officer: Laurie Selby; Inter-town Secretary: Alan Duke; Auditor: Les House.

Wiltshire junior team opened their County Championships programme in fine style when they beat Devon 7-1 in Swindon.

Swindon players Raymond Powell, Paul Tuck and Ian Neate gave the home side a good start by winning the opening singles.

Then Julie Mills (Devizes) and Jenny Neale opened up a 4-0 lead by winning the doubles.

Powell and Tuck went on to win their next singles and Miss Neale scored a fine win over the ranked Sue Butler to round off a fine victory.

Scores:

(Wiltshire players first): R. Powell bt R. Aitken 15. 17;
P. Tuck bt A. Sainsbury 11. 13;
I. Neate bt G. Hughes -10. 17. 16.
Miss J. Mills/Miss J. Neale bt Miss J. Wright!
Miss S. Butler 15. 11;
Powell/Tuck lost to Aitken/Sainsbury -17. 17. -22.
Powell bt Sainsbury 20. 19;
Miss Mills lost to Miss Wright -12. -19;
Neate lost to Aitken -20. -15;
Miss Neale bt Miss Butler -10.17.19;
Tuck bt Hughes -18. 13. 24.

Swindon players scored a double top in the Berkshire inter-town junior tournament at Newbury.

Both the boys' and girls' teams won their groups.

The girls beat Maidenhead (4-2), (6-0), and Newbury (6-0). Swindon team was Jenny Neale, Julie Mills, Lorraine Cox and Susan Vowles.

Swindonboys won 6-0 against Bracknell, 4-2 against Bristol, 5-1 against Maidenhead, 5-1 against Reading and 5-1 against Aldershot.

The Swindon team was Neate, Powell, Tuck and Martin Edwards.

Swindon's Under-15 boys' team were runners-up in their section with wins against Oxford (6-0) and Basingstoke (5-1). They drew against Newbury and lost 2-4 against Oxford seconds. The team was Martin Edwards, Steve Ely, Mark Nelson and Mark Powell.

The Under-19 team - Andrew Oxley, Jon Hook, Claire Hunter and Martin Page - also finished third. They beat Maidenhead 5-1 and Banbury 4-2 but lost to Reading 1-5 and drew with Newbury.

Doug Moss reports from....

WORCESTERSHIRE

DISAPPOINTING FACTORS

The County A.G. M. did not bring about much change in the officials of the Association. Since the start of the season Match Sec. Ken Jukes has the assistance of Janet Hunt looking after the Veterans' matches and Dave Roden, who has joined the Committee, the Juniors. Brett Davis has also joined the Committee as a co-opted member as the services of Beryl Shammon, who has so ably taken on the role of promoter of fund raising events and initiated social functions, are no longer available. Lynda Reid is taking a more active part acting as Minute Sec. and dealing with circulations, which is a great help. Lynda did a good job last year, with Secretary John Barber, in dealing with a complete revision of County Rules.

It has been disappointing to see the County I team relegated to Div. 3. This means that our 2

County Notes

Senior teams play in the same Division. Because of a change of job Trevor Washington has indicated he will be available for the County only in exceptional circumstances. Alison Westwood is expecting a baby and is not available and Mandy Mytton has decided to have a rest from County Championships play. These factors are disappointing and there will not be the strength in depth this season. Fortunately it seems Simon Claxton will play regularly and it is also hoped to see Debbie Hough, who is a talented player, also becoming a regular.

The 1st team got off to a good start visiting Herts. and achieving a 7-3 win. They have followed this up with a 9-1 win over Northants. The 2nd team had a hard match against Oxfordshire losing 2-8. Jasmine Bartram, a junior last season, made her senior team debut. With Lynda Reid they won the women's doubles although they were beaten fairly convincingly in the singles. From my records of all County Champs. match results I find this to be quite a common occurrence!

The County Junior team should do well with Mark Roden (No.1), Tim Holder and Dean Kloos. Helen Jones is not playing this season but Lisa Hunt, who has put up a good performance over the past two seasons, continues in the team. The Junior trials brought forward 15-year-old twin girls Sue and Jenny (Burgess). One is right and the other left handed (a la Rowe twins!). They performed well with Sue making the team and Jenny being reserve. It was frustrating that Bucks. opted out of the Championships a few days before the first match because of a shortage of girls.

In the Cadet field Nicola Jones (Worcester) and Jane McLean (Evesham) played in the Coventry 1-star. They both did well to reach the semi-final of the cadet girls' singles and in doubles they combined well to reach the semi-final of the girls' (U-17). Both later took part in the Cadet Regional Trials with Jane being ranked No.3, getting the chance to go to the national trials, and Nicola, not up to her best form, achieving No.7 ranking. Stephen Mytton and Marcus Bolton also did reasonably well in the cadet boys' trial. Mark Roden did very well to go forward to the final regional boys' trial.

Worcester League A. G. M. was somewhat controversial with changes in League match format being proposed. A move for 3-a-side (8 set) matches was defeated. Ultimately 3-a-side (10 set) matches in Divs. 1, 2 and 3 was passed, when Chairman Frank Southam, gave his casting vote

in favour. With the reduction in players per team Worcester was hoping to have more teams in the League but the number of 49 is the same as the previous season. Looking at the County as a whole I find that Kidderminster, Evesham and Bromsgrove have each lost only 1 team. Dudley has dropped from 59 to 55 teams and Malvern from 42 to 34 teams. In Malvern 3 teams have been lost from the R.S.R.E. establishment chiefly because some players have been transferred from the area. The closure of the St. Wulstans Hospital and the consequent loss of a venue is a factor. The overall loss of teams within the County amounts to 6%.

The County Association is most disappointed because having got Christopher Whitehead School, Worcester, very well equipped with lighting, tables and court surrounds, with grants from the Regional Sports and the City and County Councils, the Council is now asking for a rental of £47 for the use of the School Hall for County matches. Representations are being made by many sports clubs and associations and it is understood the Council will be reconsidering its policy.

The County Closed Junior Championships are to be played at Christopher Whitehead School, Worcester, on Sunday, Dec 9, when a Cadet Girls' Singles event will be introduced. The charge for the Hall in this instance is reduced by half because only Juniors are taking part. The Senior Closed will be on Feb 10 at the Perdiswell Sports Centre, Worcester, where there will be 12 tables. The hire charge will be over £200 so fund raising in the form of Rummage Sales, Draws and possible sponsorship is the order of the day!

Les D'Arcy reports from....

YORKSHIRE NEW RECORDS

Three players from the Wakefield Met. Area have been setting some new marks in the local and, in some cases, the County record books. 16-years-old Joanne Shaw Yorkshire's No. 1 senior and junior player has now become the national No. 1 junior and recently celebrated by successfully representing England Seniors in the Home International against Scotland, Ireland and Wales at Llandudno.

When taking part in Yorkshire's first ever veterans' match with team mates Geoff Brook and

former junior international, Ron Jackson, against Cheshire 3rds, I discovered that the fourth member of Yorkshire's Team, Mrs. Carol Judson, was in the process of making what may be a unique record. She had already played for four county teams: Oxfordshire, Lincolnshire, Nottinghamshire and Devon. Her husband, Cleve, ranked No. 1 veteran in the Yorkshire League last season had also done the same. Carol went one better in this match and with the rest of the team enjoyed the occasion very much. Incidentally, Yorkshire won 9-nil which was not a true reflection on the play as some of the games were very close-mine! Cheshire were champions of the division last year, but denied promotion on a technicality.

Another record breaker is 12-years-old Debbie Toole. Debbie took part in the Yorkshire pre-ranking trials and came out top in both the under-14's and under-17's sections. These two performances place her at the top of the county cadet rankings and fourth in the junior list behind three England-ranked players excluded from the trials.

Debbie went on to show that her performances at the trials were no fluke by being 'too strong' for the rest of the competitors at the Yorkshire Cadet Closed where she won the Cadet Girls' Singles and the Girls' Doubles with Ellen Meddings her Wakefield Dunlop Centre 10-years-old team mate. It is not really surprising that Debbie and Joanne are doing so well. They both attended Normanton Town Middle School, one of the finest table tennis centres in the area, and introduced to table tennis by deputy headmaster, Roger Vasey.

Roger, in turn, passed the two girls on to local coach, George Turton, and regional coach, Rowden Fullen. Joanne progressed to the Centre of Excellence, Leeds, but has now left and is looking for strong opposition in her own surroundings again. She will not have to look far with Steve Sharpe and his city team mates: Trev. Watson, Phil Tomlinson and county men's doubles champions Mick Wood and Steve Stringer all on the doorstep, plus nine county-ranked junior and cadet players at the Dunlop Centre, which is so popular in view of the results produced that even young internationals, like Joanne may have to join the queue.

Reports indicate that not all coaching centres are in the same happy position with the appalling waste of empty tables. It is understandable, in the present financial climate, that many parents will not wish to spend money travelling out of the area for coaching as well as to

tournaments. What can be done about it? Firstly, let's fill those empty tables with some of the age group which tend to be neglected - the 18-plus. 19-years-old Neil Cafferty, one of the most enthusiastic and talented players I know, recently commented: "There's no place in top coaching for players like me". In addition to playing at inter-league level, Neil also plays in Leeds, Bradford, Dewsbury and Wakefield at top league level.

Two other players of similar age and standard, Steve Stringer and Chris Inman were of the same opinion. If we are becoming so obsessed with coaching younger and younger players that at nineteen players are considered to be 'has beens' then we need to re-evaluate the system and call in late developer John Hilton, for advice. National Coach Peter Sirnpson, made a similar point at a recent coaches' meeting. It happened several years ago that Peter tried to place a number of young players in teams belonging to one of the biggest leagues in Yorkshire. Only three players were given places. In our contracting sport, clubs and coaching centres which do not provide friendly hospitality could be missing out. Two seasons ago veteran local cricketer, Dave Townend, after twelve years out of table tennis decided that he was going to try to make a 'come back'. He was helped back into the game by a friendly coach.

Dave wasted little time and was soon organising his own table tennis club, a table tennis youth league, with the help of Youth Officer, Mike Duncombe, and sponsorship from Dunlop Sports Co. Dave also finds the time to organise the local Y.M.C.A.'s table tennis section which has four teams in the Wakefield League. The next link in this beneficial chain reaction was when newcomers to Wakefield, John and Sandra Wilkinson and their son were looking for a club in their new surroundings. Dave invited them to join the Y.M. and they are turning out to be a great asset to the club. Last week they helped to organise an inter-league Wakefield v Bridlington event involving nine teams and with John Irish, the Bridlington Spa Club Organiser are planning a return visit in the near future. There could be a moral in that story somewhere. Players having difficulty in finding coaching or a club please contact your local league secretary or coaching secretary. If you are then still having difficulties please contact me at 0924-366420.

HERMITS TABLE TENNIS CLUB

At the invitation of that ener-

getic Bradford T.T. League Chairman and organiser, Arthur Bowers, my wife Joyce and I were guests at the Hermits Club's 10th Annual Youth Tournament, sponsored by Trade Cars Ltd. The Tournament must be one of the finest of its kind in Britain and now accommodates players from other clubs and Bradford Schools. Most impressive player on view was 12-year-old Jason Swain who won the U-13 Singles and was beaten finalist in the U-17 and U-21 events which were won by another promising player, 16-year-old, Peter Meer.

for a pleasant evening, Arthur.

COACHING COURSE

National Coach, Peter Simpson seemed to be thoroughly enjoying himself when I joined his squad at the student to club coach course at Moor Grange recently. Another visitor to the course was that indefatigable worker for table tennis, E.S.T.T.A. President, Mr. Tom Matthews, former headmaster of the Moor Grange School. Tom is busier than ever in his retirement and when not working promoting table tennis spends much of his time as a Duke of Edinburgh Award Expedition Assessor. In recent weeks Tom has visited twelve schools in Leeds with Peter and a small squad of top players on coaching demos, and exhibitions. In the Wakefield area Brian Johnson, Ian Exley (now on a cricket tour of Barbados), Peter Tucker and that man again, Townsend are doing the same type of work round the local youth clubs. Also involved in youth work along with his other many voluntary commitments is our Yorkshire President, Maurice Shaffner, who is now Chairman of the Wakefield/Kirklees region of the Yorkshire Association of Boys' Clubs.

Will have the privilege of working with Maurice in the same organisation. Had a great time in the old Southgate Boys' Club, Wakefield. Discovered the magic of table tennis and many other things from some marvellous leaders and members. Will be great to be back in the Y.A.B.C. again.

Learned recently of the sad loss of two top coaching personalities; at national level the one and only Jack Carrington, a superb coach and gentleman; at local level another outstanding worker for table tennis, Barnsley's Coaching Secretary, Geoff Williams. On behalf of the Y.T.T.A. our deepest sympathy to both families.

OBITUARY

GEOFF WILLIAMS

Barnsley area table tennis has suffered a sad loss with the

death of Geoff Williams following a heart attack.

He will be particularly missed on the coaching side, where his skill has helped the development of countless players, both young and not so young, during the last 20 years.

Coaching dominated and superseded his own competitive game, his patience and dedication with beginners and the very able alike, making him extremely popular, and his guidance produced two to win champions in Ian Denton and Val Liddall.

As Barnsley League chairman Jim Summerscales said this week: "He was always there, never grumbling, throughout the last 20 years. Other coaches came and went, but Geoff stayed. He was too nice to play competitively. He would much rather play to allow others to practice with him.

"If all the children he taught had been able to attend his funeral on Tuesday, Oakwell would not have been big enough to hold them."

Even as a young man in the fifties, Geoff was always willing to help and advise workmates and colleagues, before coaching became organised.

He began voluntary youth work in the mid-sixties and a little later coached at St. Helen's Youth Club with his wife Pauline.

Throughout the seventies he was responsible for the Yorkshire Youth Organisation Sports Association team representing Barnsley, but he also went out of town coaching with Peter Simpson and Donald Parker.

In the late seventies and early eighties much of his coaching was at **Ardley Youth Club**, and in February last year he was an ever-present for five days and five nights in coaching sessions at the Eldon Centre to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Barnsley League.

As the Barnsley League's coaching officer, he organised a course in February of this year to train 12 new coaches, eight of them in Barnsley, and a course to train those eight still further is scheduled for **December**.

It was Geoff who played a big part in the setting up of the Dunlop Centre in Doncaster Road, where he had recently spent most of his coaching time.

At the end of the 1982-83 season he became the first individual to be awarded the League's Hough and Midwood Merit Trophy.

As far as his own playing career was concerned it began at Raley Youth Club in 1946. From there he moved to Barnsley North End in 1950 and, after a 13-year spell, he left to become a founder member of the Ace Club.

A further three year period at North End was followed by another two years with Ace before he moved on to help the youngsters at Ardsley Youth Club for a six-year spell between 1976 and 1982.

It was then that he retired from competitive play to concentrate solely on the coaching side of the game which had been his life.



Welsh Corner

By H. Roy Evans

NEW PROBLEMS

The poor start made by Welsh clubs Butterfly Cardiff and Cranfield Colours is a pre-shadow of the new problems that face Welsh table tennis. Our No.1, Alan Griffiths, has been playing in Germany for some years now, and there is always the problem of considering him for international encounters. Now, Mark Thomas, who had played himself into the No.2 position has also departed to Germany, and the difficulties are doubled. We really have no way of knowing how well they are playing. In Mark's case whether the opposition in Germany is any better than playing No.1 for Butterfly in the First Division of the National League, where, last season, he won 24 out of his 28 sets against strong opposition. I suspect the same position faces Scotland and Ireland who, like us, have nowhere near the resources enjoyed by the vastly bigger English Association. We just cannot afford to bring Alan and Mark across for European League matches, and both we and they must be the sufferers - we because we could do with their strength to at least preserve a position in the European League Division 2, and they because their ultimate selection for the World Championships in Goteborg is not as straightforward as one would like.

Already Butterfly Cardiff has suffered, and two matches have been badly lost. The first, against Toyota Bath, was already balanced in Bath's favour with the inclusion of Carl Preat, but the rest of their players have already been beaten by ours. The

second match was against Birmingham Optical, a difficult team of choppers led by Duggie Johnson, with brother Barry in strong and similar support and the whirlwind Carl Morgan. We won only one set - Healan against Gunn, but with Mark playing and everybody moving down, we could have done much better.

Cranfield Colours, with an on-the-paper promotion team, have also had a poor start, surrendering a point to Spicer New Malden and going down disappointingly to TCB Dolphins. Only veteran George Evans, now playing at No. 3 seems to have much success, with new signing Gary Wilkins yet to win at No.1 and Brian Jeanes losing sets he should have won.

QUADRANGULAR

The second of the revived Quadrangular Internationals between England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales, takes place at the Conference Centre, Llandudno on Sept 28/29, and will have been played by the time these notes appear.

Reflecting the problems already referred to Ireland, Scotland and Wales would be without their top players. Neither Griffiths nor Mark Thomas turns out for Wales, David Hannah is not playing for Scotland, and Ireland will be without Colm Slevin and Ann Leonard, and England, already easy winners in Bolton last year, look likely to be victors again. Nigel Thomas, the much improved Nigel Tyler, and Andrew Jones are in the Welsh team, along with Lesley Tyler, Evelyn Wright and Shirley Cain-Williams.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

For our first European League match against Portugal, Nigel Thomas, Nigel Tyler and Lesley Tyler were chosen but no travel was undertaken following the withdrawal of the Portuguese. Our first Home match is against Switzerland, and this will have been played at Barry on Nov 10.

ASSESSMENT ROUND ROBINS

Veteran George Evans won the Glamorgan Association's Round Robin on Sept 8. David Griffiths, on vacation from University, came second, with Andrew Jones third, and Nick Williams fourth. Cathryn Jones won the women's section, followed by Jayne Sully, Joanne Lee and Chantal Nicholls. Pontypridd's Anthony Jones headed the boys, then came Bryan Fernandes, Kelvin Roberts, and Richard Harry, whilst Joanne Lee was first amongst the girls, Theresa Petty second and Denise Elward third.

The Welsh Association's

County Notes

Assessment Round Robins started in North Wales at the Castell Alun Sports Centre on Sept 9 for juniors only. Girls figured amongst the top places in the boys' event, which was won by Tim Turner, with Lee Thacker second. Then came Lynne Bowen and Justine Thomas, who would certainly have been the top two amongst the girls. They did not play in that

group, which saw Tracey Sambrook as the best, with Sharon Buckle. Lesley Hatton and Natasha Williams finishing in that order. The South Wales Round Robins were very strenuous affairs, 36 senior men and 11 women, including the best juniors, playing all Saturday, with the following main results:- Men: 1. Nigel Thomas, 2. Nigel Tyler, 3. Trevor Marwing, 4.

George Evans, 5. Andrew Jones, 6. Gary Wilkins, 7. Tony Healan, 8. Brian Jeanes. Alan Griffiths and Mark Thomas did not play.

Leading the women was Lesley Tyler, followed by Evelyn Wright, 3. Shirley Cain Williams, 4. Cathryn Jones, 5. Jayne Sully, 6. Heidi Cotter. Stephanie Jones did not play.

There was a separate round robin for girls, which was won by

Lynne Bowen, with Justine Thomas second, both from North Wales, 3. Sian Evans and 4. Linos Poole, the latter from Birmingham.

On the Sunday, forty-eight boys played all day, with the following main results. 1. John Ellis, 2. Anthony Jones, 3. Jeff Turner, 4. Mark Farrow, 5. Bryn Fernandes, 6. Kelvin Roberts, 7. Richard Harry, 8. Tim Turner.

MIDLAND LEAGUE

Half Century for M.G.

by John Barber

The Midland League Jubilee Season has got under way and for the entire half century Mr. Maurice Goldstein, OBE. has been its secretary.

In the Men's section, Nottingham "B" made a fine start winning 7-3 against Cheltenham "A". Richard Tilford won his three and the doubles with R. Scott. Six sets went to the third, each side taking 3. Also in Div. 2 Nottingham "A" beat Coventry "A" 6-4. Tilford also played in this match, losing only to Adrian Pilgrim who took his three and the doubles with Kevin Pilgrim.

A good double for Nottingham. In Div. 3 Stafford and Loughborough were engaged in a closely fought match with a draw being a fair result. Bob Murray with 3 wins and the doubles with S. Mylrea was best for the home side, Paul Dumps and M. Meredith took 2 sets each for the visitors. Nottingham gained a third success when their "C" team beat Gloucester "B" in Div. 4 by 8-2. The home players soon went into top gear although Pete Wood surprised Dave Bilton with a fine win.

In the Women's section, Bristol beat Kidderminster 8-2. Helen Perrott won 3 for Bristol and Louise Davis took the visitors' two successes. In the Veterans' section Oxford "A" made a fine debut winning 6-4 at Nottingham "B" with David Harse taking a113. Nick Jennings was best for the home side. Oxford "B" beat West Bromwich 9-1, the visitors going down in 5

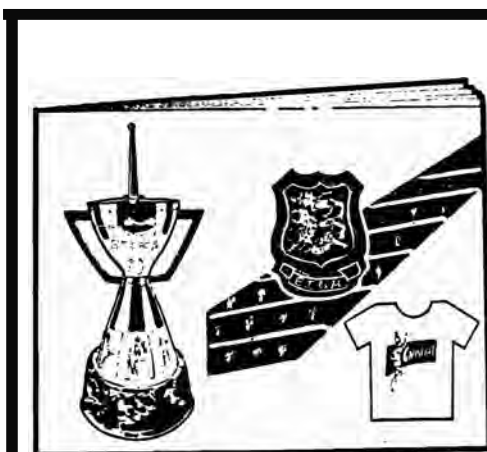
sets which went to the third. An excellent contest is reported in the newly inaugurated Intermediate section, Rugby took all ten at Nuneaton, their team being Ian and Mark Randle and Michael Thomas. They will take some holding. In contrast, Hinckley and Worcester were engaged in an evenly balanced match, a draw being a predictable result.

In the Junior section, Nottingham "A" beat Gloucester in a workmanlike performance 8-2. Craig Saunders fought hard for the visitors with a singles and doubles (with A. Wilson) successes. Wolverhampton, with Julian Wootton unbeaten, won 8-2 at Leicester. Nottingham "A" had a second win by 8-4 at Derby away.

With last season's three promotion winners now ineligible, Derby will be struggling this season. In this match

they always in contention, taking five third. In Div. 2, Burton beat Pontesbury 7-3 and had D. Brightman unbeaten. Worcester "A" narrowly beat Walsall "A" 6-4, and Pontesbury beat Nottingham "B" 9-1. The visitors went down five times in sets going to the third.

In Div. 3, last season's Div. 5 winners, Stafford, entertained Div. 4 winners, Bromsgrove. The home side opened with an amazing win. Tim Holder took the first from Nigel Tongue and led 11-3 and 10-0 in the next games but Nigel twice fought back to take the set. This inspired the home side to a 9-1 win. Eastwood, also promoted from Div. 5, won 8-2 against Coventry "C". In Div. 4 Rugby took all 10 at Walsall "C" as did Dudley in Div. 5 at Mansfield "B". Finally, Bromsgrove "B" went down 2-8 in Div. 5 at home to Mansfield "A" in a match which was more closely fought than the score suggests.



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NATIONAL LEAGUE

By Fiona Brown

SOHAM SIGN OFF

Sadly the Cambridgeshire team, who have enjoyed the most successful run of any National League team, with three Premier Division titles over the last five years, have been forced to withdraw from this season's competition. Having lost the services of David Hannah who received an 'offer too good to refuse' from a German League team, Nicky Mason moved to Jaques Fareham and Kenny Jackson became unavailable due to pressure of work. Manager Eric Day has made valiant but unsuccessful attempts to secure a late sponsorship deal which would have enabled him to attract replacements. Despite these disappointments it is good to hear that Soham hope to bounce back next season. The good news for those teams still battling away is that the prize fund increases by £750 bringing the total to £8,500. Details of the individual prizes will be available shortly.

PREMIER DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Thorn-EMI Ellenborough	4	4	0	0	26	6	8
2. Ormesby	3	2	0	1	18	6	4
3. GKN Steelstock Wolverhampton	3	1	1	1	11	13	3
4. Omega Reading	2	1	0	1	8	8	2
5. Grove Market Drayton	3	1	0	2	8	16	2
6. Jaques Fareham	2	0	1	1	6	10	1
7. Tibhar London	3	0	0	3	3	21	0
8. Hassy Perfection Soham	WITHDRAWN						

Thorn-EMI Ellenborough are emerging as heir apparent to the Premier title having made a flying start to the season with a maximum points haul from four matches. Their team of Graham Sandley, David Wells, Colin Wilson and Mark Mitchell has the strength in depth to provide formidable opposition to all of the division's clubs. In addition Ellenborough have Wales' steadily improving and ambitious junior, Nigel Tyler, standing in the wings so there is no room for complacency in the team.

Despite convincing scorelines of 8-0 against Tibhar London, 5-3 against Omega Reading, 6-2 against Jaques Fareham and 7-1 against GKN Steelstock Wolverhampton, there have been many close encounters. Omega's No. 1 Philip Bradbury ended both Graham Sandley and David Wells' unbeaten runs and in the match against Jaques Fareham Graham found himself facing defeat against Mark Oakley - ranked at No. 32 when he had to face two match points before recovering to gain a narrow victory in the deciding game.

Second-placed Ormesby faced their first real test of the season when Omega Reading travelled to Thornaby. In the opening rubber D... playing 1:1 for the visitors or... hit... in the... Barr's second rubber was as important as it was impressive. With the match score standing at 3-3 he cruised to victory in straight games against Scotland's Richard Yule, giving Andrew Syed the added incentive to clinch the match which he dutifully did with a two-game victory over Lindsay Taylor. With two games in hand over the leaders we should not dismiss the Omega challenge.

FIRST DIVISION	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Bath Toyota	5	3	2	0	26	14	8
2. Birmingham Optical	4	3	0	1	21	11	6
3. Omega Reading II	4	2	2	0	21	11	6
4. South Yorkshire	3	1	2	0	15	9	4
5. MBS St Neots	3	1	0	2	9	15	2
6. Dagenham FC	3	1	0	2	9	15	2
7. BUllerfly Cardiff	2	0	0	2	3	13	0
8. Ormesby II	4	0	0	4	8	24	0

Bath Toyota manager, Paul Hewitt, is certainly reaping the benefits from his summer scoop where he signed England No. 3 Carl Preen. After five matches Carl maintains his 100% record and the team, who remain unbeaten, sit comfortably at the top of the table. Last week England's No.1 woman player Alison Gordon joined the squad and immediately justified her team place with two wins against Ormesby II.

With draws against South Yorkshire and Omega Reading already recorded and a 6-2 win against MBS St Neots the only serious title contenders left to face are Birmingham Optical.

Birmingham have so far recorded wins against Dagenham FC, Butterfly Cardiff and MBS St Neots. However, chinks in the armour appeared in their home match against South Yorkshire where only No.4 Phil Gunn recorded a win, for the visitors NO. 1 Chris Rogers, who had taken Preen to three in the previous fixture, needed a further three against both Carl Morgan and Duggie Johnson before beating each of them at 15 in the decider. Neither of the Johnson brothers troubled Chu Van Que who recorded straight victories as did Steve Mills playing at No. 3 as he added two more rubbers in beating both Gunn and Morgan. While Birmingham Optical's fortunes have fluctuated between convincing victories and a resounding defeat Bath Toyota have modelled their season on consistency. The two should provide us with an interesting match when they meet on 4th November.

At the bottom of the table Ormesby II are already in trouble having lost to Omega Reading, Bath Toyota, Dagenham FC and MBS St Neots. No.1 David McIlroy has recorded some good wins but his team-mates are struggling to find their feet at this level. Butterfly Cardiff, lying in seventh place, have games in hand following the postponement of their fixture against Dagenham FC due to Welsh International commitments.

SECOND DIVISION NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Patsun Target Gold	4	4	0	0	22	10	8
2. March	4	2	1	1	20	12	5
3. GKN Steelstock Wolverhampton II	4	2	1	1	19	13	5
4. Chan Construction	4	1	2	1	17	15	4
5. Sincil Lincoln	4	1	2	1	17	15	4
6. South Yorkshire II	4	1	1	2	13	19	3
7. Byker Newcastle	4	1	0	3	13	19	2
8. Kingbro' Insurance Services	4	0	1	3	10	22	1

Leaders Patsun Target Gold with four wins from four matches, including a 6-2 victory over second-placed March are unlikely to be tested again until their meeting with GKN Steelstock II on 2nd December. In the interim they meet Byker Newcastle whose only glory so far came in the form of a 5-3 home win against bottom placed Kingsbro' Insurance Services, No. 3 Thomas Blackman winning both of his rubbers for the home side.

Statistically Chan Construction and Sincil Lincoln are locked together so their match on 4th November should be a close fought affair. Meanwhile top team Patsun are unlikely to be caught if they can maintain their present form.

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
1. Holts Carpets Salisbury	4	4	0	0	25	7	8
2. TCB Dolphins	3	3	0	0	18	6	6
3. Jaques Fareham II	4	2	1	1	18	14	5
4. Omega Reading III	4	2	0	2	14	18	4
5. Cranfield Colours Halex	4	1	1	2	14	18	3
6. Spicer New Malden	3	0	2	1	10	14	2
7. Gunnersbury Triangle	4	1	0	3	12	20	2
8. TSP Larkhall	4	0	0	4	9	23	0

Although Holts Carpets Salisbury lead this division with a 100% record Sussex team TCB Dolphins are in hot pursuit. Already credited with six points Dolphins are waiting to hear the official result from the League administrator of their match with Spicer New Malden which ended in what has been described as everything from a scuffle to a riot. As the incident was covered by the national press, I will avoid wasting space in this column, suffice to say that this type of publicity is hardly the sort of thing which helps the name of our game.

Omega Reading III seem destined for mid-table security, having demonstrated their ability to defeat both Gunnersbury Triangle and TSP Larkhall with England No. 1 Cadet Matthew Syed winning his sets in both matches by comfortable margins. Unfortunately the team does not seem to have sufficient strength in depth to make a serious title challenge, having suffered defeats at the hands of both Jaques Fareham II and Welsh team Cranfield Colours Halex.

Halex League

THIRD DIVISION NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pta
1. Unity Bradford	4	4	0	0	24	8	8
2. Unity Leeds	4	3	0	1	23	9	6
3. South Yorkshire II	4	3	0	1	22	10	6
4. Ormesby III	4	2	0	2	17	15	4
5. Washington	4	1	1	2	14	18	3
6. Vickers Sports Barrow	4	1	1	2	11	21	3
7. Ormesby IV	4	1	0	3	10	22	2
8. Byker Newcastle II	4	0	0	4	7	25	0

Unity Bradford have moved comfortably to the head of the table, their closest match to date being the opening encounter 5-3 against Ormesby III, with a 6-2 win against Unity Leeds already under their belt the result of the next round fixture with South Yorkshire III, who, despite lying in equal second position have already suffered a 6-2 defeat at the hands of Ormesby III, should give a good indication of their title prospects. Byker Newcastle II, who have now lost three successive matches with a 6-2 scoreline. are struggling to keep pace.

THIRD DIVISION EAST	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pta
1. EAE Waveney	3	3	0	0	17	7	6
2. Playrite Northampton	4	2	2	0	21	11	6
3. Norwich Foxwood	3	2	1	0	17	7	5
4. Witham Town FC	2	2	0	0	10	6	4
5. MBS St Neots II	4	1	1	2	15	17	3
6. Hassy Perfection Soham II	4	1	0	3	13	19	2
7. Britannia Deepsure	4	0	2	2	14	18	2
8. Crusaders Lincoln	4	0	0	4	5	27	0

MBS St Neots have benefited from the visit to England of New Zealand player Alan Shewan. Alan played particularly well to win both of his sets in the match against Playrite Northampton who had previously overcome Crusaders Lincoln 7-1 and Soham 6-2 but St Neots hopes of climbing further up the table took a knock when they lost 3-5 to EAE Waveney. a result which took the Suffolk team to the top of the table on a day when second placed Playrite had to be content with a single point from their match against Britannia Deepsure. Following a draw in their opening match of the season Nbrwich Foxwood have now won at home to Halex Lincoln 8-0 and away 5-3 when they visited Soham.

THIRD DIVISION WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pta
1. Olivers Shoes Hinckley	3	3	0	0	19	5	6
2. Pengeley Sports Torbay	3	3	0	0	18	6	6
3. Hereford Times	3	2	1	0	15	9	5
4. GKN Steelstock Ladies	4	2	1	1	19	13	5
5. Jolliffe Poole	3	1	0	2	11	13	2
6. Global Sports Plymouth	4	1	0	3	8	24	2
7. Grove Market Drayton II	4	0	1	3	12	20	1
8. Launceston Kernow	4	0	1	3	12	20	1

Olivers Shoes Hinckley lead this division by virtue of a superior games average having dealt comfortably with challenges from Grove II and Launceston Kernow winning 6-2 on both occasions and most recently by trouncing, Jolliffe Poole 7-1. Pengeley Sports Torbay showed little sympathy towards Global Sports Plymouth by white-washing them 8-0, and in the next set of matches. the Devon team ended GKN Steelstock Ladies' unbeaten run with a 5-3 victory. The ladies team currently lie in fourth place but are only one point behind the leaders thanks to early season wins over Global and Grove Market Drayton II.

THIRD DIVISION SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pta
1. Cippenham	4	3	1	0	24	8	7
2. The OSC Rams	4	3	0	1	22	10	6
3. Nittaku Ruislip	2	1	1	0	11	5	3
4. Medway	2	1	1	0	9	7	3
5. Ashford	4	1	1	2	13	19	3
6. AHW Pioneers	3	1	0	2	9	15	2
7. Erreys Print 84	3	1	0	2	8	16	2
8. Abeng Warriors (Stiga)	4	0	0	4	8	24	0

Newcomers Erreys Print arrived on the scene late with a wave of publicity but unfortunately their performances on the table have been

somewhat less spectacular. in the opening fixture only No. 3 Alan Rowden made any real impression against Cippenham, who ran away to a 7-1 victory.

Murray Corbin. Manager of the other new Halex National League club in this division. Abeng Warriors (Stiga). may have cause for concern as the team are still looking for their first point after four unproductive outings. but he remains confident that the benefit of experience at this level will soon begin to show through and considers that nerves rather than lack of ability are responsible for Abeng's lowly position.

Alex Facey. Manager of 2nd placed DSC Rams who enjoy a friendly local rivalry with Abeng commented that the 7-1 scoreline did not reflect the close and exciting nature of the match which was enjoyed by a large crowd, it is encouraging to hear that the table tennis spectator is not an extinct species after all!

OBITUARY

PHILIP REID

Our highly respected Chairman and dedicated servant of Table Tennis. as well as your Leicestershire correspondent Philip Reid. died very suddenly on the 19th September.

Philip was known as Leicester's Mr. Table Tennis. having been connected with the sport in his native County for the last 37 years. both as an accomplished player and as an administrator.

Phil's contribution to the sport was recognised in 1980 with the awarding of the Leslie Forrest Memorial Trophy, for his administrative skills and organisational abilities at County level.

Phil represented the county between 1959 and 1961. during which time he went through an entire season without dropping a single game! He was in the first England team to play in V.M.C.A. European Championships but. despite these achievements he was better known latterly for his behind-the-scenes work.

For a time from the mid-sixties until into the seventies the Secretary of the league, Mike Smith says that Phil was almost entirely responsible for keeping table tennis in Leicester in existence, single handedly taking responsibility for several posts at a time when interest

was waning and nobody else was willing to take on the posts. He was the Chairman of the Leicester and District league from 1975 to his untimely death at the age of just 54 and had served the league in many other posts. as well as serving as an able officer for the E.T.T.A.. the East Midlands Cadets League. the Midland League and was Chairman of the Leicestershire County Association from 1961 to 1977.

He was a regular contributor to our newsletter, "Top Spin". as well as to your own excellent publication, "Table Tennis News". Phil also contributed to the American magazine. "Table Tennis Topics" and wrote. under the auspices of E.T.T.A. and Dunlop Sports Company Ltd.. a very full and entertaining biography of Victor Barna. who Phil admired very much indeed.

In case you think that he was a person that did absolutely nothing. other than think about our sport. I will tell you that Phil was also a very ardent and knowledgeable cricket fan and had a great love of railways too! He packed a very great deal of activity into his life and even in the last few years, when he suffered from failing health. Phil remained as active as he possibly could. He will be sadly missed by those of us in Leicestershire who knew him and had the privilege of working with him as. no doubt he will be missed elsewhere too.

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LONG FAST SERVICE AND RECEIPT

By DONALD PARKER,
National Trainer/Coach

Last month's article looked at the short service and receipt and hopefully stimulated some thought. This month I would like to look at the long fast service and the receipt of the long fast service. The aim of this service is to get the ball travelling fast through the air and low over the net while at the same time varying the spin and direction. Over the last few years this serve has been used more and more, especially in conjunction with the high toss serve. By throwing the ball high, it is travelling faster when contact is made and therefore more speed and spin can be imparted. Obviously, it is harder to control the ball on the high toss, however with repetitive practises this can be overcome. Used as a variation to the normal throw up, it can upset a player's rhythm and also the inexperienced receiver may watch the ball throughout the throw-up and be distracted.

The main technical differences between the long and short service are as follows:

1. The ball is struck about four inches above the white line,
2. The ball should be hit fairly near to the baseline on the server's side,
3. The racket speed should be the same as for the short service; however, this speed of racket should be converted more so into speed of the ball as opposed to spin for the short service. This is achieved by less of a brushing action and a little more of a hitting action always trying to keep the opponent guessing as to where the ball is going,
4. The grip can be changed for the service action to allow more wrist movement providing it is changed immediately back to the normal grip. Owing to the fact that the service is long, it allows more time to change back to the normal grip. Most players hold the bat between the thumb and first finger using the index finger just to balance the blade.

As with the short service the ball should be struck fairly close to the body to ensure the elbow as well as the wrist is used to generate racket speed. Once again it is vital to experiment with different points of contact on the ball so as to produce different spin. Also, using different parts of the racket will produce varying spins.

With all types of serves it is vital for combination bat players

to develop good serves with the reverse side. The range of spin that can be produced by anti or long pimples is minimal and once a good player has adjusted to this spin it is necessary to serve mainly with the reverse.

In doubles play the long service is only used to a limited extent as one of the main weapons, deception of direction. is somewhat restricted. In last month's European League match, against Poland Desmond Douglas and Carl Prean simply served short every time and the result speaks for itself.

The main reason for the increased popularity for the long service is the 3rd ball that is used in combination with this service. The idea is to allow the receiver to topspin but hopefully, not a very strong topspin which is then topspun back early off the bounce. A difficult skill, but one that if it is practised hard is very effective at International level.

It is therefore vitally important for topspin players to make strong topspin receipts against the long serves which in turn makes it difficult for the server to topspin off the bounce. For defensive players it is important to be able to receive with the reverse side and be able to vary the backspin. Clearly for both styles it is important that the receipts can be placed to, all parts of the table and that this achieved in the match Situation. As regards the topspin techniques, this will be looked at in a subsequent article; suffice to say once again the wrist is vitally important.

DON PARKER

From "The Times of India" Dramatic Changes in Techniques

Table Tennis techniques and tactics are changing dramatically, says Bomi Amalsadvala, the well known Indian coach. On a recent trip to attend a coaching seminar, organised by the I.T.T.F. during the World Cup in Kuala Lumpur, Amalsadvala found that long training camps are no more in vogue.

In Sweden, for instance, the camps last not more than five

days at a stretch. The players are allowed to train on their own thereafter.

Tomas Berner, the Swedish coach who has produced such stars as Ulf Bengtsson and Mikael Appelgren, feels that players tend to get bored with the same routine during long camps and hence are unable to put in their full effort.

For the next World Championships, to be held in Gothenburg, Sweden, next year, the Swedes propose to have a camp every other week. The training simply consists of gymnastics and running. Skipping, weight-training and other forms of exercises are out. The players sprint every day and do long distance every second day.

FREE REIN

There is no longer any strict regimentation of the players. Instead, they are given a free rein. Even the Chinese are given much freedom to develop and improvise on their own. It has also been realised that a player cannot concentrate on every point during a match. So players are allowed to relax a wee bit whenever they are well placed.

During the World Cup Amalsadvala found that players are invariably fixing their rubbers a little before a match. They are not fixing rubbers but only re-fixing the rubbers they were using. They were doing so because it has been scientifically proved that a freshly fixed rubber provided a higher bounce and greater speed than the one that has been in use for over 24 hours.

The players were taking maximum advantage of the rubber and it is entirely permissible under the rules, said Amalsadvala whose trip was sponsored by his employees, the State Bank of India. However, care must be taken to use a light solution, he added.

Amalsadvala and former India-ranked player Suhas Kulkarni were among the 70 coaches divided into six groups.

UNIQUE OPPORTUNITY

The seminar afforded a unique opportunity to rub shoulders with the top coaches of the world and study and analyse the latest trends and techniques. Ichiro Ogimura, former world champion, read a paper on "Human relations in good coaching". Xu Shaofa, China's leading coach, presented papers on "Coaching techniques and training systems" and "Youth training in China". Tomas Berner spoke on "World trends vis-a-vis training in Sweden" and Chan Jia Yan of World Championships draw fame, gave a lecture on the latest changes in the ITTF Rules.

All the top coaches like Xu Shaofa, Berner, Kawahara of

Japan, who is responsible for the outstanding successes of Saito, and Chung, of South Korea, who has Produced Kim Wan, the runner-up in the World Cup, have been associated with their wards for at least three years, Amalsadvala said. This is a point for the Table Tennis Federation of India to note. Kim Wan, incidentally, is a penholder grip player who attacks fervently on the backhand.



English Schools' T.T.A.

by David Lomas

Whilst most counties in England will be the focus for the qualifying stages of the Dunlop National School Team Championships prior to Christmas, there are some notable blackspots in the list of ESTTA contacts.

The Association is particularly anxious to hear from any interested teachers in the following counties:- East Sussex, Isle of Wight, Merseyside, Middlesex, Northumberland, North Yorkshire, Tyne and Wear and West Sussex.

Did I hear somebody say "But Middlesex doesn't exist anymore" Quite correct - but for ESTTA purposes it does and it consists of the following local education authorities:- Barnet, Brent, Ealing, Enfield, Haringey, Harrow, Hillingdon and Hounslow - 8 London Boroughs, but no effective ESTTA contact.

Please write to the ESTTA Hon. Gen. Secretary - Mr. J. C. Hony, Dronfield Junior School, School Lane, Dronfield, Sheffield, S18 6RY.

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Wiltshire 2-Star Open

COMMENTARY

by Laurie Selby

Cooke served up a big surprise at the Wiltshire 2-Star Open staged at Swindon on Sept. 23. The Clasterfield led caused the big stir by creaming off the top prize of £200 and most mincemeat of the day in the process.

Cooke, one of the many top-ranked England players in the tournament, caused the first upset in the semis of the men's singles when he topped world No. 2 seed Prean. The No. 2 seed Prean put up a great battle but in the end Cooke's razor-sharp reflexes gave him the win.

The No. 3 seed lost none of his bounce in the final and he blasted top seed and title defender Graham Sandley off the table in straight games. Cooke then pocketed another £60 when Sandley joined him on the same side of the table to win the men's doubles.

The women's events also threw up a double champion in Alison Gordon, the England No. 1. Best set in the women's singles was the semi-final when Alison had to battle back against Lisa Bellinger who took the opening game. But Alison had an easy passage in the final in which she beat young Lisa Hayden without any problem to earn herself the £100 top prize.

Alison and Mandy Sainsbury outgunned the top seeds in the women's doubles. The Bellinger sisters, Lisa and Jackie won the opening game but then went down to the blistering attack of the winners.

It was in the women's doubles where Wiltshire players had their only big success. Playing inspired table tennis, the Swindon pair of Helen Wilson and Claire Hunter reached the semis. They came up against the Gordon/Sainsbury combine but never gave up even after losing the first game. They battled back to take the second but then the big guns powered their way to victory in the decider.

A new event for veterans was won by the country's top over-40 Derek Schofield, who, in the final, beat Stan "The Bat" Batrick.

England's top young players provided an all-star cast for the junior tournament on the previous day. As expected England's No. 1, Prean, emerged as the "leading man". The tall, bespectacled Isle of Wight professional

was in a class of his own as he picked up the £50 prize for the boys' singles. His all-action game produced a barrage of attacking shots which proved too hot for Andrew Syed, the No. 2 seed, to handle in the final.

But there was an upset in the girls' singles in which the top-seeded Joanne Shaw went out in the semis in one of the day's most exciting encounters. She had a match point before going out to Lisa Hayden who earned herself a place in the final against the Holder, Jill Powis. Last year Jill, again the No. 2 seed, had to save 5 match points before taking the title. But she found things easier this time although she was taken to a deciding game.

The top seed Michael O'Driscoll took the cadet boys' singles when he defeated the unseeded Leigh Jefferies in the final. Another top star to blot Garry Knights of Burton-on-Trent who won the U-12 boys' singles with a battling display. He had a ding-dong fight with pipping Jefferies in the semis and then had to claw back after losing the opening game to Bryan Mileham in the final.

The U-12 girls' singles was won by Caroline Buckley.

Prean added another £30 to his weekend takings when he teamed up with Andrew Syed to outplay Clive Guest and Sean Gibson in the doubles final. Miss Powis also captured a second title with a win in the girls' doubles. She partnered Miss Shaw to victory against Clare Mouzon and Alison Boxall.

This was the first time the tournament had been staged at the Oasis Leisure Centre and brought first class table tennis to Swindon for the first time in many years. More than 400 players took part and organiser Michael Oxley described it as a great success. "We must make sure it carries on" he added.

Trophies were presented by Swindon MP Simon Coombs.

Results:-
Men's Singles: Quarter-finals: G. Sandley (M) bt K. Beadsley (V) 16, 16; O. Wells (M) bt S. Scowcroft (L) 16, 18; A. Cooke (D) bt M. Mason (S) 20, 16; C. Prean (IoW) bt A. Jermyn (H) 19, 15.
Semi-finals: Sandley bt Wells 13, 14; Cooke bt Prean 21, 13, 14.
Final: Cooke bt Sandley 17, 16, 17.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals: A. Gordon (B) bt J. Harris (S); L. Bellinger (Bd) bt M. Sainsbury (Bk);

L. Hayden (B) bt J. Bellinger (Bd); M. Denbow (O) bt S. Collier (Bk).
Semi-finals: Gordon bt L. Bellinger 16, 15, 18; Hayden bt Denbow 19, 18.
Final: GORDON bt Hayden 11, 5.
Men's Double: Semi-final: Cooke/Sandley bt Beadsley/Eckerley (Ch) 16, 15; C. Bartram (Kl/Mason) bt P. Bradbury (B)/Wells 17, 4, 12.
Final: COOKE/SANDLEY bt Bartram/Mason 10, 8, 17, 10.
Women's Doubles: Semi-finals: Bellinger/Bellinger bt J. Powis (Su/J. Shaw (V) 14, 12; Gordon/Sainsbury bt C. Hunter/H. Wilson (W) 8, 17, 10.
Final: GORDON/SAINSBURY bt Bellinger/Bellinger 14, 14, 30.
Boy's Single: Quarter-finals: Prean bt P. Savins (Bk); P. Gooding (Sk) bt A. Ball (K); P. Arms (K) bt C. Guest (V); A. Syed (B) bt BO'Grady (K).
Semi-finals: Prean bt Gooding 8, 9; Syed bt Arms 15, 11.
Final: PREAN bt Syed 18.
Girls' Single: a. ueter. final.: Shaw bt c. Brooks (S); Hayden bt K. Baker (M); S. Hammond (S) bt H. Perrott (Av); Powis bt M. Carey (So).
Semi-finals: Hayden bt Shaw 17, 1B, 22; Powis bt Hammond 16, 11.
Final: POWIS bt Hayden 16, -7, 11.

Boys' Doubles: Semi, final: Prean/Syed bt Gooding/S. Caraccio (Sk) 16, 12, S. Gibson (Laj)/Guest bt Amos/Savins-16, 13, 18.
Final: PREAN/SYED bt Gibson/Guest 8, 14.
Girls' Doubles: Semi-final: Powis/Shaw bt Hayden/K. Knight (M); A. Boxall (H)/C. Mouzon (Ndl) bt C. Bateman (S)/M. Cohen (Av).
Final: POWIS/SHAW bt Boxall/Mouzon 15, -15, 17.
Cadet Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals: M. O'Driscoll (V) bt A. Eden (L); D. Saunders (G) bt O. Morris (Sp); L. Jeffries (W) bt G. Knight (D); R. Jones (S) bt A. Mileham (K).
Semi-finals: O'Driscoll bt Saunders 13, 9; Jeffries bt Jones 16, 1B.
Final: O'DRISCOLL bt Jeffries 15, 12.
Cadet Girl's Single: Quarter-final: K. Hall (D) bt R. Skinner (M); O. Toole (V) bt K. Perkins; J. Wright (D) bt J. Norman (B); J. Bellinger (D) bt J. Webber (B).
Semi-finals: Hall bt Toole 20, 10, 10; Wright bt Norman 16, 10.
Final: HALL bt Bellinger 16, 10, 10.
U-12 Boys' Singles: Semi-finals: K. Mileham bt L. Eden 17, 12, 16; Hayden bt K. Baker 11, -10, 20, 11.
U-12 Girl's Single: Semi-finals: C. Buckley (B) bt H. Wright (D) 13, 12; T. Hooker (S) bt S. Fowler 7, 4.
Final: BUCKLEY bt Hooker 15, 1g.



Simon Coombs, Swindon's MP, presents the women's singles trophy to Alison Gordon, the winner, and Lisa Hayden.



Jill Powis and Joanne Shaw, girls' doubles winners, with Simon Coombs, Swindon's MP, and his wife Catherine. Jill also won the girls' singles.



Alan Cooke receives his trophy and cheque from Swindon MP Simon Coombs watched by runner-up Graham Sandley.

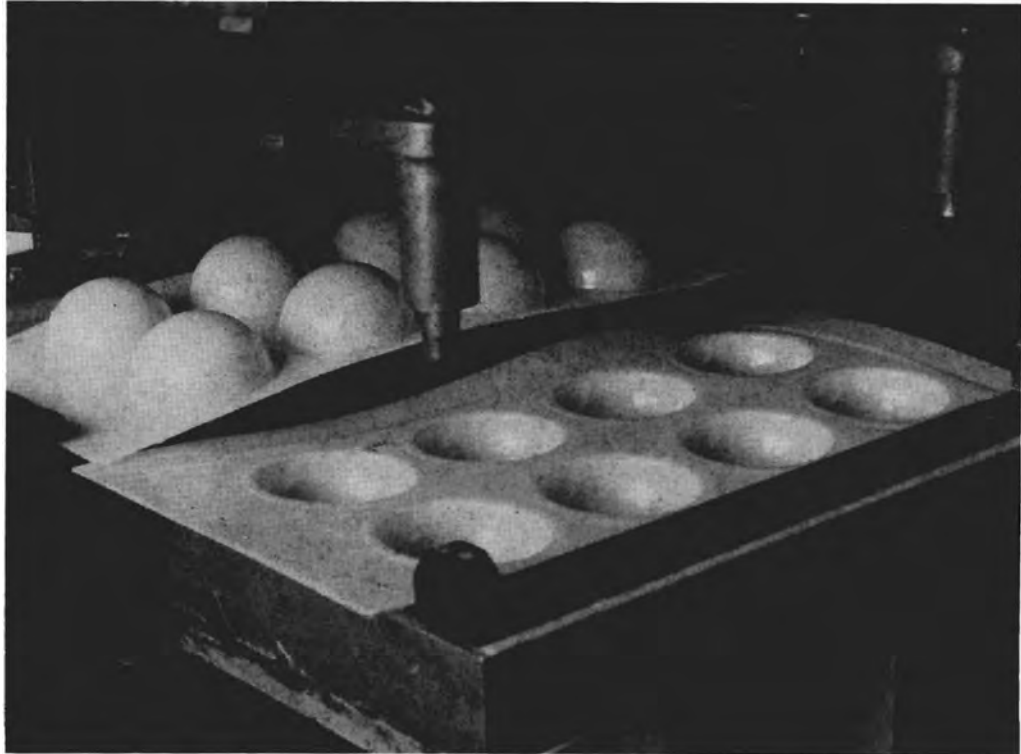
New Table Tennis Balls from Dunlop and BASF

For thirteen years **Dunlop Sports** and **BASF** have been working to perfect a table tennis ball made from an alternative material to celluloid.

Research scientists at **BASF** have been working closely with **Dunlop** and its manufacturing company, **Charlton Sports**, in the search for a cheaper and less inflammable plastic materials with the playing characteristics of celluloid. At first it was thought that **Luran S**, **BASF's ASA**, was the answer. The result was the **Dunlop Barna ball**, first launched in 1971.

At the time, the **Barna ball** was ahead of its celluloid competition, but in later years the quality of celluloid balls began to improve, leaving the **ASA ball** behind.

A few top players on the professional circuit complained about the differences in playing characteristics and the problems of adapting their game to suit the ball being used.



The testing table. Every ball is roll tested and a 3-star ball must hit the centre pocket 7 times to achieve this distinction.

Two halves of the table tennis balls ready for assembly and heat sealing in the **Carlton Sports** works.

Public attention focused on England ranked **No.2**, **Carl Prean**, who withdrew from the 1984 **Norwich Union Open**, refusing to play the **Barna ball**.

Dunlop and **BASF** were already aware of the problems. For five years they have been working on the new **Tournament ball**, which uses a special grade of **BASF's ABS, Terluran**.

ABS has proved to be far more responsive than **ASA*** and far more predictable in its playing characteristics. It is more sensitive, has better resilience, and is more translucent.

Carl Prean has tried the ball as part of the company's play testing programme and says he will be happy to use it.

In blind testing, a group of international players had difficulty distinguishing between the **ABS Tournament ball** and a celluloid ball. The only giveaway is colour. The **Tournament ball** is not as white as celluloid, but **BASF** and **Dunlop** are working on further improvements which they hope will resolve this.

Dunlop has now launched the new **ABS ball** and are marketing

it alongside "**Premier Tournament**" celluloid balls they import from **Japan**.

Former Commonwealth Champion, **Alan Hydes**, who is now sales and marketing manager of **Dunlop's** table tennis business, says that although they have narrowed the gap with the new **Tournament**, the best table tennis balls are still Japanese. **Dunlop's** aim, however, is to produce an equivalent UK produced **ABS ball** at about half the cost.

"The future is in the **ABS ball**, not the Japanese celluloid ball. We are working towards competing with the best Japanese balls and we have made tremendous progress in the last six months."

Carlton Sports at its factory in **Saffron Walden, Essex**, is now turning out up to 3,000 dozen **Tournament balls** a week.

"The only problem we are having is keeping up with the orders," says **Mr Hydes**.

For further information, please contact **BASF United Kingdom Limited, Plastics & Fibre Raw Materials**, Tel: 061 485 6222.

CHELSEA SCHOOL OF HUMAN MOVEMENT

SENIOR E.T.TA
TRAINING CAMP:
THE EASTBOURNE
EXPERIMENT

During the week Sept. 3/7 1984 the Chelsea School of Human Movement at Brighton Polytechnic in Eastbourne was host to a Senior Training Camp. This new venture was initiated through correspondence between a B.Sc. Sports Science undergraduate, John Green, who as a player was interested in combining his academic and sporting interests by scientific analysis of elite table tennis players, and Don Parker, the E.T.T.A. National Coach and Team Trainer.

As Course Leader for this degree in Sports Science and a

non-elite player myself, I was pleased to organise this camp and to widen the initial research aspect to include data collection relevant to physique, body composition, aerobic and anaerobic fitness, strength, flexibility, reaction and movement times, and various sports psychological tests. Although the group represents some of the finest players in the country and Europe, numerically this must only be considered a start. Table tennis is well behind many sports in looking to the sports scientists to complement the good work of their coaches, but this camp has been a step in the right direction.

The squad of players included, for the women, Alison Gordon, Karen Witt, Lisa Bellinger and Fiona Elliot; and for the men,

Desmond Douglas, Graham Sandley, ~~Alan Cooke~~, Carl Morgan, Andrew and Matthew Syed. For three full days they had their normal technique, skills, fitness and tactics sessions, but in addition they became subjects in a range of human performance tests which were physically very demanding. Cycling to exhaustion on the bicycle ergometer, flat-out gym tests reminiscent of Super Stars, and various shuttle runs and static jumps, all added to an intense, hardworking camp.

From the Polytechnic's point of view this was an immense success as it was an example of using facilities and expertise in an academically worthwhile way at a time of the year when the student demand is low.

For the Coaches, Don Parker and David Fairholm, and the players it formed a welcome change from the traditional camp venues, giving added motivation and interest.

The players, despite the heavy demands, gave a marvellous exhibition evening in which a small crowd was treated to some excellent coaching demonstrations, two world records in counter hitting (men 164 women 149) and some marvellous exhibition matches. The schoolgirls in the crowd fell in love with the Syed brothers and everyone was happy.

In conclusion, it is important to stress that this is a late start for table tennis but it is a start and I look forward to next year's visit and a steady increase in our knowledge of the characteristics of good table tennis players so that coaches at all levels can be advised as to appropriate training emphasis to optimise their results.

J. P. McNaught-Davis
Course Leader, B.Sc. Sports
Science

Praise for sports firm

Wakefield west area youth officer, Mr. Michael Duncombe, was full of praise this week for the work of Dunlop Sports for their encouragement of table tennis in the Wakefield area (writes Les D'Arcy).

The company has sponsored two table tennis centres at local level and five others at regional level in partnership with the Yorkshire and Humberside Sports' Council.

At the national level Dunlop's sponsorship of the English Schools Table Tennis Association and the English Table Tennis Association is well known.

Less in the public eye are the little acts of generosity at the grass roots of the sport where the firm sponsors coaching courses to encourage young people to take up the game and then provides incentives for them to continue their development.

One such incentive is the provision of trophies for the setting up of a new Wakefield Youth Clubs Table Tennis League.

The League will be organised by Mr. David Townsend, a well known local sportsman. Mr. Townsend and a squad of top local players and coaches are visiting clubs in the Wakefield area at Mr. Duncombe's invitation to promote the new league.

Youth organisations wishing to have a visit from the demonstration team please contact Mr. Duncombe, Area Youth Office, Newton Bar, Leeds Road. Tel: 370211 ex 516.



Wakefield west area youth officer, Michael Duncombe, right, receives trophies from Alan Hydes of Dunlop Sports, left, who are sponsoring a new table tennis league in Wakefield. Organising the new league is David Townsend, centre.

CORNILLEAU LEWISHAM
2-STAR OPEN

TOP SEEDS IN COMMEND

Graham Sandley and Alison Gordon, top seeds in the singles events, came up trumps at the Lewisham Leisure Centre on Sept 1 and came away the richer by £1 00 and £40 respectively.

Although Miss Gordon, went through without the loss of a game, Sandley was twice extended to three, firstly by Chris Bartram and, in the final, by Dave Wells who himself had dropped not a single game prior to his meeting with Sandley. Results:-

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
G. Sandley (Mi) bt A. Creed (Av) 17, 13;
K. Satchell (Wi) bt P. Logsdon (Nk) 17, 7;
P. Bradbury (Bu) bt G. Baker (Sy) 20, 14;
O. Wells (Mi) bt O. Schofield (Ch) 14, 17.
Semi-finals:
Sandley bt Satchell 16, 19; Wells bt Bradbury 9, 18.
Final: SANDLEY bt Wells 14, -14, 10.
Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
A. Gordon (18k) bt T. Moore (Sx) 13, 11;
M. Sainsbury (8k) bt J. Smith (Sea) 13, 7;
H. Williams (Mi) bt J. Shaw (V) 13, 15;
K. Witt (Bk) bt E. Sayer (E) 17, 18.
Semi-finals:
Gordon bt Sainsbury 19, 11; Witt bt Williams 15, 22.
Final: GORDON bt Witt 15, 12.

COLGATE NORTH OF
ENGLAND 2-STAR OPEN

THE RETURN ON
FOR COONE

By Geo. R. Yates

Despite the presence of the higher-ranked Graham Sandley - beaten in the fourth round by Kevin Beadsley of Yorkshire (12 and 17) - **Cooke's singles title at Stratford Sports Centre on Sept 29 without the loss of a game.**

Having, the previous weekend, won the Wiltshire 2-Star Open title at Swindon, the **Cooke's** **title** **at Stratford Sports Centre** **on Sept 29** **without the loss of a game.**

Only one of the top eight seeds failed to reach the quarters namely Andy Bellingham (St) who was beaten 14 and 21 by Kevin Satchell, the Wilts player also accounting for Beadsley, the surprise conqueror of top seed Sandley.

John Hilton, faced once more by Carl Morgan - as he was at Bletchley in the English Closed last season - suffered a 21-5 first game defeat subsequent to which the former European champion threw in the towel complaining about the new Dunlop polymer plastic ball.

Karen Smith, **defied the host county's Joy Grundy a retention of her women's singles title when the two met in the final with the top-seeded Alison Gordon failing to appear,**

this time with Sandley, **the S. ... the ... of the ...** **last won with Andy Creed - whilst Joy Grundy and Jean Parker had little difficulty in retaining their women's doubles title,**

A disappointing boys' singles entry saw Adrian Dixon take over the title from Richard Hayward, the 83/84 winner, with a final victory over Lancashire's top-ranking Andrew Eden, conqueror of Hayward in the semis. And, an even smaller entry for the girls' singles, further denuded by the absence on international duty in the Quadrangular at Llandudno of Joanne Shaw, **brought victory to the unseeded** **Jill Bellingham.**

Apart from beating Jill Powis, **the Derbyshire loss also brought off a shock win over Lancashire's Andrea Holt in the final.** It goes, almost without saying, that the veteran singles title was retained by Derek Schofield with a final win over Matt Shearer but the entry for this event, numbering 36, put the junior entry to shame, , , and this, indeed, is a shame - it should never be,

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:
K. Satchell (Wi) bt K. Beadsley (V) -19, 20, 17;
P. Bradbury (Bu) bt N. Eckersley (Ch) 19, -20, 17;
C. Morgan (Wa) bt J. Hilton (La) 5, conceded:
A. Bellingham (St) bt C. Rogers (La) 10, 13, 11.
Semi-finals:
Bradbury bt Satchell 17, 16; Bellingham bt Morgan 18, 18, 11.
Final: COOKE bt Bradbury 17, 11, 11.
Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
K. Smith (La) bt J. Parker (La) 19, 17;
A. Holt (La) bt L. Broomhead (V) 15, 16;
J. Grundy (La) bt S. Sandley (Mi) 17, 20.
Semi-finals:
Smith bt Powis 6, 10; Grundy bt Holt 9, 13.
Final: SMITH bt Grundy 14, 16.
Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
Cooke/Sandley (Mi) bt B. Johns (E) / S. Scowcroft (La) 11, 18;
Beadsley/Eckersley bt M. Green/A. Taylor (Cv) 13, 11.
Final: COOKE/SANDLEY bt Beadsley/Eckersley 17, -14, 9.
Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
J. Harris (St)/Powis bt S. Sandley (Mi)/H. Shields (V) -10, 16, 9;
Grundy/Parker bt S. Hunt (Li) Smith 17, 11.
Final: GRUNDY/PARKER bt Harris/Powis 13, 11.
Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
A. Dixon (St) bt A. Buxton (V) 20, 7;
B. Bellingham (St) bt A. Taylor (Ch) -18, 15, 15;
A. Hayward (Wa) bt P. Harris (He) 19, 17;
A. Eden (La) bt C. Guest (V) 15, -13, 15.
Semi-finals:
Dixon bt Bellingham 13, 18; Eden bt Hayward 20, 7.
Final: DIXON bt Eden 13, 10.
Girls' Singles: Quarter-finals:
C. Mitchell (La) w.o. J. Shaw (V) scr.
Holt bt B. Smallwood (La) 7, 10;
K. Baker (Mi) bt N. McGrath (La) 19, 12;
Bellingham bt Powis 21, 14.
Semi-finals:
Holt bt Mitchell 11, 13; Bellingham bt Baker 16, 16.
Final: BELLINGHAM bt Holt 17, 14.
Veteran Singles: Quarter-finals:
O. Schofield (Ch) bt R. Norton (Ca) 12, 15;
P. O'Arcy (Ch) bt A. Timewell (Ch) 12, 15;
E. Griffiths (Ch) bt W. Moran (Li) 16, 18;
M. Shearer (Li) bt T. Donlon (Ch) 11, 14.
Semi-finals:
Schofield bt O'Arcy 11, 13; Shearer bt Griffiths 13, 15.
Final: SCHOFIELD bt Shearer 16, 14.

HALTON 2-STAR
JUNIOR OPEN

Since the inception of the Halton Junior Table Tennis Tournament seven years ago it has become a major event in the table tennis calendar.

Three years ago it was approved by the E.T.T.A. as a one star event and has since played host to many of the young international players.

The Tournament is held at Norton Recreation Centre, Halton's first major sports complex. This year ends Norton's first decade and they are proud to host the Tournament under its new two star status in its anniversary year.

The Tournament has always been a popular event and has been commended on its organisation and playing conditions, and with two star status, it is the only Tournament of its size and calibre in the Cheshire area which makes it an important event. Ranking points can now be awarded and, with the Tournament being 'at the end of the year, it makes it a must for players seeking those extra points prior to national selections.

The event is being sponsored this year by Patsun Services Manchester who are satisfied that the event is important

enough to attract a record entry and would hope to win new customers for their products, claiming new innovations in table tennis blade manufacture.

The sponsorship has enabled a worthy prize fund to be put up as well as individual trophies,

The spectator is every bit as important to the success of any tournament as the players. Therefore, reorganising this, Norton Recreation Centre will be installing video equipment to enable spectators to relax quietly in the Centre's pleasant lounge bar and still see all the action going on in the sports hall on television. What better way to enjoy this year's Tournament,

The Tournament will take place at Norton Recreation Centre, Castlefields Avenue East, Castlefields, Runcorn, Cheshire, Telephone Runcorn 76796. For details, entry forms, directions etc, contact Mr. M. F. Williams, Assistant Manager at the above address and phone number. The closing date for entries is Saturday, November 17th, 1984.

QE2 for High Seas Launch of New Table Tennis Ball

The Cunard line Queen Elizabeth 2 recently staged a table tennis tournament during a luxury cruise to Scandinavia.

The Cunard Line chose Dunlop Table Tennis equipment for the event which included the new Dunlop "Tournament" polymer ball as well as Super Rollaway tables.

As well as actually competing in the tournament, table tennis enthusiasts were able to benefit from the expert coaching of former Commonwealth Champion Alan Hydes who was invited to join the fortnight long cruise.

Although the new "Tournament" ball and its celluloid counterpart the "Premier

Tournament" have a substantial programme of Championship use in the coming season, the QE2 cruise was one of the earliest adoptions and certainly the first nautical tournament for the new product. It is interesting to note that the requirement of a ball of 3-star quality and approved by the International Table Tennis Federation is a far cry from the days when vast quantities of table tennis balls were used on ships only to provide ballast!

Alan Hydes of Dunlop pictured aboard the QE2 with her captain.



LADYLINE GROVE SCHOOL JUNIOR OPEN

DOUBLE HEADER FOR CLAIRE

By Ian Marshall

Claire Potts emerged the most successful player of the weekend at the Ladyline Grove School Junior Open held over the weekend of Oct 13/14 adding the girls' singles title to the Cadet girls' singles with a typical display of positive attacking play.

England's No.1-ranked cadet girl had few problems retaining the Cadet girls' title, won twelve months earlier, with a determined Caroline Buckley of Luton the semi-final victim and an impressive Julie Norman of Newbury the runner-up.

Predictably the girls' singles proved a much tougher test for Miss Potts.' Wins over Birmingham's Dawn Bromley, Oxford's Amanda Shufflebotham and Neasden's Lesley Souter saw Miss Potts through to a final encounter with top seed Clare Mouzon of Newcastle.

Miss Mouzon romped away with the opening game to justify her top seeding but the younger opponent had different ideas in the next two and as the return of service improved Claire's relentless pressure won the day and a sporting Miss Mouzon had to return to the North East with the runners-up prize.

The path to the final for Miss Mouzon had been a testing affair, Sarah Hammond had proved a tough quarter-final opponent and as the Newcastle girl trailed a hard-hitting Helen Lower in the third game of the semi by some 10 points the final appeared to be disappearing fast. However, Miss Mouzon continued to attack and to her eternal credit clawed her way back to success by the narrowest of margins.

Claire Potts headed a series of fine performances by players from the home club with colleague David Morris almost emulating the young lady's performance in the cadet boys' event. Morris, unseeded, recorded in a series of fine wins against higher ranked players in Gary Knights, Philip Szekeres and Matthew Pernet to earn a final place against the talented Yorkshire lad Chris Oldfield.

The much improved Morris gave his best as always but Oldfield's consistency won the day and deservedly the title returned to South Yorkshire with Young Chris the victor without a game being lost in the event.

Bournemouth's Rodney Thomas made his long journey worthwhile with a final success

in the boys' singles over Sheffield's Clive Guest with the counter attack of the Dorset boy the telling factor. Thomas had been in splendid form throughout the day with higher-ranked players Mark Randle (Coventry) and Adrian Dixon (Wolverhampton) beaten at the quarter and semi-final stages respectively.

Meanwhile Guest strode to the final with consummate ease as clubmate Russell Buxton and Birmingham's Graham Jeffries found the player from the White Rose county too strong and straight games wins were the verdict in the quarter and semi-finals.

The most entertaining events of the weekend proved to be the Under-12 events with the nation's leading proteges all on duty. The distaff side raised loud applause from an appreciative audience as scant regard was placed on safety play to give Luton's excellent Caroline Buckley narrow victory against Brentwood's Delia Holland, the latter gaining in confidence as the day progressed. An excellent final, as had been the semis where Grove's Helen Potts and Reading's Tracy Hooker had fallen in duels not meant for the faint of heart.

Grove's national, league side, meeting before travelling to play Larkhall in London the following day, thoroughly enjoyed the display and were thankful they had only nationally ranked men to contend with the next day!

Meanwhile Preston's Andrew Eden used his combination bat to good effect against Midlander Leigh Jeffries to win the counterpart boys' event in style but again a host of superb matches were seen as Jeffries won a nail-biting semi against Knights and an impressive Thanet boy Brian Mileham narrowly fell to the eventual champion at the penultimate hurdle.

Results:-

B.S.: s-fs:
C. Guest (V) bt R. Buxton (V) 16. 17;
A. Thomas (Do) bt A. Dixon (St) 17. 20;
Final: THOMAS bt Guest 16. -16. 16:

G.S.: s-fs:
C. Mouzon (Nd) bt H. Lower (St) 18. -19. 19;
C. Potts (Ch) bt L. Souter (Mil) 21. 13.
Final: POTTS bt Mouzon -9. 17. 17.

B.D.: s-fs:
Oixon/K. Lawrence (St) bt S. Cooper (Sp)/O. Holland (E) 17. -11. 21;
L. Brown/D. Carse (La) bt I. Miller/S. Slater (St) -21.20.9.

Final: DIXON/LAWRENCE bt "Brown/Carse 16. -22.16.

G.D.: s-fs:
S. Hammond (Ha)/Souter bt M. Cohen (Av)/K. Rogers (St) -27. 19. 11;

T. Holland (E)/A. Shufflebotham (Ox) -bt H. Broomhead/J. Roberts (V) 16. 18.
Final: HAMMOND/SOUTER bt Holland/Shufflebotham 14. -14. 19.

C.B.S.: s-fs:
O. Morris (Sp) bt M. Pernet (Sy) 19. 14;
C. Oldfield (V) bt A. Eden (La) 12. 7.
Final: OLDFIELD bt Morris 11. 15.

C.G.S.: s-fs:
Potts bt C. Buckley (Bd) 11. 11;
J. Norman (BK) bt K. Gower (London) 11. 16.
Final: POTTS bt Norman 16. 17.

C.B.D.: s-fs:
Oldfield/N. Simms (V) bt S. Cooper (Sp)/Morris 12. -16. 19;
A. Till/A. Thorpe (Wa) bt Eden/Pernet -11.19.17;
Final: OLDFIELD/SIMMS bt Thorpe/Till 17. 19.

C.G.D.: s-fs:
J. Brion (BK)/Norman bt O. Holland (E)/H. Potts (Ch) 8. 14;
V. Boyd (Sp)/C. Potts bt C. Bateman/A. Skinner (Sy) -19.16.13;
Final: BRION/NORMAN bt Boyd/Potts 16. -18. 15.

U-12 B.S.: s-fs:
L. Jeffries (Wa) bt G. Knights (Oy) -16. 13. 19;
Eden bt B. Mileham (K) 12. 21.
Final: EDEN bt Jeffries 12. 9.

U12 G.S.: s-fs:
Buckley bt H. Potts 12. 19;
O. Holland bt T. Hooker (BK) 19. -20. 14.
Final: BUCKLEY bt Holland 9. -20. 16.

MERTON 1-STAR OPEN

LOCALS OUTSHONE

Played at Bournemouth on Sunday, October 14th, the Merton c1-Star had two Gloucestershire players contesting the men's singles final with Graham Slack beating Steve More'man, the Cheltenham player having much the upper hand on the man from Tewkesbury.

Jane Barella of Surrey was the winner of the counterpart women's event with a final victory over Sally Weston of Sussex. In

the only other singles event Dorset's own Trevor Smith beat S. E. Brice, also of Dorset, in the veterans'.

A. and G. Oxley of Wiltshire won the men's doubles title beating Mark Werner and R. Fairhall of Dorset in the final whilst the Dorset pairing of L. Harman and S. Hegarty beat Barella and Weston in the women's doubles final. Scores:-

MS: G. Slack (Gs) bt S. Moreman (Gs) 16. 17.
WS: J. Barella (Sy) bt S. Weston (Sx) 15. -8. 9.
VS: T. Smith (Do) bt S. Brice (Do) 15. 14.
MD: A. Oxley/G. Oxley (Wi) bt R. Fairhall/M. Werner (Do) 2. 19.
WD: L. Harman/S. Hegarty (Do) bt Barella/Weston 20. -13.13.
XD: Werner/Barella bt S. Davies (Oo)/Harman -19.21. 23.

LANCASHIRE LIFE

DOUBLE AT OLDHAM

By George Yates

Having had to content themselves with a share of the spoils in their opening County Championships matches against Buckinghamshire in Senior 2A and Northumberland in Junior 2A in September the Red Rose representatives came into full bloom in October.

Playing at the Delph Club, Oldham on Oct. 20, the juniors took on Staffordshire seconds in the afternoon and, reinforced by the inclusion of Andrew Eden and Sean Gibson, who were not available for the Northumberland match, they stormed home 7-3 after losing the first set of the match when Stephen Slater got the better of Gibson.

And it was Slater again, with a win over Eden, and in a doubles with Ian Miller against Gibson and Lee Brown, who proved Staffordshire's only star. In singles Brown kept a clean sheet as did our two girls Lynne Harnden and Nicola McGrath who maintained their form of the previous match.

Not to be outshone by the youngsters the senior seconds introduced Andrew Leigh to the exclusion of Steve Bevan and they too, after Andy Gray had

gone under to John Kitchener in the opening set, won 7-3.

Again it was Kitchener who carried the 'fight on behalf of Suffolk when, in partnership with Mick Palmer, the doubles was won, and in solo combat the visitors' No. 1 struck down Phil Aspinall 8 and 8! Andy Leigh had a more than useful debut in beating Terry Dowsett and Palmer whilst Amanda Goodwin and Carey Whitehead, on home soil, put down the challenge of Julie Dowsett and Sue Welham. Scores:-

v Suffolk
A. Gray lost to J. Kitchener -18. -12;
A. Leigh bt T. Oowsett 25. -17. 14;
P. Aspinall bt M. Palmer 13, 18;
A. Goodwin/C. Whitehead bt J. Oowsett/S. Welham 12. 12;
Aspinall/Gray lost to Kitchener/Palmer 16. -14. -15;
Gray bt T. Oowsett 17. 14;
Whitehead bt Welham 16. 18;
Aspinall lost to Kitchener -8. -8;
Goodwin bt J. Dowsett 10, 19;
Leigh bt Palmer -13.10.18.

v Staffs II
S. Gibson lost to S. Slater 17. -16. -19;
L. Brown bt I. Miller 14. 18;
A. Eden bt P. Fisher 14. 14;
L. Harnden/N. McGrath bt O. Gardiner/K. Rogers 17.18;
Brown/Gibson lost to Miller/Slater -19. 13. -12;
Gibson bt Miller 13. 14;
McGrath bt Rogers 19. -19. 19;
Eden lost to Slater -16. -8;
Harnden bt Gardiner 17. -18. 14;
Brown bt Fisher 11. 10.



TAMESIDE GET-TOGETHER

by David Kinder

Region 6 put on three coaching days at the George Lawton Centre, Mossley by kind permission of Tameside M.B. Council. On each of the days there were 20 youngsters in attendance and they came from all parts of Cheshire and Lancashire.

Main coach was John O'Sullivan of Liverpool aided by as many as **twenty** coaches each day. Donald Parker was in attendance on the first day, sponsored by the Trustee Savings Bank who donated prizes which were presented to all participants by the Mossley branch manager, Mr. K. Schofield. T.S.B. also provided a sports bag won by 14-year-old Mark Donaher in recognition of his efforts during the day.

On the second day, Peter Simpson attended, staying throughout and creating a great deal of interest with his views on coaching. Rose Bank Sports, of

Northwich, sponsored the last two days and donated two sports bags for the youngster adjudged to have put in the most effort each day and these were won by Michael Parker (13) from the Stockport League and, on the final day, by Tony Leong (12) of Liverpool.

The coaches in attendance on the third day provided a Rose Bank sports bag for the youngster whose efforts over the three days was outstanding. This was won by Jonathan Taylor (12) of the Hyde League.

Thanks must be expressed to all who made the **three** days such a success particularly Mrs. Renton, Mrs. Taylor and Mrs. Kinder in respect of catering. My photograph shows both coaches and their pupils still managing to raise a smile after three days of successful toil.

LOVE-ALL



By Budimir Vojinovic, Novi Sad, Yugoslavia.

Heart of England Cadet League

by Brian Aston

The 2nd year of the cadet league got underway at Leamington Boys' Club on Sept 22 with ten teams taking part. Three newcomers this season are Northants Schools, Birmingham Schools and Birmingham Youth Service. With the continuing growth of the league it is pleasing to note that the school associations are taking part and are not only providing the front runners of the league but are including a number of girls in their teams. Girls were fielded by five teams and this promises well for the future.

The day's play ended with last season's champions, Walsall, remaining unbeaten after 3 matches followed by the "A" and "B" teams of Leamington and Birmingham Schools who all played 2 matches this session. There were only 10 players remaining from last season, so new faces were plentiful.

Robert Till, a member of Walsall's team last season, won all his singles comfortably as did Jon Williams of Leamington "A". Kate Ryan and Claire Woodward

supported him well with 5 out of 6 singles wins. Northants Schools' Graham Bird and Gary Weston were a winning duo, but their team fell to Leamington "A"; when fielding a completely different team.

Teams were trying out different players in their matches 'bleeding' quite a few youngsters and this is what the spirit of the league means. Next session is on Dec 8 at 10 a.m.

Results:-

Leamington "B"	8	Bromsgrove	2
Northants Schools	10	Rugby	0
Walsall	8	Evesham	2
Coventry	2	Leamington "A"	8
Bromsgrove	1	Walsall	9
Leamington "A"	9	Northants Schools	1
Rugby	2	Leamington "B"	8
B'gham Schools	10	S'gham V.S.	0
Evesham	2	S'gham Schools	8
S'gham V.S.	0	Walsall	10
Bromsgrove	4	Rugby	6
Coventry	3	Northants Schools	7

TABLE

W.I=II	P	WLFA	Pts
Birmingham Schools	3	3 0 27	3 6
Leamington "A"	2	2 0 18	2 4
Leamington "B"	2	2 0 17	3 4
Northants Schools	2	2 0 16	4 4
Rugby	3	2 1 18	12 4
Coventry	3	1 2 8	22 2
Evesham	2	0 2 5	15 0
Bromsgrove	2	0 2 4	16 0
Birmingham V.S.	3	0 3 7	23 0
	2	0 2 0	20 0

TOP AVERAGES (All 100%)

Robert Till (Walsall)	
Jon Williams (Leamington "A")	
Haroon Rashir (B'gham Schools)	
Mark Jackson	Leamington "B"
Richard Miles	
Graham Bird	
Gary Weston	Northants Schools

Yorkshire Cadet Closed Stars of the Future

by Rea Balmford

Yorkshire's popular Cadet Closed' Championships, which bring together the White Rose county's stars of the future, this year moved to an early season date in September and, although the entry suffered because of the limited notice, the future of Yorkshire Table Tennis looks to be in good hands.

Although England No. 3 ranked Micky O'Driscoll was missing, Chris Oldfield, Neil Simms, Nicky Ryder and Debbie Toole, all of whom starred at both Cadet and Under-12 level last season and are currently highly ranked in the national list, were again prominent.

It was good, too, to see some of the smaller leagues among the honours, with the two Under-12 titles going to Selby and Halifax, represented by Ellen Meddings and Mark Sanderson, and Pontefract getting in on the act as Debbie Toole took over both Cadet titles, the doubles in partnership with Ellen.

Groups of four ensured plenty of play for the lesser lights - the

most important aspect of a tournament directed at this age group - and the competition was keen, but it was the four top seeds who took the semi-final places in each of the Cadet Singles events.

Only upset came at this stage when Miss Meddings toppled second seeded Janine Harrison, the top honours going to the top-rated Oldfield and Miss Toole.

In the Under-12 singles top seed Ellen ousted Hull's Samantha Marling in three, but Selby's other hope, David Milner, seeded 2, was despatched by Stephenson, while both Cadet Doubles followed the seeding pattern with the top pair overcoming the second.

To complete an excellent day Yorkshire's new committee man, Stuart Morte, who, on behalf of his Rotherham sports goods firm 'Mortefor Sport' sponsored the championships, presented the awards to winners and runners-up.

Results:-

CADET EVENTS

Boys' Singles: Chris Oldfield (Sheffield) bt Neil Simms (Oncaster) 16,19.
Girls' Singles: Debbie Toole (Pontefract) bt Ellen Meddings (Selby) 13,18.
Boys' Doubles: Oldfield/Sims bt Mark Ward (Sheffield)/Andrew Whitley (Harrogate) 12,8.
Girls' Doubles: Toole/Meddings bt Janine Harrison (Leeds)/Paula Hookem (Hull) 17,-21,16.
UNDER-12 EVENTS
Boys' Singles: Mark Sanderson (Halifax) bt David Milner (Selby) 13,16.
Girls' Singles: Meddings bt Samantha Marling (Hull) 16,-22, 17.

Pedalling Veteran

Les D'Arcy back home in Yorkshire after cycling to Helsinki and back to compete in the World Veterans' Table Tennis Championships.

A silver medallist in his class singles in the first World Vets Championship held in Gothenburg in 1982, Les duplicated the feat in the Helsinki Championships losing in the final of the sixty class men's singles to Ron Etheridge of Kent, the

current World Champion. He is shown holding a special pennant presented to him by the World Championship Committee to mark his cycling achievement.

Les was full of praise for his wife, Joyce, who also played in the Championships and helped him in many ways; his sponsor, Philip Dickinson, local hair fashions expert and the Youth Hostels Association. "A marvellous organisation for anyone attempting that kind of adventure" commented Les, "I don't know how I would have managed without them".



POSTBAG

DIFFERENT ASPECT

I read with interest each month of the many aspects and issues that are currently discussed by the table tennis world. Perhaps my experience of a rather different aspect of the game may be of interest to some of your readers.

My club, Rudford and Highleadon of which I am secretary, has recently completed a project which may be of significant interest to clubs who are considering improving their playing quarters.

We are a small village club situated about 5 miles West of Gloucester City and have grown from a one team club in 1954 to one of the largest in the County, mainly through the efforts of your Gloucestershire correspondent, Alf Pepperd. Our playing quarters for over a quarter of a century has been a converted loft on his farm. About four years ago thoughts of some club members were starting to concentrate on some way of improving the club's playing conditions, without imposing any further on Alfs generosity.

Several ideas and plans were considered and rejected. When I returned from holiday in July 1981, I found that the club had declared an interest in a redundant wooden classroom from a school in a neighbouring village. Once this deal was concluded we had a clear objective to aim for, and we set to work to raise money, obtain planning permission, etc.

In a small village in a Green Belt area, planning permission is a very contentious issue with some people, however with guidance from the Planning Department of the Forest of Dean District Council, we eventually obtained approval to erect the building in the grounds of the Rudford Village Hall. The offshoots of applying for planning permission also involved us in contact with Building Regulations, Environmental Health, Highways Department and also the Fire Service.

Money being the overriding consideration, was sought from many sources, but mainly from our efforts i.e. 200 Club, jumble sales, fayres, car boot sales, raffles. The initial estimate in 1981 was about £6,000 and we remained very close to this throughout. A grant of £2,000 was obtained from the Sports Council, mainly through the efforts of Mike Lewis of Bristol and John Williams of Crewkerne. I was also fortunate enough to be

able to obtain £200 from the Playing Fields Association.

Not everything runs smoothly in these projects and we had our share of problems, a long delay in negotiating a lease with the land owners, our original helpful builder lost interest, but most important was the tragic death of one of our leading fund raisers at an early age, Mrs. Diane Hogarth. One of the club stalwarts, Max Hathaway, was involved in a horrific car accident, mercifully recovered now and taken over as chairman, but he will never be able to play competitively again. However, we pressed on, the building was put up last autumn, and the club members spent last winter renovating the interior. Basically it is a sectional wooden building measuring 32 feet by 25 feet, which is a great improvement over "Art's loft".

The chairman of the E.T.T.A. very kindly consented to perform the Opening Ceremony on 22nd June of this year, which was obviously a very important occasion for our club. The satisfying thing that I found was not only did three National Councillors attend but that one of them, Mrs. Pat Archdale from Bristol, brought with her part of her collection of table tennis memorabilia, which kept all the visitors amused and amazed for most of the evening. Thank you Pat for contributing to our "happening".

After the euphoria of that evening, we now are approaching our first season in, the new building with a certain amount of relief that we have achieved something significant in local table tennis and I hope this letter will spur other clubs to take the steps towards improvement, as it seems to me that for every new venue created, two are lost to Table Tennis, and that we cannot afford. If anyone is considering a new clubroom the Sports Council are the best people to give help and guidance.

S. J. SALISBURY
11 Sarumville",
Whitehall Lane,
Rudford, Gloucs.
GL2 5ED

**KINGSWOOD
LADIES'
TOURNAMENT**

by Pat Archdale

Sometimes players come away from a tournament saying "It wasn't really worth going - I only got one set". This can certainly not be said when Brian Lammerton is Referee. For the Kingswood

Ladies' Tournament he worked out a tight schedule of eight sets for every competitor.

Played at Downend Sports Centre the winners of the Sports Council Shield was in doubt right up to the last set when Jill Green triumphed to win the trophy for Hampshire.

Throughout the day the lead changed hands between Wiltshire and Hampshire with the latter finally coming out on top with 46 pts to Wilts 43 with Gloucestershire finishing third.

Christine Iacopi was the most successful player for Gloucs. winning six of her eight sets. For Wiltshire Helen Wilson was the most successful winning 14 and losing 2 as against Claire Hunter who won 14 but lost 3.

Jill Green came through the day undefeated winning all her 16 games but Beryl Duffield, a last minute stand-in, also did well. Thanks are extended to Brian Lammerton and the Avon umpires who kindly gave of their time.

**THANKS TO BENEFICIAL
TRUST**

By Andrew Syed

After a long flight via Paris, Sue Collier and I arrived at Seoul airport to be greeted by Mr. Park who drove us to the training camp which was about one hour's drive away.

The training camp consisted of two halls of residence (one for males and one for females) a training hall and a dining hall.

Mr. Park introduced me to the junior boys' coach Mr. Yoon Kil Jung and then left. I didn't see him again. After the evening meal I went to bed at about 10 p.m. I shared a room with the No. 3 Korean junior, Jae Won; who was 16 and spoke a little English. We also shared our room with a mouse who occasionally shot across the room and up the wall.

The next day Jae Won woke me up at 6 am. We all assembled outside and the squad did set standing exercises all counting together in Korean. I learnt to count with them eventually, although the first day I was all over the place. They then ran 2 km.

Breakfast followed at 7.40 and consisted of chips, bread and cheese. Before playing at 9 a.m. we jogged slowly for 5 minutes then spent 8 minutes doing stretching exercises including 80 sit ups.

We finished at 11.40 and lunch was at 12.20. They made special English food so I had fish and chips and a coke.

We started playing again at 2.30 and finished at 5 p.m. Dinner was at 6.30 after which I played optionally with Moon Kyu Min, a western grip player. During breaks we ate slices of water melon and large peaches.

This daily pattern continued for the remaining three weeks apart from Sundays. Bedtime on Saturdays 12 p.m. and

the Sunday mornings were set aside for church. I went with Jae Hyung (Korean Senior No.1) and World No. 2 lady. Christianity is quite important to some of them. They all pray before every meal and the girls serve meals to the coaches as an act of respect. The Juniors train separately from the Seniors as do the girls from the boys and each squad has a captain (usually the eldest). All the junior boys were physically very strong and always practised hard. I learnt to bow after each practice. The Korean coach spent a little time with me, pointing out my weaknesses and told me what to work on. There were also 3 Arabs there to train (two men and one boy). In the evenings we played cards and watched the telly.

We had four days off, so I went to Seoul and shared a flat with 7 senior men. There I became good friends with Jae Hyung and we had many Kentucky meals together. The two problems I encountered were the weather which was very hot and humid and therefore exhausting and also I inevitably felt lonely because of the language barrier as I was unable to express my feelings to them completely. However, I did learn a lot about Asian table tennis. Everyone was friendly to me and I have fond memories of them.

The trip was indeed beneficial and I thank Beneficial Trust for this opportunity.

As winners of last season's Beneficial Trust Grand Prix, both Andrew Syed and Susan Collier, in addition to receiving £400 towards their training and travelling expenses, were further rewarded with this all expenses paid trip to South Korea. Ed.

Jack Carrington - Obituary

I was saddened by the death of my old friend Jack Carrington. Aged 75, he died from a heart attack at his retirement home in Bournemouth.

More than anyone else, Jack helped me to gain entry into the world of top table tennis. Subsequently, as 'England's Director of Coaching for many years, President of the Schools' TTA and mastermind behind the highly successful Proficiency Award Scheme, Jack helped many other English youngsters on their road to fame. He was still helping the kids right up to the day of his death.

I first met Jack in Northern Ireland during the war. Jack, already an established international table tennis player and coach, was an army officer stationed near the RAF headquarters where Ron Crayden and I were serving. At every opportunity when off duty the three of us would get together to talk, practice and play table tennis.

Gentleman Jack was our professor. Ron Crayden and I were nobodies but when the war ended we found that, thanks to Jack, we had a flying start over most of the others.

I partnered Jack in the doubles event of my first ever world championships in Paris and we reached the final before being defeated.

JACK CARRINGTON



This Daily Mail photograph was taken in December, 1947, showing table tennis strokes being demonstrated by Jack Carrington.

With Jack's encouragement I also reached the semi-finals of the singles. Jack and I went on to win many doubles titles all over the country,

while I was able to win the world singles championship twice, in 1949 and 1951.

These days young players have the opportunity of first-class coaching from the earliest age and throughout their careers. When I was starting I just had Gentleman Jack - but the advantage was mine.

Jack's widow Elsie is also a highly regarded international player and coach. I hope she will wish to carry on where Jack left off. Not just I myself, but English table tennis as a whole owes a great deal to the dedication of the Carringtons.

JOHNNY LEACH

Dear Friends,

I have had so many letters and cards, it is impossible to answer them all individually, so I am using these pages to say a big "thank you" to you all for your kind letters and messages of sympathy on the death of my dear Jack. Indeed, I feel I should say "our Jack", as it is obvious from the scores of letters, that you all had a great affection for him, and many of you felt you had shared some part of his life. We shall all miss him, and I am comforted by your loving tributes.

I am picking up the threads of life immediately, as that is what Jack wanted. It will not be easy, but surrounded by so many marvellous friends, as I am, the load will be lightened.

My thanks too, to those of you who came to the funeral - many making long journeys - crowding into that little chapel, packing the aisles and standing at the back. As one remarked "Very fitting for Jack's last appearance - he always played to packed houses"

GOD BLESS YOU ALL

Elsie Carrington.



Taken in Belfast on May 12, 1942; this Photograph supplied by Ron Crayden, was entitled "Table Tennis our Destiny" and shows (l to r) LAC Ron Crayden, Lt. Jack Carrington and LAC Johnny Leach.

Very sorry to hear of the death of Jack Carrington - one of the first 'big names' in English T.T. with whom I became acquainted in the late forties. He was Editor of Table Tennis and published my first effort at T.T. journalism in the September 1949 issue when I wrote to him from Singapore.

Denis George, Editor,
Scottish Table Tennis Bulletin

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WHArS ON AND WHERE

November

- 10/11 Midland 3-Star Open (Alumwell Centre, Walsall)
- Kent 2-Star Junior Open (Folkestone)
- 11 Stirlingshire 2-Star Open (Stirling University)
- 15/18 YUGOSLAV OPEN (Ljubljana)
- '7/18 6th Kirklees 2-Star Open (Batley Sports Centre)
- Universities Athletic Union Championships
- 23 Scotland v N. Ireland Junior International (Glasgow)
- 24 Cardiff Open - Details from Miss J. Beer, 23 Earl Rd., Penarth CF2 1UN
- 24 Royal Bank West 01 Scotland 2-Star Open (Bellahouston Sports Centre, Glasgow). Entries to Tom McFadden, 137 Dunalstair Drive, Stepps, Glasgow G33, by Nov. 10. County Championships (Third Divisions only).
- 24/25 Senior Premier Division Weekend (British Telecom Tech College, Yamfield, Stone, Staffs. Cleveland Junior International (Eston))
- 25 Chilton U-21 Open (Chilton Trinity School, Bridgwater, Somerset, C.D. 10.11.84)
- 30- FRENCH OPEN (Rennes)

December

- 1 County Championships (4)
- 2 Halex National League (B) North 01 Scotland 1-Star Open (Aberdeen) Entries to Donald Campbell, 19 Devanha Gardens South, Aberdeen by Nov. 17.
- 8 Halton Junior 2-Star Open (Runcorn)
- 8/9 Middlesex 3-Star Open (Picketts Lock, London)
- 12 EUROPEAN LEAGUE - SUPER DIVISION - ENGLAND v CZECHOSLOVAKIA (Com Exchange, Ipswich). Tickets end info from Mrs. Joyce Love, 8 Dorset Close, Ipswich. Phone: Ipswich 217704.
- 15 EUROPEAN LEAGUE - DIVISION 2 - SCOTLAND v SWITZERLAND Details from STTA Office, 18 Ainslie Place, Edinburgh EH3 6AU. Phone: 031-2253020.
- 15/16 BENEFICIAL TRUST ENGLISH JUNIOR CLOSED (Hinckley)
- 23 Halex National League (7)
- 30 Halex National League (8) - (Premier & 1st Divisions only).

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