

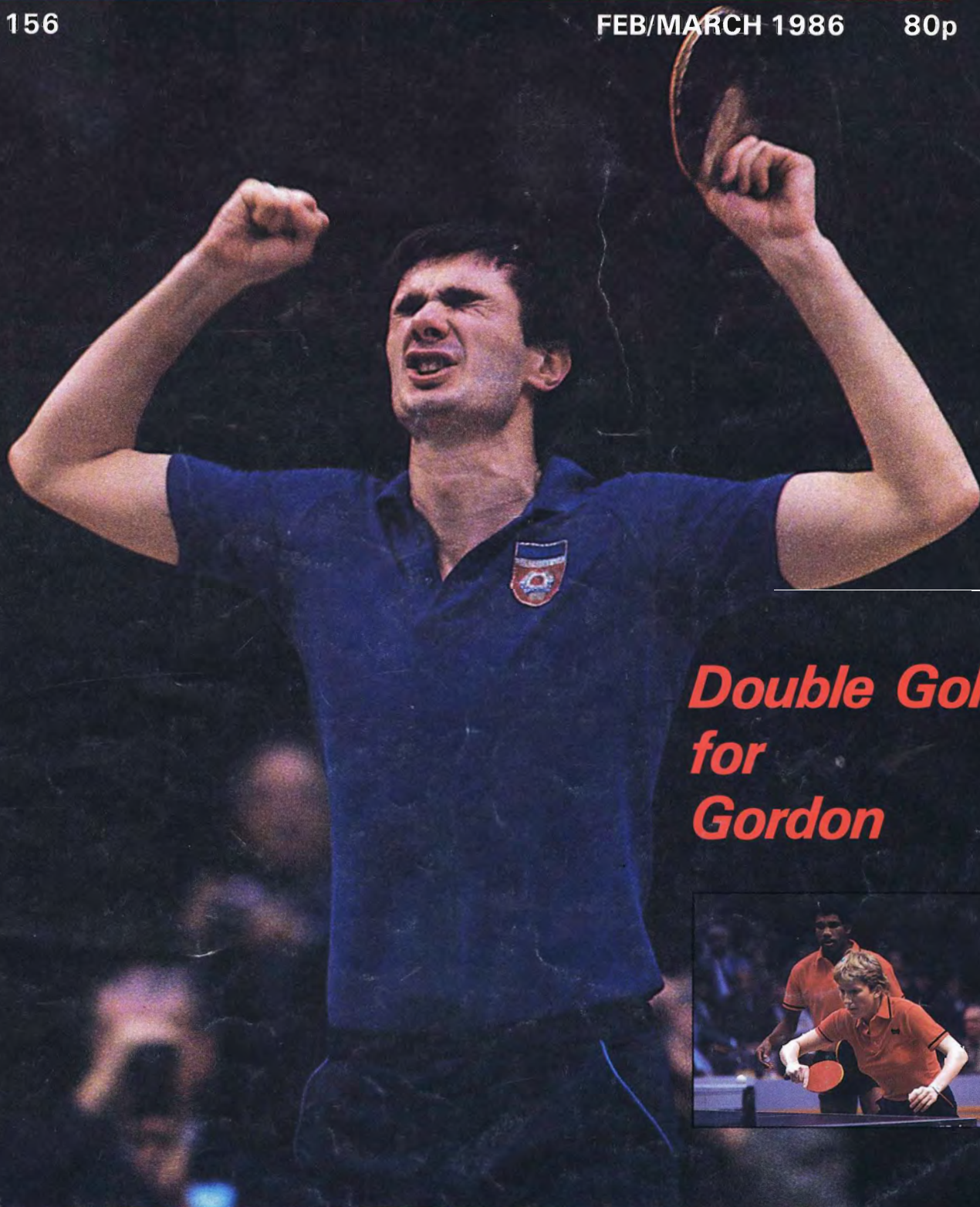


Table Tennis News

No. 156

FEB/MARCH 1986

80p



*Double Gold
for
Gordon*



League and Championship
tables . . . from Jaques

**John
Jaques**



Grounds for optimism

Some grounds for cautious optimism could be found at this year's Triumph Adler English Open. The tournament gave an indication of its potential and there was genuine reason for some congratulation and for confidence in the future.

Triumph Adler - new to sports sponsorship and new to table tennis - appeared happy. Thanks to cold weather which nailed some of the racing, TV exposure was greater than usual. And two English winners in the womens and mixed doubles provided a welcome bonus for those that made the trip to Brighton.

A number did too - attracted by the table tennis, the pleasures of the Sussex seaside town, and the side-show trade exhibition.

The last made a modest but successful start - patronised by interested customers and encouragingly supported by manufacturers and retailers.

That changes were made at the Open this year, was very much as a result of a new questioning spirit within the sport. Not just 'What did we do last time' but, even more fundamentally, 'Why are we holding the event?'

It is an approach which has value for every facet of the sport's activities . . . it concentrates the mind beautifully!

In the past, tradition has steered, some might say stifled, the sport's development. A noble reverence, perhaps, for the amateur ethos and a worthy

desire to provide the best possible conditions for players and officials.

Now the long-term interests of the sport are best served by meeting new challenges - the needs of the media, sponsors and a new breed of discerning customers be they paying spectators or participating players.

The relative importance of each depends on the nature of the event and could be debated for hours; though *Table Tennis News* knows which it would back. What few would not acknowledge is the interdependence of all those interested parties.

Identifying and meeting those challenges is one of the biggest and important tasks for the

English Table Tennis Association. The ETTA, in its widest and proper sense that is, could do worse than remember it and employ that questioning approach. Controversy, criticism, heresy not anarchy, are ingredients for a lively, thriving organisation.

It's a hard world out here . . . When it's the plain choice of table tennis v soccer v golf, obligations (which in my day might have been termed 'responsibilities') go out the window . . . the organisation and its member leagues have to be two steps ahead to meet the demands of tomorrow's different punters.

STOP PRESS

Just as the typesetting for this month's issue was completed, news arrived of Desmond Douglas' fantastic run of success to finish second in the Europe Top 12 at Sodertajle.

Full details of this and Matthew Syed's tenth place in the Europe Junior Top 12 - in our next issue.



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Cover Picture: The moment of truth for Zoran Kalinic in the 1986 Triumph Adler English Open.
Inset: England's double champion Alison Gordon with mixed doubles partner Desmond Douglas. Photos by Eileen Langsley, Baslow, Derbys (024-688 2376).

Double Gordon provides England's tonic

Rob Oldfield

A double triumph for Readings's Alison Gordon provided England with the tonic of two gold medals at the end of the Triumph Adler English Open at Brighton on January 25th.

First the 23 year old former national champion partnered Desmond Douglas to win the mixed doubles against Yugoslavs Ilie Lupulescu and Vesna Djstersek 21-18, 21-16.

Then, half an hour later, she paired up with Preston's Joy Grundy to complete the double gold cocktail in the womens doubles. Czechs Renata Kasalova and Alena Safarova had no answer to the English pair as they lost 21-18, 18-21, 14-21.

In both, she almost had the task of lining up against fellow England teammates. But Lisa Bellinger and Fiona Elliot had failed in the semi-final against Kasalova and Safarova and Carl Prean with Grundy got no further than a 21-19, 21-16 defeat from Lupulescu and Ojstersek in their previous match.

It was the first double for an English player for 16 years and Gordon's first English Open titles. Significantly, wrote Richard Eaton in 'The Guardian', they represented one of those rare occasions in the last ten years when a player other than Douglas or Jill Hammersley has achieved some success.

The doubles victories came at the end of a superb three-day tournament for the England No. 2. Two days earlier, on the Thursday evening, she and Grundy had been within two points of reaching the womens team final.

Walk-overs

Benefiting from two walk-overs against the absent Poles and Hungarians, England's second team marched into a semi-final meeting with Yugoslavia, beating France 3-1.

Yugoslavia, the adrenaline flowing by earlier 3-0, 3-2 and 3-0 wins over Austria, Holland and Finland, were

soon behind as Gordon recovered from a nervous start to beat Ojstersek. Then Branka Batinic, ranked 26 European places above her opponent at No. 8, just squeezed past Grundy 23-21 in the third game to level the score.

At 2-all, after England had taken the doubles and Gordon had gone down narrowly to Batinic, Grundy looked in trouble as she trailed Ojstersek by 20-15. But with the advantage of serve, the crowd held its breath as she clawed back four match points.

One more to go, she served limply off the table to surrender the tie after a magnificent struggle.

Czechoslovakia, 3-1 winners over Japan in the other semi-final, soon polished off the Yugoslavs for the title. With the other England womens team having long since departed - first round losers to Sweden - domestic interest, quite naturally, was focussed on the other table where England were facing Yugoslavia in the mens team final.



Gordon - a tonic for England

Aspirations

England had reached the final with a crushing 3-1 semi-final win over Japan's Yoshihito Miyazaki and Juzo Nukazuka. Wins by Carl Prean over Zoran Kalinic and by Douglas over Lupulescu had provided an excellent start to England's title aspirations.

But the lead halved as Lupulescu and Zoran Primorac massacred Douglas and Prean in the doubles. The ill-matched England duo put up little resistance to the young Slavs - already Swedish and Hungarian Open champions.

Perhaps there was a touch of

complacency about their play. In any event, disaster struck next with a result which was to prove ominously prophetic to the destiny of the mens singles title.

Kalinic, the Yugoslav giant, toppled the England No. 1 Douglas and Prean was left to face Lupulescu for the championship. On European rankings, surely England had the advantage.

No. 26 Lupulescu, however, had not consulted the latest list and was in no mood to do Prean or England any favours. He raced through the first game 21-14 and with Prean complaining to national trainer Donald Parker - "He's playing so well against me" - was the first to 20 in the second game.

Prean equalised, saving championship points. But Lupulescu's 24-22 win gave Yugoslavia their third Open team title since the event began in 1963.

Psyched up?

Despite the team final loss against Kalinic, Douglas appeared to be in tremendous form - the Jacques table/Nittaku ball combination apparently favouring his attacking style of play.

Yet, the following day not even the presence of sports psychologist Dr Tony Morris on the team bench could retain the mens singles title for the



Womens singles winner Elena Kovton serves up a winner

Triumph Adler English Open

Birmingham left-hander.

Douglas, 30, cracked under the strain in Round 2 of the singles as he went down 14-21, 13-21, 18-21 in three perplexing games to Boris Rozenberg of the Soviet Union. In a few frustrating minutes, the 23 year old student from Odessa had bundled England's best out of the championship, leaving Isle of Wight teenager Carl Prean to carry the England flag.

Defeat for Douglas - going for his hat-trick - was bitter-sweet. "He played well", he acknowledged. "It was always an uphill struggle".

"But I've had a tough schedule recently", he said, "and going out so soon will give me a little more rest before next week's Europe Top 12 in Sweden".

Rozenberg, at Europe No. 29, after an end-of-year review had revised his previous Joola computer ranking of 15, should have been easy fodder for the Europe No. 6.

But on this form his earlier ranking looked more realistic. He was invariably quicker to the ball than Douglas and surprisingly came out best in the counter-hitting exchanges. It deserted him the following round when Federal Germany's Jorg Roskopf put him out in four close games.

"I was particularly disappointed for Des", said Parker afterwards. "He had had a tremendous week winning at Gateshead, the Cleveland Open, and playing well for us in the European league match. But his form began to leave him on Thursday night".

Parker denied any unsettling influence of the sports psychologist Martin - a presence which Douglas discounted with "He'll never suss me out!" "Tony is just here to observe at the moment - to understand the pressures of top-class table tennis in order to explore the possibility of being able to help the players plan their programmes to reduce stress".

Douglas - the self-taught player - had little time it seemed for this latest idea. "Every time he comes along I pick up 'The Beano' and



'Playboy' he grinned at his courtside interview.

Prean take revenge

With the Douglas hopes floating away on the outgoing Sussex tide, it fell to Prean to exact some Russian revenge with a five-game win over Alesandr Stadnichenko in the second round.

Two games up, it looked easy for Prean before Stadnichenko recovered to force a five-minute break. But Prean hit back immediately. Serving viciously he raced to a 13-0 lead in the final game and doomed Stadnichenko to defeat.

His moment as standard-



Kano - victor over Prean

Disposed champion Zacharian

All photos by Eileen Langsley, Baslow, Derbyshire (024-688 2376)

Defeated singles finalist Mazunov



bearer was short-lived . . . it soon passed to Lisa Bellinger and Alison Gordon as he crashed out in round 3 to the Brazilian Claudio Kano - an impressive pen-holder currently living and playing in Sweden.

In fact, Bellinger and Gordon between them were to produce the major shocks of the womens championship. Gordon exacted revenge on the highly rated Batinic of Yugoslavia to reach the quarter-finals. And a narrow 22-20 first game against Elena Kovtun briefly threatened the solid Soviet defence.

The threat evaporated with the second game as Kovtun destroyed the Gordon loop 21-13, 21-17, 21-13.

Astute

Two tables away, however, Parker's mischievous pre-tournament assessment of No. 1 seed Olga Nemes was proving fatally astute for the ex-Rumanian. Nemes, now playing under German colours, had deficiencies cruelly exposed by the Bellinger defence as the Dunstable girl upset her rhythm and confidence with the occasional excursion into attack.

Bellinger's best win of her career (21-14, 12-21, 21-12, 19-21, 21-14) was quickly followed by defeat late on Friday night. Anita Zacharian, the Soviet defending champion, had no qualms about the combination play of the 18 year old English champion.

Winning 16-21, 21-17, 21-11, 21-9, Zacharian moved with perfunctory ease through to a final meeting with Gordon's conqueror Kovtun. An exciting final seemed in prospect.

Familiar tactics

It was soon apparent, however, that Zacharian had played the young Kovtun before and knew a policy of wild attack paid little dividend. In a 70-minute five-game final - most of it played under expedite - the crowd witnessed an encounter more usually associated with the local veterans final.

By rights, the thirteen-stroke rule should have favoured the attacking Zacharian. But it was Kovtun who dragged out the errors and the match to win 18-21, 21-19, 21-7, 16-21, 21-14.

Fortunately, both the crowd and BBC's Grandstand cameras had earlier witnessed rather more interesting fare in the mens final between Andrei Mazunov and Kalinic, though not a repeat of the European Championships quarter-final in Moscow two years ago.

This time the lanky left-handed pen-holder dominated as the young Soviet struggled to cope with the angled Kalinic drives. Mazunov threatened only briefly at the end of the second game and went on to win the third.

But the former European No. 3 - even through now ranked at No. 15 - was in no mood for mercy as he won 21-18, 24-22, 15-21, 21-17 to clinch the title of the world's oldest Open Championship.



Triumph Adler English Open

Mens team

First Round

SUI 3 WAL 1; TCH 3 FIN 0;
FRG 3 DEN 1; URS 3 AUT 1;

Second Round

ENG 3 HOL 1 (Desmond Douglas b Paul Haldan 10, 5; Carl Prean 1st Henk van Spaie -18, 14, -15; Douglas/Prean b Haldan/van Spanje 11, 16; Prean b Haldan 11, 16); SWE 3 SUI 0;

TCH 3 IRE 1; JPN 3 CAN 1;
YUG 3 FRG 0; URS 3 SCO 0;
FRA 3 POL 2; ENG II w/o HUN.

Quarter-finals

ENG 3 SWE 0 (Douglas b Tomas von Scheele 15, -12, 10; Prean b Mats Anderson -19, 14, 13; Douglas/Prean b Anderson/von Scheele 16, 11); ENG II 3 FRA 0 (Alan Cooke b François Farout 15, -18, 20; Skylet Andrew b Bruno Parietti 10, 14; Andrew/Cooke b Farout/Parietti 19, 19.);

JPN 3 TCH 0; YUG 3 URS 2;

Semi-finals

ENG 3 JPN 1 (Douglas b Yoshihito Miyazaki 19, 12; Prean 1st Juzo Nukazuka 17, 12; Douglas/Prean b Miyazaki/Nukazuka 10, 14; Pran b Miyazaki 9, 11);

YUG 3 ENG II 0 (Ilie Lupulescu b Andrew 14, 16; Zoran Primorac b Cooke 20, 8; Lupulescu/Primorac b Andrew/Cooke 19, 12).

Final

YUG 3 ENG 2 (Zoran Kalinic 1st Prean 22, -13, -14; Lupulescu 1st Douglas -15, -10; Kalinic/Lupulescu b Douglas/Prean 9, 13; Kalinic b Douglas 16, 19; Lupulescu b Prean 14, 22).

Womens team

First Round

SWE 3 ENG 0 (Barbro Wiktorsson b Fiona Elliot 17, 17; Pia Eliasson b Lisa Bellinger -16, 12, 23; Eliasson/Wiktorsson b Bellinger/Elliott 19, 19);
YUG 3 AUT 0; SUI 3 WAL 0.

Second Round

JPN 3 SUI 1; DEN 3 IRL 0;
TCH 3 CAN 0; URS 3 SWE 1;
YUG 3 HOL 2; FIN 3 SCO 1;
FRA 3 FRG 1.

Quarter-finals

ENG II 3 FRA 1 (Alison Gordon b Nadine Daviaud 16, 4; Joy Grundy 1st Beatrice Abgrall -16, -14; Gordon/Grundy b Abgrall/Daviaud -22, 11, 12; Gordon b Abgrall 10, 21);
YUG 3 FIN 1;
JPN 3 DEN 0; TCH 3 URS 2.

Semi-finals

YUG 3 ENG II 2 (Vesna Ojstersek 1st Gordon 25, -14, -18; Branka Batinic b Grundy -18, 15, 21; Batinic/Ojstersek 1st Gordon/Grundy 18, -18, -16; Batinic b Gordon 18, 21; Ojstersek b Grundy -14, 15, 19); TCH 1 JPN 3.

Final

TCH 3 YUG 1 (Renata Kasalova b Ojstersek 16, 18; Alena Safarova 1st Batinic 17, -15, -16; Kasalova/Safarova b Batinic/Ojstersek 19, 15; Kasalova b Batinic 22, 10).



Kalinic - desperate attempts to play a backhand

ATTP seek sponsorship

Derek Baddeley, ATTP Coordinator

Following a meeting at the TA English Open, the Association of Table Tennis Players is now actively seeking major sponsorship for a proposed 'Grand Prix' series of top international player tournaments to be televised at main cities up and down the event. The ATTP sees the injection of large sums of money into the sport as a prerequisite in gaining increased public interest and participation.

Allied to this the ATTP are continuing with their attempt to stage a televised "Celebrities" exhibition in aid of Africa and approximately thirty TV stars and household name sports competitors have been approached.

The difficulties at present are in getting the right number of "names" together at the same time due to their heavy commitments and, of course, aligning a suitable date with the TV companies . . . where they are interested.

Increasing

Membership of the ATTP is now steadily increasing and a Committee Meeting held during the Open considered many of the new ideas and suggestions

which have been made to ATTP Secretary Colin Wilson. It was decided to actively pursue many new initiatives, firstly at a joint meeting being arranged with ETTA officers.

Some of the main items being placed on the agenda by ATTP will be: the proposed radical changes to the county Championships and the improvements of venues and promotion of county matches in order to revitalise the Championships.

In addition, the ATTP are keen to see more imaginative scheduling at quarter and semi-final single matches in all the major tournaments so that better and more continuous viewing is available for spectators. An increased percentage of the total prize money being awarded to women is also one of the Association's aims for tournaments.

Rule Changes

Several ideas for changes in international rules have been put forward and we hope, eventually, to recommend some of these for adoption in the hope of eliminating some of the more detrimental aspects of the game today and to recreate the natural flow and balance which

has been lost in recent years. More about this in future *Table Tennis News*.

The ATTP is committed to the promotion of table tennis in schools and feel it is vital that the schools league is regenerated and that enthusiasm amongst a large population of youngsters is maintained. While the teachers' long running dispute has had an adverse effect on schools development, the ATTP have approached the English Schools Table Tennis Association with the offer of helping in any way that we can to stimulate interest among school children from primary school age upwards - as both tennis and badminton try to do.

The ATTP's first AGM is to

be held at the English Closed Championships in Oldham on March 8th and 9th when members of the Steering Committee will be up for re-election.

Even if you are unable to make it to the AGM, all members can still benefit from our 15% discount against all bats, clothing and shoes from our sole appointed stockist Tees Sport. There are even better deals on most rubbers and all orders should be placed direct with Tees Sport.

The purchase of just one rubber or a bat plate can recoup your membership fee so post the form below today! ATTP T-shirts will also shortly be available in royal blue with the white ATTP logo and 'We are on the ball' slogan.



ATTP Membership form

Enclose £2.00 cheque or postal order made payable to "ATTP" and post to: Colin Wilson, Hon Sec ATTP, 25 Brookside Crescent, CUFFLEY, Herts.

Name:

Address:

Postcode: Tel:

Club:

League: Signed:

You will be issued with a numbered membership card.

Triumph Adler English Open/Classified Ads

Results

Mens singles

First Round

Yoshihito Miyazaki (JPN) b Adrian Moore (Sx) 12, 14, 15; Vladimir Dvorak (URS) b Andrew Walsh (IRL) 9, 17, 12; Skylet Andrew (ENG) b Zbigniew Mojski (POL) 10, 15, -22, 10; Braun (TCH) b Paul Haldan (HOL) -14, 17, 17, 19; Christian Martin (FRA) b Michael Sohnichsen (DEN) 17, 24, 15; Stefan Renold (SUI) b Antony Healan (WAL) 18, -17, 21, 11; Ralf Wosik (FRG) b Sean O'Neil (USA) 13, 14, 17; Mats Anderson (SWE) b Philip Bradbury (Bu) -8, -14, 17, 15, 20.
Zoran Kalinic (YUG) bye; Jarmo Jokinen (FIN) b Johnny Hansen (DEN) -15, -16, 19, 13, 11; David Wells (Mx) b Peter Gockner (AUT) 12, -16, 17, 21; Patrick Birochea (FRA) b Gideon Joe-Ng (CAN) 8, 15, 22; Milan Grman (TCH) b Rob Turk (HOL) 17, 12, 16; Jorg Roskopf (FRG) bye; Boris Rozenburg (URS) b Jimmy Stokes (Bk) 14, 20, 15; Desmond Douglas (ENG) b David Hannah (SCO) 8, 14, 11; Jindrich Pansky (TCH) b Thierry Miller (SUI) 12, 19, 14; Colum Slevin (IRL) b Jan Harkamp (DEN) 11, 17, -29, -18, 18; Alan Cooke (ENG) b Bob Potton (HOL) 20, 15, 7; Goran Wrana (SWE) bye; Horatio Pintea (CAN) b John Butler (USA) 14, 13, 15; Bruno Parietti (FRA) b Zoran Primorac (YUG) 9, 7, -9, -13, 17; John Souter (Mx) b Mati Seiro (FIN) 20, -18, -19, 14, 7; Andrei Mazunov (URS) b Jurgen Rebel (FRG) 19, 6, 14;
Tomas von Scheele (SWE) b Henk van Spanje (HOL) 17, -20, 11, -12, 13; Nicky Mason (Sx) b Nigel Tyler (WAL) 21, 17, -18, 14; Valery Shevchenko (URS) bye; Georg Böhm (FRG) b Ilie Lupulescu (YUG) 17, -18, 17, 16; Carl Prean (ENG) b Stefan Dryszel (POL) -16, 12, 16, 18; Alesandr Stadnichenko (URS) b John Broe (SCO) 11, 16, 13; Claudio Kano (BRA) b Juzo Nukazuka (JPN) 18, 10, 12; Stanislaw Fraczyk (AUT) b Pierr Champagnolle (FRA) 14, 15, 12.

Second Round

Miyazaki b Dvorak 13, 16, 21; Braun b Andrew 18, -20, 16, 15; Martin b Renold -21, 12, 13, 11; Wosik b Anderson 14, 13, -15, 16;
Kalinic b Jokinen 14, 19, 12; Birochea b Wells 16, 18, 17; Roskopf b Grman -12, 18, 20, -15, 19; Rozenberg b Douglas 14, 13, 18;
Pansky b Slevin 11, 10, 17; Wrana b Cooke 15, 12, 24; Parietti b Pintea 19, 18, 20; Mazunov b Souter 21, 16, 13;
von Scheele b Mason 24, 21, 19; Shevchenko b Böhm 6, -17, 19, 15; Prean b Stadnichenko 16, 16, -13, -14, 7; Kano b Fraczyk 15, 16, 13.

Third Round

Miyazaki b Braun 14, 12, 12; Wosik b Martin 19, 15, 18; Kalinic b Birochea -14, 18, -15, 18, 16; Roskopf b Rozenberg 18, -18, 17, 19;
Pansky b Wrana 14, 20, 10; Mazunov b Parietti 19, -16, 12, -19, 11; Shevchenko b von Scheele 21, 16, 13; Kano b Prean 18, 17, 20.

Quarter-finals

Miyazaki b Wosik -14, 21, 11, -14, 12; Kalinic b Roskopf 10, 10, 17; Mazunov b Pansky 19, 19, 21; Shevchenko b Kano 14, -14, 16, 15.

Semi-finals

Kalinic b Miyazaki 14, 20, -12, 17; Mazunov b Shevchenko 14, -20, 15, 18.

Final

Kalinic b Mazunov 18, 22, -15, 17.

Womens singles

First Round

Olga Nemes (FRG) bye; Marianne Domonkos (CAN) b Monika Frey (SUI) 18, 19, 14; Jackie Bellinger (ENG) b Charlotte Polk (DEN) 16, -17, 14, -10, 15; Raisa Jimofeeva (URS) b M Kawai (JPN) 19, 13, 17; Lisa Bellinger (ENG) b Patricia de Groot (HOL) 21, 13, 7; Katja Nieminen (FIN) bye; Beatrice Abgrall (FRA) b Marie Svensson (SWE) 18, -20, 12, 12; Alena Safarova (TCH) bye;
Vesna Ojstersek (YUG) bye; Andrea Ullman (FRG) b Janet Smith (SCO) -19, 8, 9, 17; Susan Collier (Bk) bye; Patrice Germain (FRA) b Shirley Cain-Williams (WAL) 14, 12, 9; Anita Zacharian (URS) bye; Fiona Elliot (ENG) b Anne Leonard (IRL) 9, 10, -14, 18; Pia Eliasson (SWE) bye; Brigitt Gropper (AUT) bye;
Branka Batinic (YUG) bye; Carol Dalrymple (SCO) b Claire Maisey (Wi) 19, 19, 19; Anke Schreiber (FRG) bye; Alison Gordon (ENG) b Elizabeth Cheevers (IRL) 10, 12, 14; Barbro Wiktorsson (SWE) b Mandy Sainsbury (ENG) -17, 13, 19, 14; Elena Kovtun (URS) b Muriel Montoux (FRA) 14, 19, 15; Andrea Krauskopf (AUT) b Yukino Matsumoto (JPN) 19, 19, 12; Brigitte Hirzel (SUI) bye;
Mirjam Kloppenberg (HOL) bye; Joy Grundy (ENG) bye; Thanh Mach (CAN) bye; Renata Kasalova (TCH) b Sonja Grefberg (FIN) 12, 17, 19; Kyoko Uchiyama (JPN) b Nadine Daviaud (FRA) 12, -19, 18, 13; Dortha Hauth (DEN) b Lesley Tyler (WAL) 11, 19, 17; Judith Stumper (FRG) b Lotta Ehrلمان (SWE) 12, 20, -14, -16, 17; Khasanova (URS) bye.

Second Round

Nemes b Domonkos 11, 19, -17, 16; Jimofeeva b J Bellinger 16, 13, 16; L Bellinger b Nieminen 10, 11, 7; Safarova b Abgrall 16, 20, 17;
Ojstersek b Ullman 19, 17, 18; Germain b Collier 11, 12, 14; Zacharian b Elliot 13, 13, 21; Eliasson b Gropper 16, 13, 9;
Batinic b Dalrymple 17, 21, -15, 17; Gordon b Schreiber 13, 16, 14; Kovtun b Wiktorsson 18, -15, 13, 12; Hirzel b Krauskopf 11, 11, 21;
Grundy b Kloppenberg 17, 18, -12, 14; Kasalova b Mach 10, 14, 12; Uchiyama b Hauth 12, 11, 7; Khasanova b Stumper 15, -16, 18, 15.

Third Round

Nemes b Jimofeeva 17, 16, 15; L Bellinger b Safarova 14, 18, -14, -14, 18; Ojstersek b Germain -14, 17, 20, 8; Zacharian b Eliasson -21, 21, 18, -20, 14;
Gordon b Batinic -19, 19, 9, 19; Kovtun b Hirzel 7, 8, 17; Kasalova b Grundy 14, -17, -14, 19, 16; Khasanova b Uchiyama 12, 18, 18.

Quarter-finals

L Bellinger b Nemes 14, -12, 12, -19, 14; Zacharian b Ojstersek 17, 12, 15; Kovtun b Gordon -20, 13, 17, 13; Kasalova b Khasanova -12, 18, 18, 11.

Semi-finals

Zacharian b L Bellinger -16, 17, 11, 9; Kovtun b Kasalova -12, 18, 18, 11.

Final

Kovtun b Zacharian -18, 19, 7, -16, 14.

Mens doubles

Quarter-finals

Grman/Pansky b Dvorak/Kano 15, 18; Masahiro Maehara/Kalinic (JPN/YUG) b Braun/Wrana 13, 11; Miyazaki/Nukazuka b Shevchenko/Stadnichenko 18, 15; Haldan/van Spanje b Dryszel/Mojski 17, 13.

Semi-finals

Maehara/Kalinic b Grman/Pansky; Haldan/van Spanje b Miyazaki/Nukazuka.

Final

Maehara/Kalinic b Haldan/van Spaje -19, 6, 15.

Womens doubles

Quarter-finals

L Bellinger/Elliott b Hauth/Polk -15, 18, 12; Kasalova/Safarova b Zacharian/Kovtun 7, 9; Domonkos/Mach b Daviaud/Germain 16, -11, 18; Gordon/Grundy b Erlmann/Wiktorsson 12, 14.

Semi-finals

Kasalova/Safarova b L Bellinger/Elliott 11, -16, 13; Grundy/Gordon b Domonkos/Mach -16, 12, 11.

Final

Grundy/Gordon b Kasalova/Safarova -18, 18, 14.

Mixed doubles

Quarter-finals

Kalinic/Batinic b Braun/Safarova 13, 15; Douglas/Gordon b Champagnolle/Abgrall 16, 13; Prean/Grundy b Anderson/Wiktorsson 20, 14; Lupulescu/Ojstersek b Stadnichenko/Khasanova 12, 16.

Semi-finals

Douglas/Gordon b Kalinic/Batinic -10, 14, 13; Lupulescu/Ojstersek b Prean/Grundy 19, 16.

Final

Douglas/Gordon b Lupulescu/Ojstersek 18, 16.

In the above results, for Raisa Jimofeeva (URS), please read Raisa Timofeeva. The christian name of Khasanova (URS) is Flera.

CLASSIFIED ADS

Sits Vacant Coaching in Arun

Arun Leisure and Tourism Department are urgently seeking two **part-time coaches** (20 hours per week - £49.62 per week) to work with their MSC team in Littlehampton, West Sussex.

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The television arena at Brighton

England romp home against Denmark

Fiona Brown

A capacity crowd packed the Castle Hall, Hertford, on Tuesday 21st January in the hope of enjoying an exciting European League encounter between England and Denmark.

They were certainly rewarded for their support as the England squad, led by Desmond Douglas and including Londoner Skylet Andrew on European league debut, romped to a resounding 7-0 victory.

Douglas, fresh from his win in the Cleveland 3-Star, was the dominant force in both of his singles matches.

He opened with a relentless display of precision blocking and dynamic smashes to completely outplay Danish No 2 Johnny Hansen. And returned later to show the visitor's leading player Jan Harkamp no mercy in a fast and hard-hitting exhibition of the skills which are the trademark of England's undisputed No 1.

Effective

Carl Prean, playing in the other mens singles slot, was equally effective against Harkamp. His constant twiddling destroyed the Dane's attacking rhythm and, on one occasion when Harkamp finally succeeded in catching him out of position, he merely tossed his racket from right to left hand and swiftly executed a sound return!

Cold start . . . warm finnish

Rob Oldfield

The Finns first tactics against England - to numb them with the cold - back-fired in December when Chesterfield's Alan Cooke opened up with a two-straight win over Jarmo Jokinen. The first set of this European league first division match turned out to be crucial as a Douglas-less England triumphed 4-3 after a four-hour train journey from Helsinki to the Russian border.

"We were so close to Russia", said national trainer Donald Parker, "that people in the town were commuting across the border to work. The temperature was freezing cold - in the minus twenties".

Victim

In the womens match, Lisa Bellinger faced more solid resistance from Charlotte Polk. Bellinger struggled to find a consistent length throughout the first game and, in fairness, Polk was the victim of her own mistakes as she repeatedly built up a small lead only to squander the ensuing points.

The second game was very different. Bellinger, looking far more confident, emerged from her discussions with national trainer Donald Parker and slipped straight into the defensive role for which she is now earning a growing reputation.

As her lead increased, she unleashed the cobra-like attacking breaks which are beginning to form an equally enthralling part of her style of play. The loose returns which Polk had got away with earlier in the set were vigorously punished as the English champion pulled clear to win.

Andrew debut

With England leading 3-0, Parker elected to rest Douglas to introduce Andrew, the England No 4, in the mens doubles.

Andrew, showing little sign of nerves on his debut, seemed unconcerned as, with Prean, they lost the opening game to the far more experienced pairing of Hansen and Harkamp. This confidence proved to be well

After Cooke's warming win, Carl Prean proceeded to demolish Jukka Ikonen but then Finland hit back by a Sonja Grefberg victory over Lisa Bellinger.

England took the mens doubles, lost the mixed, and when Prean lost the first game 9-21 to Jokinen, the visitors were in trouble.

But, saving what turned out to be virtually a match point, the 18 year old European youth champion scraped the second 27-25 and ran out an easy third-game winner to give England a 4-2 winning lead.

Cooke lost to Ikonen in an exciting final set.

founded as he took full advantage of high Danish returns from Prean's armoury of weaving serves to level the score.

Having settled into a more compatible partnership, the English pair took command in the third game with the Danes forced to accept defeat and the irrepressible Andrew humour.

Returning to the table, this time with Alison Gordon, Andrew completed a successful debut in the mixed doubles. The Danes introduced 18 year old Morgen Sonnichsen whose smashes briefly threatened the England pair, but Gordon excelled to expose the weaker link of her counterpart Dorte Hauth as another home victory was tactfully engineered.

Test

In the final singles, Carl Prean - the new No 13 in Europe - was clear favourite to beat Johnny Hansen. But as the set moved to a third game, Prean seemed to have lost much of his early confidence and had developed a firm dislike of the flooring.

He paddled on a damp cloth after every point while his opponent seemed untroubled by the surface.

But midway through this final game the deadly Prean serve

emerged to snatch the initiative away from the Hansen challenge. Prean, swift to take advantage, brought out a series of flat hits to clinch the necessary points and give England the 7-0 victory.

The crowd's response to this final-set drama only added to the wish that the opposition had been a little stronger and the fight more even. Unfortunately, the momentary lapse against Bulgaria last November seems certain to keep England in the first division for at least one more season with Bulgaria top of the table after a 5-2 win over Austria in Sophia.



Finland's Jukka Ikonen (left) and Jarmo Jokinen

First division

11th December 1985

FIN 3 ENG 4 (Jarmo Jokinen 1st Alan Cooke -16, -15; Jukka Ikonen 1st Carl Prean -7, -18; Sonja Grefberg b Lisa Bellinger 19, 9; Ikonen/Jokinen 1st Cooke/Prean -18, -19; Jokinen/Grefberg b Prean/Joy Grundy 17, 15; Jokinen 1st Prean 9, -25, -8; Ikonen b Cooke -16, 12, 22.)

BEL 2 AUT 5 (Jean-Michel Saive 1st Gottfried Bär -11, -11; Remo de Prophetis 1st Dietmar Palmi -12, -13; Carinne Bogaerts b Barbro Wilsche 10, 19; Saive/de Prophetis b Palmi/Stanislaw Fraczyk 21, 18; de Prophetis/Bogaerts 1st Palmi/Wilsche -16, -19; Saive 1st Palmi -15, -19; de Prophetis 1st Bär -18, -15.)

BUL 7 ITA 0 (Mariano Loukov b Massimo Constantini 10, -15, 19; Stefan Stefanov b Lorenzo Nannoni 21, -17, 19; Daniella Guergueltcheva b Alessandra Busnardo 9, 12; Loukov/Stefanov b Constantini/Nannoni 10, 13; Stefanov/Guergueltcheva b Constantini/Georgia Zampini 16, 20; Loukov b Nannoni 16, -17, 10; Stefanov b Constantini 18, 20.)

14th December 1985

DEN 7 NOR 0 (Lars Hauth b Kenneth Strom 12, 12; Johnny Hansen b Tom Johansen 13, 19; Charlotte Polk b Anne-Heide Skutle 11, 8; Hauth/Jan Harkamp b Johansen/Frode Grini 17, 18; Harkamp/Polk b Johansen/Skutle 17, 15; Hauth b Johansen 13, 8; Hansen b Strom 14, 17.)

15th January 1986

BUL 5 AUT 2 (Loukov b Erich Amplatz 8, 12; Stefanov b Peter Gockner -18, 7, 11; Guergueltcheva b Wilsche -19, 15, 12; Loukov/Stefanov b Amplatz/Gockner -9, 9, -16; Stefanov/Guergueltcheva b Amplatz/Wilsche 17, 16; Loukov b Gockner 16, 13; Stefanov b Amplatz 16, -19, -16.)

ITA 5 NOR 2 Constantini b Strom 19, 11; Giovanni Bisi 1st Johansen -10, -16; Busnardo b Kristin Hagen; 19, 8; Bisi/Constantini b Johansen/Grini 16, 18; Constantini/Zampini 1st Johansen/Hagen -17, -15; Constantini b Johansen -20, 9, 18; Bisi b Strom 15, 10.)

BEL 3 FIN 4.

21st January 1986

ENG 7 DEN 0 (Desmond Douglas b Hansen 12, 17; Prean b Harkamp 12, 12; Bellinger b Polk 20, 11; Skylet Andrew/Prean b Hansen/Harkamp -17, 10, 14; Andrew/Alison Gordon b Morgen Sonnichsen/Dorte Hauth -17, 16, 16; Douglas b Harkamp 12, 11; Prean b Hansen -18, 19, 14.)

Grubba and Kucharski take Poland to the top

Rob Oldfield

Andrzej Grubba and Leszek Kucharski, arguably the two finest players to emerge from Poland, look certain to take their country to its first-ever European League championship.

Two years ago, in Moscow, Poland fell at the final hurdle in the European mens team event to a France inspired by Patrick Birocheau. This year nothing but catastrophe seems likely to deprive them of the Super Division title.

Having previously beaten champions Sweden by the narrowest of margins in November, they thrashed Czechoslovakia at Lublin in December. The Czechs are now in second place but Poland have to lose both of their last two matches to forfeit their claim to the title.

That, with just Yugoslavia and lowly Holland to play, seems singularly unlikely. With Grubba and Kucharski on present form they look unbeatable.

At Lublin, a 21-7, 17-21, 21-19 doubles win over Pansky and Javurek put them 3-1 ahead. The Czechs fought hard, extending each of the following three sets to a final game, but the Polish pair were in control during the two final singles.

Kucharski won 21-10, 17-21, 21-19, and Grubba wrapped it up 23-21, 17-21, 21-15 against Vladislav Broda.

On the same day, in Komlo, Hungary were putting Yugoslavia under intense pressure. The visitors trailing 3-2 after the mixed doubles, Zoran Primorac beat Janos Takacs to set up the young Ilie Lupulescu for a 21-19, 19-21, 21-19 win over Zsolt Kriston.

But when Hungary entertained Poland in Estergom the following month, they were always on the defensive. Grubba and Kucharski ended the mens doubles 2-3 ahead and, though the mixed and Tibor Klampar's set against Kucharski went Hungary's way, Grubba overwhelmed Janos Takacs 21-9, 21-13 to stay top of the table.

In Rijeka, Yugoslavia lost a close match with Sweden as the final games of the last five sets went 2-3 in the visitor's favour.



Grubba (top) and Kucharski (bottom)—leading Poland to the European league championship

And at Königswinter 16 year old Jean-Philippe Gatien played a hero's role for France to raise the spectre of the First division for Federal Germany. France are safe, having beaten Holland 4-3 in December, but Germany, who lost 3-4 to Holland last October, have Czechoslovakia and Hungary still to play.

Super Division

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
POLAND	5	5	0	23	12	5
Czechoslovakia	5	4	1	25	10	4
Sweden	5	4	1	24	11	4
Yugoslavia	5	2	3	16	19	2
France	5	2	3	13	22	2
Hungary	5	1	4	15	20	1
Netherlands	5	1	4	10	25	1
F.R. Germany	5	1	4	14	21	1

League Tables after January matches

Division 1

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
BULGARIA	5	5	0	28	7	5
England	5	4	1	26	9	4
Denmark	5	3	2	19	16	3
Finland	5	3	2	17	18	3
Austria	5	2	3	17	18	2
Italy	5	2	3	14	21	2
Norway	5	1	4	8	27	1
Belgium	5	0	5	11	24	0

Super division

11th December 1985

FRA 4 HOL 3 (Patrick Birocheau b Paul Haldan; Patrick Reverse 1st Henk van Spanje; Brigitte Thiriet 1st Bettine Vriesekoop; Birocheau/Bruno Parietti b Haldan/van Spanje; Christian Martin/Thiriet b Haldan/Vriesekoop; Birocheau b van Spanje; Reverse 1st Haldan.)

HUN 3 YUG 4 (Janos Takacs b Ilie Lupulescu; Zsolt Kriston 1st Zoran Primorac; Csilla Batorfi b Branka Batinic; Kriston/Takacs 1st Lupulescu/Primorac; Kriston/Batorfi b Lupulescu/Batinic; Takacs 1st Primorac; Kriston 1st Lupulescu.)

POL 5 TCH 2 (Leszek Kucharski b Vladislav Broda; Andrzej Grubba b Jindrich Pansky; Jolanto Szatko 1st Marie Hrachova; Grubba/Kucharski b Javurek/Pansky; Grubba/Szatko 1st Pansky/Hrachova; Kriston b Pansky; Grubba b Broda.)

SWE 4 FRG 3 (Jan-Ove Waldner b Jurgen Rebel; Erik Lindh 1st Gottfried Bär; Barbro Wiktorsson 1st Olga Nemes; Waldner/Mikael Appelgren b Steffen Fetzner/Jörg Roskopf; Lindh/Marie Svensson 1st Roskopf/Nemes; Waldner b Böhm; Lindh b Rebel.)

15th January 1986

TCH 7 HOL 0 (Pansky b Frank Boute; Javurek b Ron van Spanje; Renata Kasalova b Patrice de Groot; Javurek/Pansky b H & R van Spanje; Pansky/Hrachova b Boute/de Groot; Pansky b van Spanje; Javurek b Boute.)

FRG 3 FRA 4 (Böhm 1st Jean-Philippe Gatien; Ralf Wosik b Birocheau; Nemes b Nadine Daviaud; Fetzner/Roskopf 1st Birocheau/Parietti; Wosik/Nemes 1st Parietti/Daviaud; Böhm b Birocheau; Wosik 1st Gatien.)

HUN 3 POL 4 (Tibor Klampar 1st Grubba; Takacs 1st Kucharski; Edit Urban b Kowalek; Klampar/Takacs 1st Grubba/Kucharski; Takacs/Urban b Grubba/Kowalek; Klampar b Kucharski; Takacs 1st Grubba.)

YUG 2 SWE 5 (Primorac 1st Waldner; Lupulescu 1st Lindh; Batinic b Wiktorsson; Lupulescu/Primorac 1st Lindh/Waldner; Lupulescu/Gordana Perkucin b Waldner/Wiktorsson; Primorac 1st Lindh; Lindh 1st Waldner.)

Bronze for Des in Miskolc

George Yates

In a reversal of the mens singles final in the Polish Open, Erik Lindhu beat his Swedish compatriot, Jan-Ove Waldner, in the final of the 14th Hungarian Open played in Miskolc, 15th-17th November.

Sweden also won the mens team event with a final 3-1 success over Czechoslovakia but in the quarters it was England's Desmond Douglas who caught the eye against the Swedes accounting for both Lindh and Waldner. But Lindh had his revenge in the mens singles semis in which Douglas had to be content with a bronze medal.

Des had quite a tournament - also beating Boris Rozenberg and Andrei Mazunov of the USSR in the team event plus Didier Mommessin (FRA), Zsolt Kriston (HUN) and, yet another top Swede, Mikael Appelgren in the singles.

Douglas apart, his team-mate Skylet Andrew - although beating Rozenberg in the team match - failed to make any impact in the singles. Who would when opposed to Andrej Grubba who won 21-11, 22-20, 21-13!

It was also curtains at the first attempt for Andrew and Douglas in the mens doubles losing out to Hungary's

Szosnyak and Francesco Maneschi of Italy. And in round 2 of the mixed, after a win against Fejer and Albiou, for Andrew and Lisa Bellinger to the Chinese combination of Zhou Xing and Liu Yang.

In this latter event Des and Fiona Ellior put out Jurgen Rebel and Katja Nolten of Federal Germany but then lost to Vasile Florea and cadet Otilia Badescu of Romania.

In the womens singles Fiona had a first round win over Karine Bogaerts of Belgium but was then dismissed by Bolvari of Hungary whilst Lisa fell in the first round to Nolten 17-21, 21-18, 16-21, 17-21.

Together in the doubles Lisa and Fiona, after winning the first game at 21-17 were then beaten 18-21, 12-21 by Marie Svenson and Barbro Wiktorsson of Sweden.

Hungary, as the hosts, came out well winning the womens team and Zsuzsa Olah beating her compatriot Czilla Batorfi in the final of the womens singles.

But what of the feat of Yugoslavia's Ilie Lupulescu who, just out of the junior ranks, shared final wins in the mens and mixed doubles with Zoran Primorac (still a junior) and Gordona Percukin!

Mens team

First Round

TUR 3 IND 0; ROM 3 AUT 1; BUL 3 ITA 1; HUN 11 3 GDR 1.

Second Round

ENG 3 URS 2 (Desmond Douglas b Boris Rozenberg 18, -17, 15; Skylet Andrew 1st Andrei Mazunov -13, -16; Andrew/Douglas 1st Mazunov/Rozenberg -22, -13; Douglas b Mazunov 11, 21; Andrew b Rozenberg 14, -13, 13); FRG w/o CHN;

TCH 3 TUR 0; ROM 3 HUN 1 1; PRK 3 FRA 2; POL 3 BUL 1; YUG 3 HUN 11 0; SWE 3 BEL 0.

Quarter-finals

SWE 3 ENG 2 (Erik Lindh 1st Douglas -11, 18, 20; Jan-Ove Waldner b Andrew 12, 16; Mikael Appelgren/Ulf Carlsson b Andrew/Douglas -21, 19, 18; Waldner 1st Douglas -18, -14; Lindh b Andrew 18, 14); TCH 3 FRG 2; PRK 3 ROM 0; POL 3 YUG 1.

Semi-finals

TCH 3 PRK 2; SWE 3 TCH 1.

Final

SWE 3 TCH 1.

Womens team

First Round

YUG 3 POL 0; HUN 11 3 IND 2; AUT 3 BUL 1.

Second Round

ENG 3 TUR 0 (Lisa Bellinger b Sibel 9, 9; Fiona Elliot b Kadriye 9, 15; Bellinger/Elliot b Kadriye/Sibel 10, 19); BEL w/o CHN; ROM 3 YUG 1; HUN 11 3 FRA 1; SWE 3 URS 2; HUN 3 GDR 0.

Quarter-finals

HUN 1 3 ENG 1 (Csilla Batorfi b Elliot 10, 14; Zsuzsa Olah 1st Bellinger -19, 15, -15; Batorfi/Olah b Bellinger/Elliot 22, 11; Olah b Elliot 7, 12.); ROM 3 BEL 1; SWE 3 HUN 11 2; PRK 3 TCH 1.

Semi-finals

ROM 3 SWE 1; HUN 1 3 PRK 0.

Final

HUN 1 3 ROM 1.

Semi-finals

ENG 3 SWE 2 (Cooke b Mats Andersson 17, 8; Prean 1st Thomas con Scheele -18, -21; Cooke/Prean 1st Andersson/von Scheele -11, 19, -20; Prean b Andersson 19, 19; Cooke b von Scheele 16, 16.); CHN 3 FIN 1 0.

Final

CHN 3 ENG 2

Womens team

First Round

SWE 3 ISR 0; BUL 3 FIN 1; DEN 3 FIN 1 1;

Second Round

BUL 3 ENG 1 (Katelina Ivanova 1st Lisa Bellinger -7, -6; Daniella Guergueltcheva b Joy Grundy 18, 12; Guergueltcheva/Ivanova b Bellinger/Grundy 13, 15; Guergueltcheva b Bellinger -20, 16, 18.); CHN 3 DEN 0; KOR 3 FRA 0; JPN 3 SWE 1.

Semi-finals

CHN 3 JPN 0; KOR 3 BUL 2.

Final

CHN 3 KOR 0

Mens singles

Second Round

Prean b Mika Pyykkö (FIN) 9, 16, 9; Cooke b Aarne Kyläkallio (FIN) 15, 10, 13.

Prean b Pierre Campagnole (FRA) 8, 13, 20; Tom Johansen (NOR) b Cooke -19, 10, 19, -21, 17.

Quarter-finals

Hui Jun (CHN) b Johansen 19, 9, 8; Matsushita b Wang Hao (CHN) -9, -13, 19, 11, 19; Huang Wenguan

Mens singles

First Round

Andrzej Grubba (POL) b Andrew (ENG) 11, 20, 13; Douglas (ENG) b Jacques Mommessin (FRA) 18, 13, 13.

Third Round

Douglas b Zsolt Kriston (HUN) 12, -11, 14, 13.

Quarter-finals

Grubba b Ulf Bengtsson (SWE) 13, 15, 15; Waldner (SWE) b Tibor Klampar (HUN) 18, -20, -18, 14, 19; Lindh (SWE) b Jorgen Persson (SWE) 20, 18, 15; Douglas b Appelgren (SWE) -16, 17, -18, 17.

Semi-finals

Waldner b Grubba -18, -22, 16, 17; Lindh b Douglas 7, -18, 16, -20, 19.

Final

Lindh b Waldner -16, 17, 15, 19.

Womens singles

First Round

Elliot (ENG) b Carinne Bogaerts (BEL) -12, 18, -17, 9, 17; Nolten (FRG) b Bellinger 17, -13, 16, 17.

Second Round

Bolvari (HUN) b Elliot (ENG) 16, 14, 16.

Quarter-finals

Thiura Bulatova (URS) b Brigitte Thiriet (FRA) 18, -13, -12, 14, 7; Batorfi (HUN) b Bolvari 12, 16, 22; Marie Alboiu (ROM) b Gordona Percukin (TCH) -14, 20 -13, 6, 15; Olah (HUN) b Gazsi (HUN) 19, 13, 15.

Semi-finals

Batorfi b Bulatova 14, 13, -14, 19; Olah b Alboiu -14, 15, 15, 17.

Final

Olah b Batorfi -15, 13, 18, -19, 17.

Mens doubles

Final

Ilie Lupulescu/Zoran Primorac (YUG) b Miroslav & Vladislav Broda (TCH) 15, 17.

Womens doubles

Final

Feng Jun/Liu Jang (PRK) b Kawalek/Jolanta Szatko (POL) -21, 17, 9.

Mixed doubles

Final

Lupulescu/Perkucin b Ralf Wosik/Anke Schreiber (FRG) 10, -19, 9.

Chinese checked

Rob Oldfield

England's Alan Cooke and Carl Prean almost caused a sensational upset in the Finlandia Open at Helsinki in December. Having beaten Japan 3-1 and Sweden 3-2, they reached the final of the mens team to play the champions of the previous week at the Swedish Open, China.

"We were two-nil down and the Chinese were joking away in the second game of the doubles", said trainer Donald Parker. "Then Alan and Carl pinched the second and played really well to win the third game".

"Carl went on to beat the defensive Chinese and when Cooke led 21-7 in his first game of the final set, the Chinese were looking worried!"

But it was as near as England

got as they lost the final 2-3. "Alan had played very well to beat the two Swedes, Mats Anderson and Tomas von Scheele, in the earlier semi-final match", added Parker.

In the singles events with England's women representatives falling in the third round to Koreans, Carl Prean carried the responsibility into the quarter-finals. "At one-all and 19-all in the third against Huang Wenguan, it looked possible", said Parker. "But he lost that game and the fourth easily".

Mens team

First Round

ENG 3 JPN 1 (Alan Cooke 1st Yuji Matsushita -16, 18, -18; Carl Prean b Katsutoshi Ootake 16, 8; Cooke/Prean b Matsushita/Ootake -13, 12, 18; Prean b Matsushita 17, -10, 15.); SWE 3 FIN 11 0;

FIN 1 3 FRA 1; CHN 3 NOR 0.

(CHN) b Prean -13, 11, 19, 12; Mariano Loukov (BUL) b von Scheele 14, 16, -18, 17.

Semi-finals

Huang b Loukov 10, 8, 11; Hui b Matsushita 11, 15, 16.

Final

Hui b Huang 20, 12, -14, 13.

Womens singles

Second Round

Grundy b Einat Corsia (ISR) 6, 12, 13; Bellinger b Iris Carmi (ISR) 5, 12, 7.

Third Round

Shin Deuk Hwa (KOR) b Grundy 16, -17, 21, 13; Lee Sun (KOR) b Bellinger 12, 11, 8.

Quarter-finals

He Zhili (CHN) b Kang Min Hee (KOR) 6, 11, 19; Shin b Guergueltcheva 23, 9, 12; Chen Zihé (CHN) b Lee 8, 16, 17; Park Sun Hee (KOR) b Zhu Juan (CHN) -10, -14, 15, 18, 20.

Semi-finals

Chen b Park 13, 19, -16, 15; He b Shin -16, 19, 19, -15, 10.

Final

He b Chen 10, 12, 9.

Mens doubles

Final

Hui/Huang b Cooke/Prean 11, 20.

Womens doubles

Final

Zhu/Chen b Sonja Grefberg/Monica Portin (FIN) 5, 15.

Mixed doubles

Final

Hui/He b Huang/Zhu 15, 14.

Schedule clanger upsets Douglas

Rob Oldfield

A schedule clanger in the Swedish Open at Landskröna between 29th November and 1st December upset the chances of England's Desmond Douglas reports national trainer Donald Parker. Des was going well, having led England to a quarter-final defeat against China in the earlier team event, when a surprising timetable put him back on court for his semi-final singles against the home country's Erik Lindh.

Incredible

"Des had been playing quite superbly", says Parker, "beating the Chinese player Yang Jianhua who had put out Mikael Appelgren in the third round".

"But for some incredible reason, after some very good scheduling till then, there was only a ten minute break before he was called to play Lindh".

Douglas crashed to Lindh 10-21, 20-22, 12-21, leaving Poland's Andrzej Grubba to pick up the mens singles by beating Lindh 3-1 in the final.

"Lisa (Bellinger) also picked up a couple of good wins", said Parker in his review of the tournament. "In the team event (where England got to the quarter-finals), she beat Mirjam Kloppenberg of Holland and also Alice Pelikanova of Czechoslovakia".

Bellinger fell to the Chinese Chen Zihe in the second round; team-mate Alison Gordon having already departed at the hands of Hungary's Edit Urban.

Mens team

First Round
AUS 3 NOR 1; SWE II 3 USA 0;
URS 3 DEN 1; HUN 3 FIN 1.

Second Round

ENG 3 AUS 2 (Desmond Douglas b Alois Rosario 10, 9; Nicky Mason 1st Tommy Danielsson -17, -18; Douglas/John Souter b Danielsson/Rosario -20, 15, 20; Douglas 1st Danielsson -15, -14; Mason b Rosario 19, 10.); CHN 3 ITA 0; SWE II 3 YUG 0; POL 3 BUL 1; FRG w/o JPN; FRA 3 URS 0; HUN 3 TCH 0; SWE I 3 HOL 0.

Quarter-finals

CHN 3 ENG 0 (Yang Jianhua b Douglas 14, 17; Hui Jun b Souter 19, 11; Huang Wenguan/Hui b Douglas/Mason -19, 15, 16.); POL 3 SWE II 2;
FRG 3 FRA 2; SWE 3 HUN 1.

Semi-finals

CHN 3 POL 0; SWE I 3 FRG 0.

Final

CHN 3 SWE I 0.

Womens team

First Round

BUL 3 FIN 1; HUN 3 POL 0;

NOR 3 ISR 2.

Second Round

ENG 3 HOL 1 (Alison Gordon 1st de Groot -14, -9; Lisa Bellinger b Mirjam Kloppenburg 14, 21; Bellinger/Gordon b de Groot/Kloppenburg -20, 14, 17; Gordon b Kloppenburg 17, 11.); CHN 3 SWE II 0;
BUL 3 ITA 1; HUN 3 YUG 1;
URS 3 FRG 1; TCH 3 FRA 1;
JPN 3 NOR 1; KOR 3 SWE I 2.

Quarter-finals

TCH 3 ENG 1 (Marie Hrachova b Gordon 15, -20, 13; Pelikanova 1st Bellinger -18, -14; Hrachova/Pelikanova b Bellinger/Gordon 13, 16; Hrachova b Bellinger 16, 16.); KOR 3 SWE 2;
CHN 3 BUL 0; HUN 3 URS 0.

Semi-finals

CHN 3 HUN 0; TCH 3 KOR 1.

Final

CHN 3 TCH 0.

Mens singles

Qualifying rounds

First: Souter b Mikael Frank (SWE) -17, 17, 16, 21.

Second: Stefan Stefanov (BUL) b Souter 17, -19, -15, 17, 12; Paul Haldan (HOL) b Mason 16, 14, 20.

First Round

Andrzej Grubba (POL) b Alan Cooke (ENG) 13, 14, 16; Skylert Andrew b Misa Valcic (SWE) -19, 12, 12, 21; Douglas b Jarmo Jokinen (FIN) 9, 9, 10.

Second Round

Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE) b Andrew 13, 20, 19; Douglas b Stellan Bengtsson (SWE) -17, 17, -14, 17, 9.

Third Round

Douglas b Boris Rozenburg (URS) 9, -20, 12, 19.

Mens team

First Round Group matches

A: CHN 5 ROM 0; CHN 5 Moscow 0; ROM 5 Moscow 0.

B: URS II 5 HUN 0; URS II 5 FRA 2; HUN 5 FRA 2.

C: TCH 5 URS (youth) 2; TCH 5 BUL 3; URS (youth) 5 BUL 0.

D: URS I 5 POL 1; URS I 5 GDR 0; POL 5 GDR 1.

E: URS III 5 IND 1; URS III 5 VIE 0; IND 5 VIE 2.

F: PRK 5 URS (profunion ?) 1; PRK 5 URS (youth) II 1; PRK 5 FIN 0; URS (p) 5 URS (yth) 4; URS (p) 5 FIN 1; URS (yth) 5 FIN 1.

Semi-final Group matches

G: CHN 5 URS II 0; CHN 5 TCH 1; URS II 5 TCH 2.

H: URS I 5 URS III 0; URS 5 PRK 1; PRK 5 URS III 2.

Final

URS 5 CHN 3.

Womens team

First Round Group matches

A: CHN 3 POL 0; CHN 3 URS (yth) II 0; CHN 3 URS (p) 0; POL 3 URS (p) 1; POL 2 URS (yth) 3; URS (p) 3 URS (yth) 1.

B: URS (intermediates) 3 TCH 0; URS (i) 3 Moscow 0; TCH 3 Moscow 0.

C: URS II 3 HUN 2; URS II 3 IND 0; URS II 3 GDR 0; HUN 3 IND 0; HUN 3 GDR 0; IND 3 FRG 2.

D: URS I 3 FIN 0; URS I 3 VIE 0; FIN 3 VIE 2.

E: ROM 3 URS (yth) I 2; ROM 3 FRA 0; URS (yth) I 3 FRA 0.

F: PRK 3 URS III 0; PRK 3 BUL 1; URS III 3 BUL 2.

Semi-final Group matches

G: CHN 3 URS II 2; CHN 3 URS (yw) 2; URS II 3 URS (yw) 1.

H: PRK 3 URS I 0; PRK 3 ROM 1; URS I 3 ROM 2.

Final

CHN 3 PRK 0.

Quarter-finals

Douglas b Yang Jianhua (CHN) 15, 19, -20, 15; Erik Lindh (SWE) b Leszek Kucharski (POL) 16, 17, 19; Waldner b Wang Hao (CHN) 15, 18, -18, 14; Grubba b Hui Jun (CHN) 17, 12, 15.

Semi-finals

Grubba b Waldner 15, 11, -16, (sic); Lindh b Douglas 10, 20, 12.

Final

Grubba b Lindh -16, 20, 15, 8.

Womens singles

First Round

Edit Urban (HUN) b Gordon 16, 21, 17; Bellinger b Malin Lund (SWE) 14, 9, 12.

Second Round

Chen Zihe (CHN) b Bellinger 10, 13, 9.

Quarter-finals

Branka Batinic (YUG) b Shin Deuk Hwa (KOR) -15, 11, 13, -18, 15; He Zhili (CHN) b Fliura Bulatova (URS) -8, 20, 18, 11; Olga Nemes (FRG) b Zhu Juan (CHN) 18, 18, 17; Chen b Zsuzsa Olah (HUN) 2, 9, 6.

Semi-finals

He b Batinic 16, 14, 16; Chen b Nemes 11, 13, 9.

Final

He b Chen 10, 11, -20, 12.

Mens doubles

Final

Ilie Lupulescu/Zoran Primorac (YUG) b Milan Orlovski/Jindrich Pansky (TCH) 18, -15, 18.

Womens doubles

Final

Zhu/Chen (CHN) b Olah/Urban (HUN) 11, 15.

Mixed doubles

Final

Huang/Zhu (CHN) b Zoran Kalinic/Batinic (YUG) 18, 20.

Moscow missed

Rob Oldfield

As might be expected for an event held in Moscow beginning on the scheduled date for European League matches, not many of the top European stars turned out for the Soviet Open on 11th-15th December 1985.

Nonetheless, thirteen countries took part in the tournament, including China and the Peoples Republic of (North) Korea, along with Vietnam and India thanks, no doubt, to suitably-assisted travel arrangements!

From the European side, France and neighbours Finland joined the Iron-curtain countries of Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Bulgaria, Rumania, Poland and the Democratic Republic of (East) Germany. The Soviets took advantage of their presence to enter seven mens and eight womens teams into the tournament, sponsored by the Soviet newspaper *Sovetskaya Cultura*.

At the Central Lenin Stadium, the venue of the 1984 European Championships, China dominated the championships,

destroying the Soviet second team of Igor Podnosov and Alexandr Stadnichenko 5-0 in one of the semi-final group matches.

But in the final, the Soviets got revenge as two each from Boris Rozenberg and Andrei Mazunov, with another from Vladimir Dvorak, brought them a 5-3 victory over Wang Huiyuan, Wang Yanshen and Sui Fan.

The womens, with no domestic interest once URS I (Fliura Bulatova, Flera Khasanova, Inga Javorovskaya) and their young womens team (Anna Pogosyan, Elena Kovtun, Anda Melikyan) had crashed out in the semi-finals, went to China in three close sets against Korea.

In the mens singles, Wang Huiyuan of China confirmed his No 1 seeding with a five-game win over crowd favourite Mazunov. But the top-seeded Bulatova came unstuck in the womens singles final after levelling the score from 2-0 down.

Mens singles

Quarter-finals

Wang Huiyuan (CHN) b Igor Podnosov (URS) -7, 16, 11, 19; Vladimir Dvorak (URS) b Miroslav Broda (TCH) 19, 11, 19; Milan Grman (TCH) b Boris Rozenberg (URS) 18, 18, -11, -19, 20; Andrei Mazunov (URS) b Jean-Philippe Gatien (FRA) 13, 20, 12.

Semi-finals

Wang b Dvorak 17, -9, 15, 19; Mazunov b Grman -11, -19, 17, 17, 19.

Final

Wang b Mazunov 21, -20, 17, -23, 12.

Womens singles

Quarter-finals

Fliura Bulatova (URS) b Yoo Soon Bok (PRK) 17, -17, 9, 16; Daniella Guergueltcheva (BUL) b Li Huiyoo (CHN) 21, -15, 11, 13; Tatiana Medvedeva (URS) b Dierdi Fazekas (HUN) -18, 14, 17, 19; Guan Hua (CHN) b Shen Xi Xhiva (PRK) 21, 17, 20.

Semi-finals

Bulatova b Guergueltcheva 16, -19, 19, 19; Guan b Medvedeva 17, 19, -17, -10, 15.

Final

Guan b Bulatova 17, 18, -19, -18, 16.

Mens doubles

Final

Mazunov/Rozenberg b Wan Yanshen/Soo Fan (CHN) 18, -14, 9.

Womens doubles

Final

Li Huiyoo/Guan Hua (CHN) b Bulatova/Raisa Timofeeva (URS) 20, 15.

Mixed doubles

Final

Stefan Stefanov/Guergueltcheva (BUL) b Wan/Guan 17, -15, 13.

The editor apologises for any errors in translating Asian names

Stiga County Championships

Derbyshire look set for promotion

Doug Moss

Senior 2A

Yorks II 7 Warwicks 3; Bucks 2 Worcs 8; Derbys 6 Cheshire 4; Cambs 6 Lancs II 4. Warwicks 3 Derbys 7; Cheshire 8 Bucks 2; Worcs 2 Lancs II 8; Cambs 5 Yorks II 5.

A draw by Yorkshire II against Cambridgeshire on Saturday 14th December has allowed Derbyshire to take over at the top of division 2A. Derbys won twice at the end of 1985 with a 6-4 home win over Cheshire and 3-7 at Warwickshire.

The Yorkshire II v Warwickshire match, played previously on 30th November, was a hard-fought encounter with seven sets needing a deciding game. Five were won by Yorkshire; Worcestershire only able to take the two doubles events and Di St Ledger's singles.

Worcestershire, without top player Simon Claxton, had a good win over lowly Buckinghamshire. Simon Douglas, on debut, won two sets for the Bucks home team.

Senior 2B

Essex 7 Hants 3; Middx II 6 Somerset 4; Wilts 5 Sussex 5; Dorset 3 Devon 7. Hants 4 Dorset 6; Devon 8 Wilts 2; Sussex 9 Somerset 1; Middx II 10 Essex 0.

Middlesex II, leading the division, romped home 10-0 against Essex and have built up a useful sets advantage over the other unbeaten team, Devon. Against Dorset, Carol Butler and Elaine Shore had three wins for the away Devon team with Mike Short 'chipping in' with two wins.

In the middle of the table clash between Wiltshire and Sussex, Wilts were 2-4 down before fighting back to force the draw. Kevin Satchell was unbeaten for Wilts and Phil Smith had two easy wins for Sussex.

Senior 3A

Durham 3 Clwyd 7; Notts 3 N'mberland 7; N'mberland II 0 Warwicks II 0; Cumbria 3 Lincs 7. Notts 7 N'mberland II 3; N'mberland 7 Durham 3; Cheshire II 9 Cumbria 1; Lincs 5 Warwicks II 5.

With Northumberland's first team emphatic leaders of the division, Cumbria provided fifth-placed Lincolnshire with a fight at the end of November. Tim Pachul had two singles wins including a 22-20 in the third win over Lincs David Skerratt. And brother Andrew won the last singles set 21-19 in the third.

But the match slipped away in the doubles when the two

brothers lost to Skerratt and Stuart Worrell 21-15, 20-22, 19-21!

Senior 3B

Avon II 9 IoW 1; Cornwall I 9 Cornwall II 1; Devon II 8 Somerset 2; Dorset II 6 Glamorgan 4; Herefords 0 Avon 10. Dorset II 2 Devon II 9; Glamorgan 9 Herefords 1; Avon 9 Cornwall I; Avon II 7 Cornwall II 3; Avon 9 Cornwall II 1; Avon II 6 Cornwall 4.

Avon I lead 3A after a double-draw with Cornwall in December. As *Jeremy Williams* reports elsewhere, it was a disastrous day for Cornish table tennis as both first and second teams got hammered at Bristol.

In their own local derby at Redruth only Graham Reed was able to win for Cornwall II, beating Ian James 21-16, 21-9. John Bassett and Williams were untroubled for the first team.

In Dorset II v Glamorgan, seven sets went to a decider. Although Glamorgan fought back from a 4-0 deficit Samantha Scott-Pawson's win over Cathryn Jones at 19 in the third secured the 6-4 win for Dorset. On the same day, Herefordshire suffered at home to Avon with only Mark Owen able to even capture a single game.

Senior 3C

Oxfords 3 Beds 7; Beds II 2 Herts 8; Northants II 4 Glos 6; Bucks II 5 Northants 5; Norfolk 6 Worcs II 4. Oxfords 8 Beds II 2; Beds 8 Bucks II 2; Northants 3 Norfolk 7; Glos 8 Herts 2.

Four of the county second teams occupy the last five places in 3A though Northants II took four sets from the leaders Gloucestershire. Three of those were at deuce in the third including wins for Andrew Trott over Steve Moreman and Graham Slack.

And Bucks II, third from the bottom, fought hard against Northants to force the draw when Anthony Gorman (Bu) beat Ian Hawes 21-17, 21-19 in the final set of the match.

When Worcestershire II travelled to East Anglia, Lynda Reid and Helen Pogmore won their three and Mark Roden added a singles win but the six other mens events went to Norfolk.

Senior 3D

Cambs II 6 Kent III 4; Essex II 9 Essex III 9. Suffolk II 2 Cambs II 8; Kent III 2 Essex II 8; Essex III 10 Kent II 0 (w/o); Berks II 4 Sussex II 6.

Kent II did their third team a disfavour when they allowed the bottom-placed Essex III to profit from a 10-0 walkover. Although not yet included in the league table, it will allow Essex to level with Kent III, still with the advantage of a match in hand.

Premier Division	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Lancashire	3	3	0	20	7	6
Yorkshire	3	3	0	15	12	6 (35-30)
Middlesex	3	3	0	15	12	6 (33-27)
Staffordshire	3	2	1	14	13	4
Leicestershire	3	1	2	13	14	2
Berkshire	3	0	3	12	15	0
Surrey	3	0	3	10	17	0
Kent	3	0	3	9	18	0

Division 2A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derbyshire	3	3	0	0	19	11	6
Yorkshire II	3	2	1	0	22	8	5
Lancashire II	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Cambridgeshire	3	1	1	1	14	16	3
Worcestershire	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Warwickshire	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Cheshire	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Buckinghamshire	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

Division 2B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex II	3	3	0	0	26	4	6
Devonshire	3	3	0	0	22	8	6
Sussex	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Wiltshire	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Dorset	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Essex	3	1	0	2	10	20	2
Somerset	3	0	0	3	9	21	0
Hampshire	3	0	0	3	7	23	0

Division 3A	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northumberland I	4	4	0	0	33	7	8
Cheshire II	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Warwickshire II	3	2	1	0	24	6	5
Clwyd	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Lincolnshire	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Nottinghamshire	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Cumbria	4	1	0	3	12	28	2
Durham	4	0	0	4	12	28	0
Northumberland II	4	0	0	4	6	34	0

Division 3B	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Avon I	5	4	1	0	39	11	9
Devonshire II	4	4	0	0	35	5	8
Avon II	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Cornwall I	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Somerset II	3	1	1	1	13	17	3
Dorset II	3	1	1	1	12	18	3
Herefordshire	5	1	1	3	15	35	3
Glamorgan	4	1	0	3	18	22	2
Cornwall II	4	0	1	3	10	30	1
Isle of Wight	2	0	0	2	5	15	0

Division 3C	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gloucestershire	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Bedfordshire I	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Norfolk	4	3	0	1	21	19	6
Hertfordshire	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Northamptonshire I	3	1	1	1	15	15	3 (35-38)
Worcestershire II	3	1	1	1	15	15	3 (33-36)
Oxfordshire	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Buckinghamshire II	4	0	1	3	13	27	1
Northamptonshire II	2	0	0	2	6	14	0
Bedfordshire II	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

Division 3D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex II	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Surrey II	4	3	1	0	31	9	7
Kent II	3	3	0	0	25	5	6
Cambridgeshire II	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Suffolk I	5	2	2	1	33	17	6
Sussex II	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
Berkshire II	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Suffolk II	6	1	0	5	7	52	2
Kent III	5	0	0	5	13	36	0
Essex III	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

Stiga County Championships

The Cambs/Kent clash in November opened with, as it turned out, an mortal defeat for Julian Wheel (Ca) at the hands of Gary Zabrocki 23-21, 19-21, 19-21!

Cambs teammate Andy Withers had two comfortable singles wins and with Wheel

took the mens doubles 21-19, 22-20.

In the clash of the Essex teams the thirds' Gill Patten and Helen Platt beat Kim Taylor and Debbie Taylor 21-16, 21-13 in the womens doubles. But Essex II won the rest with Steve Dorking just getting home against David Cole.

Junior 3A

Cumbria 1 Leics 9; Hunts 8 Cheshire 2; Warwicks II 1 Derbys II 9.

Leicestershire and Derbyshire are still shadowing each other in this division. Against the Derbys second team Warwickshire made a good start thanks to a 21-18, 21-10 win by David Ameghino over Gavin West but that was all the home team would muster. In the No 1s' clash, West beat Rajinda Singh 21-18, 13-21, 27-25.

Junior 3C

Hunts 8 Dorset 2; Cornwall II 5 Avon 5; Somerset 4 Gwent 6.

While current leaders Gwent beat their nearest rivals Somerset, Jason Hegarty got Dorset off to a promising start on their visit to Southampton, beating Philip Watson 21-13, 21-12.

However, Hampshire then took control and the only other Dorset success was when Deborah Applin beat Rachel Cheffy 22-20, 21-15.

Avon were 3-5 down to Cornwall when Sarah Kettle raised hopes by winning her singles against Linda Clarke 21-11, 21-10. David Hadley followed this with a 21-18, 12-21, 21-15 win over Peter Andrews to earn a well-deserved draw

Yorkshire still dominate

Junior 2A

Staffs II 6 Suffolk 4; Cheshire 6 Warwicks 4; Notts 7 Northants 3; Lincs 0 Yorks II 10.

Suffolk, hit by the absence of their No 1 Paul Gooding, lost at Staffs but Richard Hutchinson played well to win two singles. And 13 year old Andrea Ambrose won her singles 21-19 in the third then partnered Sylvia Kenyon to a 21-18, 12-21, 21-18 girls doubles victory!

Nigel Tongue's first singles wins in the championships for Staffs were very timely and Adrian Thorp and Tongue kept their unbeaten doubles record by beating Wayne Shaw and Hutchinson deuce in the third.

Simon Jones and Andrew Taylor played well to take five wins for Cheshire and Julie Hope clinched the issue with a 21-11, 21-15 win over Alison Ledwych. Yorkshire II continue to dominate.

Junior 2B

Glamorgan 6 Middx II 4; Devon 4 Surrey 6; Berks 9 Wilts 1; Herts 3 Cornwall 7.

With their 6-4 win over Middlesex II, Glamorgan look well placed for the championship - currently in third place but with a match in hand. Anthony Jones and Roland Harry won their four singles for the Welsh side but in the boys doubles lost to Tom Cutler and Joe Bitran 14-21, 21-17, 23-25!

Surrey returned from Torquay with both points; the score stood at 4-all when Cheryl Bateman beat Sarah Pengelly 19-21, 21-11, 22-20. Matthew Pernet clinched the issue in the final event.

Junior 3B

Worcs 10 Beds II 0; Cambs II 2 Cambs I 8; Bucks 1 Berks II 9; Beds I 4 Oxfords 6.

Ten-nil against Bedfordshire II was a good win for Worcester-shire currently in second place in the table. Only one event went to a decider when Jane McLean lost the first game to Louise Dean but came back to win 21-16, 21-14.

Robin Tewkesbury played well for Cambs II when they met their first team. He won both his singles including a defeat of Nicky Ashman 21-11, 21-13.

The Oxford lads (Dominic O'Flynn, Sergiodi Paola and Paul Knight) certainly fought hard on their visit to the Luton Regional Sports centre. They won the six sets against Bedfordshire; four of them at 18, 19, 19, and 20 in the third games!



Premier Division

Staffordshire	4	3	1	0	31	9	7
Yorkshire	4	3	1	0	30	10	7
Kent	4	3	0	1	24	16	6
Derbyshire	4	2	1	1	23	17	5
Middlesex	4	1	1	2	17	23	3
Lancashire	4	1	0	3	17	23	2
Essex	4	1	0	3	15	25	2
Sussex	4	0	0	4	3	37	0

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
4	3	1	0	31	9	7
4	3	1	0	30	10	7
4	3	0	1	24	16	6
4	2	1	1	23	17	5
4	1	1	2	17	23	3
4	1	0	3	17	23	2
4	1	0	3	15	25	2
4	0	0	4	3	37	0

Division 2A

Yorkshire II	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
Nottinghamshire	3	2	1	0	18	12	5
Staffordshire II	3	2	0	1	17	13	4
Cheshire	3	2	0	1	13	17	4
Warwickshire	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Suffolk	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Northamptonshire	3	0	0	3	10	20	0
Lincolnshire	3	0	0	3	4	26	0

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
3	3	0	0	27	3	6
3	2	1	0	18	12	5
3	2	0	1	17	13	4
3	2	0	1	13	17	4
3	1	1	1	17	13	3
3	1	0	2	14	16	2
3	0	0	3	10	20	0
3	0	0	3	4	26	0

Division 2B

Surrey	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Cornwall	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Glamorgan	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Hertfordshire	3	1	0	2	16	14	2
Middlesex II	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Berkshire	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Devonshire	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Wiltshire	2	0	0	2	2	18	0

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
4	3	0	1	26	14	6
4	3	0	1	26	14	6
3	3	0	0	20	10	6
3	1	0	2	16	14	2
3	1	0	2	12	18	2
3	1	0	2	11	19	2
2	0	0	2	7	13	0
2	0	0	2	2	18	0

Division 3A

Leicestershire	3	3	0	0	28	2	6
Derbyshire II	2	2	0	0	19	1	4
Cumbria	3	2	0	1	15	15	4
Cheshire II	4	2	0	2	19	21	4
Huntingdonshire	3	1	0	2	9	21	2
Warwickshire II	2	0	0	2	5	15	0
Clwyd	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
3	3	0	0	28	2	6
2	2	0	0	19	1	4
3	2	0	1	15	15	4
4	2	0	2	19	21	4
3	1	0	2	9	21	2
2	0	0	2	5	15	0
3	0	0	3	5	25	0

Division 3B

Cambridgeshire I	4	3	0	1	30	10	6
Worcestershire	4	2	1	1	25	15	5
Bedfordshire I	3	2	0	1	18	12	4
Oxfordshire	3	2	0	1	14	16	4
Berkshire II	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Cambridgeshire II	3	1	0	2	10	20	2
Bedfordshire II	3	1	0	2	10	20	2
Buckinghamshire	3	0	0	3	7	23	0

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
4	3	0	1	30	10	6
4	2	1	1	25	15	5
3	2	0	1	18	12	4
3	2	0	1	14	16	4
3	1	1	1	16	14	3
3	1	0	2	10	20	2
3	1	0	2	10	20	2
3	0	0	3	7	23	0

Division 3C

Gwent	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Somerset	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Somerset	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Gloucestershire	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Hampshire	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Avon	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Cornwall II	3	0	1	2	11	19	1
Dorset	2	0	0	2	3	17	0

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
3	3	0	0	23	7	6
3	3	0	0	23	7	6
4	3	0	1	26	14	6
3	2	0	1	16	14	4
3	1	0	2	13	17	2
2	0	1	1	8	12	1
3	0	1	2	11	19	1
2	0	0	2	3	17	0

Division 3D

Essex III	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Kent II	2	2	0	0	13	7	4
Hertfordshire II	2	1	0	2	12	8	2
Surrey II	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Norfolk	2	0	1	1	7	13	1
Essex II	1	0	0	1	4	6	0
Sussex II	2	0	0	2	3	17	0

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
3	3	0	0	23	7	6
2	2	0	0	13	7	4
2	1	0	2	12	8	2
2	0	1	1	8	12	1
2	0	1	1	7	13	1
1	0	0	1	4	6	0
2	0	0	2	3	17	0

Stiga County Championships

Cheshire in command

Doug Moss

Veterans premier

Sussex 6 Middx 3; Bucks 4 Kent 4; Notts 1 Cheshire 8; Lincs 4 Essex 5. Cheshire 6 Bucks 3; Kent 4 Lincs 5; Essex 4 Middx 5; Sussex 8 Notts 1.

Top of the premier Cheshire whipped through Nottingham 8-1 and only one set went the full distance when Alf Saunders took the first game from Derek Schofield at 21-12 before going down 11-21, 13-21. Ron Bolton stopped the 'whitewash' with a 21-14, 21-18 win over Tony Taylor.

In Lincolnshire v Essex the score stood at 4-4 when Brian Edlington, who had earlier beaten Stan Battrick 26-24 in the third, lined up against John Holland.

Another three-gamer went to Holland, at 21-18 in the third, to give Essex the two points.

Bucks suffered their first defeat for two seasons in a nail-biting match against Kent! Alec Watson (Bu) won his two singles including a 16 in the third win over Henry Buist to continue his great run of success - his last defeat was in the 1983/84 season!

Sussex had a good win over Middlesex with Keith Horton and Alan Rawden contributing four singles wins.

Veterans 2A

Leics 5 Yorks 4; Worcs 8 Hunts 1; Cheshire 5 Essex II 4; Oxfords 4 Herts 5. Yorks 2 Worcs 7; Hunts 0 Cheshire II 9; Essex II 5 Herts 4; Oxfords 5 Leics 4.

With four teams poised on four points each - only sets difference separating them - there is close competition in this division. In November, this was illustrated by three 5-4 results and in each the final set decided the outcome!

Leicestershire v Yorkshire had seven sets going to the final game; the score alternating between the two counties throughout the match.

At 4-4, Graham Hughes (Le) met Mick Farnhill and lost the first 18-21, before triumphing 21-17, 21-16 to give the home team both points.

In the Cheshire v Essex II match the home team again came out on top but this looked in doubt when Keith Powell lost the first to Fred Lockwood 11-21. But he hit back to win 18 in the third.

The womens singles went to Myra Lypnyckj of Cheshire 16-21, 21-11, 24-22 over Shirley Carroll.

However, at Oxford the away team just got home when David Wilson beat John Paul 21-14, 16-21, 21-13. Dave Seaholme got two singles wins for Herts and, with Margaret Harris, won the mixed doubles 21-5, 21-7.

Veterans 2B

Middx II 6 Sussex II 3; Kent II 8 Berks 1; Avon 3 Dorset 6. Hants 6 Kent II 3; Berks 4 Avon 5; Dorset 4 Sussex II 5; Middx II 7 Surrey 2.

Current leaders Kent II were upset by Hampshire in December but still head the table over the three other teams with four points.

Gerry Batt-Rawden got the three for Sussex when they visited Middlesex with two singles and the mixed with Pauline Steele against Norman Slifkin and Eve Britton 8-21, 22-20, 21-18. Dave Jones and Brian Halliday put Berkshire on the scoresheet in Kent when they combined well to beat John White and Ron Etheridge 21-14, 21-15 in the mens doubles.

Veterans 3A

Yorks II 7 Cheshire III 2; Norfolk 8 Hunts I 1; Northants 4 N'mberland 5. Hunts II 2 Northants 7; Herts II 1 Yorks II 8.

The Norfolk team of Mick Broughton, Stan Honor, Tony Hipperson and Joy Dixon played very well in their 8-1 win over Hunts II. As mentioned elsewhere (*Mailbox*) match secretary Ray Hogg apparently has difficulty in fielding the same team in away matches or they could have been candidates for promotion in their first season.

Northants made a determined bid when 1-4 down at home but got 'pipped at the post'. Their No 2 failed to make it to the table for his first set and it was conceded to the northern visitors. Maurice Cheek got two for Northumberland and with Fred Short won the mens doubles 21-16, 21-13.

Veterans 3B

Hunts III 0 Berks II 9; Herts III 3 Bucks II 6; Essex III 8 Beds 1. Beds 9 Herts III 0; Berks II 5 Herts III 4; Herefords I Essex III 8.

Essex III steam on in this division with Bucks II in second place. The latter were served well by Len Pratt in their match against Herts III; Pratt won two singles and then took the mixed with Jan Curtis against Doug Tomsett and Gill White after two deuce games.

In Hunts III v Berks II, only the final set went to three games when John Crossman (Hu) took the middle game from Colin Dyke.

The editor is sure readers would like to join him in expressing pleasure at the return of Doug Moss into circulation after a brief period of hospitalisation.

Veterans 3C

Wilts 5 Sussex III 4; Hunts II 7 Wilts II 3; Dorset II 6 Herts IV (*adjusted as Herts' ranking order incorrect*). Herts IV 2 Berks III 7; Wilts II 4 Sussex III 5; Wilts 8 Dorset II 1.

Brian Powell and Ernie Howell won the match for league leaders Wiltshire against Sussex, getting their four singles sets in straight games. They had a harder fight against Mike Watts and Dave Levene in the mens doubles with scores of 18-21, 21-17, 21-16.

Brian Thompson got Wilts II off to a good start but the Hants team responded with four consecutive wins. Gwen Hazell and Alan Duke won the mixed doubles in straight games but this was the extent of the Wilts success. John Harvey and Norman Stagg won five sets between them for Hants.

League Tables (as at end of 1985)

Premier Division	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cheshire	3	3	0	22	5	6
Sussex	3	2	1	15	12	4 (33-26)
Kent	3	2	1	15	12	4 (35-27)
Lincolnshire	3	2	1	14	13	4
Buckinghamshire	3	1	2	13	14	2
Essex	3	1	2	12	15	2 (633-32)
Middlesex	3	1	2	12	15	2 (28-34)
Nottinghamshire	3	0	3	5	22	0
Division 2A	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Worcestershire	3	2	1	18	9	4
Cheshire II	3	2	1	17	10	4
Hertfordshire	3	2	1	15	12	4 (36-28)
Essex II	3	2	1	15	12	4 (35-28)
Yorkshire	3	1	2	15	12	2
Leicestershire	3	1	2	13	14	2
Oxfordshire	3	1	2	9	18	2
Huntingdonshire	3	1	2	6	21	2
Division 2B	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Kent II	3	2	1	19	8	4
Middlesex II	3	2	1	16	11	4
Hampshire	3	2	1	15	12	4
Sussex II	3	2	1	13	14	4
Avon	3	1	2	12	15	2 (29-35)
Surrey	3	1	2	12	15	2 (27-36)
Dorset	3	1	2	11	16	2
Berkshire	3	1	2	10	17	2
Division 3A	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Yorkshire II	3	3	0	23	4	6
Northumberland	2	2	0	10	8	4
Norfolk	2	1	1	12	6	2
Northamptonshire	2	1	1	11	7	2
Hertfordshire II	2	1	1	6	12	2
Cheshire III	2	0	2	6	12	0
Huntingdonshire II	3	0	3	4	23	0
Division 3B	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Essex III	3	3	0	22	4	6
Buckinghamshire II	2	2	0	13	5	4
Berkshire II	3	2	1	15	12	4 (34-26)
Bedfordshire	3	2	1	15	12	4 (32-29)
Hertfordshire III	2	0	2	7	11	0
Herefordshire	2	0	2	6	11	0
Huntingdonshire III	3	0	3	2	25	0
Division 3C	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Wiltshire I	3	3	0	22	5	6
Berkshire III	2	2	0	12	6	4
Sussex III	3	2	1	14	13	4
Hampshire II	2	1	1	11	7	2
Dorset II	2	1	1	7	11	2
Wiltshire II	3	0	3	10	17	0
Hertfordshire IV	3	0	3	5	22	0



Ellenborough back in the hunt

Fiona Brown

Following their exit from European competition reigning premier division champions Thorn EMI Ellenborough are back in the hunt for Halex National League honours. Three wins in December, achieved in part by the return to form of No 1 Graham Sandley have taken them within striking distance of leaders GKN Wolverhampton. Although they are five points behind Ellenborough have two games in hand.

GKN extended their lead with a victory over northern side Ormesby as Desmond Douglas swept aside challenges from England No 3 Alan Cooke 21-18, 21-10 and Canadian No 1 Horatio Pinteá 21-14, 21-7. The match also signalled a return to form for new GKN signing Max Crimmins, a former England international who has suffered some indifferent results of late.

Second placed Omega Reading have played four matches in quick succession but two defeats suggest that Andrew Syed, who stepped into the No 1 spot following Philip Bradbury's departure, is finding the going a little tough. Syed won only three of his eight games.

Assault

Butterfly Cardiff whose name might suggest a brief flutter of success, are beginning to show that they have the strength to maintain their assault on the first division title. Having beaten close rivals Salford Target Gold in a match which saw John Hilton lose his 100% record as he failed to make an impression against either Nigel Tyler or Alan Griffiths, they are well on their way to the premier division.



The new number one at Sincil Lincoln: Bradley Billington

Changeable Chan

In the second division north Chan Construction overcame Byker Newcastle in a match which, on paper, should have been their most difficult of the season. With these two points in the bag the Chan team took their impressive six wins from six games record to Unity Bradford.

The Yorkshire side provided a tough challenge, restricting the leaders to a 4-4 draw and maintaining their own slim promotion hopes, whilst giving a surprise boost to Byker's ambitions.

100% Torbay

Pengeley Sports Torbay, second division south leaders, remain

the league's only team with a 100% success rate and with a game in hand their only serious challengers are East Anglians, Waveney. Waveney have no intention of giving up the ghost as latest opponents Gunnersbury Triangle will testify.

Mixed fortunes

Whilst Ormesby III languish at the base of third division north the club's fourth team have hoisted themselves out of trouble. A 5-3 win over Oldham who, in the absence of Mark Hankey and Derek Schofield, have now lost any real hope of the title, began the team revival. Obviously, this renewed a little confidence, leading to a close match with Vickers Barrow.

SPORTS YEAR

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Griffiths - victorious against John Hilton

Halex National League

Ashford ambush

Ashford maintain their challenge to Nittaku Ruislip's third division south supremacy but the leaders seem unperturbed, answering the threat with a string of 8-0 victories.

Lower down the table Omega Reading, who are now playing without Paul Savins and Graham Kemp, have found that valiant veteran Sid Montgomery may be the answer to their problems. Playing in his first national league match against Spicer New Malden, he won both games including the vital seventh set against Ron Wilde to

give Reading two valuable points.

Leadership

Jeff Drew believes in leading third division team Fellows Cranleigh by example as he demonstrated with two straight game wins over Dave Seaholme and Keith Willett to sink St Neots and pile the pressure on to leaders AHW Pioneers. Cranleigh have already beaten the Pioneers and with a match in hand are well placed to attack off the bend.

Exciting young players

Grove II have two exciting young players aiding their efforts in the third division west. As mentioned last issue, Claire Potts is already established as England's No 1 junior and Leigh Jeffries the Birmingham cadet not training under the watchful eye of Alan Murray backs her up.

Meanwhile all is not well at the Launceston club. Having

received a new sponsorship from Cornwall company Duchy Windows at the beginning of the season they have failed to improve upon last season's performances and currently lie bottom without a win. Hopefully, the active Cornwall development programme will soon begin to provide local players to strengthen the existing squad.

December results

Premier division			
South Yorkshire	2	Thorn EMI Ellenborough	6
Omega Reading I	2	Thorn EMI Ellenborough	6
GKN Wolverhampton	6	Ormesby I	2
Thorn EMI Ellenborough	6	Omega Reading II	2
Omega Reading I	3	Grove	5
Omega Reading I	7	Omega Reading II	1
Bath Toyota	3	Omega Reading I	5
First division			
TCB Dolphins	6	Ormesby II	2
Airmaster St Neots	5	Dagenham FC	3
Butterfly Cardiff	6	Target Gold Salford	2
Ormesby	4	Tibhar Larkhall	4
Target Gold Salford	5	Airmaster St Neots	3
Second division north			
GKN Wolverhampton II	4	Unity Bradford	4
Chan Construction	6	Byker Newcastle	2
March	3	Sincil Lincoln	5
City of Leeds	1	Byron STUTE	7
Unit Bradford	4	Chan Construction	4
Sincil Lincoln	6	GKN Wolverhampton II	2
Byron STUTE	3	March	5
Byker Newcastle	6	City of Leeds	2
Second division south			
Pengeley Sports Gwent	7	Medway	1
Jaques Fareham	7	Norwich Foxwood	1
Gunnersbury Triangle	3	EAE Waveney	5
Norwich Foxwood	2	TSP Larkhall	6
Medway	2	Gunnersbury Triangle	6
Pengeley Sports Torbay	6	Pengeley Sports Gwent	2
Third division north			
Crusaders Lincoln	7	Ormesby III	1
South Yorkshire	7	Vickers Barrow	1
Byker Newcastle	0	Kingsbro Indurance	8
Ormesby IV	5	Oldham	3
Ormesby III	1	South Yorkshire	7
Kingsbro Indurance	4	Crusaders Lincoln	4
Oldham	7	Byker Newcastle	1
Vickers Barrow	4	Ormesby IV	4
Third division south			
Rejects	7	Abeng Warriors	1
Ashford	6	Deptford Rams	2
Nittaku Ruislip	8	Deptford Rams	0
Omega Reading	5	Spicer New Malden	3
Nittaku Ruislip	8	Omega Reading	0
Errey's Pring TTC	3	Abeng Warriors Stiga	5
Spicer New Malden	2	Rejects	6
Third division east			
AHW Pioneers	2	Fellows Cranleigh	6
Dagenham FC	3	Witham Town FC	5
Britannia Deepsure	5	Soham	3
Airmaster St Neots II	4	Playrite Northampton	4
Playrite Northampton	6	Dagenham FC	2
Fellows Cranleigh	5	Airmaster St Neots	3
Soham	1	AHW Pioneers	7
Third division west			
Jolliffe Poole	3	Leominster	5
Pengeley Sports Torbay	3	Grove	5
Duchy Launceston	2	Chan Construction	6
Leominster	6	Leicester	2
Chan Construction	8	Pengeley Sports Torbay	0
Global Sports Plymouth	7	Duchy Launceston	1

League Tables

(at the end of 1985)

Premier division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GKN Steelstock Wolverhampton	8	5	3	0	40	24	13
Omega Reading I	7	4	0	3	33	23	8
Grove I	7	3	2	2	30	26	8
Thorn EMI Ellenborough	6	3	2	1	29	19	8
Bath Toyota	6	1	4	1	24	24	6
Ormesby I	5	1	3	1	21	19	5
Omega Reading II	8	1	3	5	19	45	3
South Yorkshire I	5	0	1	4	12	18	1
First division							
Butterfly Cardiff	7	5	2	0	36	20	12
Target Gold Salford	7	4	1	2	35	21	9
Dagenham FC I	6	3	2	1	31	17	8
Airmaster St Neots I	7	3	1	3	26	30	7
W Warwicks/B'ham	6	3	0	3	26	22	6
TCB Dolphins	7	1	4	2	26	30	6
Tibhar Larkhall	7	0	3	4	19	37	3
Ormesby II	7	1	1	5	17	39	3
Second division north							
Chan Construction I	7	6	1	0	42	14	13
Byker Newcastle I	7	6	0	1	37	19	12
Unity Bradford	7	4	3	1	30	26	9
Sincil Lincoln	7	3	2	2	29	27	8
GKN Steelstock II	7	2	2	3	27	29	6
March	7	2	0	5	25	31	4
Byron Roofing STUTE	7	1	1	5	22	34	3
City of Leeds	7	0	1	6	12	44	1
Second division south							
Pengeley Sports Torbay I	6	6	0	0	37	11	12
EAE Waveney	7	5	1	1	34	22	11
Jaques Generation	7	3	2	2	30	26	8
TSP Larkhall II	7	2	2	3	28	28	6
Medway	7	2	2	3	25	31	6
Norwich Foxwood	6	2	1	3	20	28	5
Gunnersbury Triangle	7	2	0	5	23	33	4
Pengeley Sports Gwent	7	1	0	6	19	37	2
Third division north							
Kingsbro Indurance	7	6	1	0	42	14	13
South Yorkshire II	7	5	1	1	37	19	11
Oldham	7	4	1	2	38	18	9
Crusaders Lincoln	7	3	2	2	30	26	8
Ormesby IV	7	3	1	3	28	28	7
Vickers Sports Barrow	7	1	3	3	24	32	5
Byker Newcastle II	7	1	1	5	20	36	3
Ormesby III	7	0	0	7	5	51	0
Third division south							
Nittaku Ruislip	8	7	0	1	50	14	4
Ashford	7	6	0	1	42	14	12
Rejects	7	6	0	1	42	14	12
Abeng Warriors Stiga	7	3	1	3	26	20	7
Deptford Rams	9	3	1	5	30	42	7
Erreys Pring 85	7	2	0	5	25	31	4
Omega Reading III	8	2	0	6	16	48	4
Spicer New Malden	7	0	0	7	9	47	0
Third division east							
AHW Pioneers	8	6	1	1	38	26	13
Fellows Cranleigh	7	5	1	1	35	21	11
Witham Town FC	6	3	1	2	24	24	7
Britannia Deepsure	6	3	1	2	28	20	7
Soham	8	3	1	4	29	35	7
Playrite Northampton	7	2	2	3	26	30	6
Airmaster St Neots II	7	2	1	4	28	28	5
Dagenham FC II	7	0	0	7	16	40	0
Third division west							
Global Sports Plymouth	7	6	1	0	43	13	13
Leominster	7	6	0	1	40	16	12
Jolliffe Poole	8	4	1	3	38	26	9
Grove II	7	3	2	2	30	26	8
Leicester TTC	7	3	1	3	32	24	7
Chan Construction II	7	3	0	4	23	33	6
Pengeley Torbay II	8	0	1	7	11	53	2
Duchy Windows Launceston	7	0	1	6	15	41	1

Life begins at seventeen

Tony Russe

Being a firm believer that life only begins rather than as some think ends at 17, I have tended to concentrate my own efforts over the last few years on senior players. Seniors need help - in a more mature way - just as much as juniors.

My national league team, Bath Toyota - as fine a bunch of layabouts as one could wish to handle - have their stresses and playing problems as much as little Jimmy striving to make it in the Under 12s. So it was with some interest that I returned to the junior scene recently with a visit to the cadet trials at Luton.

Taken as an overall view and not applying to all players, I was not impressed by the techniques being displayed in the pressure situation. Weak and defensive receipt of service, poor positional play and footwork, and above all a tendency to reactive rather than innovative play.

It is my belief that if a coach is doing his job right that he must concentrate on the fundamentals of technique in the

formative years. In general, by the time they are 15 years old, the pattern is set.

I am not advocating stereotyped players, little robots all playing alike. That would not happen anyway, nature will see to that.

But the important things such as grip, stance, clean stroke actions allied to effective arm movements to last for life have to be dealt with as soon as a player begins. Plus that most important ingredient - a positive attitude - must be encouraged as soon as possible.

Many coaches stress the importance of winning. They need not do so. The player, if he chooses to be a competitor, knows that instinctively. For the coach to add his two pennyworth only increases stress.

If a player has natural ability, a positive attitude and a sound technique allied to regular, substantial practice and match play, winning will follow. If a player is positive in attitude, he will also learn from defeat.

This month *Table Tennis News* welcomes a new regular writer - former *Coach Bulletin* editor Tony Russe.

Tony, a keen table tennis coach, will be compiling some of the main technical articles for these pages. Readers are invited to put their views on coaching and other matters direct to Tony in Weston-Super-Mare

Coach Bulletin ceases

With a view to reaching a wider readership, the quarterly publication of *'Coach Bulletin'* has now ceased and it is hoped that coaches will continue to support me by providing news, articles, photographs and other items of interest for inclusion in these columns.

After three years as editor of the *'Bulletin'*, I hope I know what coaches want and forthcoming issues will be designed hopefully to fill those needs.

However, my aim is also to reach out to those who are not part of the ETTA Coaching Scheme . . . the parent coach and the go-it-aloners. Coaching is education and *Table Tennis News* hopes to stimulate your interest in further involvement. If I can persuade you to take the first step on the ETTA's coaching ladder and add your

The National Coaching Foundation and the Sports Council (south-west region) have combined to introduce a programme of twelve courses for coaches. Beginning on Sunday 9th February and continuing until the middle of June, the series of twelve four-hour courses are being held concurrently at Bath and Exeter Universities.

But staggered scheduling ensures that, even if you have missed one session, there is always the opportunity to complete the full programme by attending at the alternative venue.

The programme includes courses dealing with the structure of the body, the prevention and rehabilitation of injury and introductions to sports nutrition, sports mechanics and principles behind the development of endurance, strength and speed.

Others focus on the learning process, mental and physical preparation for competition, and the use of video in coaching.

More details about the courses, which cost just £5.00 each, are available from: The Sports Council, SW Region, Ashlands House, Ashlands, CREWKERNE TA18 7LQ.

skills to the national pool, then I shall be more than satisfied.

Coaching is about communication - a two-way process. So if you have a table tennis problem, and I include players of every standard, I welcome feedback at my office: 8A Ellenborough Park Road, WESTON-SUPER-MARE BS23 1XJ. Tel: 0934 414815 (o); 0934 27988 (h).

I cannot guarantee that space will allow a reply in these columns, but I assure you of a written reply. Please enclose a stamped addressed envelope.



Dunlop Skills Awards

Up till 14th January 1986, 2798 Dunlop Skills awards had been made, including 1467 Grade 1; 681 Grade 2; 544 Grade 3; 96 Grade 4; and 10 Grade 5.

Since October 1985, no fewer than 800 awards have been made and stocks of Grade 1 badges have become exhausted. A new stock is expected soon.

Round the regions

(forthcoming events)

Region 1. It is hoped to run a regional coaches course sometime in June or July, possible at Torquay . . . watch this space! Teaching certificate courses are at Yeovil Technical College on 20th April and 11th May. Apply Tony Russe, 0934 414815.

Region 2. Sports centre leaders course at Farnborough College; Coaches assessment open day at Frimley in June; Junior training camps at Littlehampton. Contact Rev. Bernard Rowley.

Region 3. Coaches Workshop at Luton on 22nd February (speakers Peter Simpson and Paul Day). Club coaches course at Nottingham in February; further courses being scheduled for Lowestoft and Derby. Contact Ken Marchant 0933 677299.

Region 4. Junior training courses at Birmingham and Wolverhampton on 2nd-4th March. Coaches course at Woodfield on 22nd and 23rd February. Contact Jim Hayward 0902 751427.

Region 5. Coaching weekend at Carlisle. Contact Alan Ransome 0642 322223.

Region 7. Diploma coaches course at Doncaster 22nd/23rd March. Coaches in-service training day at York in April. Teachers course at Hull on 5th March. Course for youth tutors/workers at Sheffield on a date to be set. Contact Jim Summerscales 0226 385896.

Diploma 1-star coaches

One Star coaches who have not taken league or county diploma assessment will be interested in a recent national coaching committee decision. To be eligible for assessment as a 2 Star coach, the applicant must have held the county diploma award for at least two years.

Consequently, any 1 Star coach wishing to be considered for 2 Star assessment must apply to his/her national coach for county diploma assessment.

If you achieve your county diploma award by 31st December 1986, and have held it with the old 1 Star award for at least a combined period of two years, you are eligible to go forward for 2 Star assessment.

If you do not take this action, after 1st January 1987 all applicants will have to wait the obligatory two years after achieving the county diploma. So get moving now if you want to proceed.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

Geoff Waters

At the half-way stage of the county championships, three of Cambridgeshire's teams have lost only one match each and are usefully placed in their respective divisions.

The senior team, playing in division 2A have won one, lost one and drawn one. They opened with a 3-7 defeat against Warwickshire at Birmingham but bounced back in their next match to beat Lancashire II 6-4.

They should have also won their third match as they led Yorkshire II 4-1. But the northerners fought back well to earn the draw.

In normal circumstances, this record would have finished their chances of a quick return to the premier division. But this division is really wide open with a 'dog eat dog' situation.

Warwickshire lost to Yorkshire II; Yorkshire II lost to Cheshire. And Lancashire II lost to Cambridgeshire while Cheshire went down against Derbyshire!

However, Cambridgeshire would have to win their remaining four matches to take the promotion title with eleven points - the same

number with which they won the division two seasons ago.

The team, however, do not seem to be playing as well as in that '83/84 season. Keith Richardson is as reliable as ever with five singles wins, but the rest of the team seem below par.

The third mens position is posing problems with Peter Holliday, Geoff Davies and Andy Withers all failing to win when they turned out for the county.

Mick Harper, after many years of loyal service, is beginning to lack consistency, while Joanne Pettitt and Hilary Finch have only managed one singles each from three outings.

The second team, after losing their opening match 6-4 against Berkshire II at Impington Village College, have won three matches in succession to put them in fourth place in division 3D which has ten teams.

They easily beat Essex II 10-0 at Fellowes Cranleigh, followed this with a 6-4 win over Kent III also at Impington, and then crushed Suffolk II 8-2 at Ipswich. They do, however, have to meet the three

teams above them in the second half - Essex II, Kent II and Surrey II - and these will prove testing matches.

Julian Wheel is leading the team well with five wins from four matches, while newcomer Yvette Hooks has yet to taste defeat in the singles. The junior first team have also won three of their four matches, but they lost 6-4 to Bedfordshire, which is likely to cost them the Junior 3B title. They must now hope that another county can lower Bedfordshire's colours, but from the opposition that Cambridgeshire have met so far, it is difficult to see which county may be able to do them a favour.

The highlight of the season, so far, has been the play of Ruth Hutchinson, who has won all her four singles in great style.

The junior second team have won one and lost two. They beat Bedfordshire II 6-4, but have lost 8-2 to Worcestershire and also 8-2 to Cambridgeshire I. Chris Dexter and Robin Tewkesbury were unbeaten against Bedfordshire, while Robin also provided a few shocks in the Cambridgeshire 'derby' by beating both Nick Ashman and Matthew Laughlin.

Denise Hinks is also playing well, having lost only one singles and that against Ruth Hutchinson.

DERBYSHIRE

Malcolm Allsop

The appearance of Jackie Billington in the national ranking lists issued in December must have created a unique record for the Billington family! Jackie, Julie and Bradley must be the first complete family to appear in the national rankings at the same time.

Derbyshire step into 1986 hoping that the senior team will secure a place in the premier division for the first time. With the certainty that three juniors will be in the senior team for the next couple of seasons, a clash of juniors and senior premier weekends would weaken our hopes for the future. Also serious doubt exists of our ability to finance two teams in the premier division.

The main event during the coming month will be the Derbyshire closed championships at Lea Green, Matlock on Sunday 16th March. The county committee hope that the recent trend towards a lower entry will be reversed. Ideas have been put forward to increase the size of the entry, which it is hoped will be successful.

The Burton league championships take place at Granville School on Sunday 9th March and the Derby league championships take place at the St Ralph Sherwin School on Sunday 2nd March.

St Andrews 1st (Stephen Yallop, Philip Vickers, Martin Simpson and Barry Taylor) are leading the premier division of the Derby league, with only Granville within sight of challenging them. Plenty of interest remains in the relegation zone with Rolls Royce looking doomed, but many other contenders fighting to avoid them in the drop.

In division one, YMCA 2nd look championship favourites with Castle Donington 2nd and 3rd teams likely to join them in the promotion places.

Madeley appear to have the division two championship sewn up at the halfway stage with Memphis Eagles 2nd in second place. The other promotion place being strongly contested by Combustion 1st, Sandiacre 2nd, Chester Green 1st and Lancaster 4th.

YMCA 3rd are the division three championship favourites, with Combustion 3rd their closest challengers. Derbyshire Building Society 1st could boost themselves into promotion contention if they maintain their recent revival; with St Andrews 3rd strong contenders.

Rolls Royce Raiders (Barry & Stephen Taylor, Clive Spate & David Greaves) look certain to retain the division one championship in the Eastwood league with Red Lion and Rolls Royce B contesting second position.

CORNWALL

Jeremy Williams

1986 in Cornwall began with a bang among the leading table tennis stars with so many of the county's players on form at the moment. Competition is at its fiercest for many a year in domestic events and the county selectors must have the strongest squad of players on their hands for some time.

The New Year's ranking lists have not altered with the exception of the mens and womens categories. In fact the only alteration to the womens list is the omission of Truro's Gail Davey following her retirement late last year.

The mens list has altered considerably and is now as follows:

Men

- 1 J Bassett (St Ives)
- 2 J Williams (Falmouth)
- 3 G Reed (Falmouth)
- 4 I James (Falmouth)
- 5 R Jacobs (Truro)
- 6 M James (Camborne)
- 7 A Hunt (Launceston)
- 8 M Peters (Falmouth)
- 9 M Starkie (Redruth)
- 10 A Chapman (Redruth)

St Ives veteran John Bassett retains his number one position despite one or two defeats lately. Hard hitting Graham Reed is now back to form and moves up to number three, and into the county first team as well, while his arch

rival Mark James the current county champion is gradually resuming his position among the leading pack. The Cornwall closed due to take place in March looks to be wide open this year.

Cornish inter-league

Three major signings over the last month have helped this season's Cornish Inter Town League gain a new lease of life which was badly needed.

With Camborne no longer competing in Cornwall's top team event, their No 1 player Mark James has been allowed to sign for near neighbours Redruth in a bid to challenge league leaders and holders Falmouth.

However, last season's champions replied with the sudden signing of former Devon No 1 Keith James now living in the area. The Plymouth left hander has not played for three years but he should eventually be a great asset to both Falmouth and Cornwall.

Wooden spoonists Helston have re-signed their former No 1 John Eddy in a bid to get off the bottom. At the half way stage of the season, the league table and the results to date are: Redruth 5 Truro 3; Bude 8 Helston 0; St Ives 3 Truro 5; Launceston 6 Helston 2; Falmouth 7 Redruth 1; Bude 4 Launceston 4;

Falmouth 7 St Ives 1; Truro 5 Helston 3; Launceston 2 Falmouth 6.

Launceston league secretary Pete Hancock must be pleased to see his two North Cornwall teams performing well at the moment. In fact Bude and Launceston recently fought out a 4-4 draw but their results against teams from down west have been steadily improving and the last three years of hard work have brought Launceston league standards right up.

After a good start to the county championships in division 3B, Cornwall's senior first team eventually blew their chance as they always seem to around Christmas, this time at Bristol.

To lose to Avon could have been forgiven but to go down to Avon II as well crowned a bad day for Cornish table tennis. Cornwall II performed as well as the first team and the form of Graham Reed beating Lewis, Holley and Riley was impressive in their 9-1 and 7-3 defeats.

The junior first team had to start the season a division higher with a completely new team but division two has been to their liking. Andy Hunt, Neil Bevan, Martin Stanley, Tracey Logg and Rachel Plummer are holding Surrey at the top of the league and the junior premier is not beyond the realms of possibility.

Some fine table tennis took place at Redruth when the first ever senior confrontation between Cornwall and Cornwall II resulted in a 9-1 win for the chiefs.

DORSET

Martin Hughes

Dorset seniors scrambled to a 6-4 victory over local rivals Hampshire in division 2B, and were grateful to Mark Werner, who on making his debut appearance for the first team this season, recorded maximum wins, beating Rhamish Bhalla and Chris Shetler in fine style.

Tony Clayton suffered his first loss at county level this season when he went down deuce in the third to Graham Toole. Tony who had consistently beaten Graham in the local super league said, "I won the first quite comfortably and was ahead in the second when I relaxed and let him back in. From then on Graham played really well, and I couldn't contain his loops which he was bombarding me with from all areas of the table".

Fortunately the other team members played their part with Rodney Thomas beating Chris, Leanne Harman beating Sarah Hammond, and Tony with Rodney clinching the doubles.

The senior seconds were well beaten by Devon II 1-9, with the lone Dorset success coming from John Robinson and Martin Hughes winning the doubles 23-21, 23-21. Devon have strength in depth and must be favourite for the division 3B title.

The veterans meanwhile were unrewarded for their efforts when they lost 4-5 to Sussex in division 2B. Howard Davies and Joyce Coop won singles, with Howard combining with Cyril Bush, and Joyce combining with Trevor Smith to win their respective doubles.

National league

Jolliffe Poole suffered a narrow 3-5 defeat at the hands of Leominster in their most recent match, with the result undecided until the final game.

John Robinson was in tremendous form beating Mark Owen and Jill Harris, but only found support from Jason Creasey who defeated Andy Castle.

The defeat will not help Jolliffe Poole's promotion drive, but they are still in the hunt for the end of season honours.

Tees Sport Super league

The Tees Sport Super league has completed its first session and Tony Clayton has clinched the title after leading from start to finish.

Tony was only beaten twice in fifty encounters, and the fortunate two to achieve this feat were Rodney Thomas and John Robinson. Second place was jointly claimed by Mark Werner and Martin Abbott with 35 wins apiece.

Final positions (wins out of 50): 1. Tony Clayton 48; 2= Mark Werner and Martin Abbott 35; 4. John Robinson 33; 5. Graham Toole 29; 6. Rodney Thomas 27; 7. Jason Creasey 24; 8. Martin Hughes 16; 9. Terry Glennon 15; 10. Mike Hughes 9; 11. Steve Davies 4.

NALGO South West District Cup

In the second round of the NALGO South West District Cup, Dorset branch beat Bournemouth branch 5-4 and in so doing reversed last seasons result. Martin Hughes had maximum wins over Steve Davies, Kevin Smith and Phil Seddon, whilst Eric Potter and Gordon King beat Phil to clinch victory.

Team captain King said, "It was satisfying to beat Bournemouth this year and the result again hinged on the winner of the Hughes/Davies clash, which we lost last year when going down 4-5. It was our turn this year, though it was close... Hughes winning 21-10, 19-21, 21-17 after being 10-16 down in the third".

DURHAM

Harry Black

Durham are still pointless after four matches in division 3A of the Stiga County Championships. In the local derby against Northumberland I at Byker on December 14th, it was the women that won the sets for Durham in their 7-3 defeat.

Lynne Yarnell and Lynne Bainbridge both won their respective singles matches against Caron Buglass and Christine Burke, and then teamed up to win the doubles.

Durham County league

Peterlee still lead the senior division after being awarded the points over Darlington, followed by Philadelphia A a point behind after their 10-0 win at home to Bishop Auckland. Don MacIver, Geoff Fletcher and Jimmy Laing were all unbeaten. Sunderland A have maximum points from three matches; their latest win against Sunderland B 8-2.

The Durham county closed will be held on Sunday 2nd March 1986 at Seahawn leisure centre.

Sunderland league

At the halfway stage of the

season, the leaders of the division are (played/points): Division 1 - Northumbria Centre A 11/43; division 2 - St Lukes 11/44; division 3 - Coles Cranes A 11/31; division 4 - MCFEA A 11/37.

In the National Leagues championships, Sunderland have only one survivor from the three teams that entered. The women are through to the Bromfield Trophy zone final after recovering from 1-2 behind against Stockton to win 5-2.

Northumberland defeated the men 5-1 in the Wilmott Cup, while Ormesby defeated Sunderland also 5-1, in the Carter Cup.

Apology

In the December issue of Harry Black's Durham Notes it was reported that Mr John Kerry presented the trophies for the M Kerry Memorial Tournament. *Table Tennis News* regrets this error; the trophies were presented by Mrs Samantha Kerry - wife of Mr John Kerry the late Durham County administrator who passed away in the summer of 1985.



The Skylet Andrew Bat - a new addition to the Stiga Range, retailing at £5.00

JGS final: Hayden b T Holland 19, -19, 12. JBS S/f: James Griffiths b Jason Clark 13, 18; Holland b Tony West 12, 23. JBS final: Holland b Griffiths 14, -16, 25.

Nominations Sought

The Corti Woodcock Memorial Award is made annually in recognition of service to Essex table tennis during the past two seasons. The award, in normal circumstances, is made in recognition of administration services.

But in exceptional cir-

cumstances it can be awarded to a player or an organisation - The Board of Trustees consisting of George Eagle, Johnny Leach, Bobbie Stevens and Dick Roffe have 'carte blanche'.

They are helped in their deliberations by Peter Roden as chairman, Barry Granger as acting general secretary and Phil Gower of the executive committee.

Every February nominations in writing may be submitted to the general secretary by any league or by any two players acting jointly for this most prestigious award.

ESSEX

Laurie Darnell reporting

Damian Holland and Alison Gower were the stars of the junior closed championships. Damian became the cadet boys champion for the third time and took the junior boys title from the defending champion Scott Solder.

Alison doubled up the U12 title with the cadet girls championship.

Other notable performances made included Lisa Hayden winning the junior girls title for the fifth consecutive year, with Tanya Holland and Gill Patten the junior girls doubles champions for the third year running.

Results

U12GS: Alison Gower b Delia

Holland -19, 19, 12. U12BS: Jonathon West b Jon Brooks 13, 14. CGS: Gower b Kelly Bennett 18,-19, 20. CBS: Damian Holland b Grant Solder 15, 7. CGD: Gower/Linda Radford b Kelly Bennett/Julie Shaw 20, 12. CBD: Holland/G Solder b Paul Donegan/Steve Rand 16, 19. JGS (Restricted): Martina Hicks b Stephanie Vanezis 15, 14. JBS (Restricted): Scott Solder b Samuel Saibu -19, 20, 13. JGD: Tanya Holland/Gill Patten b Lisa Hayden/Martha Hicks 11, -8, 21. JBD: Ian Harris/Jason Tendler b Martin Cole/S Solder 21, 16. JXD: James Griffiths/T Holland b Holland/Patten 18, 10. JGS S/f: Hayden b Patten 11, 10; T Holland b Joanne Cook 17, 14.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Pepperd

At the time of writing county officials are busy with the organisation of the Beneficial Trust Cotswold Select. This Grand Prix tournament is the second one of six in the ETTA's official calendar.

The Cotswold has been run now at the Gloucester leisure centre most successfully since 1979; sadly it seems these days it will be the sole national tournament to be run in the city. As everyone knows the cost of putting on any tournament of size without appropriate sponsorship is almost impossible. We owe much to our sponsors Beneficial Trust and also to the numerous administrators and helpers who seemingly each year give up their valuable time to officiate.

County team

Our senior team this year, despite the non-availability of Nina Tsakarisanos and former county womens champion Cathy Robb are sailing along quite comfortably and to date have not lost any of their matches. We are keeping our fingers crossed!

Steve Moreman the seniors playing captain told me however that the team had considerable difficulty in finding the Northampton venue and our hope is that county secretaries will send as much detail as possible to help visiting teams.

Our juniors have fulfilled all their commitments for 1985 and have only lost to Somerset by the margin of 8-2. Hopefully 1986 will even bring them better fortunes.

Cirencester

I have already mentioned that Cirencester may be re-forming a league after well over two decades of total abstinence. Currently there is not really all that much to report dependent on a meeting on 8th January - after the deadline for this issue. I hoped to be at that meeting and will enlarge upon the situation in the next issue of Table Tennis News.

Local League Publicity

Gill Smith still continues to edit a very lively newsletter - 'Nett & Edge'. As Cheltenham's chairperson I am sure that her hands are kept very full.

'The Stroud Pointmaker', edited by Stroud's chairman John Bunn is very informative. Any day now I fully expect to hear Stroud's plans for their 50th Anniversary; whisper has it that Tom Blunn ETTA's chairman will be there.

But in Gloucester 'Bat-Chat' has not yet surfaced to date, for public reading at least. We hope

that before long it will come to light and make its presence known.

The Capitol Providence county premier league comprises of six teams - with ten matches to play each v all. Four of those are played so far and the strong Rudford team of Darren Griffin, Steven Moreman, Martyn Lane and Richard Pepperd finished up at the top of the table just before Christmas unbeaten. Can they keep it up? Much more detail and full league positions next time.

Men

- 1 Darren Griffin (G)
- 2 Graham Slack (C)
- 3 Steve Moreman (G)
- 4 William Dawe (G)
- 5 Martyn Lane (G)

Women

- 1 Jenny Ellery (G)
- 2 Heather Colwill(G)
- 3 Claire Symonds (G)
- 4 Julie Bearcroft-Taylor (C)
- 5 June Hall (C)

Junior Boys

- 1 Dale Saunders (G)
- 2 Howard Williams (S)
- 3 Craig Saunders (G)
- 4 Lawrence Symonds (G)
- 5 Keith Rodway (S)

Junior Girls

- 1 Jenny Ellery (G)
 - 2 Jenny Egan (C)
 - 3 Cheryl Fannin(G)
 - 4 Caroline Stainer (S)
 - 5 Wendy Nicholls (S)
- C - Cheltenham; G - Gloucester; S - Stroud.

HERTFORDSHIRE

Harry Stevens

The Hertfordshire junior closed championships held at Barnet Table Tennis centre on Sunday 8th December 1985 ended in a win for Derek Rogers of Cheshunt in the junior boys singles over Ian Black from St Albans.

JBS: Derek Rogers (Cheshunt) b Ian Black (St Albans). JGS: Tracey Baines (N Herts) b Vicky Margerison (Barnet). JBD: Black/Michael Boardman (St Albans/Hemel) b A Dennis/J Patterson. JGD: Maria Williams/C Seaholme b Baines/Margerrison. JXD: Rogers/Baines b Boardman/Emma Hurling (St Albans/Hemel). CBS: S Grassick b Patterson. CGS: Hurling b J Felstead. U12BS: Patterson b P Clarke. U12GS: S Seaholme b T Greenberg.

The Hertfordshire senior closed is to be played at the end of February.

HUNTS CENTRE

David Dellor

Huntingdonshire's St Neots table tennis centre is ten years of age in 1986.

It was at their 1973 AGM that the St Neots club, in rented accommodation, decided to go ahead and obtain their own premises.

The club set up sub-committees of finance, planning and building and, after three years of hard work helped by Sports Council grant aid, a local authority grant and £7000 raised by the club, a new clubroom was ready for the 1976 season.

Club members dug out and laid the foundations for a 100' x 40' building and laid a 9" concrete bed over the complete area, dug a trench 200 yards for the electricity cable from a nearby sub-station, and carried out the whole of the electrical installation and interior decoration.

In 1977 they fitted a public address system and, again with the help of Sports Council grant aid, changing rooms, kitchen and canteen area, and office and control room were added in 1978.

Later, in 1982, more Sports Council grant aid helped towards a new tungsten halide lighting system together with a replacement and additional heating system. Showers were installed in 1984.

These additions have made the clubroom into what is widely acclaimed as one of the best in the country.

From September to April, the room is fully booked seven days a week. Eighteen teams play in the St Neots and Bedford leagues and the club run two teams in the Halex National League. Hunts County use the

venue for their four teams in the Stiga County Championships; the English Table Tennis Association play the junior county premier weekends there twice a year.

The club also organise a weekend winter league which comprises league teams from Bedford, Cambridge, Dunstable, Hatfield, Northampton, North Herts, Kettering, St Ives, St Neots, RAF, Wellingborough, Peterborough and Ely. The league is run in three sections of senior, veterans and juniors with three teams in each division.

Other activities at the Centre are the ETTA Eastern region junior and cadet training squad sessions. The club organise the English Schoold Area 9 team events and it is used by British Telecom Easter region and the British Deaf Association for the their annual tournaments.

The latest innovation has been the forming of a Hnts junior county league - started in 1982 with Sports Council support and an outstanding success.

The league consists of two divisions (junior and cadet) with eight teams in each division drawn from Peterborough, St Neots and Hunts Central leagues. The matches are played on eight tables, creating a wonderful atmosphere with fifty juniors, many of them playing in their first competitive matches.

Officials are confident this will bring many juniors through to play in the local leagues.

To name members who worked so hard is very difficult. The club have put on record in the form of a plaque, the names of the officers and committee during the period 1973-76.

Table Tennis needs more centres like this one at St Neots.

Plymouth league have a centre built with Manpower Services Commission sponsored workers; Peterborough have just opened a new facility and clubs like Barnet, Britannia (Ipswich) Ellenborough (Enfield) and Ormesby (Middlesbrough) which have long had their own premises have now been joined by Ashford (Middlesex) and others.

But the sport needs one in every district. With enthusiasm you can put table tennis on the map. Write to the Sports Council and your local authority recreation department for details of possible grants.

NORTHANTS NOTES

Dennis Millman

After some late withdrawals and the loss of evergreen enthusiast Dorothy Marsh to the veterans, only Margaret Maltby of the county's twenty ranked women was found to be ready, willing and able to take part in a recent series of county matches.

The inevitable and regrettable outcome was the postponement of the seconds away fixture and the decimation of the first home match with Norfolk. David Gallo also had to answer a late call for this encounter but paid the obvious penalty after having to relinquish the illegal bat he and several other players customarily use in the local leagues.

However, one highlight did shine through the prevailing gloom of a match staged at Burton Latimer by the Kettering league and that was the precocious talent displayed by Norfolk's brilliant junior Neil Pickard. But even he had to admit defeat at the hands of 'double century maker' Ian Hawes, currently ranked nationally at 200.

Andy Edmonds and Margaret Maltby were the others to score in a defeat which should never have happened. But Norfolk's early Christmas present must also be accompanied by a sincere apology, particularly to the visiting lady who made the long journey from Norwich without the ultimate satisfaction of participation.

Prevaricating players might also spare a thought for two committee stalwarts who prepared some excellent playing conditions. Alan Ashberry perched the match table on top of a miniature trailer for its ten-mile journey to and from the venue. And Dick Cole, after coping with an initial lighting failure, phoned home to find his lunch had been consumed by the waiting lady of the house!

Meanwhile, 'Dusty' Marsh had made sure that her journey to St Neots was not without reward. Playing at her considerable best against Huntingdonshire, she not only took the singles but also made a considerable contribution to the successful mixed doubles.

Partner Keith Jones was again at his inimitable best, making short work of both Jim Sizer and Syd Burgess - much to the latter's chagrin. The win then just required a minimal return from Dave Marsh and Dennis Millman. Both obliged with singles' successes leaving Nor-

thants veterans comfortable and worthy winners.

Over the years, a lack of willing officials has proved a major stumbling block. But the problem appears to be under control with Peter Trott at the helm and conscientious consistent support forthcoming from Barbara Gibbs, Brian Dangerfield, Bert Fawcett and Greg Dobrowski to name but a few.

The latest senior ranking list not only shows the progress made by Edmonds, Andy Trott, Richard Elliott, Steve Brown, Clem Little, Jean Swaffield, Cath Walsh and Sarah Young, but also lists many other players who should all be prepared to back up hard-working officials by representing their chosen county on every conceivable occasion.

Men

- 1 Graeme McKim
- 2 Keith Nicoll
- 3 Andy Edmonds
- 4 Ian Hawes
- 5 Iain Randle
- 6 Keith James
- 7 Andy Trott
- 8 Chris Handshaw
- 9 David Gallo
- 10 Adrian Roper
- 11 John Sanders
- 12 Steve West
- 13 Steve Kendall
- 14 Brian D'Hooghe
- 15 Ken Nicoll
- 16 Dave Marsh
- 17 Richard Elliott
- 18 Phil Snelling
- 19 Mark Nannery
- 20 Steve Brown

Women

- 1 Mandy Brown
- 2 Margaret Maltby
- 3 Joyce Porter
- 4 Maxine Shears
- 5 Glennis Hooper
- 6 Dorothy Marsh
- 7 Ann Lenton
- 8 Sue Whitehall
- 9 Joanne Abbott
- 10 Caroline Perkins
- 11 Clem Little
- 12 Jean Swaffield
- 13 Cath Walsh
- 14 Sarah Young
- 15 Anne Nicoll
- 16 Debbie Kimbell
- 17 Joanne Hunt
- 18 Jackie Rowson
- 19 Ann Woolston
- 20 Sue Nannery

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

Pauline Long

Following junior and cadet ranking trials in Northumberland, the first ranking lists of the season have been released:

Junior Boys

- 1 Steve Penman
- 2 David Watson
- 3 Darren Shaw
- 4 Michael Curry
- 5 Mark Christie
- 6 Simon Douglas
- 7 Martin Richardson
- 8 Stephen Coverdale
- 9 Barry Forster
- 10 Mark Cavander

Cadet Boys

- 1 Richardson
- 2 Coverdale
- 3 Forster
- 4 Cavander
- 5 Graeme Sanderson
- 6 Simon Thorley
- 7 Ceri Rees
- 8 Carl Robson
- 9 Martin Douglas
- 10 Drew Piddick

Junior and Cadet Girls None.

No changes have been made to the senior or veteran womens ranking lists but Maurice Cheek moves up to No 2 in the veteran mens list behind Fred Short. Larry Cartmell has dropped to third place.

Setting the pace

The first half of the Northumberland league season ended in December and with play due to recommence on 6th January North Shields YMCA A and Reyrollers A are still setting the pace in the premier division.

But Byker CC A in third place have matches in hand and could overhaul either team. Obviously much will depend upon how often their best players are available.

In division one, Byker CC D and Boldon A are currently occupying the first two places but third-placed DHSS A cannot be discounted as they are the only team to date that have beaten the division leaders.

Gateshead B and Newton A are clear leaders of division 2A and 2B respectively while in division 3A Wills SRC, Cullercoats, Electricians D and Northumbria Centre appear to be the outstanding teams.

Jarrow CC A and Post Office B are at present first and second in division 3B but this is a much closer division and both teams have already lost their unbeaten records. Division 4B appears to be a two-horse race involving Northumbria Fire Service B and Leamington CC B. The only question is which team is going to win the championship.

Most players and officials breathed a sigh of relief that the county closed tournament was held at the beginning of February this year. Last season it was held over to the end of May and was only saved by a last-minute rush of entries.

Other preparations underway are for the Northumberland 2-Star tournament at Cramlington Leisure Centre on Saturday 3rd May. Organiser Aubrey Drapkin (49 Beach Avenue, WHITLEY BAY NE26 1DZ) is already accepting entries for the Newcastle Evening Chronicle sponsored event, boasting a prize fund of £1300.

The format of the competition is for all the teams to meet at a central venue - this year the St Ralph Sherwin RC secondary school in Derby - where they play three matches each of ten sets (nine singles, one doubles).

The youngsters seem to thrive on it though parents, coaches and transport officers wilt rapidly towards the end of the long day. All, that is, except for the indefatigable and unflappable league secretary Jan McKelvey who has held that position throughout the league's existence.

These young players are the game's future and without them the sport will die of old age. Anyone interested in entering a team can contact Jan at 10 Highcroft Svenue, Oadby, LEICESTER LE2 5UG.

At the first league session, held on Sunday November 17th, Robert Yong (No), Louise Forster (Lo), Robert Scott-Birchall (Lo) and Jonathon Baldwin (Co) all finished on 100% in the following matches: NoI 10 EaII 0; Lo 9 EaI 1; GrII 0 GrI 10; NoII 4 Ma 6; Li 2 Co 8; EaI 5 NoI 5; Co 10 EaII 0; Ma 4 GrII 6; Li 8 NoII 2; GrI 2 Lo 8; EaII 0

EaI 10; GrII 4 Li 6; NoII 0 Co 10; Lo 10 Ma 0; NoI 8 GrI 2.

Co - Coventry; Ea - Eastwood; Gr - Grantham; Li - Lincoln; Ma Mansfield; No - Nottingham.

The second session of matches took place on Sunday 8th December at the same venue and at the end of the day, the championship seems to lie between Coventry and Loughborough after six matches played.

The latter are favourites for the title as two of the their players are unbeaten and the only other team that could win is Nottingham I who rather surprisingly dropped a point to Eastwood in the first session. They have yet to play the leading teams however.

The next session was on Sunday 9th February but unfortunately this clashed with the Lincoln league closed championships and Lincoln are to play their two matches independently. Only two matches are played on this occasion so the final round of matches will be combined with the East Midlands cadet league singles championships on Sunday 18th May.

EAST MIDLANDS CADET LEAGUE

Ten teams have entered the East Midlands cadet league in its eighth season writes John Burwell. In the league's history, 26 teams representing 19 towns have participated in the competition and many well-known players have appeared eg. Alan Cooke, Bradley Billington, Stuart Worrell, Simon Griew, Yvonne Hall, Richard Tilford and

Louise Forster - many of whom are now playing at national league and/or county level.

The league is a real 'grass-roots' development where players with national rankings compete against first-year beginners and all levels between those extremes. But for the most part the league is known for its excellent atmosphere and spirit.

SURREY SOOTHSAYER

Frank Hams makes a few forecasts

Just before Xmas, I received the Surrey edition of *Old Moores Almanac*. I was interested to note the following forecasts for 1986:

'Top player announces engagement * Peter Corner discovers new young star * Gordon Chapman wins two in county vets match * Chessington I fails to win the Thames Valley title for the first time in six years * Surrey find new sponsor * New mens and womens closed champions * School caretakers promise no more polished floors * Rue Bole plays in county match * Mike Hammond keeps 100% record in Thames Valley league * Martin Shuttle rejoins Spicer New Malden * Senior Surrey coach retires * 1985 senior ranking list published in Feb '86 * 1986 ranking list published in December * Murray Corbin severs links due to pressure of travelling * A new name on the veterans cup * Top player vows not to make noises to motivate himself * John Mowatt cus ribbon on new club * Surrey voted county most likely to! * Graham Spicers club will not have central heating renewed * A senior lady announces retirement * A new reporter found * County team captain required * Alan Bateman surprise appointment * All league secretaries and other officials begin to send reports to press officer * Premier team avoids relegation * Second team just miss promotion * Steve Davis miscues against defender * Alan Grant finds faster route to Cornwall * A major club designed for it built in New Malden * Spicer team champions - just * Larkhall club stage County match * Surrey not to hold tt Olympics * Nicky Mason in top 5 * Surrey committee accused of having more secrets than Adrian Mole * Surrey get colours registered with ETTA * New match secretary appointed * Hartley Down favourites again in Croydon * Dave Harding has shoulder replacement * Press secretary wishes everyone reading this a happy 1986.'

With the copy date for this issue

set at 31st December and the previous one 19th December, there is very little to report. There were, however, two national league matches for each of the local sides during December.

Spicer New Malden lost at home to divisional leaders Rejects 2-6 and 3-5 away to Omega Reading. Larkhall I lost 0-8 at home to West Warwicks/Birmingham but drew with Ormesby II away. The Larkhall II team won 6-2 away to Norwich but lost 2-6 at home to Pengeley Torbay.



Simon Hobson of Rodan Sports the distributors of Stiga equipment who sponsor Surrey's South of England 3-Star Open

In the county championships, the veterans lost 2-7 at Middlesex in December. Gordon Chapman, Frank Hams and Brian managed to lose all their singles but Jenny Vass won and, with Hams, took the mixed 24-22 in the third!

Jenny entered a veterans tournament in Brighton at the beginning of January and with a good draw could have caused a few surprises.

Mr Binks has become only the second person to send me some news, reminding me that in the London Youth Games last July three Surrey boroughs took part. Kingston finished first, Croydon second and Merton third in the table tennis event.

Croydon, in fact, will be defending their overall event title this year when all the participating sports are taken into account.

Sorry Mr Binks. This item was

edited from my notes in November because I exceeded the 500 words limit for county notes.

In the next issue, I hope to write about the Surrey closed tournaments which were held over the weekend of 25/26th January. Again the entry forms were sent out late and, being

unable to attend a management meeting in October when it was arranged, the first I knew about it was just before Christmas.

My own entry forms were received in the post on 28th December with a closing date of 4th January . . . stacks of time!

PHIL - SUSSEX PLAYER OF THE YEAR

John Woodford

Phil Smith, aged 28 or thereabouts, is the 1985 'Player of the Year' in Sussex and who knows what the determined Horley based counter-hitter can achieve in 1986?

In the December national ranking list he climbed above the Moore brothers to No 24 with two fine national league victories in Cardiff against Alan Griffiths and Nigel Tyler and is now emerging as the TCB Dolphins true No 1 in the national league, division 1.

Smith of course, also landed the West Sussex title at Burgess Hill. But the other player to watch carefully is Ritchie Venner of Crawley, who only recently came to the end of 31 national league matches in which he always managed to score. A wonderful run.

Venner has a nine year age advantage on Smith, so Stephen and Adrian Moore, both studying hard at their careers are going to have a hard task if they are not to be overtaken by Smith and Venner.

Some way yet to April. But at Lancing sports centre, there can be little doubt that the four top seeds at the all-Sussex championships will be the Moores, Smith and Venner. Whoever decides the seedings, probably referee Dennis Reed, will have some hard thinking to do before these four names are placed on the draw sheet.

Sussex veterans in their first season in the county championships premier division are now making a charge with three wins

on the run after losing their first match to mighty Cheshire.

Sticking to the rules

Sussex president Keith Watts, attacked by Haywards Heath administrator Keith Jackson for only turning up at the County's AGM and not other county meetings, has explained his constitutional position.

"The president is not entitled by rule to attend meetings of Management Council", he said. "General meetings are the only meetings that the president is allowed to attend. Hence my absence from Council and my attendance at the AGM".

The Eastbourne league is to celebrate its Golden Jubilee this season and held a tournament in February at the Hampden Park sports centre.

The league formed in 1934 when a group assembled at the home of Ron Scotcher who was to become the league's first secretary. Affiliation to the ETTA followed in 1935/36 and league play was continuous until the outbreak of war.

In 1943, a Bernard Hotchkiss formed the Eastbourne War Time Table Tennis League which then carried on until the present. As Ron Scotcher told the present league secretary Derek Wilkinson, the sport was very popular and the local tournament well-supported.

So popular, in fact, that the 1938/39 finals were staged in the restaurant of Dale & Kerley (a large store, now the 'Army & Navy'), and 200 tickets were sold.

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County Notes

MIDLAND LEAGUE

by John Barber

Mens

The Midland league season got off to a good start and most of the scheduled matches have now been played. In the mens section Nottingham A still lead division 1 but were held to a draw by Wolverhampton B.

Division 1
Nottingham A
Coventry A
Gloucestershire A
Wolverhampton B
Leicester A
Chesterfield A
Wolverhampton A

In division 2, Derby beat Nottingham B to go to the top. Leading 7-1, they seemed satisfied with the result and Nottingham took the last two. Birmingham were victorious

Division 2
Derby
Nottingham B
Birmingham
Nuneaton
Stafford
Leamington Spa
Loughborough

Division 3 leaders Bath were held to a draw by neighbours Gloucester but Dudley are well placed behind them with a match in hand. Against Wolverhampton C the West

Division 3
Bath
Dudley
Gloucester B
Telford A
Nottingham C
Wolverhampton C
Stroud

Although division 4 has been hit by the withdrawal of Cheltenham, the league has given many exciting matches this year.

Coventry B are in second place but won all of the six sets which went to three in their 7-3 victory over leaders Leicester B.

Lincoln gained their first win 9-1 against newcomers Banbury but the

Division 4
Leicester B
Coventry B
Banbury
Lincoln
Burton
Leamington Spa B

In the intermediates, Rugby look very strong with four wins to date. Mark and Ian Randle have won all

Intermediates
Rugby
Birmingham
Worcester
Bromsgrove
Nuneaton

In the womens league Nottingham were no match for leaders Derby but Angela Bretall took all three in their 7-3 defeat to Leicester.

They hit back, however, with a 7-3 win against Chesterfield in a closely contested match. Lee Neil had a good win over Martin Kinsella.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
4	2	1	1	22	18	5
2	2	0	0	16	4	4
2	2	0	0	16	5	4
1	0	1	0	5	5	1
1	0	0	1	4	6	0
2	0	0	2	5	15	0
2	0	0	2	3	17	0

again in their quest for promotion (7-3 at home to Nuneaton), and Nuneaton won 9-1 against Leamington.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
3	3	0	0	23	7	6
3	2	0	1	19	11	4
2	2	0	0	17	3	4
3	1	0	2	16	14	2
1	0	0	1	3	17	0
2	0	0	2	21	19	0
2	0	0	2	1	19	0

Midlands team won the doubles 31-29 in the third on their way to a 7-3 victory. Gloucester B 4 Dudley 6; Stroud 2 Telford 2.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
3	2	1	0	20	10	5
2	2	0	0	13	7	4
3	1	1	1	17	13	3
3	1	0	2	16	14	2
2	1	0	1	9	11	2
3	1	0	2	11	19	2
2	0	0	2	4	16	0

visitors provided good opposition and there were many excellent rallies throughout the match.

Earlier, in their league debut, Banbury had won 9-1 over Leamington B despite losing the opening set to the attacking flair of Martyn Langston. Dominic O'Flynn was declared 'player of the match'. Burton 1 Leicester B 9; Burton 5 Coventry B 5.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
3	3	0	0	25	5	6
3	1	1	1	14	16	3
2	1	0	1	10	10	2
2	1	0	1	10	10	2
2	0	1	1	6	14	1
2	0	0	2	5	15	0

of their twelve sets each so far. Rugby 8 Worcester 2; Nuneaton 1 Rugby 9; Birmingham 9 Nuneaton 1.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
4	4	0	0	31	9	8
2	1	0	1	12	8	2
3	1	0	2	15	15	2
3	1	0	2	13	17	2
4	1	0	3	9	31	2

Womens

Bottom of the table Kidderminster led Wolverhampton 3-1 but could only gain one more success. Derby 9 Nottingham 1.

Womens
Derby
Wolverhampton
Leicester
Birmingham
Nottingham
Kidderminster

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
2	2	0	0	17	3	4
2	2	0	0	12	8	4
2	1	0	1	11	9	2
1	1	0	0	7	3	2
3	0	0	3	7	23	0
2	0	0	2	6	14	0

Veteran Marathons

Several encounters in the veterans division have brought very long matches with five or six sets going to a third game. Outstanding in this respect was the duel between Nottingham A and Birmingham A which commenced at 5.30 pm.

Five and a half hours later Ron Bolton edged home in an expedite game 27-25 against Mervyn Wood to level the result at 5-5.

The highest score was Alan Jesson v Brian Belcher (29-27) and five sets went to three with four of them in expedite. Is this not a device for speeding things up?

Champions Nottingham also featured in a fine struggle at Leamington where they held on to their unbeaten record with a 6-4 win after a stiff test.

Alf Saunders guided Nottingham

Division 1
Birmingham A
Nottingham A
Oxford B
Telford
Birmingham B
Leamington Spa
Oxford A
Leicester
Stratford on Avon A
Nottingham B

to victory with a masterly straight sets treble, supported by Bolton with a vital two. John Earles gained two fine wins for Leamington; the key win was Alan Jones' closely fought set against Bert Banks.

Len Pratt won three of Oxford B's seven against Stratford A and newcomer Eric Minns backed up with two. Birmingham's B side forced five sets to a third against their first team but were unable to prevent a 10-0 defeat.

Telford, trailing 1-4 to Oxford A, were unable to recover as they went down 4-6. The same occurred with Nottingham B against Leicester. Birmingham B edged home 6-4 in their annual cliff-hanger at Leamington. Oxford B 7 Nottingham B 3; Leicester 5 Stratford 5; Stratford 2 Leamington 8;

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
3	2	1	0	21	9	5
3	2	1	0	18	12	5
3	2	0	1	18	12	4
3	2	0	1	17	13	4
4	2	0	2	17	23	4
5	2	0	3	25	25	4
4	2	0	2	17	23	4
3	1	1	1	15	15	3
4	0	1	3	13	27	1
3	0	0	3	10	20	0

In veterans division 2, Cheltenham were level 3-3 at West Bromwich B. But then the home side took the last four, two going to 21-19 in the third. Stroud gained a rare win, 7-3 at Stratford and in the Coventry B 3 West Bromwich A 7 encounter, seven went to the third with the visitors taking the last four sets.

Division 2
W Bromwich A
Coventry A
W Bromwich B
Walsall
Kidderminster
Stroud
Coventry B
Cheltenham
Stratford on Avon B

At Walsall, the home side ended a little flattered by the 9-1 win over Stroud.

W Bromwich B 7 Coventry B 3; Kidderminster 9 Stratford 1; Stratford B 3 W Bromwich B 7; Walsall 9 Stroud 1; W Bromwich A 8 Cheltenham 2; Coventry A 6 Kidderminster 4.

P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
4	3	0	1	25	15	6
3	3	0	0	23	7	6
4	3	0	1	23	17	6
2	2	0	0	18	2	4
3	2	0	1	22	8	4
4	1	0	3	15	25	2
4	1	0	3	13	27	2
4	1	0	3	12	28	2
4	0	0	4	11	29	0

Wolverhampton lead juniors

Wolverhampton, the current leader in the junior division 1, weighed in with a 10-0 over Coventry B and Derby did likewise to the unfortunate Leicester.

In the second division, Birmingham B have won their three opening matches to go top. Justin Goodall and David Morris each won three and the doubles in Pontesbury's 7-3 win over Burton. Nottingham B 3 Birmingham B 8; Birmingham B 6 Stafford 4; Eastwood 5 Pontesbury 5; Stafford 4 Nottingham B 6; Stafford 7 Walsall A 3.

Rugby lead division 3 thanks to a 9-1 win at Walsall B though the match was not as one-sided as the score suggests. But Stroud kept pace with them by a similar win over Leamington and the two leading teams drew 5-5 at Rugby.

Leamington recorded their second 10-0 win, this time over Coventry C, and cadet Scott Piper took all three as Walsall B edged home 6-4 against a Bromsgrove A team which later lost 2-8 at home to Dudley.

Division 4 results include: W Bromwich 1 Worcester 9; Oxford 8 W Bromwich 2; Bromsgrove B 0 Nuneaton 10; Worcester 3 Oxford 7; Nuneaton 10 Gloucester 0.

MIDLAND LEAGUE continued

JUNIORS

Division 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wolverhampton	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Derby	2	1	1	0	15	5	3
Coventry A	2	1	1	0	12	8	3
Birmingham A	1	1	0	0	6	4	2
Nottingham A	2	0	1	1	9	11	1
Leicester	3	0	1	2	7	23	1
Coventry B	2	0	0	2	3	17	0

Division 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Birmingham B	3	3	0	0	20	10	6
Pontesbury	3	2	1	0	19	11	5
Stafford	3	1	0	2	15	15	2
Eastwood	2	0	2	0	10	10	2
Nottingham B	3	1	0	2	11	19	2
Walsall A	2	0	1	1	8	12	1
Burton	2	0	0	2	7	13	0

Division 3	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rugby	3	2	1	0	23	7	5
Stroud	3	2	1	0	23	7	4
Leamington Spa	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Dudley	1	1	0	0	8	2	2
Walsall B	3	1	0	2	7	23	2
Bromsgrove A	3	0	0	3	7	23	0
Coventry C	2	0	0	2	1	19	0

Division 4	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nuneaton	2	2	0	0	20	0	4
Worcester	3	2	0	1	22	8	4
Oxford	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
W. Bromwich	3	1	0	2	13	7	2
Bromsgrove B	2	0	0	2	0	20	0
Gloucester	2	0	0	2	0	20	0

WARWICKSHIRE

Mary Rose

Birmingham's Richard Tanner provided the power behind the button at the British Telecom national championships in Bath during late November.

Tanner, who took the singles title, now seems certain to be chosen to represent British Telecom International in a side which will go to Austria in 1986.

Mary Rose, also of Birmingham, reached the semi-finals of the womens singles and the final of the womens doubles partnered by Shirley Boome of Stone in Staffordshire - losing a close match in three sets.

Inter-leagues

The first session of the Warwickshire league was played at the West Warwickshire club in early December. Although last year's champions North League were not involved in this session's matches, they are expected to be one of the contenders for the title.

Results: Stratford 1 S Birmingham 8; Nuneaton 1 Rugby 8; Leamington 1 Rugby 8; S Birmingham 7 Nuneaton 2; Stratford 2 Coventry 7; Stratford 2 Leamington 7; S Birmingham 2 Coventry 7.

The second round of matches were held at the Phoenix Club, Coventry on 19th January.

Birmingham ladies, who last year were champions of the Cotswold league, have lost their first match in this season's campaign. They went down to a Leamington side which

had Lynn Sibley, last year's singles winner, in fine form - well supported by Julie Green.

Leamington Hard Bat

Phil Paine is the undisputed Leamington ace for hard bat table tennis!

For the fourth successive year he picked up the Leamington association's Hard Bat Trophy.

His toughest challenge was against Alf Chapman who he beat 21-13, 18-21, 21-15. Jim Betts, runner-up for the past two seasons, lost to Trevor Bradley and also to Paine.

In the county championships, the senior A side are finding life difficult in their quest to gain promotion back to the premier division at the first attempt. After beating Cambridgeshire 7-3, they have since lost to both Yorkshire and Derbyshire 7-3.

The senior B side, however, have achieved some success beating Cumbria 9-1, Northumberland 10-0, and also gaining a good 5-5 draw against Lincolnshire.

After being forced to field a weakened team reserve Darren Smith lost both his singles but showed much promise for the future.

It was good to see Karen Groves back in the team on one of her rare appearances for the county and winning her singles set. The main success of the side this season has been the form of Peter Waite who has won five of his six sets.

There have been mixed fortunes

WORCESTERSHIRE NEWS

by Doug Moss

Louise Davis, in her last season as a junior, won the junior girls singles championship for the fourth time without being seriously stretched in the county junior championships played at Christopher Whitehead School, Worcester.

In the semi final she beat Sue Burgess (Dudley) and in the final met twin sister Jenny Burgess winning 21-10, 21-7.

Sarah Stone (Worcester) played very well in this event, beating Jane McLean (Evesham) the No 2 seed, at 23-21 in the third game! In the semi final Sarah gave Jenny Burgess (No 3 seed) a hard fight before losing at 21-13 in the deciding game.

In the junior boys singles the top seeds, Paul Smith and Peter Canavan (both of Dudley) met in the final having disposed of Andrew Hartland (Dudley) and David Rogers (Bromsgrove) respectively in the semi finals.

Peter was the more aggressive in the final and his attacking play, interspersed with some exciting long distance defence, paid off. After two hard fought games he took the title by 21-18, 21-19.

The cadet girls singles final brought two Worcester players together. Nicola Jones dominated the play to beat Sarah Stone 21-10, 21-15.

In the cadet boys section Spencer Coates (Bromsgrove), the No 1 seed, was beaten in the early stages by Andrew Kelly (Kidderminster), who was also soon eliminated. The final was between Jason Thompson (Dudley) and Scott Oldnall (Kidderminster), who looked well set when he won the first game at 21-13. But Jason fought back to turn the scales winning the next two games

21-12, 21-11 and the cadet singles title.

The junior girls doubles was a new event in the championships. The two top ranked girls, Louise Davis (Kidderminster) and Jane McLean (Evesham) teamed up and were firm favourites for the title. However Nicola Jones and Sarah Stone (Worcester) were in good form first beating the Burgess twins (No 2 seeds) comfortably in straight games and then taking the first game at 21-19 from Davis and McLean in the final. The No 1 fought back to win the second game 21-11. The Worcester pair gained a 1-4 lead in the decider but were gradually overhauled and the experience of Louise Davis guided the favourites to the title at 21-18.

In the boys doubles Paul Smith and Peter Canavan (Dudley) beat Lee Horton (age 11) and Jason Thompson, who showed good promise, in one semi final. In the other semi Neil Betteridge and Stefan Mytton (Evesham) had David Rogers and David Plumb (Bromsgrove), a cadet in his first season playing table tennis, as their opponents.

Neil and Stefan proceeded to the final when Paul Smith and Peter Canavan, the county junior team doubles pair, kept on top to win 21-16, 21-16.

Worcester chairman Frank Southam has again been instrumental in organising a league for school teams. Unfortunately there are only six teams, as against thirteen last season, the teachers strike seemingly having had an influence. The six teams meet at the Elgar High School, Worcester where three tables are in use, on Mondays at 4.00 pm.

WEST MIDLANDS VETERANS CLOSED

Warwickshire's Ralph Gunnion was the first singles champion in the West Midlands Closed Veterans tournament at Woodfield Sports and Social Club, Wolverhampton on

15th December writes regional coordinating committee chairman Jim Hayward.

Gunnion's quick hitting proved too much for finalist Ray Norton of Worcestershire winning in straight sets 21-12, 21-9.

Mervyn Wood of Worcestershire won the Over 50s title beating Ron Butterton of the same county 21-13, 21-18. Lynda Reid, also from Worcestershire, became the first womens champion; her style of play did not suit Ann Lloyd of Warwickshire and she won convincingly 21-11, 21-18.

In the doubles, Janet Munt and Roy Norton were drawn together and they added to Worcestershire's success. Ray Dixon and Peter Rodwell were their final victims 21-15, 21-19 in the final.

The Coventry closed is to be held in late February; the Warwickshire closed on Sunday 16th March; and the Birmingham closed on Sunday 13th April.

Did 'they' get it wrong?

Tom Blunn, ETTA Chairman

By 'they', I mean the officials in charge of the game at all levels in the early days of the sponge rubber controversy.

It all started at the Bombay world championships in 1952. England had won the mens singles title for the last four years and had taken it on five out of the last six occasions. So we had no reason to seek any change. The hard pimped rubber bat was suiting us very well.

But the Asians had other ideas and in 1952 produced a thick sponge bat and Satoh proceeded to beat all opposition. Like John Hilton almost thirty years later, he made many good players look very foolish. In both instances some good players acted foolishly by giving up without really trying to understand what was happening.

Since 1952 all world titles have gone 2-1 to Asia and in the team events it is 7-1 in favour of Asia. The successors to Satoh have not relied on equipment alone but have developed skills that were either unknown or unnecessary during the hard bat era.

Thick sponge lasted only for a short time but I well remember the effect in my local leagues on Merseyside and the demand for sponge to be banned. The image of the game suffered and spectator interest dwindled away.

The vital decision was taken, I think, in 1959 when thick sponge was banned but 'sandwich' was allowed within defined limits. Was this the correct decision?

We all remember the good things in life and it is usual to refer to the 'good old days'. I cannot help remembering that it was the 'good old days' that provided the finger spin serves, the seven hour rallies and the boring pushing games that led to the introduction of the expedite rule and the lowering of the net.

I am never against making changes but I do not want changes based on hunches. The effect of any change should be capable of reasonable prediction based on intensive tests by respected players and officials.

In recent times there have been suggestions to higher the net, increase the size of the ball, increase the area of the table, make the ball heavier, make the ball lighter, change the colour of the table, the net and the ball and there has been legislation to determine the colour of the racket coverings.

The permutations of these suggestions are too numerous to even consider. I doubt if the practical problems have been considered. What happens to all the stocks in the shops and the warehouses? Where is all the money to come from to pay for the new equipment - there must be several million tables, nets and supports that would have to be replaced.

How would manufacturers recover the cost of new machinery, if not by an increase in prices? It was very easy to chop 3/4" off the supports in the late 1930s, but how do you put it back again?

Alternatively, should the sponge of the Japanese have been banned completely when it first appeared in 1952?

Those are the two vital questions that I cannot answer. Can anyone really predict the course of events had the decisions in both or either case gone the other way?

Can anyone guarantee that any of the suggested changes will bring about the desired improvement in the game and make it more attractive to spectators as well as players?

To be reasonably assured of success would require long periods of practice by top players with equipment that would be different to that with which they are currently earning their living. A 'gut' feeling or a 'hunch' is not good enough. If and when changes in the laws of the game are made there must be more than an even chance that they will be successful.

This does not mean that all changes must be ruled out; Satoh and Hilton sacrificed whilst they practised with new racket coverings. Both gained the success they deserved but their new coverings were short-lived. I think they would both say it was worth the effort and the game as a whole had the experience of changes. Whether it was a good or bad experience is a matter of opinion.

There will be changes, indeed I go so far as to suggest there must be changes, but let us gain from past experience and next time be certain we have got it right.

I do not intend this article to be controversial but I certainly intend to pose a lot of questions to which I do not have a ready answer. I hope the article stimulates some thought and brings forth some practical ideas, but I do not want to enter into any arguments.

England v Japan *Alan Ransome*

Desmond Douglas led an excellent performance by the England team, beating Japan 5-2 in front of a packed house at Gateshead Leisure Centre on Friday 17th January.

Douglas won both his singles beating Juzo Nukazuka 21-15 in the third game and thrilled the Tyneside audience in the final match of the evening to beat Yoshihito Miyazaki to seal the victory, in straight sets.

The first four sets were shared as Miyazaki proved to be too good for Alan Cooke in the opening set. Joy Grundy and Alison Gordon levelled the score to take the womens doubles against Kyoko Uchiyama and Masayo Kawai. And Douglas put England ahead by beating Juzo Nukazuka before the heavy back spin defence of Kuoko Uchiyama was too difficult for Grundy.

Cooke swung the game in

England's favour with a gritty performance against Nukazuka when he lost the first game 21-8 and looked in terrible trouble. But he fought back to pinch the second on deuce and ran out a good winner in the decider.

Gordon was too spinnny for Yukino Matsumoto and then Douglas brought the house down with his tremendous play to beat Miyazaki.

The Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council Sports and Recreation Department were delighted with the match where the attendance of approximately 500 people exceeded their expectations. By the time the match started standing room only was available.

ENG 5 JPN 2 (Cooke 1st Miyazaki -12, -18; Gordon/Grundy b Uchiyama/Kawai 15, 20; Douglas b Nukazuka 14, -16, 15; Grundy 1st Uchiyama -18, -17; Cooke b Nukazuka -8, 20, 13; Gordon b Matsumoto 19, 10; Douglas b Miyazaki 14, 17.)

Leamington triumph

Brian Aston

Top match of the day in the second session of the Heart of England Cader league in December at Leamington was between Worcester and Leamington A. Three of the players involved all had 100% records - Worcester's Nicola Jones and Sarah Stone with Mark Jackson from Leamington.

After a hard fought match Leamington triumphed 6-4. Nicola Jones retained her 100% average with a close win over Mark Jackson 21-19 in the 3rd. Clare Woodward chipped in with

two wins and Victoria Clarke one. Kate Ryan teamed up with Mark to take the doubles.

Banbury lead the table with some good all round team performances from Sally Hughes, Michael Rose and Dawn Barnett.

The league, generously sponsored by Cirencester Benefit Society, could well be decided on February 8th at Leamington when Bambury clash with Leamington A. A singles knock-out will follow the league programme with the presentations at 5.30pm approximately.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Banbury	6	5	0	1	44	16	10
Worcester	6	5	0	1	43	17	10
Leamington A	5	4	1	0	36	14	9
Coventry	5	2	1	2	29	21	5
Leamington B	5	3	0	3	23	27	4
Walsall	6	1	1	4	16	44	3
Bronsgrove	5	0	1	4	9	41	1
Evesham	4	0	0	4	10	30	0

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Coventry	6	6	0	0	54	6	12
Loughborough	6	6	0	0	54	6	12
Nottingham	6	5	1	0	50	10	11
Grantham I	6	3	0	3	32	28	6
Lincoln	6	3	0	3	27	31	6
Eastwood I	6	2	1	3	27	33	5
Grantham II	6	2	0	4	22	38	4
Mansfield	6	1	1	4	20	40	3
Eastwood II	6	0	1	5	8	52	1
Nottingham II	6	0	0	6	6	54	0

Scots superior in Celtic battles

Denis George

The annual junior internationals - Scotland against Northern Ireland - were held in conjunction with the West of Scotland Open and played at St Pius' School, Glasgow, on 29 November, 1985.

Once again the Scottish youngsters showed their superiority by winning the boys match 5-3 and the girls match 8-0. However, Ireland's Andrew Dennison defeated the top two Scots Christopher Woess and David Low.

On the same day, at the Burgh Hall, Dumbaron, Scotland

seniors entertained Ireland. With the top two Irish players not in their squad Scotland took the opportunity to award first caps to Ian McLean and Eleanor McIlroy - both of whom had been in good form in the early season tournaments.

As in the junior matches the Scots proved too strong for the Irish, losing only the womens doubles, to win 7-1. The match was organised by the West Dunbartonshire League and sponsored by the Dumbaron District Council.

John the star

Star of the home tournaments this season has been Glasgow's John Broe who won the Meadowbank, West of Scotland and Stirlingshire titles and lost to Edinburgh's Anwar Majid in the Midland final. Ian McLean (Glasgow) won the North of Scotland when Broe and McIlroy were playing in Norway.

The only event to attract a strong English entry was the Monklands Open which was won by Alan Cooke who defeated the holder David Hannah in the final, after Hannah had put out John Hilton in the semis.

Monklands 2-Star Open

MENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Alan Cooke (Dy) b David McIlroy 12, -13, 10; David Hannah b John Hilton (La) 14, 16.

Final

Cooke b Hannah 13, 16.

WOMENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Alison Gordon (Bk) b Lynn Johnston 12, 10; Carole Dalrymple b Sarah Hurry -19, 14, 12.

Final

Gordon b Dalrymple 21, 19.

MENS DOUBLES

Final

David McIlroy/Brian Wright b Max Crimmins/Hilton 17, -18, 20.

WOMENS DOUBLES

Final

Gordon/Johnston b P Fleming/Thomson 11, 13.

JUNIOR MIXED SINGLES

Final

Joanthon Wilson b Paul Clark 17, 14.

For the women Carole Dalrymple won the first five tournaments and went down in two close games to Alison Gordon in the finals of the Monklands. Janet Smith was runner-up to Carole in three of the events.

Form in the junior boys had been erratic with David Low (Aberdeen), after winning the Meadowbank and Midlands, suffering some surprise losses in later tournaments to allow Martin Shields (Glasgow), Paul Clark (Glasgow) and Jonathon Wilson (Edinburgh) to win a title each.

Boys

Scotland 5 Northern Ireland 3

(Gordon Waddell b John McFaul 7, 7; Martin Shields b Andrew Gibson 19, -16, 18; David Low b McFaul 17, 11; Christopher Woess 1st Andrew Dennison -18, -16; Shields b McFaul 15, 15; Waddell b Gibson 9, 12; Woess 1st Gibson 9, 12; Woess 1st Gibson -20, -18; Low 1st Dennison 15, -20, -13.)

Girls

Scotland 8 Northern Ireland 0

(Lorraine Anderson b Anne Ludlow 9, 7; Jennifer Hook b Cathy McMillan 5, 17; Sarah Hurry b Marie Rice 10, 7; Linda Hood b Kirsteen Stafford 12, -16, 14; Hook b Ludlow 12, 12; Anderson b McMillan 18, 14; Hood b Rice 15, 16; Hurry b Stafford 9, 15.)

Seniors

Scotland 7 Ireland 1

(David McIlroy b Mervyn Kelly 11, 12; Janet Smith/Eleanor McIlroy 1st Elizabeth Cheevers/Jennifer Reid -19, -19; John Broe b Aidan Walsh 7, 16; Smith b Cheevers 15, 11; Broe/Ian McClean b Kelly/Walsh 19, 8; Carole Dalrymple b Reid 18, 13; McIlroy b Walsh 15, 16; Broe b Kelly 14, 8.)



Meadowbank Open singles winner John Broe receives the "Last of Old Meadowbank" trophy from Mr Ben Dawson, President of the Edinburgh and Lothians League

Photo by Denis George

Sarah Hurry (Stirling), as expected, has dominated the girls events winning three junior titles out of four and all three cadet titles. She also reached the final of two open cadet events.

The cadet boys events have been dominated by youngsters from one of our smaller leagues

West of Scotland 2-Star Open

MENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

David McIlroy b Ian McClean 12, 14; John Broe b Brian Wright 14, -11, 15.

Final

Broe b McIlroy 17, -14, 16.

WOMENS SINGLES

Final

Carole Dalrymple b Janet Smith 16, 17.

MENS DOUBLES

Final

McIlroy/Wright b G Campbell/C Gerrard 13, 9.

WOMENS DOUBLES

Final

Dalrymple/Elizabeth Robb b McIlroy/V Thomson 17, 13.

CLASS 2 MIXED SINGLES

Final

David Low b Christopher Woess 17, -15, 7.

JUNIOR MIXED SINGLES

Final

Andrew Dennison (IRE) b Woess 17, 17.

CADET MIXED SINGLES

Final

Woess b Sarah Hurry -13, 18, 17.

Lentec credit

In the December issue of *Table Tennis News*, copy supplied by the Scottish Table Tennis Association for 'Scots Mixture (page 26)' made reference to sponsorship of their ranking system by Patsun Services.

A more recent issue of the STTA magazine corrected this statement which was due to a misunderstanding regarding the

copyright of the computer ranking scheme - developed by British Lentec in conjunction with the English Table Tennis Association.

Table Tennis News is pleased to confirm that the sponsor of both the English and Scottish ranking lists is the Coventry-based company British Lentec.

Lesser lights shine in Welsh assessments

H Roy Evans

Despite the fact that many of the leading players were unable to attend, there was some sparkling table tennis by both seniors and juniors in the Second Assessment Tournaments. Many "lesser lights" took the opportunity to shine.

Veteran Angie Evans showed that he is still very much a force to be reckoned with, and his recent form in leading Pengelly Sports' recent revival was repeated in this exhausting event. He reached the final play-off, meeting Andrew Jones, very much his junior. It was a great struggle with Andrew's more powerful game eventually bringing him success.

There was another fine game when Nick Williams and Tony Healan played for third and fourth positions. Nick was the eventual winner, but only after a close and tense third game. He took the first, lead 20-14 in the second, but could not contain Tony's fight back to 20-all, and 22-10 win. The third was also thrillingly close.

In the absence of Lesley

Tyler, the womens section was very open, and Jayne Sully, playing for the first time and her best yet as Mrs Bennett, came through on top. Next was "exile" Lisa Robins, with Heidi Cotter a disappointing third, and Evelyn Wright an even more disappointing 7th, having failed to win her first stage group.

Profiting by the absence of No 1 Junior John Ellis, Bridgend's Richard Harry at last realised some of his potential by coming out in the No 1 position, but he was closely challenged by the much improved Stephen Ward. Anthony Jones, although doing well to come 13th in the seniors, had to bne content with third place, with Paul Kelly doing vvery well to get fourth position.

Evelyn Wright headed the Junior girls, but the best performance came from Sian Evans who bear Lisa Robins to get second place. Lisa had beaten both Evelyn Wright and Justine Thomas, a good pointer to Sian's performance.

Final placings

Men

1. Andrew Jones (Swansea)
2. Andrew Evans (Pontypool)
3. Nick Williams (Cardiff)
4. Tony Healan (Cardiff)
5. Paul Lewis (Nailsea)
6. Mark Simon (Ormesby)
7. David Kenefick (Cardiff)
8. Jeremy Hobbs (Tredegar)
9. Terry Turner (Wrexham)
10. Paul Williamson (Tredegar)
11. Mark Jenkins (Newport)
12. Byron Davies (Cardiff)
13. Anthony Jones (Pontypridd)
14. John Hook (Abergele)
15. Neil Jones (Aberdare)
16. Warwick Armstrong (Cardiff)
17. Steve Bowen (Aberdare)
18. Jeff Turner (Tredegar)
19. David Thomas (Aberdare)
20. Graham Sell (Newport)
21. Paul Jones (Newport)
22. Mark Farrow (Newport)
23. David Griffiths (Cardiff)
24. Richard Stevens (Cardiff)
25. Simon Chislett (Cardiff)
26. Barri Russ (Cardiff)

Women

1. Jayne Bennett (Swansea)
2. Lisa Robins (Luton)
3. Heidi Cotter (Mold)
4. Shirley Cain-Williams (London)
5. Rachel Roberts (Stafford)
6. Justine Thomas (Hawarden)
7. Evelyn Wright (Mold)
8. Cathryn Jones (Cardiff)
9. Sue Roberts (Llandudno)
10. Chantel Nicholls (Cardiff)
11. Theresa Petty (Barry)

Junior Boys

1. Richard Harry (Bridgend)
2. Stephen Ward (Newport)
3. Anthony Jones (Pontypridd)
4. Paul Kelly (Cardiff)
5. Paul Jones (Newport)
6. Lee Jones (Neath)
7. James Tapp (Buckley)
8. Chris Kelly (Cardiff)
9. David Buck (Cwmbran)
10. Stephen Buck (Cwmbran)
11. Anthony Baker (Newport)
12. Andrew Penduck (Newport)
13. Gary Evans (Newport)
14. David Hustable (Swansea)
15. Martyn Siviter (Newport)
16. Mark Russ (Cardiff)
17. Spencer Harris (Wrexham)
18. Barri Kellow (Caerphilly)
19. Mark Alford (Newport)
20. Stephen Gill (Cardiff)
21. Chris Hope (New Tredegar)
22. Stephen Mitchell (Cardiff)
23. Martin Prior (Newport)
24. Andrew Kinsey (Cardiff)
25. Chris Mousdale (Wrexham)
26. Richard Hobbs (Tredegar)
27. Aled Williams (Cardiff)
28. Mark Benson (Cardiff)

Junior Girls

1. Evelyn Wright (Mold)
2. Sian Evans (Cardiff)
3. Lisa Robins (Luton)
4. Justine Thomas (Hawarden)
5. Theresa Petty (Barry)
6. Lynn Bowen (Mold)
7. Lisa Mogford (Newport)
8. Cheryl Jones (Oswestry)
9. Denise Elward (Barry)
10. Llinos Poole (Birmingham)

Eighth Leinster title for Tommy

Tony Martin

Tommy Caffrey, Ireland's most capped player created another piece of sporting history in Dublin when he won the Leinster Open title.

The forty-two year old Caffrey won his eighth title and he came through unseeded to beat Mervyn Kelly from Ulster in the final. It is twenty-seven years since he won his first title as a fifteen year-old and throughout his international career, which began when he was fourteen, represented Ireland on 151 occasions.

There was another surprise in the ladies singles where seventeen year old Ellen McManus from Dublin won her first senior title beating Caroline Leonard, Jennifer Reid and Geraldine Leonard on the way to a thrilling victory.

MENS SINGLES

Semi-finals
Mervyn Kelly b D Weir 10, -15, 10; Tommy Caffrey b J Dill -18, 20, 13

Final
Caffrey b Kelly 19, 8

WOMENS SINGLES

Semi-finals
Ellen McManus b Jennifer Reid 14, 15; Geraldine Leonard b N McEvoy 20, -20, 20

Final
McManus b Leonard 16, 20

MENS DOUBLES

Final
Kelly/R Strong b Dill/H Meneely 18, -18, 10

WOMENS DOUBLES

Final
McEvoy/Reid b McManus/C Leonard 14, -18, 18

MIXED DOUBLES

Final
J Robinson/McEvoy b D Weir/Reid -13, 13, 14

U21 MENS SINGLES

Final
B McGrane b A Grist 18, 19

U21 WOMENS SINGLES

Final
S Akal b S Brien 10, 13



The visiting Irish team who played Scotland (left to right): Tony Martin (NPC), Elizabeth Cheevers, Aiden Walsh, Jennifer Reid and Mervyn Kelly

Photo by Denis George

Men

- 1 C Slevin
- 2 M Kelly
- 3 A Dennison
- 4 A Walsh
- 5 J Dill
- 6 H Meneely
- 7 T Heasley
- 8 T Caffrey
- 9 R Strong
- 10 D Weir

Women

- 1 A Leonard
- 2 L Cheevers
- 3 N McEvoy
- 4 J Reid
- 5 E McManus
- 6 L Taggart
- 7 C Leonard
- 8 G Leonard
- 9 M McMullen
- 10 A Kelly

Saturday night fervour

Neither John Hilton nor Rubberneck were invited to the players party that followed the recent Triumph Adler English Open but both managed to gain admittance. John used the cunning he was famed for on the table and slid in via the bar, whilst Rubberneck got in by . . . well that would be telling.

Once there, Rubberneck noticed Alison Gordon's pained expression whilst circumnavigating the feet of one of her England colleagues. The dance

floor can be a dangerous place when the team are in action.

Another sad moment occurred when the very dapper Alan Cooke failed to get Elena Kovtun to dance with him. The 5' 3" Soviet (the new womens singles champion) was reported to be saving herself for Zoran Kalinc.

English honour was restored, however, when national trainer Donald Parker stepped into the situation, using his considerable charm and diplomacy with defensive women to persuade

Comrade Kovtun to dance with him.

Perhaps the most bizarre sight of the evening was that of Skylet Andrew dancing with one whose name will not be revealed here out of respect for the sensitivity of youth.

The only explanation that Rubberneck could think of was that it was all part of Parker's plans and he had instructed Skylet to teach other team members the meaning of rhythm.

We're getting there . . .

An image problem is believed to be concerning ETTA Vice-Chairman Competitions Colin Clemett. A source close to this low-profile official has revealed that he was overheard at the TA English Open saying, "How do I get publicity?"; when scanning the pages of the programme looking for credits.

Racked with guilt, therefore, at the account concerning the 'band of gold' in last month's issue, Rubberneck is pleased to assuage the crisis of confidence currently being experienced by one of the sports top officials.

When the attractive Stiga shorts issue loomed before England's major tournament, Clemett it was who prevented a chilly three days for the Swedish team without shorts at the Brighton Centre.

Casting aside his personal preferences for plain clothing, the commonsense of the ITTF Rules Committee chairman adjudged the shorts as 'complying with the spirit of the clothing regulations allowing edge-trim'.

Scribbling a note of guidance to referee John Wright on his two-hour BR journey from Havant to London, the shorts - which had already passed scrutiny at the World Championships in Gothenberg - were seen in action at the Brighton feast of table tennis.

PS. Clemett's other party piece is his over-sized Nittakus. Whipping them out in the trade exhibition at Brighton, he astounded onlookers with the latest far-Eastern development - celluloid 2" diameter spheroids produced by the Japanese as an experiment to slow the game down and increase its tv and spectator appeal.

Commentary

The womens singles final at the Open produced the odd moment of interest - mainly in the attractive Soviet Anita Zacharian.

Compare Albert Shipley with "she's destined to break a few hearts on the table as well as off it" about the young Elena Kovtun and BBC producer Johnny Watherston who was heard to say "hit the ball, you silly . . . (girl)!" as advice to the lovely Anita.

Watherston, seeing his favourite slowly succumbing to the defence of Kovtun, pulled the plug on the final to deprive viewers of this interesting encounter . . . so boring that even such a lively official as Pat Archdale got three points behind with the score machine.



Teasers

The teasers in last month's issue of *Table Tennis News* were much enjoyed; Rubberneck's mole at National Council felt that readers might like a less-taxing problem this issue:

Which member of the ETTA Management Committee was seen asleep at which National Council meeting?

A free holiday at Tees Sport for the first correct reply? *Hint: Rules were the agenda item at the time!*

And another . . . How many ranking points did (or would) Carl Prean get for: (i) winning four for England in the European league; (ii) ten wins in the third division of the county championships; and (iii) finishing tenth in the English Top 12?

(i) 16; (ii) 10; (iii) 30. ome mi take urely? - Ed.

Invisible

Joining the spectators on the benches at the Beneficial Trust English Junior Closed last December, Rubberneck thought for a moment that the first nomination for the 'Invisible Man' award (see November Rubberneck) was about to be made.

A conversation, just out of focus for the short-sighted Rubberneck, appeared to be of a national coach apologising for his non-attendance at a recent session.

The coach slipped away, whence one official turned to

another and was heard to say "It was alright . . . we didn't expect him to turn up anyway".

The usual reward for more information.

Coachess

The ETTA's 'Director of Coaching' advertisement caught Rubberneck's eye in a rival publication . . . reproduced on another page in this magazine.

She was thinking of applying until she read the small print.

Courtside

On court, former England international Denis Neale wrapped up the veterans championship at the recent Cleveland Open and is believed to fancy his chances for the World Veterans in Italy later this year.

In court, Neale and Essex solicitor Alan Shepherd are understood to have met recently to resolve some unfinished business between them - from the time when Neale was at his playing prime.

Buck Passing

Having read Ian Bullock's article from deepest Suffolk (I am one of those who reads our magazine from cover to cover) - *December Table Tennis News* - I could be excused from thinking that this could apply to Norfolk also.

Passing the buck is the key to administration - this I learnt about during my 40+ years at my place of work. Also the administrators of the county championships and national league dates pass the buck onto local officials when we have to try and get a team and/or premises to play a match on the Sundays either side of the Christmas break.

We in Norwich had a job to get the local league to agree to enter the Rose Bowl because of financial considerations; the ladies won through two rounds and were due to travel to Bedfordshire - the only available dates were the weekends directly before or after Xmas.

All our ladies are married or nearly married and to a man (*sic*) said "you must be kidding". And they are the types who would travel anywhere to play anyone but not those weekends. Norwich Carter Cup team were given their match with Northampton for much the same reasons.

1986 should see no matches scheduled for those weekends and the end-of-round date for the National Leagues competitions altered. As I forecast in my January notes we had troubles in getting our veterans team to Cheshire and the County Championships administrator is now to decide our fate. This is our first-ever season in the veterans division and if things do not live up to the promises I was given before the fixtures were issued, far from entering a second team there will be none.

Ray Hogg
Norfolk CTTA Press Officer
100 School Road
Drayton
NORWICH
Norfolk

I have been asked by Pat Archdale, whose letter appeared in the January issue, to make it clear that she supports the idea of an umpires union and invites others of similar mind to contact her - Ed.

Smokescreen

If 'Rubberneck's mole at National Council' (January *Table Tennis News*) was suggesting a procedural miscarriage, s/he should study Standing Order 3.2.

This requires there to be a two-thirds majority vote in favour of discussing a matter not already on the agenda of a National Council meeting. Unless by similar resolution, all such matters are placed under the 'Any Other Business' item.

Robert Oldfield
ETTA Vice-Chairman Public Relations
193 Cuckfield Road
Hurstpierpoint
HASSOCKS
BN6 9RT

Waterbomb

"Fancy shooting a few bullets?", you asked in your editorial comment of the *Table Tennis News* January issue.

Well here's one!

As an overworked table tennis official and an underpaid newspaperman for more years than I care to remember, I think I qualify for a bit of criticism on the January issue.

"We are including extra pages to subscribers, including the draw and championship-related articles on the Triumph Adler English Open", you also wrote.

My criticism is not that these were included, I will leave that to others if they wish. No, my moan is that I didn't receive my copy until after the event was finished, thus giving me a total wastage of eleven pages - about one quarter of the issue.

Most of the news is usually 'ancient history' anyway and I accept this in a magazine. But surely if you're doing a preview of some special event, you should make sure the copy reaches the subscriber in time to read it.

"Subscribers will be the judge", was also mentioned. You're darned right they will!

I rest my case at this point as I've the 'March' Cambridgeshire Notes to write. I hope they and this letter make it.

Geoff Waters
Cambridgeshire CTTA Press Officer
31 Hawthorne Road
Stapleford
Cambridgeshire
CB2 5DU

A Councillor writes . . .

In a document for National Council called 'Problems of Table Tennis', I put forward views about the lack of leadership by the table tennis establishment. It was discussed at the October 1985 meeting of Council and a couple of pointers have since arisen.

1. There is a problem with tournament finals . . . the vanishing audience! The tournaments committee were asked if they had considered this problem; their answer was that they had not been asked to look into it.

They then looked into it and stated that the rules allow finals to be played earlier than is usual provided they are staged . . . Not all that constructive from a national committee, is it?

2. The South-West region coaching committee proposed that consideration be given to an easier way to obtain coaching awards.

Now we may be a lot of yokels but the South-West does include areas in which there has been successful development. Launceston, for example, is producing good players and their fund-raising is so successful that they have to register for VAT.

Bridgwater - a small market town - has several England juniors and 19 county-ranked girls.

The national coaching committee answer to a lower-grade first stage coach award was that no formal comment was deemed desirable and they would be unlikely to endorse a lower standard award.

Back to leadership. . . the ETTA management committee should be asking questions of these two committees.

To the tournaments committee: *Why can you not be more constructive? or Please propose new terms of reference to enable the committee to become more constructive.*

To the coaching committee: *Why are you so arrogant? and Why not find out a bit more before you decide that your system is just about perfect?*

Having made these points, I would like to add that I am aware of the vast amounts of work done by people at management committee level. However, somehow time must be found for the sorting out of priorities and communicating in a sensible way to the people in the regions.

Les Bridges
30 Inwood Road
BRIDGWATER
TA6 4PP

Dodgy Deadlines

I do not mean to be over-critical but while extremely grateful for the advance list of copy and publication dates for the magazine, I cannot see the point of a receipt date of 19 December for January and 31 December for February.

Surely only the most dedicated table tennis player and official would find the time and energy to even think about let alone be playing the game at the height of the Christmas period!

Pauline Long
Northumberland TTN correspondent
97 Park Avenue
Gosforth
NEWCASTLE-UPON-TYNE

Sorry Pauline (and readers) but I, like most of my correspondents also have a full-time job and Christmas/New Year was the time when I knew I might have most time free. Even so it was a close thing to get the January issue out for the English Open as any articles I write myself obviously take longer.

The magazine finances are extremely tight (paper costs in answer to Mr Perks last issue are not significant) so to save ETTA costs, every character is typed in and set by myself except for league tables . . . I am not a fast typist!

In addition, I was aware of important international events - the results of which were unlikely to be to hand in time for the January issue. My intention was to put the emphasis in January on domestic events and that of February on the international scene - Ed.

Cleveland Complaint

As a parent of a relative newcomer of the sport, I carefully consulted the 'Tournament Diary' of *Table Tennis News* and, indeed, rang the ETTA office before deciding to enter my son for the major junior events of the season: those officially given x3 or x4 weighting.

Imagine my surprise, therefore, when I heard from a colleague that on the morning of the Cleveland Junior tournament, the event was given a x3 rating. Surely this is most unfair on youngsters who did not enter the tournament on the grounds that for many there was considerable travel involved and the competition had a low rating.

Fortunately it did not affect us personally but had my son been in the top twenty of the junior list I would have been very disillusioned with the sport's organisation - as I expect many parents of children in this category will be.

Finally, what has happened to the reporting of junior/cadet events in your magazine? My son used to enjoy reading about the various activities but unless there is considerable improvement in coverage I doubt if we will be renewing our subscription for next season.

D S Hanks
390 Burton Road
Midway
BURTON-ON-TRENT
DE11 7ND

The Tournament Diary rating was based upon the full description of the ranking scheme for 1985/86 available from the ETTA office - an edited version of which appeared in November's Table Tennis News. The full paper makes reference to the assignment of higher rating to events deemed of international status, which only becomes apparent once entries for the tournament are received.

ETTA Vice-Chairman Selection and Coaching, Peter Charters, has confirmed to Table Tennis News that the Cleveland tournament was given a x3 rating on the morning of the tournament in order to more accurately reflect the quality of the international field in the event. - Ed.

Club Matches Wanted

Our table tennis team plays in the sixth division in Germany and, between 17th-29th May, we hope to travel between Dover, London, Plymouth, Birmingham, Liverpool, Glasgow, Edinburgh and Newcastle.

Our team will be six male players aged between 25 and 40 from 'Table Tennis Club Staffel'. Staffel is part of Limburg - a city on the Lahn river about 50 miles north of Frankfurt.

We would be pleased to arrange some friendly matches against any clubs - perhaps near Liverpool, then Glasgow and Newcastle. We hope readers of *Table Tennis News* will like to get in touch; we will pay our own expenses.

Heinz Tannert
Schulstrasse 31
625 Limburg 3
West Germany

More Results

I am an admirer and very long-time reader of *Table Tennis News*. Would you kindly consider publishing all the results of the major European tournaments in the form of the full draw provided for the Triumph Adler English Open (January) so that is possible to follow the results of our European favourites as well as our own English ones?

Most of my friends have their European favourites and we can seldom find out how they are progressing unless they win a big tournament.

Perhaps my request is a tall one because of the cost of printing. I would be perfectly willing to include an extra payment to cover such a service when I reorder my magazine in June and then you could even include full results sheets from the Asian tournaments as well.

I am sure some of your subscribers would want them.

Ronald Miller
Oakmere
South Street
Garleston
Wigtownshire

I try to keep a balance between international and domestic news, Ron, but much depends on when the news gets to me. Sometimes an issue contains an emphasis on domestic which is redressed in subsequent editions - Ed.

Open Thanks

May I through your columns express the thanks of myself and the Scottish players and officials for the hospitality and friendship afforded to us at the Triumph Adler English Open.

From the moment we stepped off the train at Brighton the organisation was excellent and no praise would be high enough for Tom Blunn and his team of dedicated men and women who looked after their visitors in a faultless manner.

Table tennis has always prided itself on the friendliness and sportsmanlike manner in which competition is played and this is in no small way due to events such as this one, bringing together all those participants, officials and enthusiasts in an atmosphere that must be the envy of table tennis nations throughout the world.

Once again congratulations to the English Table Tennis Association and our wishes for continued success in the future.

Brian Christie
Chairman, Scottish Table Tennis Association
3 Fishers Green
BRIDGE OF ALLAN
Stirlingshire

New Address

I would be grateful if readers could note my new address.

Doreen Stannard
19 Paddington Close
Yeading
HAYES
Middlesex UB4 9QH.
Tel: 01-845 6713.

Pen Pal

I play table tennis in Ghana and wondered whether any of your readers might be interested in writing to me. I am fourteen.

Bindorp Boah Boateng
c/o Isaac Boakye
PO Box 784 Kumasi
GHANA
West Africa

School Report

David Lomas

The English Schools Table Tennis Association have reached agreement with Dunlop Slazenger International for the extension of the ESTTA's current three-year sponsorship agreement. Dunlop are now to sponsor the major schools' events for five years up till 1988.

The events involved with the sponsorship agreement this season include: the Dunlop National School Team Championships - finals at Lea Green, Matlock on Saturday 15th March; the Dunlop English Schools Individual Championships - a tournament for the qualifying schools county champions at Mansfield Leisure Centre on Saturday 3rd May (closing date 22nd March); and the ESTTA Schools International Championships at Salford on 5/6th July.

This last event has been possible after some initial doubt thanks to the support of the Salford Metropolitan Borough Council. Teams from Ireland and Scotland have already been invited to take part.

For those pupils wishing to improve their standard, leading ESTTA coach Phil Burwell is coordinating a residential coaching course at Lea Green between 1st and 4th April. Details can be obtained from 58 Oaklands, Curdworth, SUTTON COLDFIELD B76 9HD Tel. 0675 70049 or from county schools association secretaries.

Pen Pal

I love table tennis and I'm looking for penpals who love table tennis. I'd like to correspond with English people.

My name is Etsuko Uchida. I'm a 22 years old girl. I'm a college student and my hobbies are sports, movies, music, travelling and so on.

Miss E Uchida
1237 Yokoshima
Kasaoka-shi
714 JAPAN

Douglas outguns the Japanese

English Champion Desmond Douglas won the mens singles title in the Cleveland Open Championships at Thornaby Pavilion on 18th and 19th January 1986 - writes Alan Ransome.

He beat the Japanese No 1 Yoshihito Miyazaki, in an entertaining final before one of the largest crowds seen at an open tournament for many years.

Douglas had to fight his way through a very tough draw. After dismissing one of Britain's leading defensive players, David Barr, 21-6, 21-6, he then came up against Danish No 1 Johnny Hansen, and won 21-18 in the third game.

Canadian No 1 Joe Ng, played above himself to give the English Champion a tough time in the quarter-finals before Douglas won 23-21, 21-18.

By the semi-final stage, two Japanese players stood between Douglas and the title. First Juzo Nukazuka was dismissed comfortably 21-15, 21-16.

The crucial game in the final against Miyazaki, the world No

15, was the first, and Douglas clinched it 22-20 after allowing a lead to slip away in the latter stages. From that point the Douglas confidence grew and he made no mistake to win the second 21-11 and take the championship and first prize of £550.

Both of Douglas' team colleagues did well in the singles.

Alan Cooke after beating Stephen Scowcroft in the last sixteen won the first game from Miyazaki at 21-18 and had the chance of taking the match before the second slipped at 21-18. In the third the Japanese player took command and won comfortably 21-12.

Skylet Andrew also fell foul of Miyazaki's aggressive attack in the semi-final losing 21-15, 21-15 but Andrew had played well earlier to put out Scotland's No 1, David Hannah, 21-14 in the third, as well as Kevin Satchell comfortably. Satchell had emerged from the section vacated by Carl Prean after England had withdrawn him after his new European ranking put him in line for a Europe Top 12 call-up.

The womens title also went to the orient when defensive Japanese Kyoko Uchiyama beat three of the leading English girls, Lisa and Jackie Bellinger and Joy Grundy.

One of the best matches in the womens singles was the semi-final in which Grundy beat Alison Gordon in three close games.

The Japanese repeated their doubles success from the team final on Saturday when Miyazaki and Nukazuka out-hit Douglas and Cooke.

The roles were reversed as the English girls dominated the doubles. Grundy and Gordon beat the Bellinger sisters in the final.

Local fans had something to cheer when former English champion Denis Neale made his debut in the veterans singles - and lifted the title. He beat Brian Edlington (Li) in the final after hard games earlier against Babs Adedayo (Mi), Ralph Gunnion (Wa) and Matt Sheader (Li)

Parker's gamble fails

Japan beat England in the final of the men's section of the Butterfly International Team Event after a gamble by the England captain Donald Parker had failed - writes Alan Ransome.

He left Douglas out of the singles matches thinking that Alan Cooke and Skylet Andrew were good enough to clinch victory but he was wrong. England lost 3-1 after only Cooke was able to win a singles beating Nukazuka.

Omega played their third close match in the semi-finals but this time came out on the wrong side as they were defeated 3-2 by Canada who had earlier put out Wolverhampton by the same score after Fiona Elliot had beaten both Thanh Mach and Mariann Domonkos.

The prizes were presented by the civic dignitaries of Cleveland County Council including the Chairman of the County, County Councillor Walter Ferrier who presented the mens singles to Desmond Douglas.

MENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Yoshihito Miyazaki (JPN) b Skylet Andrew (E) 15, 15; Desmond Douglas (ENG) b Juzo Nukazuka 15, 16.

Final

Douglas b Miyazaki 20, 11.

WOMENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Joy Grundy (ENG) b Alison Gordon (ENG) 19, 19; Kyoko Uchiyama (JPN) b Jackie Bellinger (Bd) 17, 12.

Final

Uchiyama b Grundy -17, 18.

MENS DOUBLES

Final

Miyazaki/Nukazuka b Alan Cooke/Douglas (ENG) 20, 17.

WOMENS DOUBLES

Final

Gordon/Grundy b J & Lisa Bellinger 15, 16.

CLASS 2 MIXED SINGLES

Final

Steve Dorking (E) b Dipak Topiwala (Mx) 16, 14.

VETERANS MIXED SINGLES

Final

Denis Neale (Cv) b Brian Edlington (Y) 11, 8.

BUTTERFLY INTERNATIONAL MENS TEAM

Semi-finals

Japan 3 Denmark 1; England 3 Bath Toyota 0.

Final

Japan 3 England 1.

BUTTERFLY INTERNATIONAL WOMENS TEAM

Semi-finals

Canada 3 Omega Reading 2; England 3 Leicester 0.

Final

England 3 Canada 0.



Chairman of Cleveland County Council, Walter Ferrier, with the two singles winners Uchiyama and Douglas

Tameside Junior 1-Star Open 12th January 1986

JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Mark Ward (Y) b Simon Jones (Ch) 13, -13, 12; Andrew Ball (Y) Mark Land (Y) 15, 17.

Final

Ball b Ward 19, 11.

JUNIOR GIRLS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Nicola McGrath (La) b Julia Hope (Ch) 9, 9; Joanne Roberts (Y) b Kristina Cox (La) 16, -13, 20.

Final

McGrath b Roberts 17, -25, 19.

JUNIOR BOYS DOUBLES

Final

Ball/Land b Andrew Wright/Jones (Ch) 15, -18, 17 (sic).

JUNIOR GIRLS DOUBLES

Final

Cox/McGrath b Hope/Barbara Smallwood (Ch/La) 18, 10.

CADET BOYS SINGLES

Final

Jonathon Taylor (T'mside) b Howard Whewell (La) 13, 10.

CADET GIRLS SINGLES

Final

Roberts b B Smallwood 11, 11.

CADET BOYS DOUBLES

Final

Chris Nicolls/Craig Smith (Y) b Robert Carle/Timothy Pike (Y) 19, 19.

U12 MIXED SINGLES

Final

Andrew Nicholls (Y) b Paul Davison (Ng) 20, 19.

March

1
Stiga County Championships (6)
Lentec rating: x1.

CORNISH JUNIOR 2-STAR OPEN

Venue: Camborne Leisure Centre. Tel: (0209) *Organiser:* E Crocker, 'Falaise', Cliff View Road, Camborne, Cornwall. Tel: (0209) 714758. *Events:* JBS, JGS, JBD, JGD, CBS, CGS, U12BS, U12GS. *Closing date:* 13th February 1986. *Lentec rating:* x1.

NORTH YORKSHIRE CADET 2-STAR OPEN

Venue: Scatchers Sports Centre, Leeds. Tel: (0532) 530001. *Organiser:* Richard Scruton, 9 Wycliffe Road, East Cowton, NORTHALLERTON DL7 0DZ. Tel: (032578) 421 (home); (0642) 219222 (business). *Events:* CBS, CGS, CBD, CGD, U12BS, U12GS, U10BS, U10GS. *Equipment:* Donic tables; Nittaku balls. *Closing date:* 6th February 1986. *Prize fund:* £245. *Lentec rating:* x1.

2
Halex National League (11)
Lentec rating: Premier division, x2; Other divisions, x1.

7
ENGLISH SENIOR CLOSED
to 9th.
Venue: Oldham Sports Centre. Tel: 061-678 4090. *Organiser:* ETTA, 21 Claremont, HASTINGS TN34 1HF. Tel: (0424) 433121. *Events:* MS, WS, MD, WD, XD. *Equipment:* Dunlop table and celluloid balls. *Closing date:* 25th January 1986. *Prize fund:* £2260. *Lentec rating:* x4.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE DIVISION 1
Italy v England

15
SOUTH OF ENGLAND 3-STAR OPEN
Stiga et al
to 16th.
Venue: Farnborough Recreation Centre. Tel: (0252) 513449. *Organiser:* J Somerville, 18 Campden Road, South Croydon CR2 7EN. Tel: 01-688 4335. *Events:* MS, WS, MD, WD, VXS, Class 2 XS. *Equipment:* Stiga tables, Nittaku balls. *Closing date:* 11th February 1986. *Prize fund:* £1370. *Lentec rating:* x3.

15
SELBY JUNIOR 1-STAR

Venue: Selby High School, Leeds Road, Selby. *Organiser:* M Hanley, 53 Green Lane, SELBY N Yorks. Tel: (0757) 702282. *Events:* JBS, JGS, CBS, CGS, U12BS, U12GS, JBD, JGD. *Equipment:* Butterfly tables, Schildkröt balls. *Closing date:* 22nd February 1986. *Prize fund:* £215.

Dunlop Schools National Team finals
At Lea Green, Matlock.
Information: G R Gardiner, 36 Froom Street, CHORLEY PR6 0AN. Tel: (02572) 64873.

22
Stiga County Championships (7)
Lentec rating: x1.

JUNIOR PREMIER DIVISION WEEKEND
to 23rd.
Venue: St Neots Table Tennis Centre. *Organiser:* *Equipment:* *Lentec rating:* x2.

23
EAST OF ENGLAND 2-STAR OPEN
(Grimsby Evening Telegraph & Mr Biggadike)

Venue: Grimsby Leisure Centre. Tel: (0472) 59161. *Organiser:* Mrs S Allinson, 27 St Mary's Park, LOUTH LN11 0EF. Tel: (0507) 605605. *Events:* MS, WS, MD, WD, Class 2 XS, VXS. *Equipment:* Donic tables, Nittaku balls. *Closing date:* 5th March 1986. *Prize fund:* £250. *Lentec rating:* x1.

CHESHIRE JUNIOR 1-STAR

Venue: Birkenhead Sports Centre. Tel: 051-652 9336. *Organiser:* L E Garrett, 11 St George's Avenue, BIRKENHEAD L42 6PZ. Tel: 051-644 9739. *Events:* JBS, JGS, JBD, JGD, CBS, CGS, CBD, CGD. *Equipment:* Jaques tables, Nittaku balls. *Closing date:* 6th March 1986. *Prize fund:* £197.

28
Merseyside 2-Star
Cancelled.

29
Durham 2-Star
Cancelled.

30
Halex National League (12)
Lentec rating: Premier division, x2; Other divisions, x1.

LANCASHIRE JUNIOR 2-STAR
(Oldham Metropolitan Borough Council)

Venue: Oldham Sports Centre. Tel: 061-678 4090. *Organiser:* S J Sneyd, 9 Higher Rise, High Crompton, Shaw, OLDHAM OL2 7QD. Tel: (0706) 849094. *Events:* JBS, JGS, CBS, CGS. *Equipment:* Butterfly tables, Schildkröt balls. *Closing date:* 8th March 1986. *Prize fund:* £174. *Lentec rating:* x1.

6
Halex National League (13)
Lentec rating: Premier division, x2; Other divisions, x1.

BEDFORD 1-STAR
Venue: Bradgate Badminton Hall, Bradgate Road, Bedford. Tel: (0234) 52837. *Organiser:* K Beddall, 3 Springfield Avenue, Kempston Bedford. Tel: (0234) 851022. *Events:* MS, WS, MD, WD, XD. *Equipment:* Butterfly tables, TSP balls. *Closing date:* 15th March 1986. *Prize fund:* £200.

12
ESSEX JUNIOR SELECT
(Beneficial Trust
to 13th.
Venue: Harlow Sports Centre.

April



Sponsorship from Sun Life Assurance establishes the first-ever Bristol 2-Star Open tournament on the circuit. Promotions Officer John Lewis (left) of Sun Life presents the £1,000 sponsorship cheque to Peter Sandford, organiser of the tournament at Thornbury Sports Centre on 17th/18th May 1986

5
EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS
to 13th.
In Prague, Czechoslovakia.

Stiga County Championships
(Third division only)
Lentec rating: x1.

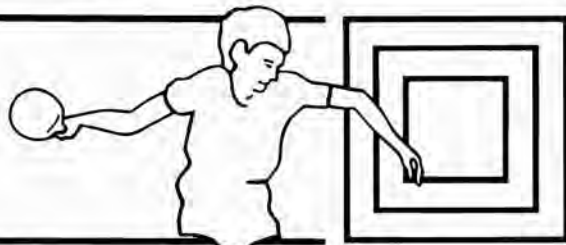
SOUTH YORKSHIRE 2-STAR

Junior Top 12
to 6th.
Venue: Lilleshall National Sports Centre, Shropshire. Tel: (0952) 603003. *Organiser:* ETTA, 21 Claremont, HASTINGS TN34 1HF. Tel: (0424) 433121. *Events:* JBS, JGS, CBS, CGS. *Closing date:* By invitation only. *Lentec rating:* Bonus points 10-300.

19
TUNBRIDGE WELLS JUNIOR 2-STAR
(Grieveson, Grant & Co)
20
Venue: The Angel Leisure Centre, Tonbridge. Tel: (0732) 359588. *Organiser:* J Butler, 108 Stephens Road, TUNBRIDGE WELLS TN4 9QA. Tel: (0892) 22288 (h); (0892) 27332 (o). *Events:* JBS, JGS, JBD, JGD, CBS, CGS, CBD, U12BS, U12GS. *Equipment:* Butterfly tables, Schildkröt balls. *Closing date:* 18th March 1986. *Prize fund:* £900. *Lentec rating:* x1.

ETTA National Council
London.

20
Halex National League (14)
Lentec rating: Premier division, x2; Other divisions, x1.



Beneficial Trust Junior Grand Prix