

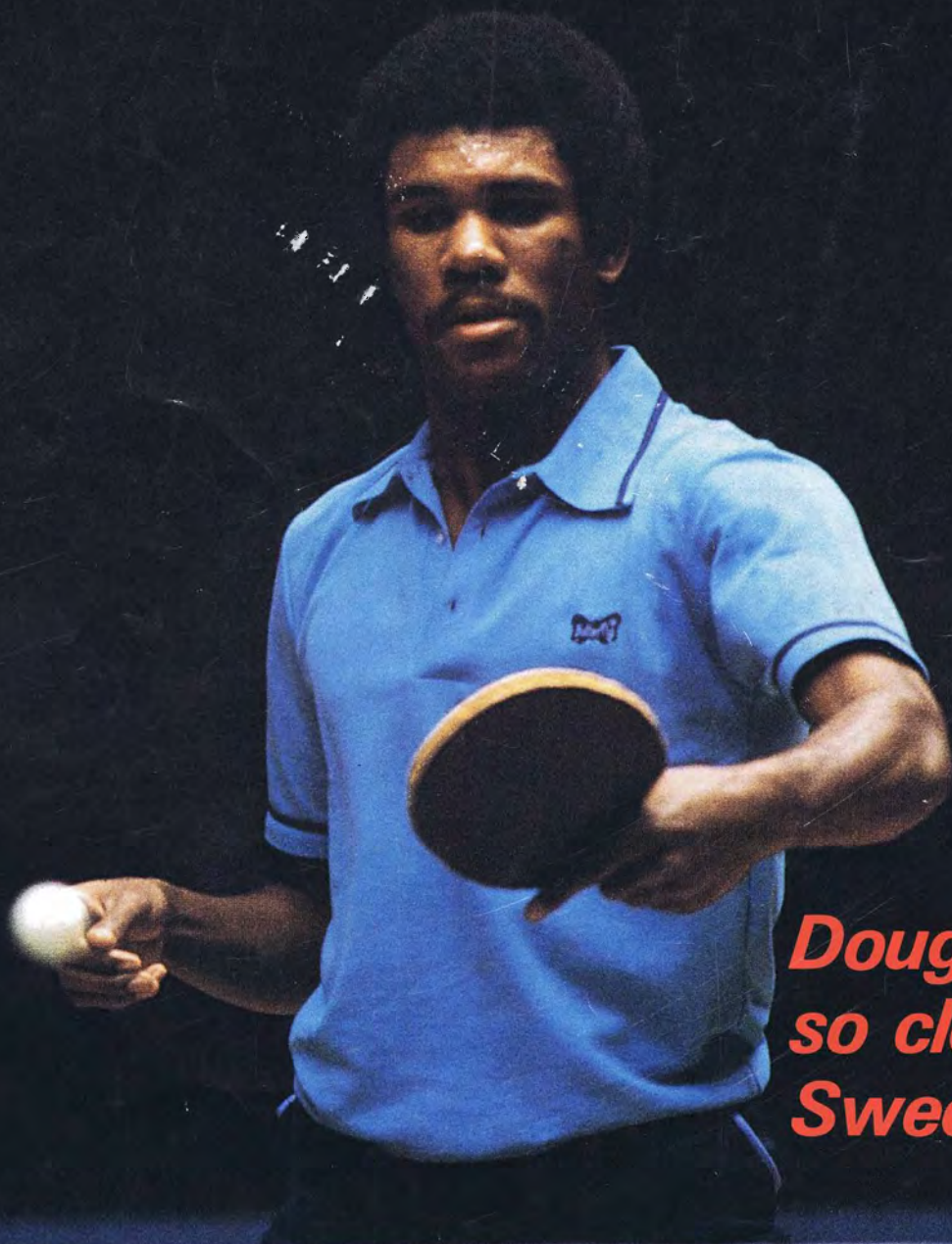


Table Tennis News

No. 157

MARCH/APRIL 1986

80p



*Douglas —
so close in
Sweden*



League and Championship
tables . . . from Jaques

**John
Jaques**

What's new, what news?

John Prean is back. Whatever your views on that, his letter leads the Mailbox in this current edition.

He conjures up the concept of an "olive branch" from the editor. But let that pass because the issues raised are serious ones and fundamental to the health of the sport.

"We are the forgotten sport", he writes. Is national press coverage really all a matter of luck?

Reading reports on hockey, cycling, lacrosse and other sports which are also short of football, snooker and, latterly, cricket personalities, it would be difficult to agree. There are a number of other factors which influence sports editors - not the least of which is "image".

One is success - and while England languish in the "second" division of the European League - not an insignificant factor either. At least in the Super division, as the sports editor of the Daily Telegraph remarked at the time, "our players are competing in the top-flight - which is more than can be said for our football team".

A second is the advantage of being a nationally recognised sport - perhaps due to the media attention associated with the Olympic Games or from the

sport's traditional role in school PE lessons and games.

Or because money makes news. Tennis, golf and snooker spring immediately to mind.

Or widespread participation stimulated by specialist comfortable facilities ... badminton and squash.

Or perhaps I could go on writing excuses for the rest of the page.

Readers - whose patience I have often over-extended and apologies for that - may have been aware that the vice-chairman public relations and the editor of Table Tennis News have been one and the same this season.

The first has resigned and the second is unlikely to long outlive the other; increased responsibilities at work have already denied readers the service that they quite rightly demand.

So, for just a moment longer, bear with me to look at table tennis from the view of an outsider or a potential member.

At local level, do we have the attractive facilities so desired by Keith Davies? What resources, incidentally, is the national association investing to counter this long-term problem?

Where there are reasonable club facilities, have they a high local profile? Sometimes yes, as

I found recently in St Neots, when requesting directions to the local club from the nearest pedestrian.

Is the club's programme of activities one which encourages new members - perhaps from local schools? Do the leagues and counties keep the spotlight on the personalities and stars in the local media?

All these small but significant ways in which members can help themselves and the sport at local level.

For its role, the English Table Tennis Association has a similar brief. Presentation, which for this short period the editor has put above other considerations, is just part of the marketing mix.

Another is the product itself ... at what price victory in a rally-less match before departing spectators?

But table tennis can be, and is, exciting, packaged in the right form - as Ray Drew mentions of the Europe Top 12. The problem in England is there are so few occasions when the sport is placed in the front-line before the media and spectators.

Take away three (sometimes four), sometimes top-rate, European league matches and what do we have at national level per season? Two days at the English

Closed, two days at the Top 12, a possible Invitation event and, every other season, three days of the English Open.

And then the tired county championships or the national league which imposes a club system on what is currently a team structure? I hardly think so ... not a lot to keep interest buzzing and the presses rolling.

Which is why Table Tennis News supports current initiatives to establish new events to recapture media interest. Welcome to the Stiga Grand Prix, amongst others still being negotiated.

But, even then, yet more will be needed and the complete promotional effort sharper still.

Here's one for October - a five-match series between England and the new European league champions Poland, who field some of the most attractive players in the game today.

Surely table tennis and Polish roots could support such a series - in Bristol, Birmingham, Manchester, Leeds and London? Surely even our soft and devalued pound still has some persuasive power in the eastern bloc?

No doubt such subjects will have been discussed in Prague.

Right, that's October out of the way what's on the agenda for December?



The official magazine of the English Table Tennis Association. Published eight times a year.

Subscriptions and distribution:
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21 Claremont, HASTINGS
TN34 1HF. Tel: 0424 433121.

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Hurstpierpoint, HASSOCKS
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COPY DATES

June 1986 issue

30th April 1986

Pre-season August 1986 issue

24th June 1986

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
English Senior Closed — Fiona Brown	2
Europe Junior Top 12	4
Europe Top 12 — Douglas so close	5
Europe v Asia — George Yates reviews the historic confrontation	6
Stiga Grand Prix — £100,000 sponsorship announced	9
Halex National League — Fiona Brown	10
Stiga County Championships	12
Grassroots — Mike Prior supports the new scoring proposal	14
— Keith Davies calls on leagues to reform	15
Home News — Two girls in the headlines	16
— Promoter Nigel Channon gives his first impressions of table tennis	17
School Report — David Lomas at the team championships	18
County Notes	19
Welsh Corner	26
Rubberneck ... finds Douglas on the defensive	27
Rankings	28
Coaching — with Tony Russe	29
Mailbox — Charters, Drew, Ladouble, Prean	30
Tournament Circuit	31

Cooke feels the lash of the Douglas backhand

Fiona Brown

Anyone who doubted that Desmond Douglas could maintain his dominance of English table tennis, was left to reconsider their views after his emphatic display of precision power play in the English Closed at Oldham from 7th to 9th March.

Douglas coasted to his ninth championship victory 21-15, 21-15, 21-11 in the mens singles final against No 2 Seed Carl Preat, to Yorkshire's Steve Mills, throughout the event. Earlier he had joined forces with Preat to take his ninth mens doubles title.

It was hardly surprising that the mens singles final was a formality with the European Youth champion Preat the victim of injured Douglas pride. Earlier in the week the Birmingham left-hander had read press reports speculating on his future after losing to Alan Cooke 21-15, 21-15 in an invitation event at Newcastle the previous weekend.

Douglas, having finished second in the Europe Top 12 just a few weeks before, had been unconcerned and considered the match an exhibition - even with £200 at stake for the winner. But Cooke saw the chance of some national publicity and was soon on the phone.

Douglas' reported reaction of "Wait till next week", proved a stinging prophesy of the Cooke humiliation in the semi-finals at Oldham. Although the Chesterfield dynamo was in superb form as he raced through Graham Sandley in the quarters, he never looked in with a chance against Douglas.

For just a brief moment there was a rare flash of Douglas emotion at the end of the 21-16, 21-14, 21-17 win. The vestige of a victory salute to the press gallery and Cooke was firmly put in his place. Cross Douglas with care!

Triumph

The womens singles was very much a story of tears to triumph for 21 year old Lancastrian Joy Grundy. Only twelve months ago Grundy's career was under serious threat as a back injury forced her to withdraw from the 1985 Championships.

Subsequently she missed both the Commonwealth and World Championships but after a summer of rest and recuperation returned to major competition in the Milton Keynes Top 12, finishing fourth.

In the womens final at Oldham, having twice fought back from two game deficits in earlier rounds, she faced England No 1 and reigning champion Lisa Bellinger.

Bellinger began with a solid defence to which Grundy could find no response but as the match progressed one was reminded of the old maxim 'patience is a virtue' as Grundy abandoned her all-out attack in favour of a more moderate approach to far greater effect. Reserving her deadly forehand smash for the high returns elicited from superb positional play, her confidence visibly grew with each game.

By the fourth end she had emerged to dominate the match as the final game scoreline of 21-10 bears testimony.

The victory was enthusiastically received by a substantial crowd eager to acknowledge their local hero. Grundy, briefly overwhelmed by her success, rallied when interviewed by MC Richard Eaton, cheekily taking advantage of the opportunity to remind those present that she is looking for a major sponsor - any offers?

Consolation

There was consolation for the No 4 singles seeds Fiona Elliot



"You're in for a whupping, boy"

and Skylet Andrew when they went on to claim the mixed doubles title with a 21-19, 21-15 win over reigning champions Alison Gordon and Graham Sandley. Both had made an early exit from their respective singles competitions, Andrew to John Souter and Elliot to Mandy Sainsbury.

Elliot was less fortunate in her second final. Playing womens doubles with Jill Harris, the reigning Middlesex 3 Star champions floundered after a good start - succumbing to Jean Parker and Grundy 21-16, 16-21, 10-21.

There were no major surprises in the veterans events with top seeds Ralph Gunnion and Doreen Schofield victorious. Ralph faced his most difficult challenge against Maurice Billington in the semi-final losing the first game before recovering to outplay the man who had earlier despatched No 3 seed Matt Shearer.

Having moved to a North West venue for the first time the championship entry was a little lower than that of recent years but the excellent facilities of the Oldham Sports Centre were certainly appreciated.

Following the 1986 championships five new names are added to the silverware while three players have extended their existing tally of wins.

RESULTS

MENS SINGLES

Third Round

Desmond Douglas (Wa) b Colin Wilson (Mi) 12, 12, 7;
Steve Mills (Y) b Andrew Syed (Bk) -16, 11, 12, -18, 16;
Graham Sandley (Mi) b John Hilton (La) 6, 9, 15;
Alan Cooke (Dy) b Chris Rogers (Le) 14, 12, 23;
Skylet Andrew (E) b Kevin Satchell (Wi) 16, -19, -19, 16, 12;
John Souter (Mi) b Stephen Scowcroft (La) 17, 14, 14;
Nicky Mason (Sy) b David Wells (Mi) 8, -19, 19, -13, 18;
Carl Preat (W) b Tony Taylor (Ch) 17, 18, 13.

Quarter-finals

Douglas b Mills -17, 14, 17, 17; Cooke b Sandley 11, 8, 4; Souter b Andrew 16, -17, 17, -21, 19; Preat b Mason 15, 16, 10.

Semi-finals

Douglas b Cooke 16, 14, 17; Preat b Souter 16, 14, 18.

Final

Douglas b Preat 15, 15, 11.

WOMENS SINGLES

Second Round

Lisa Bellinger (Bd) b Debbie Soothill (Cu) 14, 14, 11;
Juliet Houghton (K) b Joanne Shaw (Y) 15, -18, 19, -18, 16;
Mandy Sainsbury (Bk) b Julie Billington (Dy) 8, 7, 13;
Fiona Elliot (St) b Andrea Holt (La) 20, 16, -14, 20;
Joy Grundy (La) b Carol Butler (Dv) 13, 14, 11;
Karen Witt (Bk) Suzanne Airey (Li) 19, -17, -14, 20, 12;
Jackie Bellinger (Bd) b Claire Potts (Ch) -12, 18, 14, 17;
Alison Gordon (Bk) Jean Parker (La) 9, 18, 13.

Quarter-finals

L Bellinger b Houghton 5, 11, 16; Sainsbury b Elliot 17, -8, -15, 18, 18; Grundy b Witt -19, -17, 11, 16, 20; Gordon b J Bellinger 20, 13, -16, 15.

Semi-finals

Bellinger b Sainsbury 9, 13, -15, 12; Grundy b Gordon -18, -17, 12, 19, 13.

Final

Grundy b Bellinger -16, 16, 14, 10.



Pictures of concentration by Neil Houghton: Douglas (left) and Grundy (right)



MENS DOUBLES

Quarter-finals

Douglas/Preen b Cooke/Donald Parker (Dy/La) 13, 13; Nigel Eckersley/Scowcroft (La) b Stuart Palmer/Keith Richardson (Sk/Ca) 14, 11; Souter/Wilson b Adrian/Stephen Moore (Sx) -18, 12, 15; Andrew/Mason b Bradley Billington/Sean Gibson (Dy/La) 19, 19.

Semi-finals

Douglas/Preen b Eckersley/Scowcroft 12, 20; Andrew/Mason b Souter/Wilson 15, -17, 12.

Final

Douglas/Preen b Andrew/Mason 16, 19.

WOMENS DOUBLES

Quarter-finals

L & J Bellinger (Bd) b Christine Appelby/Holt (La) 20, 18; Grundy/Parker b Shaw/Soothill 19, 17; Elliot/Jill Harris (St) b Melody Hill/Witt (Y/Bk) -20, 15, 12; Gordon/Sainsbury b Airey/Helen Bardwell (Li/Hu) 17, -19, 15.

Semi-finals

Grundy/Parker b Bellinger/Bellinger 15, -18, 15; Elliot/Harris b Gordon/Sainsbury 17, 17.

Final

Grundy/Parker b Elliot/Harris -16, 16, 10.

MIXED DOUBLES

Quarter-finals

Sandley/Gordon b Cooke/Billington 19, 17; Eckersley/Grundy b Billington/Shaw 8, 11; Mason/Sainsbury b Wells/Parker 12, 19; Andrew/Elliot b Scowcroft/Holt 17, 11.

Semi-finals

Sandley/Gordon b Eckersley/Grundy 18, 15; Andrew/Elliot b Mason/Sainsbury 17, -13, 15.

Final

Andrew/Elliot b Sandley/Gordon 19, 15.

VETERAN MENS SINGLES

Quarter-finals

Ralph Gunnion (Wa) b David Seahelme (He) 17, 14; Maurice Billington (Dy) b Brian Edlingotn -16, 9, 13; David Walmsley (Y) b Roy Frankland (La) 9, 15; Derek Schofield (La) b Brian Allison (Li) -19, 14, 12.

Semi-finals

Gunnion b Billington -15, 19, 15; Schofield b Walmsley 13, -18, 13.

Final

Gunnion b Schofield 18, 14.

VETERAN WOMENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Doreen Schofield (La) b Janet Hunt (Wo) 18, 12; Lynda Reid (Wo) b Sue Allison (Li) 7, 4.

Final

Schofield b Reid 9, 9.

Witt — nursing an ambition

Karen Witt, the 1985 Commonwealth champion, has decided to quit table tennis at the end of this season. Starting in September, she begins a 3-year Registered General Nursing course at Westminster College Hospital, London.

Now 25, she began playing table tennis at 11 for Aldrynton Primary School and, under the eye of coach Peter Charters, soon collected a haul of national titles including the Closed in 1983.

Table Tennis News spoke to the former champion at Oldham after she had played her last singles in the national championships - losing 20-22 in the fifth game of a tense quarter-final with the eventual winner Joy Grundy.

"Even though it was "deuce" in the fifth, I wasn't playing well enough to win it", she acknowledged with typical frankness. "I was concentrating very hard but was really grovelling to win the points".

"At the moment, I think I'm going to miss it", she said. "I really enjoy the competitive side of it all".

"I've enjoyed it a lot", she said reflecting. "The victories and the friendships. And I can remember the trip to China really well".

"I just wish I had been more successful. It annoys me that I didn't win a Europeans as the top women are very beatable". At one time, Karen made it into the Europe Top 12 - only to be beaten again by a back injury which plagued her playing career.



Witt, in a familiarly competitive mood.

The back had been weakened by a series of operations when Karen was younger. "Perhaps it was spending so much time in hospital that gave me the idea to be a nurse!", she said. "If I hadn't been a player at 18, I would have gone into nursing then".

And one of the most moving things of her retirement was the "testimonial" organised by fellow club and England team mate, Alison Gordon at the

Omega club in Reading where she spent so much time playing and practising. "No one else has ever had a testimonial; Ali had gone to all that trouble and Des, Sky and Alan all came down for it".

She paused ... Any regrets?

"My temper", she said. "And at this precise moment of time, I just feel really upset".

We too, Karen; the pleasure ours ... Good luck!

Book Review

Sports and Leisure Club Management by Andrew Sceats (Macdonald & Evans, £5.95)

This book sets out to help anyone taking on responsibility for organising or running a sports club: 'to provide advice and recommendations to help overcome many of the difficulties which may arise.'

Andrew Sceats brings to his task qualifications and experience as sports administrator, coach and player. His chapter headings give a picture of the range he seeks to cover: Management of a Club; Financial Aspects of a Club; Funding Large Projects; Sports Club Facilities; Sports Clubs and the Law; Coaching, Accidents, Injuries. With little more than two

hundred pages available, it is perhaps not surprising that some topics are sketched only lightly.

There is useful initial concentration on some of the things too many clubs start by doing badly, to their later regret—things like rules and committee structure and running meetings effectively, and of course finance.

Surprisingly, although there are two pages of ideas for fund-raising events ranging from a pie-and-mash night to a car rally, I could find no reference to preparing a set of accounts. Neither 'accounts' nor 'balance sheet' appears in the index. However, for the address of

an insurance organisation mentioned on page 71, I was misdirected to Appendix C. That address, with many others readers might find very useful, is in Appendix E. Appendix C turns out to be a specimen Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet. This specimen might be more enlightening with footnotes explaining some of the entries. I wonder whether those who know enough to understand it without such help really need to have it at all.

The illustrations break up the text but are generally disappointing. The picture of first-

aid goods adds nothing to the list on the facing page. The diagram of a clubhouse layout lacks dimensions and is not to scale, but seems to have unnecessarily extensive corridors, an awkward journey between kitchen and restaurant area through hall and lounge, and little natural light to the main hall.

Despite its limitations, someone starting off with enthusiasm but little knowledge and prepared to delve will find many useful pointers, and valuable signposts identifying where more detailed and specialist help on particular problems might be found.

EGW

Matt a favourite in Austria

Matthew Syed, from Reading, was a favourite with the crowd at the Europe Junior Top 12 in Modling during early January, *Rudolf Sporrer reports*. His attractive style kept the spectators entertained as the best of Europe's youth battled to get through the Syed defence.

Matthew, at 15, having received his invitation because of his performance in last year's European cadet championships, was in superb form to finish tenth from 12.

His four victories in the gruelling round-robin tournament included wins over Tomas von Scheele (SWE), Petr Javurek (TCH), Frank Boute (HOL) and Manfred Gsodam (AUT).

Eastern-bloc countries dom-

inated the girls event won by Csilla Batorfi of Hungary. Vladimir Marinkevitch of the Soviet Union captured the boys title, though only just beat Matthew in the third round after trailing 1-0 and 17-11.



Crowd favourite Matthew Syed

Final Positions

Boys

		W	L	Girls		W	L
1	Marinkevich (URS)	9	2	1	Batorfi (HUN)	11	0
2	Roskopf (FRG)	9	2	2	Timina (URS)	9	2
3	Saive (BEL)	8	3	3	Badescu (ROM)	9	2
4	Gatien (FRA)	7	4	4	Kasalova (TCH)	7	4
5	Andersson (SWE)	6	5	5	Lohr (ROM)	6	5
6	von Scheele (SWE)	6	5	6	Nagy (HUN)	5	6
7	Javurek (TCH)	5	6	7	Nolten (FRG)	5	6
8	Mazunov (URS)	5	6	8	Komrakova (URS)	5	6
9	Grman (TCH)	4	7	9	Davidkova (TCH)	3	8
10	Syed (ENG)	4	7	10	Ciosu (ROM)	3	8
11	Boute (HOL)	3	8	11	Böhning (FRG)	3	8
12	Gsodam (AUT)	0	11	12	Zillner (AUT)	0	11

Boys

Group A

First round
Jean-Michel Saive (BEL) b Jean-Philippe Gatien (FRA) 18, 16;
Petr Javurek (TCH) b Milan Grman (TCH) -11, 16, 14;
Frank Boute (HOL) b Manfred Gsodam (AUT) 18, 12.

Second round

Gatien b Gsodam 19, 9; Javurek b Boute -20, 10, 15; Saive b Grman 20, 19.

Third round

Gatien b Grman -18, 20, 15; Saive b Boute 9, 17; Javurek b Gsodam 14, 12.

Fourth round

Gatien b Javurek -8, 16, 19; Saive b Gsodam 13, 15; Grman b Boute 13, -19, 15.

Fifth round

Gatien b Boute 12, -20, 16; Grman b Gsodam 6, 10; Saive b Javurek -19, 25, 17.

Sixth round

Saive b Syed -19, 15, 8; Gatien b von Scheele -11, 19; Javurek b Mazunov 13, 15; Roskopf b Grman -12, 13, 15; Boute b Andersson -17, 21, 18; Marinkevitch b Gsodam 13, 8.

Seventh round

Gatien b Syed 21, 16; Mazunov b Saive -11, 19, 18; von Scheele b Javurek 14, 4; Andersson b Grman 16, 19; Marinkevitch b Boute -13, 12, 18; Roskopf b Gsodam 15, 13.

Eighth round

Syed b Javurek -18, 17, 17; Andersson b Gsodam 20, 13; Gatien b Mazunov -11, 17, 16; von Scheele b Saive -11, 18, 10; Marinkevitch b Grman 15, -16, 21; Roskopf b Boute 18, 22.

Ninth round

Saive b Andersson 18, -15, 12; Marinkevitch b Gatien -14, 15, 16; Roskopf b Javurek 17, -18, 17; Grman b Syed 21, 11; Boute b von Scheele -10, 17, 15; Mazunov b Gsodam 21, 7.

Tenth round

von Scheele b Gsodam 14, 12; Syed b Boute 18, 18; Grman b Mazunov 19, 7; Marinkevitch b Javurek 20, -16, 20; Andersson b Gatien 15, 13; Roskopf b Saive -13, 16, 14.

Eleventh round

Javurek b Andersson 16, 15; Roskopf b Gatien 17, 26; Saive b Marinkevitch 17, -13; 20; von Scheele b Grman 19, 19; Mazunov b Boute -15, 10, 11; Syed b Gsodam 15, 19.

Group B

First round

Jörg Roskopf (FRG) b Matthew Syed (ENG) 12, 21;
Vladimir Marinkevitch (URS) b Dmitrij Mazunov (URS) -16, 12, 20;
Mats Andersson (SWE) b Tomas von Scheele (SWE) -17, 12, 14;

Second round

Syed b von Scheele -16, 15, 8; Andersson b Mazunov 7, 15; Marinkevitch b Roskopf 18, 16.

Third round

Marinkevitch b Syed -18, 20, 18; Roskopf b Andersson 16, 24; von Scheele b Mazunov 24, 15.

Fourth round

Mazunov b Syed -20, 11, 9; Roskopf b von Scheele 17, 21; Marinkevitch b Andersson 19, 20.

Fifth round

Andersson b Syed 12, -14, 11; von Scheele b Marinkevitch -13, 14, 14; Mazunov b Roskopf 19, -16, 17.

Girls

Group A

First round

Csilla Batorfi (HUN) b Krisztina Nagy (HUN) 18, 14; Katja Nolten (FRG) b Ilke Böhning (FRG) 16, 19; Elena Timina (URS) b Michaela Zillner (AUT) 18, 17.

Second round

Nagy b Zillner 18, 22; Timina b Böhning 9, 18; Batorfi b Nolten -17, 19, 22.

Third round

Nagy b Nolten 24, 17; Batorfi b Timina 11, 18; Böhning b Zillner 17, 19.

Fourth round

Böhning b Nagy, 14, 17; Batorfi b Zillner 17, 16; Timina b Nolten 18, 15.

Fifth round

Timina b Nagy 6, -15, 14; Nolten b Zillner 9, 16; Batorfi b Böhning 6, 14.

Sixth round

Batorfi b Davidkova 17, 8; Komrakova b Timina 19, -19, 19; Böhning b Ciosu -18, 16, 18; Nolten b Kasalova 17, -17, 16; Lohr b Nagy 13, -20, 17; Badescu b Zillner 12, 9.

Seventh round

Komrakova b Böhning 18, -19, 20; Timina b Davidkova 17, 18; Batorfi b Ciosu 12, 10; Nolten b Lohr 18, -17, 8; Badescu b Nagy 9, 18; Kasalova b Zillner 15, 9.

Eighth round

Timina b Ciosu 10, -14, 17; Batorfi b Komrakova 10, -18, 16; Davidkova b Böhning -17, 11, 12; Badescu b Nolten 19, 14; Lohr b Zillner 16, 16; Kasalova b Nagy 11, -12, 14.

Ninth round

Batorfi b Lohr 15, 22; Timina b Badescu 12, 21; Kasalova b Böhning 16, 18; Ciosu b Zillner 11, -15, 16; Davidkova b Nolten 16, 19; Nagy b Komrakova 18, -19, 16.

Tenth round

Komrakova b Zillner 17, 18; Nagy b Davidkova 18, 15; Ciosu b Nolten 16, 19; Badescu b Böhning 10, 19; Timina b Lohr 13, 9; Batorfi b Kasalova 20, 19.

Eleventh round

Lohr b Badescu -15, 18, 15; Timina b Kasalova 15, 16; Batorfi b Badescu 18, 9; Nolten b Komrakova 15, 15; Nagy b Ciosu -15, 12, 19; Davidkova b Zillner 16, 13.

Rest for Waldner denies Douglas the crown

Rob Oldfield

"It's the best that Des has played in my two years as national trainer", said Donald Parker. A masterly understatement - Douglas had just finished second in the Europe Top 12 at Sodertalje, Sweden over the weekend between 31st January and 2nd February.

"It was the first time in fourteen years that two men had met with 10 wins each in the final round", continued Parker. "And the first time that winning ten sets has failed to bring home the title".

At the end, the crucial eleventh win eluded Douglas as he squared up to the home hero Jan-Ove Waldner. From 17-11 in the first, he lost 19-21, and a failure in the second 21-23 after

two game points at 20-18 cost him final victory despite a third game 21-8 win.

The form of the England No. 1, after a season of little international play and no regular competition in the German Bundesliga, had been publicly doubted. It made the results all the more remarkable and rivalled his previous best-ever performance at the 1978 European Championships in Duisberg when he reached the semi-final of the singles having been undefeated throughout the team event.

At the end of Day 1, Douglas already had four sets to his credit - beginning with a 3-0 win over England colleague Carl Prean after Prean served off a game point in the first. Waldner was concerned with dispatching

his fellow Swedes while Andrzej Grubba was in trouble as he went off to hospital with a suspected ulcer.

"Grubba had been holding his stomach on the first day", said Parker. "But he came out fighting like a dog on the second to play Des in the first matches of the day".

A magnificent match - 3-2 to Douglas - it was crowned by the sportsmanship of the fifth when a disputed point at 18-14 went in the Pole's favour. Grubba hit the next ball into the floor and play resumed at 19-15.

Grubba out

Two rounds later Grubba was out of the tournament and his withdrawal turned out to be a blow for the Douglas fortunes.

Douglas, seven wins behind him, faced four Swedes in succession on the final day, looking for a showdown with Waldner. At 9.30 on the Sunday morning, it was Jorgen Persson's turn.

Persson, 2-1 up, looked across to see Waldner trailing by the same score to Mazunov who, the previous week, had reached the final of the Triumph Adler English Open at Brighton. But both Douglas and Waldner

escaped at deuce in the fifth.

Next it was Carlsson. 3-0, no trouble. Erik Lindh, however, then in third place, was a different proposition altogether.

Again trailing 1-2, again the Douglas reserved pulled him through in a match lasting an hour and a quarter. But Waldner, had enjoyed the benefit of a round's rest due to the absence of Grubba.

The break proved crucial as Douglas, with his first real chance of the prestigious Top 12 title, snatched just 15 minutes to prepare himself for the final encounter.



A somewhat wistful Douglas shares the rostrum with the winner Waldner and third-placed Lindh. photo by Lasse Hedberg, Pressens Bild, Stockholm.

Final Positions

Men		W	L	Women		W	L
1	Waldner (SWE)	11	0	1	Bulatova (URS)	9	2
2	Douglas (ENG)	10	1	2	Nemes (FRG)	9	2
3	Lindh (SWE)	8	3	3	Guergueltecheva (BUL)	8	3
4	Carlsson (SWE)	7	4	4	Batinic (YUG)	7	4
5	Kucharski (POL)	6	5	5	Vriesekoop (HOL)	7	4
6	Persson (SWE)	6	5	6	Alboiu (ROM)	5	6
7	Mazunov (URS)	5	6	7	Batorfi (HUN)	5	6
8	Grubba (POL)	4	7	8	Hrachova (TCH)	5	6
9	Klampar (HUN)	4	7	9	Olah (HUN)	4	7
10	Pansky (TCH)	2	9	10	Kloppenber (HOL)	3	8
11	Prean (ENG)	2	9	11	Urban (HUN)	3	8
12	Secretin (FRA)	1	10	12	Perkucin (YUG)	1	10

Men

First round

Andrei Mazunov (URS) b Tibor Klampar (HUN) 19, -19, -15, 13, 12;
Andrzej Grubba (POL) b Leszek Kucharski (POL) 16, 18, -15, 15;
Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE) b Jorgen Persson (SWE) -13, 21, 6, -20, 17;
Desmond Douglas (ENG) b Carl Prean (ENG) 22, 17, 16;
Jacques Secretin (FRA) b Jindrich Pansky (TCH) 19, 19, 13;
Ulf Carlsson (SWE) b Erik Lindh (SWE) 17, 13, -10, 7.

Second round

Douglas b Mazunov 8, 18, -14, 12; Persson b Pansky 9, 13, 17; Kucharski b Klampar 18, 17, 19; Lindh b Secretin -17, 16, 16, -17, 15; Grubba b Prean 18, 16, -14, 10; Waldner b Carlsson -18, 19, 9, 14.

Third round

Mazunov b Grubba 19, -13, 19, 15; Waldner b Lindh 17, -15, 19, 19; Kucharski b Prean -9, 15, 19, -19, 9; Douglas b Klampar 17, -20, 16, 21; Carlsson b Pansky 20, 9, 16; Persson b Secretin 16, 16, 15.

Fourth round

Douglas b Kucharski -119, 18, 18, 16; Prean b Mazunov 14, -9, -23, 18, 12; Carlsson b Secretin 13, 18, 22; Waldner b Pansky -19, 16, 11, 18; Grubba b Klampar 24, 9, 21; Lindh b Persson 19, 9, 21.

Fifth round

Waldner b Secretin 15, 20, 10; Persson b Carlsson 13, -20, 15, -15, 9; Douglas b Grubba 14, 20, -22, -13, 16; Kucharski b Mazunov 16, 11, -15, -15, 15; Klampar b Prean -21, 19, 13, 18; Lindh b Pansky 10, 13, 13.

Sixth round

Douglas b Pansky 18, 9, 14; Kucharski b Persson 16, 15, -8, -15, 16; Grubba b Secretin 14, 13, 18; Lindh b Klampar 18, -16, -14, 18, 13; Carlsson b Mazunov 12, 9, 16; Waldner b Prean 26, 17, -17, -19, 7.

Seventh round

Kucharski b Pansky 8, -5, 22, 16; Persson b Grubba 16, -14, 18, -13, 12; Carlsson b Prean 8, 17, 13; Douglas b Secretin 9, 11, 15; Lindh b Mazunov 16, 18, 11; Waldner b Klampar 16, 18, -17, 11.
Grubba withdraws - all unplayed sets considered as 3-1 walk-overs, 21-15 in each game.

Eighth round

Douglas b Persson 19, -16, -14, 19, 21; Prean b Secretin 12, 23, 14; Lindh b Kucharski -12, 18, 17, -19, 9; Klampar b Pansky 19, -19, 12, 13; Waldner b Mazunov -16, 12, -17, 16, 20.

Ninth round

Waldner b Kucharski 10, 19, 17; Mazunov b Secretin -8, 14, -14, 13, 13; Lindh b Prean 25, 19, 12; Persson b Klampar 12, -13, 10, 17; Douglas b Carlsson 11, 15, 8.

Tenth round

Kucharski b Secretin 16, 15, -16, 9; Douglas b Lindh -16, 18, -18, 16, 18; Persson b Prean 12, 14, -22, 18; Klampar b Carlsson 21, 10, 17; Mazunov b Pansky 10, 10, 6.

Eleventh round

Carlsson b Kucharski 9, -14, 18, 20; Mazunov b Persson 10, 20, 16; Klampar b Secretin 12, 19, 14; P b Prean 19, 14, 16; Waldner b Douglas 19, 21, -8, 15.

Women

First round

Edit Urban (HUN) b Zsuzsa Olah (HUN) 17, 19;
Olga Nemes (FRG) b Csilla Batorfi (HUN) 14, 13;
Daniella Guergueltecheva (BUL) b Maria Alboiu (ROM) 18, 19;
Fluira Bulatova (URS) b Marie Hrachova (TCH) 15, -18, 16;
Bettine Vriesekoop (HOL) b Mirjam Kloppenberg (HOL) 12, 21;
Branka Batinic (YUG) b Gordan Perkucin (YUG) -15, 18, 14.

Second round

Nemes b Guergueltecheva 16, 12; Alboiu b Urban -17, 17, 20; Hrachova b Kloppenberg 13, 18; Bulatova b Perkucin -18, 12, 19; Olah b Batorfi 3, -16, 19; Batinic b Vriesekoop 16, 19.

Third round

Vriesekoop b Perkucin 20, 11; Guergueltecheva b Olah 11, -13, 17; Urban b Batorfi 19, 6; Nemes b Alboiu 21, 13; Hrachova b Batinic 11, 12; Bulatova b Kloppenberg -17, 13, 15.

Fourth round

Hrachova b Perkucin 8, 11; Bulatova b Vriesekoop 17, -12, 10; Olah b Alboiu 20, 15; Batinic b Kloppenberg 14, 21; Nemes b Urban 14, 16; Batorfi b Guergueltecheva 12, 17.

Fifth round

Alboiu b Batorfi -13, 16, 18; Vriesekoop b Hrachova -20, 17, 16; Bulatova b Batinic 13, 14; Guergueltecheva b Urban 14, 12; Kloppenberg b Perkucin 19, 13; Nemes b Olah 18, 18.

Sixth round

Guergueltecheva b Kloppenberg -19, 20, 19; Vriesekoop b Urban 21, -13, 17; Batorfi b Bulatova 11, 15; Alboiu b Hrachova -15, 16, 5; Batinic b Olah -14, 19, 11; Nemes b Perkucin 11, 16.

Seventh round

Batinic b Batorfi 14, -16, 19; Nemes b Kloppenberg 12, 9; Hrachova b Olah -17, 15, 12; Perkucin b Urban -20, 16, 12; Guergueltecheva b Vriesekoop -22, 18, 19; Bulatova b Alboiu 16, 11.

Eighth round

Batorfi b Kloppenberg -18, 17, 13; Guergueltecheva b Batinic 17, 17; Alboiu b Perkucin -13, 11, 10; Bulatova b Olah -16, 18, 22; Hrachova b Urban 18, 10; Vriesekoop b Nemes 16, 13.

Ninth round

Nemes b Batinic 12, 12; Guergueltecheva b Perkucin -18, 9, 20; Kloppenberg b Olah 21, -12, 19; Bulatova b Urban 22, 18; Batorfi b Hrachova 24, 16; Vriesekoop b Alboiu -9, 21, 12.

Tenth round

Nemes b Hrachova 14, 16; Kloppenberg b Urban -11, 18, 17; Olah b Perkucin -14, 16, 10; Bulatova b Guergueltecheva 14, 8; Batinic b Alboiu 11, 15; Vriesekoop b Batorfi 20, -17, 20.

Eleventh round

Batorfi b Perkucin 14, -18, 12; Guergueltecheva b Hrachova 15, 11; Batinic b Urban -17, 18, 20; Olah b Vriesekoop 17, 13; Alboiu b Kloppenberg 18, 14; Bulatova b Nemes 19, 10.

Historic Meeting in Rome

by George Yates

The first-ever confrontation of the top players from Europe and Asia took place in the Palazzetto Dello Sport, Rome on Tuesday 7th January 1986.

It took the form of team events involving twelve men and nine women from each continent—split into teams of three with no more than two players from any one country allocated to one team.

Asia's No 1 team was spearheaded by the reigning world champion Jiang Jialiang of China, backed by his compatriot and World No 2, Chen Longcan and Hideo Goto of Japan. Against them were Andrzej Grubba of Poland and Sweden's Jan-Ove Waldner and Mikael Appelgren.

Asia's top womens team comprised Geng Lijuan and Dai Lili of China with Kiyomi Ishida of Japan against Bettine Vriesekoop of the Netherlands. Marie Hrachova of Czechoslovakia and Olga Nemes of the Federal Republic of Germany.

Playing the first to five sets, Europe's No 1 mens team astonishingly beat Asia's No 1 team 5-1 with Waldner Europe's only loser to Chen Longcan. Both Grubba and Appelgren accounted for Jiang Jialiang!

Japan's Ishida yielded three sets in the top womens match with Hrachova also beating Dai Lili in a 5-4 win for Asia.

Another 5-4 result in Asia's favour occurred in the mens No 2 team meeting with Jacques Secretin of France winning two and Erik Lindh of Sweden and Leszek Kucharski of Poland one each against Kim Song Hui and Chu Jong Chol of North Korea with Teng Yi of China. Also in Asia's favour was the 5-4 result of the womens No 2 teams.

In this latter encounter Hungary's Csilla Batorfi, winner of the Europe Junior Top 12, brought off a magnificent treble in beating Li Bun Hui and Cho Jonh Hui of North Korea as well as Jiao Zhimin of China!

Overall, in the mens section Europe came out top 16-13 whilst Asia's women triumphed 13-11. The host country's Massimo Costantini, playing for Europe IV, brought the house down in typical Italian style with his win over Vong Iu Veng of Hong Kong when Europe IV beat Asia IV 5-2.

Leaving Rome on the morning of 8th January the whole party transferred to the second set of team matches the following day at the

Valkencourt Club in Valkenswaard, Holland. Here, once again, Europe's men triumphed overall 20-11 and Asia's women 15-7.

In the top mens matches in which Europe I played Asia II and Europe II played Asia I, Europe won both by 5-1 and 5-3 margins with Lindh, having beaten Teng Yi in Rome, adding the scalps of Jiang Jialiang and Chen Longcan. Some treble!

Henk van Spanje was the host country's representative at Valkenswaard but, unlike Costantini in Italy, failed to record a win. Young Batorfi also tasted defeat when beaten by Dai Lili and Geng Lijuan.

On Friday morning, 10th January, the teams and officials were on to Paris. A prolonged journey in appalling weather conditions followed by a quick lunch and a reception hardly provided a build up for the evening's group matches in the individual events!

However, after a last minute call-up for Patrick Renverse and young Jean-Phillipe Gatien to take the places of Waldner—departed for a cup match in Germany—and Appelgren, who had turned his ankle in Holland and had to return to Sweden, play got under way in front of a crowd of some 2,000.



Constantini (ITL) — "brought the house down"

Mens team IN ROME

Europe I 5 Asia I

Appelgren b Chen Longcan -16, 18, 14; Waldner b Goto -14, 14, 15; Grubba b Jiang Jialiang 18, 16; Waldner 1st Chen -27, -20; Appelgren b Jiang -12, 20, 18; Grubba b Goto 15, 14.

Europe II 4 Asia II 5

Kucharski b Chu Jong Chol 13, 17; Lindh 1st Kim Song Hui -10, -16, -19; Secretin 1st Teng Yi -18, -16; Lindh 1st Chu 18, -19, -10; Kucharski 1st Teng -10, -10; Secretin b Kim 17, -17, 15; Lindh b Teng 19, 15; Secretin b Chu 12, -19, 16; Kucharski 1st Kim 16, -8, -19.

Europe III 2 Asia III 5

Pansky 1st Yoon Nam Kyu -18, -17; Surbek 1st Miyazaki -19, -14; Orlovski 1st Kim Ki Taek -16, -17; Pansky b Miyazaki 18, 19; Surbek 1st Kim 23, -18, -19; Orlovski b Yoon 16, 14; Pansky 1st Kim -13, 18, -19.

Europe IV 5 Asia IV 2

Mazunov b He Zhiwen -10, 19, 21; Klampar b Vong Iu Veng 9, 9; Costantini 1st Chan Kong Wah -22, -11; Klampar b He -11, 17, 14; Mazunov 1st Chan -14, -16; Costantini b Vong 18, 13; Klampar b Chan -16, 14, 16.

RESULT: EUROPE 16 ASIA 13

Womens team

Europe I 5 Asia I 4

Vriesekoop 1st Geng Lijuan 15, -18, -15; Nemes b Ishida 14, 15; Hrachova b Dai Lili -15, 15, 17; Nemes 1st Geng -14, -15; Vriesekoop 1st Dai -12, -12; Hrachova b Ishida 16, 16; Nemes b Dai 13, -15, 19; Hrachova 1st Geng 12, -16, -11; Vriesekoop b Ishida 16, 13.

Europe II 5 Asia II 4

Batorfi b Li Bun Hui 17, -18, 13; Olah b Cho Jong Hui -19, 20, 15; Bulatova 1st Jiao Zhimin 17, -18, -9; Olah 1st Li -16, -10; Bulatova b Cho 15, 19; Batorfi b Jiao -8, 17, 14; Bulatova 1st Li -21, -18; Olah 1st Jiao -20, -15; Batorfi b Cho 14, 11.

Europe III 1 Asia III 5

Perkucin 1st Lee Sun -5, -19; Alboju b Hui So Hung 14, 14; Kloppenburg 1st Hyuan Jung Wha 15, -15, -19; Alboju 1st Lee -11, 19, -16; Perkucin 1st Hyuan -13, -15; Kloppenburg 1st Hui -19, -20.

RESULT: EUROPE 11 ASIA 13

Team Results

Mens team

IN VALKENSWAARD

Europe I 5 ASIA II 1

Waldner b Kim -15, 14, 19; Grubba 1st Chu 14, -15, -12; Appelgren b Teng 16, 18; Grubba b Kim 20, 17; Waldner b Teng -17, 16, 17; Appelgren b Chu 13, -17, 17.

Europe II 5 Asia I 3

Secretin 1st Jiang -14, -11; Kucharski 1st Goto -12, 18, -18; Lindh b Chen 16, -20, 17; Kucharski b Jiang 13, 13; Secretin 1st Chen -10, -17; Lindh b Goto -20, 19, 16; Kucharski b Chen -12, 16, 19; Lindh b Jiang -20, 14, 15.

Europe III 5 Asia IV 4

Pansky 1st He -7, -18; Surbek b Vong 13, 13; Orlovski b Chan 12, 16; Surbek 1st He -17, -11; Pansky 1st Chan -18, -18; Orlovski b Vong 11, 13; Surbek 1st Chan 13, -22, -16; Orlovski b He 11, -15, 19; Pansky b Vong -18, 14, 18.

Europe IV 5 Asia III 3

Henk van Spanjehol 1st Miyazaki -20, -12; Klampar b Yoon 17, -21, 11; Mazunov b Kim -17, 11, 19; Klampar b Miyazaki 18, 16; van Spanje 1st Kim -10, 14, -18; Mazunov b Yoon 17, 17; Klampar 1st Kim -10, -19; Mazunov b Miyazaki -20, 9, 18.

RESULT: EUROPE 20 ASIA 11

Womens team

Europe I 3 Asia II 5

Vriesekoop 1st Jiao -10, -7; Hrachova b Cho -21, 14, 13; Nemes b Li 15, 16; Hrachova 1st Jiao -11, -10; Vriesekoop 1st Li -13, -9; Nemes b Cho 13, 17; Hrachova 1st Li 16, -11, -17; Nemes 1st Jiao -19, -14.

Europe II 3 Asia I 5

Olah 1st Dai -15, -16; Batorfi b Ishida 19, 13; Bulatova b Geng 21, 16; Batorfi 1st Dai 23, -9, -10; Olah 1st Geng -19, -14; Bulatova b Ishida 10, 17; Batorfi 1st Geng -17, 12, -12; Bulatova 1st Dai -19, -16.

Europe III 1 Asia III 5

Kloppenburg 1st Lee -17, -17; Alboju b Hui 9, 12; Perkucin 1st Hyuan -15, -17; Alboju 1st Lee 17, -12, -20; Kloppenburg 1st Hyuan -16, -12; Perkucin 1st Hui 16, -16, -14.

RESULT: EUROPE 7 ASIA 15

COMBINED RESULT

MEN
WOMEN

EUROPE	36	ASIA	24
EUROPE	18	ASIA	28
	54		52

All Press

A view by *ETTA* chairman Tom Blunn

A feature of the traditional fair ground is a circular booth containing about thirty electric bell pushes. A bell is chosen and a central illuminated disc set in motion. Everybody presses their bell believing it will have an effect on where the revolving disc will stop, hoping it will be on their number. The bells, of course, are not wired up and the pressure exerted is wasted. It is just pure luck.

I sometimes wonder whether our own efforts to obtain coverage are properly wired up in order to obtain a satisfactory result. The element of luck seems to be prominent and the *ETTA* is not being endowed with good fortune.

There are all sorts of diversions which detract the sports editor's

attention away from table tennis and bad news is always more acceptable than good news.

I watched the television coverage of BBC Sportsman of the Year and was amazed to see the number of champions we had in the UK from various sports. I could not recognise the names of some of them and certainly had not realised that most of them were world champions at their own particular sport.

Had they been banned for some misdemeanor I suspect I would have read about it. The days of reporting an event for the joy of describing the skills and the achievements are now too few — where is the modern Neville Cardus?

Playing in eight groups of three, fallers of distinction for the men were Jiang, Lindh (lost to Jindrich Pansky), Miyazaki, He and Teng. Out of the four Chinese only Chen Longcan got through to the quarters to represent Asia.

These were played on the Saturday evening in front of an astonishing 3,500 spectators thanks to the publicity generated by the Ile de France League on behalf of the French Association. But some 6,000 spectators were required to break even on the event.

Still, the paying public got their money's worth especially on the Friday evening when Secretin got

through, beating Vong and Kim. And Gatien set the place alight with a 2-1 win over Teng.

It was Pansky who eliminated Secretin, the idol of France, in the quarters and he went on to dismiss Kucharski in the semis. But he was no match at the final hurdle when opposed by the complete player Grubba who had previously beaten Goto and Chen Longcan, both 2-straight.

Apart from Vriesekoop no European woman reached the semis in the womens event with Jiao beating Dai in an all-Asian final.

Mens singles

PARIS
Group 1 Li Song Hui b Jiang Jialiang 21, -18, 16; b Surbek 18, 10; Jiang Jialiang b Surbek 13, 11.

Group 2 Grubba b Birocheau 18, 14; b Chan Kong Wah 18, -13, 16. Birocheau b Chan Kong Wah 13, 20.

Group 3 Chen Longcan b Yoon Nam Kyu 18, 15; b Orlovski -11, 17, 21. Yoon Nam Kyu b Orlovski -12, 15, 20.

Group 4 Pansky b Lindh 13, -11, 18; b Hi Zhiwen -13, 10, 15. Lindh b Hi Zhiwen 15, 11.

Group 5 Secretin b Vong Lu Veng 17, 17; b Kim Ki Taek 23, -10, 17. Kim Ki Taek b Vong Lu Veng 14, 15.

Group 6 Klampar b Renverse 17, 19; b Chu Jong Chol 16, 8. Renverse b Chu Jong Chol 14, 18.

Group 7 Goto b Gatien 14, 10; Teng Yi b Goto 13, -18, 15; Gatien b Teng Yi -14, 15, 18.

Group 8 Kucharski b Mazunov 18, 22; Mazunov b Miyazaki -17, 7, 13; Miyazaki b Kucharski 12, -16, 16.

EUROPE 14 ASIA 10

Quarter-finals:
Kucharski b Li 17, 21; Pansky b Secretin 16, 13; Chen b Klampar 17, 21; Grubba b Goto 9, 20.

Semi-finals:
Pansky b Kucharski 17, -21, 17; Grubba b Chen 18, 16.

Final:
Grubba b Pansky 13, 14.
EUROPE 20 ASIA 11

Womens singles

PARIS
Group 1 Geng b Hui 12, 14; b Perkucin 11, 14. Hui b Perkucin -16, 8, 15.

Group 2 Vriesekoop b Alboiu 14, 18; b Ishida 13, 11. Alboiu b Ishida 20, 11.

Group 3 Dai b Lee 21, -10, 24; b Bulatova 15, 12. Bulatova b Lee 17, 14.

Group 4 Hrachova b Nadine Daviaud (Fra) 13, 12; b Cho 15, 15. Cho b Daviaud 10, 9.

Group 5 Jiao b Hyuan 14, 17; b Olah 11, -9, 11. Hyuan b Olah 9, -21, 13.

Group 6 Nemes b Batorfi 23, 18; b Li 14, 19. Li b Batorfi 19, 16.

EUROPE 8 ASIA 10

Quarter-finals:
Geng and Vriesekoop byes; Jiao b Hrachova 22, 15; Dai b Nemes 15, 16.

Semi-finals:
Jiao b Geng 13, 17; Dai b Vriesekoop 14, 11.

Final:
Jiao b Dai 13, 18.

EUROPE 8 ASIA 15

OVERALL
EUROPE 20+8=28 ASIA 11+15=26

FAIR PLAY TROPHY
Chan Longcan for Asia and Andrzej Grubba for Europe.

So, do we now talk to the editors? We do when we can get a foot in the door and one day we will convince a current editor that table tennis is very different from the concept he has at present. Then we will start on the next editor. I have an idea for going one better and trying to make contact with and converting one or two proprietors.

I believe our members would welcome a results service in preference to coverage of an isolated event. This is what we are trying to achieve but it can be done only with the co-operation of the match officials involved.

We have made contact now with Ceefax and Oracle for the Halex National League results but it is up to the match officials to ensure that the results are given to the *ETTA* Press Officer in good time. The same applies to the County Championship results. Both these events are allocated dates in the calendar which is provided for teletext and the newspapers and changes in dates do not help our cause. We must provide a regular and reliable service if we hope to obtain the best publicity.

The results of international matches and tournaments abroad provide greater problems. The late finishes prevent many results from appearing on the following morning. Tournaments with the finals on Sunday have to compete with the football stories and all other weekend sport on Monday morning.

These difficulties are recognised but will not prevent us from trying alternative ways of getting publicity. We issue press notices on a very large distribution in advance of an event and provide stories whenever we can.

Nevertheless, it is no use denying that the publicity we receive does not satisfy us. It is by no means negligible as we are sometimes led to believe but there is plenty of room for improvement. Every opportunity will be taken to effect an improvement in the future.

Table tennis cannot claim to be a major sport, though a recent survey by the Sports Council put it in the number six position of popularity in the UK, and this is higher than anywhere else in Europe. The press facilities that the *ETTA* provide for the national press reporters are far better than those provided by some of the larger sports.

The reporters tell us this and they do their best to send as much copy in as possible. It is in their interests to try to get as much published as possible as they benefit financially but the final decision as to what is published is in the hands of the Sports Editors and sub-editors.

There are many and varied circumstances influencing the editors' decisions and in some cases a personal choice may be the deciding factor. I can remember Bill Hicks and Harold Evans who were table tennis players as well as editors on a national newspaper. There have been others.

Ex-Tournament Equipment in excellent condition

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and also for details of our hire service.

Stiga sign £100,000 deal

Security for senior grand prix and Top 12 announced

Stiga, the Swedish table tennis equipment and clothing manufacturer, have agreed a sponsorship of £100,000 between the ETTA and their UK distributors, Rodan Sports.

The three-year deal, negotiated with the support of Swedish Table Tennis AB, establishes a senior Grand Prix for the first time in this country - based upon five 3-Star tournaments and a grand Final at the end of the season.

In addition, the national Top 12 competition introduced at the beginning of this season is to receive a cash injection linked with radical changes to improve its spectator appeal.

Up to 11

At the exciting round-robin event in Milton Keynes, England's leading men and women fought out an exhausting competitive schedule with blue tables, red nets, orange balls and relaxed clothing regulations.

Now, in the most radical move yet seen in English table tennis, games at the Stiga National Top 12 in October 1986 are to be played up to eleven points instead of the traditional twenty-one.

"We believe that this will create more crisis points, adding to the atmosphere of the event and the enjoyment of spectators", said ETTA chairman Tom Blunn at the launch of the new sponsorships.

Player reaction to the seven games of 11 points idea has been mixed, with general comments in favour. England trainer

Donald Parker has been preparing the top players for the radical changes by competitions at training camp based upon the 11 points concept.

"We hope that this scoring change will make the matches punchy and fast", said Simon Hobson, Rodan's Sales and Marketing manager. "With this deliberate attempt to liven up the game, it is also hoped to encourage television interest in the sport".

Grand Prix

The competitive scene in England has been revolutionised by the massive Stiga investment. Grand Prix points at five Stiga 3-Star tournaments, beginning with the Stiga Yorkshire & Humberside in October 1986, will allow eight men and women to compete at the Grand Prix Final in May 1987.

Each victory in the 3-Star championships will gain points for the players - one per win in group matches to 32 for the champion. A minimum participation in two tournaments will be necessary but the points will only be for English players even though many of the events are expected to attract overseas competitors.

Stiga, who already sponsor 25 leading players in England, are to encourage their contracted players in other countries to enter the events. "This will add a further dimension to the Grand Prix", said ETTA chairman Blunn, "and give our own players more frequent opportunities to meet their foreign counterparts".

"We are delighted to welcome Stiga as a major sponsor of the English Table Tennis Association over the next three years", he added.

PING PONG POSERS

The table tennis teasers of January's Table Tennis News proved a great hit with readers, attracting the biggest and most considered answers ever for a table tennis competition.

"The most challenging issue since I first became a subscriber" wrote Dr Peter Avery of the Department of Mathematics at Keele University.

Readers will be reassured to know in these hard-pressed academic times that Dr Avery completed all the teasers correctly as did most of the entrants. And, ironically, by the most definitely non-mathematical method of selection, was the first out of the hat for the free subscription.

Our congratulations to all those that sent in the right answers and thanks to the problem setter. Our commiserations to Alan Duke of Swindon who attempted a practical solution to Des Douglas' service practice routine and ended with only four of his eighteen balls in the Nittaku boxes!

Answers are below with some brief notes. The editor will definitely not enter into any correspondence!

1. Virtually all saw the answers to the **Vital Statistics** produced by the cub reporter from the final league table:

	B	C	D	E
A	3-2	3-1	3-0	3-0
B		3-0	3-0	3-0
C			2-3	3-0
D				2-3

2 and 3. In Charles' **One-upmanship** battle over Alan and Denis, ratios caught a number out but all found the score of 23-25, 22-20, 21-16 when he played Denis.

His score against Alan, however, was rather more dif-

ficult with a variety of combinations. Ralph Green of Nottingham rejected 576-574, 600-602, 625-623 on the very reasonable basis that Charles said the match had been played "last night" and with those scores it still would not have been finished. In any case, the ratios were not right!

The most popular and feasible answer was 30-32, 26-24, 21-18; just three points separating the two players, Charles on 77 points, and a 3:4 ratio of Alan's game scores between 3rd:2nd and 2nd:1st.

4 and 5. The **Jets and Sharks** could play in a number of permutations. There were obviously a large number of tournament referees and league secretaries amongst the entrants!

"Beware", warns Peter Avery however, "of attempting similar solutions for a six-a-side event on six table in six sessions. Euler (the non-playing captain of Switzerland at the time) tried it in 1782 and conjectured that no such solution exists. Tarry proved Euler right in 1900!"

Popular solutions, in session order, were:

Table 1 2 3

AvX	BvY	CvZ
CvY	AvZ	BvX
BvZ	CvX	AvY

Table 1 2 3 4

AvW	BvX	CvY	DvZ
CvZ	DvY	AvX	BvW
DvX	CvW	BvZ	AvY
BvY	AvZ	DvW	CvX

(Guidance on this type of problem is given within the ETTA handbook just published - Ed.)

6. **Nittaku boxes** was evidently quite straightforward unless one took the West country approach of Alan Duke! Des was right - there are many solutions, all of the same type.

Table Tennis News liked the one suggested by Ralph Green which allows the server to fill the holes in order using a spiral pattern:

		○	○	○	○
	○		○	○	○
○			○	○	○
○	○	○	○	○	○



ETTA chairman Tom Blunn (left) and Tomas Berner of Stiga complete the formalities of the £100,000 sponsorship.



Ellenborough make steel appeal

Fiona Brown

Reigning premier division champions Thorn EMI Ellenborough have been devastated by the news that their premier division match against current leaders GKN Steelstock Wolverhampton, due to have been played on 2nd February 1986, was officially postponed by the ETTA's National Council. The unprecedented decision was based upon the unavailability of a single player—Desmond Douglas.

At their meeting in January the National Council accepted a recommendation from the National League Committee that GKN Steelstock should be allowed a postponement on the basis that their No 1, Douglas, was involved in the Europe Top 12 and that the clash had been caused by the European Table Tennis Union's decision to bring that event forward in the calendar—a decision beyond the control of neither the club nor the ETTA itself.

Normally, under league regulations, just one player missing would not have justified such a move, as Ellenborough discovered to their peril last season when they were obliged to fulfil their fixture against Ormesby.

The national league committee were under the impression that Ellenborough were not raising any objection to the postponement. However, the Middlesex club have lodged an appeal against the decision.

Whilst others argue, Alan Ransome's Ormesby squad are making a late charge for the premier crown. Ormesby No 1

Alan Cooke seems to be returning to more consistent form whilst Horatio Pintea, Nigel Eckersley and John Broe maintain their support. Although Ellenborough may have lost the chance of retaining their title they could still have a serious part to play in the outcome with matches remaining against the top two teams.

Cardiff in control

Butterfly Cardiff have returned to winning ways consolidating their place at the head of division one and all but destroyed Salford and Dagenham's hopes of a late season raid. Salford No 1, John Hilton, remains optimistic, "We won't give up until the last ball is struck, I came to Salford to help the team into the premier division and that's still our target."

Chan tested

Second division north leaders, Chan Construction, were put to the test when they met Leicester team, Byron STUTE. With new Byron No 1, Richard Jermyn and No 2 Mark Randle in fine form Chan were soon two sets in arrears.

It was not until man of the match Murray Jukes came to the table in the seventh set that the Chan squad were able to relax a little as he outplayed Randle to give his Birmingham side the lead for the first time. The second point came from Richard Tanner with a straight sets win over Ian Randle. The only remaining threat to Chan's promotion hopes is that



Mandy Goodwin — "saved Oldham"
Photo by kind permission of the "Oldham Evening Chronicle"

provided by Byker Newcastle, who are currently involved in an appeal to the national league committee over their scheduled match on 20th April against City of Leeds.

The Byker squad, who have been included in a Newcastle City Council party which travels to China in mid-April on a cultural exchange visit, requested permission to rearrange their final fixture. Like the case cited earlier such a move requires special consideration.

Banker

Mandy Goodwin, a 24 year old bank clerk with Nat West in Oldham, has certainly earned her place in the town's third division north national league team. Mandy stepped in, at short notice, to face

Crusaders Lincoln and promptly saved the day with a final set victory over Jim Brewster which earned her team a 4-4 draw. The match will also be remembered by Crusaders No 1 Matt Shearer, he has lost only four sets all season—all of them against Oldham!

Recovery

Abeng Warriors met little resistance when they overwhelmed Omega Reading 7-1 in the third division, or so you might think. Behind the scoreline lies the tale of a remarkable recovery by Omega No 1 Peter Harris, who fought back from 14-20 in third game to beat Martin Shuttle 22-20, a feat which shows 'where there is life there is hope!'

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Jill Hammersley-Parker Foundation

The Jill Hammersley-Parker Foundation exists to assist leading young players by providing greater opportunities for playing experience at international level. And more members are needed to fund the activities on which England's international future depends.

"I launched the Foundation", the former European champion said, "based on a similar scheme in Sweden — the leading European table tennis country. The ETTA can only afford to pay for a very few youngsters to attend the top events and the Foundation helps other promising young players with international training camps and participation in the major junior championships".

"It is only in this way that England will be able to produce good teams in the future", she says. "Without such a scheme we will continue to produce one or two who are outstanding individual players but no English teams of serious merit".

"A special thank you to all those members who have signed up again", says Jill. "A four-member panel decides how the funds are allocated, meeting every six months".

A cheque for ten pounds allows you to become a member of the Jill Hammersley-Parker Table Tennis Foundation but all contributions are welcome to: The Barn, Common Bank, Dolphinholme, LANCASTER LA2 9AN.

Results

Premier			
Grove	2	GKN Steelstock	6
Grove	3	Thorn EMI Ellenborough	5
South Yorkshire	3	GKN Steelstock	5
Omega II	1	South Yorkshire	7
Thorn EMI Ellenborough	4	South Yorkshire	4
GKN Steelstock	5	Bath Toyota	3
Omega I	2	Ormesby	6

First			
TSP Larkhall	0	West Warwicks/B'ham	8
West Warwicks	3	Butterfly Cardiff	5
Dagenham FC	4	TCB Dolphins	4
Target Gold Salford	8	TCB Dolphins	0
Ormesby II	3	Dagenham FC	5
TCB Dolphins	1	Butterfly Cardiff	7
Airmaster St Neots	5	West Warwicks	3

2nd North			
City of Leeds	3	March	5
Byker Newcastle	6	Unity Bradford	2
Byron STUTE	4	GKN Steelstock II	4
Sincil Lincoln	2	Chan Construction	6
Chan Construction	5	Byron STUTE	3
Unity Bradford	1	Sincil Lincoln	7
GKN Steelstock II	6	Unity Leeds	2
March	2	Byker Newcastle	6

2nd South			
TSP Larkhall	2	Pengeley Torbay	6
Pengeley Gwent	4	Norwich Foxwood	4
Pengeley Gwent	5	Gunnorsbury Triangle	3
Pengeley Torbay	5	Norwich Foxwood	3
EAE Waveney	3	TSO Larkhall	5
Norwich Foxwood	5	EAE Waveney	3
Medway	4	TSP Larkhall	4
Jaques Fareham	3	Pengeley Gwent	5
Gunnorsbury Triangle	2	Pengeley Torbay	6

3rd North			
Vickers Barrow	6	Ormesby III	2
Ormesby IV	2	Byker	6
Kingsbro Insurance	5	South Yorkshire	3
Oldham	4	Crusaders Lincoln	4
Ormesby III	1	Kingsbro Insurance	7
South Yorkshire	2	Oldham	6
Ormesby IV	2	Crusaders Lincoln	6
Byker Newcastle	2	Vickers Barrow	6

3rd South			
Nittaku Ruislip	7	Errey's Print	1
Spicer New Malden	1	Abeng Warriors	7
Errey's Print	8	Deptford Rams	0
Nittaku Ruislip	7	Rejects	1
Ashford	8	Spicer New Malden	0
Abeng Warriors	7	Omega Reading	1

3rd East			
AHW Pioneers	6	Airmaster St Neots	2
Soham	5	Witham	3
Fellows Cranleigh	6	Dagenham FC	2
Playrite Northampton	4	Britannia Deepsure	4
Witham Town FC	4	Playrite Northampton	4
Britannia Deepsure	5	Fellows Cranleigh	3
Dagenham FC	3	AHW Pioneers	5
Airmaster St Neots	6	Soham	2

3rd West			
Duchy Launceston	7	Pengeley Torbay	1
Leominster	6	Jolliffe Poole	2
Global Plymouth	5	Leominster	3
Grove	4	Leicester TTC	4
Chan Construction	5	Jolliffe Poole	3
Leominster	6	Grove	2
Leicester TTC	7	Chan Construction	1
Jolliffe Poole	5	Banda Launceston	3
Pengeley Torbay	1	Global Plymouth	7

Players of the Months

The selections agreed by the national league committee are:

TREVOR BUNN

Trevor Bunn of second division south team EAE Waveney wins the December award for his two outstanding performances against Simon Proffitt and Peter Harry which helped his team achieve a 6-2 victory over Gunnorsbury Triangle.

CHRIS ROGERS

For his excellent victories over top defenders Matthew Syed and Dave Barr South Yorkshire's Chris Rogers receives the January selection as 'Player of the Month'.

League Tables

Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
GKN Steelstock Wolverhampton I	10	7	3	0	50	30	17
Ormesby I	8	4	3	1	39	25	11
Thorn EMI Ellenborough	8	4	3	1	38	26	11
Omega Reading I	8	4	0	4	35	29	8
Bath Toyota	9	2	4	3	37	35	8
Grove I	8	3	2	3	33	31	8
South Yorkshire I	9	1	2	6	26	46	4
Omega Reading II	10	0	3	7	22	58	3

First Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Butterfly Cardiff	9	7	2	0	49	23	16
Target Gold Salford	9	6	1	2	51	21	13
Dagenham FC I	8	5	2	1	42	22	12
Airmaster St Neots I	9	4	1	4	33	39	9
West Warwickshire/Birmingham	8	4	0	4	37	27	8
TCB Dolphins	9	1	4	4	27	45	6
TSP Larkhall I	9	0	3	6	21	51	3
Ormesby II	9	1	1	7	20	52	3

Second Division North	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chan Construction I	9	8	1	0	53	19	17
Byker Newcastle I	9	8	0	1	49	23	16
Sincil Lincoln	9	4	2	3	38	34	10
GKN Steelstock Wolverhampton II	9	3	3	3	37	35	9
Unity Bradford	9	3	3	3	33	39	9
March	9	3	0	6	32	40	6
Byron Roofing 'STUTE'	9	1	2	6	29	43	4
City of Leeds	9	0	1	8	17	55	1

Second Division South	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Pengeley Sports (Banda) Torbay I	8	8	0	0	48	16	16
EAE Waveney	9	5	1	3	40	32	11
TSP Larkhall II	9	3	3	3	37	35	9
Medway	9	3	3	3	35	37	9
Jaques Fareham	9	3	2	4	35	37	8
Norwich Foxwood	9	3	2	4	32	40	8
Pengeley Sports (Banda) Gwent	10	3	1	6	33	47	7
Gunnorsbury Triangle	9	2	0	7	28	44	4

Third Division North	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kingsbro' Insurance Services	9	8	1	0	54	18	17
Oldham	9	5	2	2	48	24	12
South Yorkshire II	9	5	1	3	42	30	11
Crusaders Lincoln	9	4	3	2	40	32	11
Vickers Sports Barrow	9	3	3	3	36	36	9
Ormesby IV	9	3	1	5	32	40	7
Byker Newcastle II	9	2	1	6	28	44	5
Ormesby III	9	0	0	9	8	64	0

Third Division South	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ashford	10	9	0	1	64	16	18
C & L Nittaku Ruislip	10	9	0	1	64	16	18
Rejects	9	6	0	3	44	28	12
Abeng Warriors (Stiga)	9	5	1	3	40	32	11
Deptford Rams	11	3	1	7	31	57	7
Errey's Print '84	9	3	0	6	34	38	6
Omega Reading III	9	2	0	7	17	55	4
Spicer New Malden	9	0	0	9	10	62	0

Third Division East	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
AHW Pioneers	10	8	1	1	49	31	17
Fellows Cranleigh	9	6	1	2	44	28	13
Britannia Deepsure	9	5	2	2	43	29	12
Soham	10	4	1	5	36	44	9
Playrite Northampton	9	2	4	3	34	38	8
Witham Town FC	9	3	2	4	33	39	8
Airmaster St Neots II	9	3	1	5	36	36	7
Dagenham FC II	9	0	0	9	21	51	0

Third Division West	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Global Sports Plymouth	9	8	1	0	55	17	17
Leominster	10	8	0	2	55	25	16
Jolliffe Poole	11	5	1	5	48	40	11
Leicester TTC	9	4	2	3	43	29	10
Grove II	9	3	3	3	36	36	9
Chan Construction II	9	4	0	5	29	43	8
Duchy Windows (Banda) Launceston	9	1	1	7	25	47	3
Pengeley Sports (Banda) Torbay II	10	1	0	9	13	67	2

Middlesex beat off the Lancs challenge

by Doug Moss

The second series of premier division matches were played under good conditions at Oldham Leisure Centre. The series started with Middlesex, Lancashire and Yorkshire all unbeaten ... The climax came when Middlesex and Lancashire met on the Sunday afternoon with both still unbeaten.

Middlesex were well in command. They went into a 3-nil lead and won 6-3 and it gave them their fifth successive premier division championship win. In this series of matches Middlesex was represented by Sarah Sandley, John Souter, David Wells and Mark Mitchell.

It had been evident at Tolworth that the premier division was very competitive. There were so many close finishes with not a wide gap between top and bottom teams. The situation was repeated and over the whole competition 17 of the 28 matches (61%) had 5-4 results.

The Kent and Leicestershire teams, promoted from last season, are due for relegation. Yet 6 of the 7

Kent matches had 5-4 results, even though they did lose 5 of these. The league table shows they finish with the same average as Yorkshire in third place.

Leicestershire also had 5-4 results in four matches and took three sets off the champions when they had their full team. In fairness to Yorkshire, their team won four matches at 5-4—a tribute to their fighting spirit and something I have commented on in regard to other Yorkshire teams in the championships.

No player went through the whole series with an unbeaten record. Best singles performances came from Fiona Elliot (St) and Mandy Sainsbury (Bk) with six out of seven wins. Of the men David Wells (Mi) took the lead with 13 out of 14 wins and his team-mates John Souter and Mark Mitchell each won seven of eight events. Nigel Tyler (Mi) in just three matches in the first series was undefeated.

The Lancashire men did well as a team with Steve Scowcroft and

Nigel Eckersley each getting 11 out of 14 wins and Steve Turner 10 out of 14. In doubles events David Barr and Matthew Syed (Bk) won three of their four matches. Andrew Bellingham and Adrian Dixon (St) kept up their good performance from the first series with five wins in the seven sets—Scowcroft and Eckersley had the same record. In mixed events the most successful pair was Steve Turner and Jean Parker (La) with just one loss in their seven sets.

It shows great promise that four players still in their junior category (three of them still cadets!) played at this level and acquitted themselves well.

Yorkshire played Chris Oldfield in both series and introduced Michael O'Driscoll in the second series. Matthew Syed came in as No 1 for Berkshire this time.

Adrian Dixon (St) deserves a special mention because in this second series he had wins over two well ranked players in Steve Mills (Y) and Steve Turner (La).

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex	7	7	0	43	20	14
Lancashire	7	6	1	46	17	12
Yorkshire	7	4	3	26	37	8
Berkshire	7	3	4	32	31	6
Staffordshire	7	3	4	28	35	6
Surrey	7	3	4	27	36	6
Kent	7	1	6	26	37	2
Leicestershire	7	1	6	24	39	2

The complete results were:

	Berks	Kent	Lancs	Leics	Middx	Staffs	Surrey	Yorks
Berkshire	—	5-4	4-5	6-3	4-5	4-5	4-5	5-4
Kent	4-5	—	1-8	5-4	4-5	4-5	4-5	4-5
Lancashire	5-4	8-1	—	8-1	3-6	7-2	7-2	8-1
Leicester	3-6	4-5	1-8	—	3-6	4-5	5-4	4-5
Middlesex	5-4	5-4	6-3	6-3	—	5-4	8-1	8-1
Staffordshire	5-4	5-4	2-7	5-4	4-5	—	3-6	4-5
Surrey	5-4	5-4	2-7	4-5	1-8	6-3	—	4-5
Yorkshire	4-5	5-4	1-8	5-4	1-8	5-4	5-4	—

Round-up

Results are from earlier matches but the league tables are those currently available.

Senior 2A.

Warwicks. 3 Derbys. 7: Worcs. 2 Lancs. II 8: Cheshire 8 Bucks 2: Cambs. 5 Yorks. II 5: Worcs. 4 Cambs. 6: Lancs. II 3 Cheshire 7: Bucks. 1 Warwicks. 9: Derbys. 7 Yorks. II 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derbyshire	6	6	0	0	40	20	12
Yorkshire II	5	3	1	1	34	16	7
Warwickshire	6	3	0	3	33	27	6
Cheshire	5	3	0	2	29	21	6
Cambridgeshire	6	2	1	3	24	36	5
Lancashire II	5	2	0	3	27	23	4
Worcestershire	5	2	0	3	24	26	4
Buckinghamshire	6	0	0	6	9	51	0

Senior 2B.

Hants. 4 Dorset 6: Middlesex II 10 Essex 0: Sussex 9 Somerset 1: Devon 8 Wiltshire 2: Sussex 6 Middlesex II 4: Somerset 2 Devon 8: Wiltshire 8 Hampshire 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex II	5	4	0	1	38	12	8
Devonshire	4	4	0	0	30	10	8
Sussex	4	3	1	0	26	14	7
Wiltshire	5	2	2	1	26	24	6
Essex	6	2	1	3	21	29	5
Somerset	6	1	0	5	25	35	2
Dorset	5	1	0	4	19	31	2
Hampshire	5	1	0	4	15	35	2

Senior 3A.

Notts. 7 Northumberland II 3: Cheshire II 9 Cumbria 1: Northumberland 17 Durham 3: Lincoln 5 Warwicks. II 5: Cumbria 1 Clwyd 9: Durham 5 Notts. 5: Warwicks. II 5 Cheshire II 5: Northumberland 4 Lincs. 6.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Northumberland I	6	6	0	0	51	9	12
Lincolnshire	7	5	1	1	43	27	11
Cheshire II	6	4	1	1	37	23	9
Warwickshire II	5	3	2	0	35	15	8
Clwyd	6	3	0	3	33	27	6
Nottinghamshire	6	2	1	3	28	32	5
Durham	6	1	1	4	23	37	3
Cumbria	7	1	0	6	15	55	2
Northumberland II	7	0	0	7	15	55	0

Senior 3B.

Cornwall II 3 Avon II 7: Avon 19 Cornwall I 1: Avon 19 Cornwall I 1: Avon II 6 Cornwall I 4: Glamorgan 9 Hereford 1: Dorset II 1 Devon II 9: Avon II 1 Avon I 9: Herefords. 3 Dorset II 7: Devon II 10 Isle of Wight 0: Cornwall I 10 Isle of Wight 0: Cornwall II 10 Isle of Wight 0: Somerset II v Cornwall II—postponed

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Avon I	7	6	1	0	56	14	13
Devon II	5	5	0	0	45	5	10
Cornwall I	7	4	1	2	44	26	9
Dorset II	6	3	1	2	29	31	7
Avon II	7	3	0	4	32	38	6
Glamorgan	5	2	0	3	24	26	4
Cornwall II	6	1	1	4	22	38	3
Somerset II	4	1	1	2	15	25	3
Hereford	6	1	1	4	18	42	3
Isle of Wight	5	0	0	5	5	45	0

Senior 3C.

Bedfords. 8 Bucks. II 2: Glos. 8 Herts. 2: Oxfords. 8 Bedfords. II 2: Northants. 3 Norfolk 7: Northants. II 2 Northants. I 8: Norfolk 7 Bedfords. I 3: Bucks. II 4 Oxfords. 6: Herts. 6 Worcesterhire II 4: Bedfords. II v Glos.—postponed.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gloucestershire	6	6	0	0	46	14	12
Norfolk	7	6	0	1	44	26	12
Bedfordshire I	7	5	0	2	46	24	10
Hertfordshire	7	4	0	3	34	36	8
Northamptonshire I	7	3	1	3	37	33	7
Oxfordshire	7	3	1	3	37	33	7
Worcestershire II	6	2	1	3	29	31	5
Buckinghamshire II	7	1	1	5	24	46	3
Northamptonshire II	6	0	1	5	17	43	1
Bedfordshire II	6	0	1	5	16	44	1

Senior 3D.

Suffolk II 2 Cambs. II 8: Berks. II 4 Sussex II 6: Kent III 2 Essex II 8.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex II	7	6	0	1	52	18	12
Surrey II	6	4	2	0	43	17	10
Suffolk I	8	4	2	2	49	31	10
Cambridgeshire II	7	4	1	2	43	27	9
Sussex II	7	4	1	2	39	31	9
Berkshire II	6	3	0	3	34	26	6
Kent II	6	3	0	3	29	31	6
Kent III	7	1	0	6	22	47	2
Essex III	7	1	0	6	21	49	2
Suffolk II	7	1	0	6	7	62	2

Stiga County Championships



Juniors 2A.

Yorkshire II 8 Staffordshire II 2: Warwickshire 4 (Amended result):
Lincolnshire 5 Northamptonshire 5: Cheshire 3 Nottinghamshire 7.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yorkshire II	6	6	0	0	54	6	12
Nottinghamshire	6	4	2	0	38	22	10
Cheshire	6	4	0	2	31	29	8
Suffolk	6	2	2	2	30	30	6
Staffordshire II	6	3	0	3	29	31	6
Warwickshire II	6	1	1	4	26	34	3
Northamptonshire	6	0	2	4	20	40	2
Lincolnshire	6	0	1	5	12	38	1

Juniors 2B.

Middlesex II 5 Wiltshire 5: Hertfordshire 7 Surrey 3: Berkshire 6
Devonshire 4.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Surrey	6	4	0	2	36	24	8
Glamorgan	5	4	0	1	29	21	8
Berkshire	6	4	0	2	30	30	8
Cornwall	5	3	1	1	31	19	7
Hertfordshire	6	2	1	3	32	28	5
Middlesex II	5	1	1	3	20	30	3
Wiltshire	5	0	2	3	16	34	2
Devonshire	4	0	1	3	16	24	1

Juniors 3A.

Cumbria 3 Derbyshire II 7: Huntingdonshire 9 Warwickshire II 1.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derbyshire II	5	5	0	0	41	9	10
Leicestershire	5	4	0	1	39	11	8
Huntingdonshire	5	3	0	2	27	23	6
Cheshire II	5	2	0	3	22	28	4
Cumbria	6	2	0	4	23	37	4
Warwickshire II	5	1	0	4	16	34	2
Clwyd	5	1	0	4	12	38	2

Juniors 3B.

Oxfordshire 9 Cambridgeshire II 1: Cambridgeshire I 7 Berkshire II
3: Bedfordshire I 9 Bedfordshire 1: Buckinghamshire 2 Worcester-
shire 8.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bedfordshire I	6	5	0	1	43	17	10
Cambridgeshire I	6	5	0	1	43	17	10
Oxfordshire	6	5	0	1	37	23	10
Worcestershire	6	3	1	2	35	25	7
Berkshire II	6	2	1	3	32	28	5
Bedfordshire II	6	1	0	5	17	43	2
Buckinghamshire	6	1	0	5	17	43	2
Cambridgeshire II	6	1	0	5	16	44	2

Juniors 3C.

Dorset 4 Somerset 6: Hampshire 8 Avon 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gwent	5	4	1	0	35	15	9
Somerset	5	4	0	1	32	18	8
Hamptonshire	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Gloucestershire	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Avon	5	0	2	3	18	32	2
Cornwall II	4	0	1	3	12	28	1
Dorset	4	0	1	3	12	28	1

Juniors 3D.

Essex III 8 Herts. II 2: Essex II 8 Sussex II 2: Kent II 10 Norfolk
0: Surrey II 7 Herts. II 3.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kent II	4	4	0	0	32	8	8
Essex III	4	4	0	0	29	11	8
Essex II	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Surrey II	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Hertfordshire II	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Norfolk	3	0	1	2	7	23	1
Sussex II	3	0	0	3	5	25	0

Veterans Premier

Sussex 8 Notts. 1: Essex I 4 Middlesex I 5: Kent 4 Lincoln 5: Cheshire
I 6 Bucks. 3: Essex II 2 Sussex 7: Middlesex 3 Kent 6: Lincoln 7
Cheshire 3: Bucks. 9 Notts 1.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Cheshire	6	5	1	36	18	10
Sussex	6	5	1	35	19	10
Lincolnshire	6	5	1	34	20	10
Kent	6	3	3	28	26	6
Buckinghamshire	6	2	4	27	27	4
Middlesex	6	2	4	26	28	4
Essex	6	2	4	21	33	4
Nottinghamshire	6	0	6	9	45	0

Veterans 2A.

Essex II 5 Herts. I 4: Oxon. 5 Leics. 4: Hunts. 0 Cheshire II 9: Yorks.
2 Worcs. 7: Essex II 7 Oxon. 2: Herts. 6 Hunts 3: Cheshire II 6 Yorks.
3: Worcs. 5 Leics. 4.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Worcestershire	5	4	1	28	17	8
Essex II	6	4	2	31	23	8
Hertfordshire	6	4	2	26	19	6
Cheshire II	5	3	2	26	19	6
Yorkshire	6	3	3	29	25	6
Leicestershire	6	2	4	26	28	4
Huntingdonshire	6	2	4	20	34	4
Oxfordshire	6	1	5	17	37	2

Veterans 2B.

Dorset I 4 Sussex II 5: Berks. 4 Avon 5: Middlesex II 7 Surrey 2: Hants.
6 Kent 3: Dorset 6 Middlesex II 3: Sussex II 2 Berks. 7: Avon 2 Hamp-
shire 7: Kent II 5 Surrey 4.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Hamptonshire	5	4	1	27	18	8
Middlesex II	6	4	2	30	24	8
Kent II	5	3	2	27	18	6
Berkshire	6	3	3	27	27	6
Surrey	5	2	3	23	22	4
Dorset	5	2	3	20	25	4
Sussex II	5	2	3	19	26	4
Avon	5	1	4	16	29	2

Veterans 3A.

Herts. II 1 Yorks. II 8: Hunts. II 2 Northants. 7: Northumbria 6 Herts.
II 3: Northants. 5 Cheshire III 4: Norfolk Yorks. II 9.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Yorkshire II	5	5	0	40	5	10
Northumberland	5	4	1	28	17	8
Northamptonshire	5	3	2	22	23	6
Hertfordshire II	5	2	3	18	27	4
Norfolk	5	1	4	20	25	2
Cheshire III	4	1	3	15	21	2
Huntingdonshire II	5	1	4	10	35	2

Veterans 3B.

Beds. 9 Hunts. III 0: Berks. II 5 Herts. III 4: Herefords. 2 Essex 6:
Bucks. II 7 Herefords. 2: Herts. III 5 Beds. 4: Hunts. III 2 Essex III 7.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Essex III	5	5	0	36	8	10
Berkshire II	5	4	1	28	17	8
Bedfordshire	5	3	2	26	19	6
Buckinghamshire II	5	3	2	25	20	6
Hertfordshire III	2	2	3	21	24	4
Herefordshire	5	1	4	16	28	2
Huntingdonshire III	6	0	6	9	45	0

Veterans 3C.

Herts. IV 2 Berks. III 7: Wilts. I 8 Dorset II 1: Wilts. II 4 Sussex
III 5: Wilts. II 2 Wilts. I 7: Hants. II 8 Herts. IV 1: Berks. III 3 Dorset
II 1.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Wiltshire I	5	4	1	33	12	8
Hamptonshire II	5	4	1	32	13	8
Berkshire III	5	4	1	22	14	6
Sussex III	4	3	1	22	14	6
Dorset II	4	1	3	9	27	2
Hertfordshire IV	6	1	5	12	42	2
Wiltshire II	5	0	5	16	29	0

Mike Prior from Buckinghamshire explains why he supports the review of the scoring system proposed for the Stiga National Top 12.

Of late there has been much discussion on the state of the game in the UK—little spectator appeal leading to poor TV coverage and resulting in a lack of money in the sport.

The 'problem' has been variously attributed to: the influence and dependence upon specialised bat rubbers; the dominance of the service and the resulting lack of rallies; and that, generally, the game is now too fast and technical to be appreciated by the public at large.

I have supported many of the articles written along these lines until I came to relate our problems to other sports.

In all sports, players are constantly seeking to gain an advantage by using superior equipment. At Wimbledon, for instance, there was a variety of different sizes, shapes and styles of rackets—even with adjustable tension facilities.

KEITH HURLOCK

It is with deep regret that I write to record the death of Keith Hurlock, a great table tennis enthusiast and international player of the fifties. He died of a severe heart attack at his home in Croydon, apparently while watching television.

Keith was the perfect sportsman, on and off the table, and he possessed a fluent two wing attacking game plus an equable temperament. In January 1951 he surprised everyone by winning the Metropolitan Open, in those days one of the country's major tournaments, and in recognition of his feat and obvious potential he was awarded an international badge against Scotland.

He was of the period when it was considered an honour to represent one's county and he wore his Surrey badge with pride at every possible occasion. When he eventually retired from the table tennis scene he took up golf at which he also reached a high standard of proficiency. The Surrey County Association would like to pay tribute to this popular player of a previous generation and to offer sincere condolences to his family. Table Tennis is the poorer for his passing.

RJ Crayden

Further, the dominant serve is accepted as part of the game and 'aces' warmly applauded. Rallies were often few and far between but spectators stayed enthralled.

Boring Squash

Earlier in the year I watched squash on TV. In the past it has been difficult to follow but aided by the new reflective ball the camera could easily follow the play. I assumed I could therefore relax and enjoy the entertainment.

However, Jahangir Khan and his opponent were so good that the rallies went on interminably until I got bored waiting for an 'error' to end the point. Such long rallies, I am convinced, would not revitalise our sport.

Other very fast sports have not suffered unduly. In fact, TV with its slow action replays, has enhanced their appeal with detailed analysis and expert comment. At Wimbledon, Boris Becker appeared to be diving all over the court miraculously making winning returns.

Luck? No, it became evident on the close-up replays that even at full stretch he still managed to turn his wrist at the vital moment of ball contact to disguise the angle or topspin of the return.

Tension Crises needed

What, therefore, captures the imagination and interest of the public? What have darts, Wimbledon, and for that matter, TV panel games got in common?

I suggest three key elements: tension; frequent intervals for



Squash - "boring". A scene from the world's longest ever match (2hr 46mins) between Gamal Awad and Jahangir Khan at Chichester photo by Stephen Line (07917 3867)

analysis and comment; and personalities.

Tennis and darts maintain tension by having many short games where the server or the first to throw is expected to dominate. However, the frequency of 'pressure' points and the knowledge that few points can be forfeited keeps spectators' adrenalin high and maintains their interest.

In table tennis pressure is not really apparent until the last six to eight points of each game, by which time the result is all too often a formality with one player having a lead of several points.

"Shorter"

Perhaps, by playing shorter games with players serving for the whole of each alternate game, and with these games grouped into tennis-style sets with frequent intervals for TV action replays, comment and analysis, we too could

capture the interest created by other sports.

Maybe by exposing our young up and coming talented players to such pressure, they too might emerge as tomorrow's personalities, capture the imagination of the public and secure the return of table tennis to our TV screens.

Certainly this will not happen without some change and a simple review of the scoring system seems easier than changing the equipment. Advanced bat rubbers are merely a reflection of progress in a scientific age. Let's accept the innovations, like them or not, and face up to the future.

The results could be interesting.

ETTA Elections

Messrs Tom Blunn, George Yates and Aubrey Drapkin have been re-elected unopposed as ETTA chairman, deputy chairman and treasurer respectively for the 1986/87 season.

Stan calls foul

Stan Teasdale, a county umpire from Whetstone, North London is perplexed by serving he has seen around the tournament circuit and is calling for guidance on the service law.

"I am a qualified 'County umpire' and am now in my second season of going around tournaments in all parts of the country", he says. "What I have seen on my travels has compelled me to write to *Table Tennis News*". "Firstly, I would like to know what other umpires and officials think about the state of serving in tournaments. I seem to be holding a different copy of the laws on service to everyone else. Sometimes, when I look around a tournament hall, I despair and

wonder if there is any point in having defined service laws". Serving is so bad that to do the job properly would delay tournaments interminably he claims. "Where does one start to put this part of our game right?", he asks. "Especially when you pull juniors up for foul-serving and they trun round and say that they have always got away with it even in top-level tournaments". "I have even spoken about this to other umpires", he says. "One certain international umpire told me not to worry about it as long as the service was not *too bad*!" The advice has left Frank confused. "I would like someone to send me a directive on what con-

stitutes a '*not too bad*' service as distinct from one which is 'foul', he says. "In Barnet, where I am, juniors playing for their county and serving incorrectly would not get away with it as we have clamped right down on foul serving".

"I would like to hear other officials' ideas on the subject", he says. "Would it not be an idea if the ETTA were to hold a conference with umpires and other officials in order to straighten out the service rule?"

Stan loves going to tournaments and umpiring some of the matches. What a shame, he feels, that it has to be spoilt over such a simple thing as foul serving.

League Crisis!

Recent innovations by the Tees Sport super league in Dorset and the Ashford club in Middlesex are threatening the traditional league structure.

Last month, Table Tennis News stressed the importance of the ETTA and its member leagues looking ahead and predicting the demands of tomorrow's members.

Here, Keith Davies of Jaques Generation Fareham explains why he feels the sport has to think hard about the type of competition it offers to attract participants from other sports.

I have been playing competitive table tennis, quite happily, since 1972. I have also, over the years, held several positions on our club committee as well as being involved with the local association. However, I have become increasingly frustrated with the attitude of many clubs and leagues.

We all know of the poor conditions at dilapidated buildings which come under the heading of 'club premises'.

On reflection, not much can be done about this although some leagues play all their matches at modern sports centres that have such amenities as heating, changing rooms with showers and reasonable tables.

My main concern is the number of people leaving the sport for other leisure activities. Table tennis has to compete not only with these other sports but with increasing apathy. No doubt I shall play on but many won't!

I have spoken to many people within the sport and they all agree that an evening's table tennis is a long drawn-out affair compared to other popular sports which last 1-2 hours at the most.

A shorter match means many things: 1. a reasonable break for refreshments; 2. more time to socialise with opponents; and 3. more time to travel home, change, shower and retire. All leagues and associations

must take note, change their 'laissez faire' attitude and look at the time it takes to complete a league match. There are several ways to improve the situation but each has the desired effect, that is to reduce the number of games played during an evening.

Table tennis is still a great game to play but a sport that is standing still. I implore all leagues and associations to think about it . . . we *must* stop the exodus of players away from the sport.

Ashford premier league a great success

In the January issue of *Table Tennis News* I reported that the Ashford Centre had firmly established its premier league, sponsored by Playrite Sports, within a few weeks of commencement writes *Ray Tucker*. Open to top players within a 20 mile radius of Ashford its two-man team format has proved very popular.

The league's first tournament was held in January and this also proved to be extremely successful. Local businesses put up £300 in cash prizes for the three events held.



Ashford Table Tennis Centre photo by Dave Wingar (0784 56006)

The super league in Bournemouth has hit the local league particularly hard Harold Pearce has reported in his excellent league magazine of '21 Up'. Hampshire county press officer David Cosway is dismayed by the league's demise:

"I saw in the last edition of '21 Up' that the first half fixtures for the Bournemouth premier division showed a number of unusual aspects with many of the previous 'star' players not in the leading averages", he says. "Clearly this is because of the new super league which means that players who have in the past dominated the Bournemouth league have not represented their clubs on a regular basis".

"I know that Harold Pearce is not happy with the situation that these players are giving preference to the super league and are neglecting their responsibilities to the clubs for whom they have played, he continues."

"It is unfortunate that this super league has been more of a replacement to the usual league matches rather than a supplement to them".

Glen Baker picked up £120 of this when winning the singles, and the doubles with David Goode. Seeded 1 in the singles he defeated No 2 seed Rupert Bole in the final 21-17, 21-15, 21-13. Since transferring to Ashford's national league team in December, Glen has rapidly regained the form that he lost in the autumn.

Rupert didn't do himself justice but Glen was looking too strong anyway. Rupert had some consolation in the £50 runners-up prize; John Green and David Goode collected £25 each as losing semi-finalists.

In the doubles Glen had a harder time when, with David Goode, his match against Simon and Jonathan Proffitt went to five games. They ran out worthy winners though, 19-21, 22-20, 21-9, 16-21, 21-16.

The third event was a consolation singles for all players eliminated in the first two rounds. Simon Proffitt picked up the winners prize here by beating Peter Simmonds 21-13, 21-13, 18-21, 21-18.

With four qualified umpires in attendance the tournament was professionally run and will no doubt lead to increased interest in next season's league for which a second division is planned.

Debbie leads the way

Jose Ransome

Debbie Fletcher from Oldham is a bright young star on the table tennis horizon. Only 14 years old, Debbie qualified as a County Umpire last October—probably the youngest English umpire on record—and is already receiving invitations to officiate at major events.

It all started when Debbie's parents were concerned that her younger sister was improving faster than Debbie in the sport and looked for an alternative direction for her efforts. They spoke to coach Stuart Sneyd about guiding Debbie into coaching but, because she was too young to qualify, he suggested umpiring.

Since then Debbie has made great strides. In addition, her own play improved tremendously, so much so, that she finished third in the North East regional cadet trials to win a place in the national ranking trials at Luton!

Debbie accompanied Stuart Sneyd to umpire at the Cleveland junior championships in November and did so well that she was invited back to Teesside for the Cleveland 3-Star Open on 18/19th January, having also umpired at the Halton 1-Star and County Championship premier division weekend in between.

Stuart Sneyd is obviously very proud of his protegee. "It is unusual to find a youngster sensible enough and dedicated enough to umpire,"



Debbie Fletcher - in control during the semi-final of the Cleveland Open between Desmond Douglas (ENG) and Juzo Nukazuka (JPN).

he said, and added that international umpire, Brian Foggin, who worked all day with Debbie at Thornaby Pavilion, had commented on her good rapport with the players which had helped to generate their confidence in her ability to umpire their matches.

Debbie started playing table tennis at junior school and now attends Hathershaw Secondary School in Oldham. Asked about any other interests she said that whilst she likes all sports, there was little time for anything else because she goes for coaching herself on

two nights a week and plays as a feed on a third night for beginning players!

This is just one indication of her nice personality, another is her sunny smile and friendly attitude towards everyone. Her ambition is to become a national umpire and hopefully to qualify as an international umpire by the time England hosts the World Championship again.

If Debbie has had one disappointment, it would be that the blue umpires blazer that her parents ordered for her Christmas

present did not arrive in time for her big event in Cleveland.

Debbie has opened up a new avenue for youngsters who love table tennis. Not all will make it to the top as players, but many more could enjoy years in the sport as umpires, as well as officials or promoters, utilizing their table tennis skills to good advantage in other directions.

Well done Debbie, and best wishes for a successful career in table tennis!

YTS backing for table tennis star

by Sue Donnely of the Kent and Sussex Courier

Tonbridge teenager Juliet Houghton is winning her way through to the top of the table tennis world.

Juliet, 17, is one of the country's top young players. She's currently ranked top of the Kent junior and seniors, and number four in the England juniors.

After passing five O-levels last year Juliet is taking a year long break from school at the moment to concentrate on table tennis full time. She then intends to go back to school to study for A-levels.

Juliet is one of two young players to be selected for places on the Government's Youth Training Scheme as 'apprentice table tennis

professionals' and this is enabling her to finance her years training. She is also receiving backing from Tonbridge and Malling Borough Council.

Juliet first started playing table tennis for fun at the British Legion in Leigh, where the family used to live. After becoming more proficient at the game she started entering competitions at the age of 13 and went from strength to strength.

Now Juliet spends much of her time in Reading training with national coach Dave Fairholm, but she was back in action in Tonbridge to take part in an exhibition at the Angel Centre against the Japanese national team.

Said Juliet: "People don't take table tennis seriously, because it's not a television sport.

"It's always thought of as ping pong, just knocking a ball around. People don't appreciate that there's a lot more to it, there's a lot of training involved and though it might look like just tapping a ball over the net there's an awful lot of spin on the balls and some of the shots travel up to 90 mph.

"At the moment I'm playing about four or five hours every day and competing at various tournaments around the country at weekends. I love table tennis, I never get bored with it—if I did get bored I'd stop playing because there would be no enjoyment in it.

"I love all sports. I play cricket and stoolball, but I don't have as much time to play them now as I'd like."

As her fame grows in the table tennis world Juliet is still trying to get used to people asking for her autograph and the thrill of representing England in international events.

Her ambition is to go on and make it to the top of the England senior rankings.

Said Juliet: "I've taken this year off to establish myself. After I've done my A-levels I wouldn't mind going to university, then I'd really like to make a career out of table tennis."

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First Impressions

A report from promoter Nigel Cannon

Venturing into the unknown is something of a Victorian ideal, but being offered the chance of staging a 'neo-International' table tennis exhibition match was for me, just that.

Japan were the visitors, their services quickly secured by the Tonbridge league's Ted Houghton and Bob Taylor. Firstly the language barrier had to be broken down. No, not that between the Japanese and English, but that between table tennis and me.

Hopefully I managed to convince all and sundry that surely organising a table tennis match is similar to that of snooker or darts and cricket or football.

Table Tennis is beset by the major problems of my winter love, hockey. It regrettably epitomises the domain of the English 'amateur' sport—people would rather play than watch.

Hence the problems of filling the Angel Centre in Tonbridge. Communication was never going to be a problem; dragging them away from Tuesday's edition of 'Emmerdale Farm' was.

Clichés

Clichés such as 'Cinderella of Sport' and 'Minority Sport' echoed from all angles which we used to our advantage. The press and media were all keen to promote the event, probably giving them more artistic licence than other national sports. More so I think it was out of sympathy more than anything else.

Tonbridge Wells Mazda stepped forward with generous support, as did Trusthouse Forte with overnight stays at The Rose and Crown Hotel. The hall was decorated with Japanese motorbikes while a famous Bavarian bear enticed the audience to drink his equally famous Hofmeister lager.

So, we had the commercialisation that I am told is sadly lacking in top class table tennis. But with it came responsibility, more pressure and more burden on the shoulders of the organisers.

Rather like the World Cup is remembered for a particular goal, the Tonbridge event will be recorded in posterity for its blue table. Shock horror reverberated through the senior ranks but never in my short career in sports promotion have I seen such a transformation and impact on a sports arena the moment the blue table replaced the green.



The two teams at Tonbridge

The Japanese took it all in their stride, their only complaint was the red net which had to be exchanged for yellow. Green is a natural colour and in an artificial surrounding is, frankly, dull. If only the surrounds had been blue as well.

Also in blue were the five officials collected together by referee, Chris Wright. All were county or international class so my cheque stub which says £24.36 covering their expenses was not only a reflection of their kindness and generosity but the way in which the game is able to be bought so cheaply.

A little more expensive were the Invitation Select team, hand-picked by national coach, David Fairholm. Not quite knowing what to expect, all minds were quickly put to rest by six players all prepared to enter into the spirit of the occasion.

Silence

This included the afternoon session which was open to school parties free of charge. It was probably enough for the children to digest the skills of the English players, but there was stone-cold silence when Japan entered the stadium for the first time.

Clearly tired by a strenuous campaign and a lunchtime lesson in cricket, their mere presence created an experience of excitement only witnessed when world-class sportsmen are around. To see the looks of astonishment on the young faces made my day, anyway. And that was before they had even shed their tracksuits.

An evening audience of over 500 was expected, 150 of which were avid supporters of Tonbridge girl, Juliet Houghton. When Juliet reported an injury to her playing arm, I envisaged myself instigating an 'El Cid' repeat. There was no way she was going to cry-off at this stage.

As it turned out, well over 600 saw that match, my main interest being the percentage new to the game. At least we had something in common. It is no good table tennis preaching to its converted. New ideas and new blood must be drawn in and every event must have something new to offer. Changing the colour of the table was just one simple naive idea but from a marketing point of view, a huge success.

Although several things went wrong on the night, none marred the enjoyment of the packed audience and I trust table tennis made many new friends. The results only mattered in one respect—the English game is a long way behind that of the Far East, but we all knew that, anyway.

From the Promoter/Stage Manager point of view it was a success but the question I was most asked on the night was, "why is table tennis so far behind darts and snooker?"

Well, the simple answer to that is 'money'. With strong financial backing, players can be given a strong superstar image and I'm sure the game would soon catch on.

But money will not become available from sponsors until the game has something new to offer spectators. I am told all sorts of new ideas have been banded around but I think the first secret is the venue.

Darts and snooker have left the sordid surroundings of pubs and clubs and found new homes in modern, comfortable theatres. They also have the game as centre stage; one dartboard or one snooker table. Agreed, the English Open could never be played on one table but something could be done to reserve special status for the top seeds.

But take heed, we only see the World's top sixteen at snooker and darts so the rich have been made richer. Without being facetious, if there were such a thing as the Benson and Hedges World Table Tennis Masters there would be few Europeans let alone English in the tournament. I think you'll find that, top sixteen apart, table tennis is not too far behind snooker and darts.

Most of all, our night at Tonbridge told us that the future of table tennis rests not only with the players but with the audience as well. If table tennis is going to grow the most important factor of the night was that 650 people had a great night out not that the players earned X pounds. That will come later.

Finally, without wishing to promote my own interests too much, I feel there is a case for independent promoters within the game. This way the English Table Tennis Association and its regional bodies may return to the administration of the game rather than becoming the scapegoats for its failure.

Market Drayton and Croydon chalk up double successes

David Lomas

Schools from Market Drayton and Croydon scored notable double successes in the finals of the Dunlop National School Team Championships at Lea Green, Matlock, on Saturday, March 15th.

The Grove, Market Drayton, won the girls U19 and U13 titles to add to another Shropshire success in the shape of Mary Webb school, Pontesbury, who won the boys U16 event. Cumnor House of South Croydon emerged as winners of the boys U13 and U11 categories after some anxious moments.

All the eight events were closely contested with the four-player teams being keenly supported by many parents.

It was a bleak day for teams from the North Region. They had only one winner when seasoned campaigners, Wold Junior High, Hull, won the girls U11 title for the third time in seven years.

The finals - the 20th annual championships - were the culmination of contests which began in some counties in September of last year and progressed via county, area and regional qualifying competitions organised initially by the affiliated county schools associations and then by the English Schools' Table Tennis Association.

Highlights

U19 Boys

Holders, Bury Grammar, were beaten into third place with Bedford Modern adding to previous U13 and U16 titles. Budehaven - with 12 yr old Neil Bevan at No 1 - made them fight all the way with four sets being decided at 21-19 in the third game.

U19 Girls

A surprise result. The Grove lifted their seventh national title with No 1, Alison Barker, unbeaten. Last year's U16 holders, Sydney Smith, were weakened by the absence of Alison Evans with a back injury. A first national finals for Luton Sixth Form College.

U16 Boys

Very close with 5-3, 4-4, 5-3 results. Mary Webb edged home and only games ratio separated Kettlethorpe and debutants, Ifield (West Sussex).

U16 girls champions Chilton Trinity School with Mr Terry Mack, regional director of the Sports Council, East Midlands



U11 boys winners Cumnor House with Cllr Joyce Platts, Chairman of Derbyshire County Council.



U16 Girls

Even closer! Three fresh faces. Chilton Trinity and Kesteven & Grantham Girls' (who have the dubious honour of Prime Minister, Margaret Thatcher as a former pupil) each registered 5-3 wins over Mayflower. They then drew 4-4 in the "final" with the Somerset girls winning the "sudden-death" doubles decider.

U13 Boys

New champions, Cumnor House, only needed a draw in the final match, having won 7-1 against Brislington whereas Parkview were pegged back to a 5-3 verdict. Parkview No 1, Jonathon Lowes had a good win over ESTTA U11 champion, Jason Blake, in a tense final but the Croydon boys won 5-3.

U13 Girls

Holders, Archbishop Cranmer ousted by The Grove with Claire Marshall at No 3 for The Grove undefeated Hillcross well beaten into third spot.

U11 Boys

A real cliffhanger with both Dronfield and Cumnor House well-supported. Cumnor again only needed a draw. That's all they could manage against the "locals" from Dronfield. And yet Cumnor No. 4, Paul

McNamara saved three match points and possibly the match when he defeated the Dronfield No 3, Robert Oldale, 23-21 in the third game.

U11 Girls

World No 1 Sally Marling in good form as her team proved too strong for familiar opposition from Luton and Market Drayton, both former winners.

Results

U19 Boys

1. BEDFORD HAVEN (Bedfordshire)
 2. Budehaven Comprehensive, Bude (Cornwall)
 3. Bury Grammar (Greater Manchester)
- Bedford Modern 5 - Budehaven 3; Bury Grammar 2 - Budehaven 6; Bedford Modern 7 - Bury Grammar 1.

U19 Girls

1. THE GROVE, MARKET DRAYTON (Shropshire)
 2. Luton Sixth Form College (Bedfordshire)
 3. Sydney Smith High, Hull (Humberside)
- Luton 2 - The Grove 6; Sydney Smith 2 - Luton 6; The Grove 7 - Sydney Smith 1.

U16 Boys

1. MARY WEBB, PONTESBURY (Shropshire)
2. Kettlethorpe High, Wakefield (West Yorkshire)

3. Ifield Community College, Crawley (West Sussex)

Mary Webb 3 - Kettlethorpe 3; Ifield 4 - Kettlethorpe 4; Mary Webb 5 - Ifield 3.

U16 Girls

1. CHILTON TRINITY, BRIDGWATER (Somerset)
 2. Kesteven & Grantham Girls (Lincolnshire)
 3. Mayflower, Billericay (Essex County)
- Mayflower 3 - Chilton Trinity 5; Kesteven & Grantham 5 - Mayflower 3; Chilton Trinity 4 - Kesteven & Grantham 4.

U13 Boys

1. CUMNOR HOUSE, SOUTH CROYDON (Surrey Metropolitan)
 2. Parkview, Barrow-in-Furness (Cumbria)
 3. Brislington, Bristol (Avon)
- Brislington 1 - Cumnor House 7; Parkview 5 - Brislington 3; Cumnor House 5 - Parkview 3.

U13 Girls

1. THE GROVE, MARKET DRAYTON (Shropshire)
 2. Archbishop Cranmer CE Middle, Leeds (West Yorkshire)
 3. Hillcross Middle, Morden (Surrey Metropolitan)
- Archbishop Cranmer 7 - Hillcross 1; The Grove 8 - Hillcross 0; The Grove 5 - Archbishop Cranmer 3.

U13 Boys

1. CUMNOR HOUSE, SOUTH CROYDON (Surrey Metropolitan)
 2. Dronfield Junior (Derbyshire)
 3. Holymead Junior, Bristol (Avon)
- Cumnor House 8 - Holymead 0; Holymead 2 - Dronfield 6; Cumnor House 4 - Dronfield 4.

U11 Girls

1. WOLD JUNIOR HIGH, HULL (Humberside)
 2. Market Drayton Junior (Shropshire)
 3. Ramridge Junior, Luton (Bedfordshire)
- Market Drayton 5 - Ramridge 3; Ramridge 2 - Wold 6; Wold 7 - Market Drayton 1.

"Best Performance" Awards:

Girls:
Melonie Carey (Chilton Trinity)
Boys:
Gavin Black (Bedford Modern)



Gavin Black of Bedford Modern School receives his "best performance" award from Mr Tom Matthews, president of the ESTTA.

CAMBRIDGE NOTES

Geoff Waters

The top seeds won all the singles events at the Cambridgeshire closed championships, played at Soham Sports Hall, on Saturday 25th January.

Keith Richardson won the mens singles for the sixth time, beating the 1980 winner Robert Swift in the final. Only in the semi-final, when last season's winner Geoff Davies took the first game was he ever pressed.

Earlier there were minor shocks in the quarter finals when Mick Harper, seeded two, last deuce in the third to Peter Holliday, seeded eight, while number three seed Andy Withers fell by a similar score to swift.

The England ranked number 21 showed his superior class by also winning the mens doubles with Harper and the mixed in partnership with Mandy Mills.

The womens events were more evenly shared out with Joanne Pettitt only succeeding in the singles. In the final she beat Hilary Finch, who proved a formidable opponent. It was only after the change of ends in the third game that Joanne finally subdued her opponent.

Hilary received some consolation by winning the womens doubles in partnership with former Essex colleague Yvette Hooks. They inflicted a rare defeat on the Pettitt/Mills combination, who usually dominate this event.

Nick Ashman beat Jonathan Collins in the under 17 boys, but the Wisbech youngster gave him a hard time, winning the first 21-17 and only failing 22-24 in the second. The England ranked cadet, however, proved too strong for twelve year old Chris Weston in the under 14s.

The under 17 girls was an all Wisbech affair with Ruth Hutchinson winning for the first time against Louise Ward. There was never more than three points difference in a closely fought three game set.

Melanie Canham repeated last season's success in the cadet girls, with a straight games win over Ella Siggs from the Cambridge League club, Impington.

The veterans singles was a repeat of last season's final with John Ashman again getting the better of Brian Odell. John, however, came close to defeat in the semi-final, when he scraped home deuce in the third against CIBA's Peter Beatham.

Wesley's Tim Vine, beaten finalist last season, proved the best of the non-county players with a splendid win over Cambridge University's Simon Griew in the restricted singles.

Matthew Laughlin, the county junior number three, won the handicap singles, beating March's Mark Fox in the final. The Merit award for the most promising newcomer was presented to Impington's Gavin Roberts.

The tournament was played on 14 tables and ran very smoothly under county chairman Brian Judd with able support from Derek Stacey, Roy

Fox, Peter Davies, Vic Collins and his wife and Cathy Richardson. That the event was held at all was thanks to our ten sponsors!

Results

Halifax Building Society MS: K Richardson b R Swift 15, 14. Autocolours WS: J Pettitt b H Finch 11, -18, 17. Pye Telecom MD: K Richardson/M Harper b G Davies/A Withers 15, 14. Pye Telecom WD: Y Hooks/H Finch b A Mills/J Pettitt -17, 17, 14. Cambridge Commercial & Industrial Cleaners XD: K Richardson/A Mills b M Harper/J Pettitt 16, -19, 16. TSB JBS: N Ashman b J Collins -17, 22, 13. Drivers, Estate Agents U14BS: J Collins b C Weston 16, 13. Chapman How JGS: R Hutchinson b L Ward 18, -19, 18. Pye Telecom U14GS: M Canham b E Siggs 16, 22. Tony Brochie VS: J Ashman b B Odell 12, -19, 13. Gray & Holmes restricted singles: T Vine b S Griew -21, 16, 14. Fordham Printers Handicap singles: M Laughlin (20) b M Fox (26) 41-38, 41-34.

The Cambridgeshire senior team kept open their outside chance of promotion in division 2A, with a 6-4 win over Worcestershire. They led 5-2 at one stage, but the midlands county pulled back to 5-4 before Mick Harper clinched the points.

Murray Jukes proved a thorn in the Cambridgeshire side with wins over Keith Richardson and Harper and he also combined with Simon Claxton to win the mens doubles. Andy Withers, fortunately, was back to form with singles wins that proved vital.

Team effort

The second team had a very creditable draw with second placed Surrey II at March.

This was a fine team effort with all the players playing their part. Geoff Davies and Gary Jordan, both beat Jonah, while Julian Wheel had a fine win over Rupert Bole. Alison Edge beat Hazel Love and also partnered Yvette Hooks in the doubles success. Yvette, however, lost for the first time in the singles when she narrowly lost to Debbie Simmonds.

The juniors beat Berkshire II 7-3 and with Oxfordshire having beaten Bedfordshire can now win junior division 3B. Berkshire were a little unfortunate to be trailing 7-1 in this match, but received no more than they deserved when they picked up the last two sets.

Jonathan Collins and Louise Ward came through the match unscathed, but there were singles defeats for Nick Ashman, Matthew Laughlin and Ruth Hutchinson, for the first time this season.

The junior second team fell 9-1 to championship-chasing Oxfordshire, but they were without both top scorers Robin Tewkesbury and Denise Hinks. Sara Peukert, deputising for Denise, was the county's sole winner on her debut.

CHESHIRE CHAT

Brian Webb

All our teams are in the county championships are enjoying a degree of success, with our seniors going well and looking for a promotion spot at the end of the season.

Top cadet Jonathon Taylor has had a splendid season so far - we all hope his progress will continue for the rest of the season and beyond.

Umpire Karen Jonge, who with Peter Williams was organised the county's ranking trials, has successfully passed her national umpire examination and another of the county's umpires, Roger Vardon, has been selected as one of two English umpires to attend the European Championships in Prague.

Many apologies for this column's absence in recent editions - I hope I shall not miss any more editions! Space being limited, I shall restrict this report to the county ranking lists, drawn up earlier in the season.

Men

- 1 Brian Johns
- 2 Tony Taylor
- 3 Mark Hankey
- 4 Roger Hampson
- 5 Derek Schofield
- 6 Ron Vose

Women

- 1 Clare Potts
- 2 Janet Deakin
- 3 Doreen Schofield
- 4 Lynne Harrison
- 5 Anne Williamson
- 6 Debbie Maguire

Junior Boys

- 1 Simon Jones
- 2 Andrew Taylor
- 3 Jonathon Taylor
- 4 Mark Danaher
- 5 Andrew Wright
- 6 Neil Schofield
- 7 Paul Birken

Junior Girls

- 1 Julie Hope
- 2 Claire Potts
- 3 Belinda Lau
- 4 Alison Jones
- 5 Beverly Parkes
- 6 Sharon Norman
- 7 Jill Schofield

Cadet Boys

- 1 Jonathon Taylor
- 2 Max Ekstein
- 3 Roger Taylor
- 4 Neil Allan
- 5 Peter Lau
- 6 Garry Knowles

Cadet Girls

- 1 Pam Jones
- 1a Helen Potts
- 2 Sarah Freeman
- 3 Maria Bubb
- 4 Suzanne Bridge
- 5 Judith Williams
- 6 Catherine Kenworthy

Veterans Men

- 1 Derek Schofield
- 2 Peter D'Arcy
- 3 Eddie Griffiths

- 4 Jerry Taylor
- 5 Mike Tew
- 6 Alan Timewell

Veteran Women

- 1 Doreen Schofield
- 2 Diane Johnson
- 3 Myra Lypnyekyj
- 4 Tricia Brookes
- 5 Eileen Edwards
- 6 Barbara Fowler

DURHAM NOTES

Harry Black

Durham gained their first point of the season in the county championships when they drew 5-5 at home to Nottinghamshire. Lynne Yarnell and Lynne Bainbridge won their respective singles matches and a doubles win contributed three sets. Darren McVitie, on his return to the side, and David Blackburne defeated Lee Neil to give Durham a share of the points.

Peterlee, who are unbeaten, currently lead the Durham county league senior division and look favourites to win the title following their 8-2 victory over previously unbeaten Sunderland A.

In their first return fixture of the season Peterlee's junior team travelled to Sunderland to play the town B side. Having been soundly beaten 10-0 in the first match of the season, a little apprehension was felt by the Peterlee squad.

But they performed well and were just lacking in practice and confidence to have made the final score of 9-1 to Sunderland a little more respectable. The one victory for Peterlee was gained by the new doubles combination of Judith Grant and Chris Russon beating Mickey Chang and Steven Riggins. A lot of good, high quality table tennis was played by both sides and in 12 year old Steven Riggins, Sunderland appear to have found a very good prospect.

The Peterlee team again stuck to the task in hand and showed steady improvement in ability and technique. However, other juniors are showing promise in the domestic league matches and may push for places in the league side before the season is over.

Junior trials

The three local players that participated in the cadet boys event of the national junior trials held at Luton did well. Both Steven Riggins and Dermot Ledwith just failed to go forward to the next stage when they finished in third place in their groups, while Ian Collier finished sixth in his group.

ESSEX

by Laurie Darnell

It was all change at the Essex senior closed championships held at the Highwoods sports centre, Colchester. Dave Newman (Chelmsford), with a new partner in the mens doubles, was the only player to successfully defend his share of a title.

The new mens champion is Jeff Drew (Romford). He reached the final by defeating Richard Darnell (Brentwood) who had knocked out the top seed Newman. The other finalist was Kevin Caldon (Dagenham) who used the championships to regain the competitive edge to his game . . . enough to get past the No 2 seed Des Charlery in the semi-final.

The final provided several periods of fluctuating fortune between the No 3 and 4 seeds. But in rallies of spin, speed and touch play, Jeff emerged as a worthy winner by fighting back in the first game and sustaining a two point margin after holding an immense lead in the second and final games.

Double championships were achieved

by Joan Hand (Brentwood), Lisa Hayden (Brentwood), Kem Mudge (Dagenham) and Peter Radford (Romford)

Results

MS: Jeff Drew (Rom) b Kevin Caldon (Dag) 23, 19. WS: Lisa Hayden (B'wd) b Kim Mudge (Dag) 18, 12. MD: Des Charlery/Dave Newman (Dag/Chelm) b Dave Birkett/Steve Tilson (B'ham) 11, 12. WD: Mudge/Elaine Sayer (Dag) b Kim & Lisa Hayden (B'wd). XD: Ian Attridge/Mudge (Dag) b David Cole/Linda Barrow (B'wd/B'ham) 15, 15. VMS: Peter Radford (Rom) b Brian Parish (Dag) 9, -18, 7. VWS: Joan Hand (B'wd) b Shirley Carroll (B'ham) 14, -10, 23. VD: Radford/John Tendler (Rom/Dag) b Stan Battrick/Ray Murray (Dag/Thurr) -17, 8, 22. U21MS: Paul Sayer (Dag) b Richard Darnell (B'wd) 23, -16, 19. U21WS: L Hayden (B'wd) b Joanne Cook (B'wd) 12, 11. MS(res): Peter Norcott (Dag) b Martin Speight (B'ham) 20, 15. WS(res): Hand (B'wd) b Martina Hicks (B'wd) 12, -14, 19.

DERBYSHIRE NOTES

Malcom Allsop

The Derbyshire junior 2nd team maintained their winning run with a 7-3 victory over Cumbria. Paul Knowles was ill and had to be replaced by Lancaster teammate William Hollingworth, who was unbeaten. John Backhouse won both his singles and the boys doubles for Cumbria; but John Davis, Gavin West, Julie Forster and Amanda Dawkins won the rest for Derbyshire with 'good attacking table tennis' according to captain Les Allwood.

Matlock celebrated the end of 1985 by topping division one and the veterans division of the Derbyshire Inter-Town League.

The Matlock 1st team gained a convincing 8-2 win over Derby 1st with Geoff Gill winning a maximum. Mick Thorley and Tony Gregory won two each for Matlock.

Bill Fowkes kept Eastwood 1st in the championship race with three wins against Burton 1st. In a tightly-fought match, Eastwood took a 7-0 lead with all 7 sets requiring a third and deciding game.

With the points safe, Eastwood relaxed allowing Stuart Brookes and Charlie Kyles to win a singles each and combine to win the doubles for a respectable 3-7 scoreline which was a truer reflection upon the closeness of the match.

Division One	P	W	D	L	SETS	Pts
Matlock 1st	2	2	0	0	17-3	4
Eastwood 1st	2	2	0	0	13-7	4
Derby 1st	2	0	0	2	6-14	0
Burton 1st	2	0	0	2	4-16	0

Robert Ridge won his three singles for Burton 2nd in a close 6-4 victory over Matlock 2nd; with Derby 2nd showing no mercy to Buxton in a 10-0 victory.

Division Two	P	W	D	L	SETS	Pts
Derby 2nd	2	2	0	0	20-0	4
Burton 2nd	2	2	0	0	12-8	4
Eastwood 2nd	1	0	0	1	4-6	0
Matlock 2nd	2	0	0	2	4-16	0
Buxton	1	0	0	1	0-10	0

In the veterans division, Mick Thorley and Harvey Flint won all their sets for Matlock, with Rapley getting Buxton's consolation with a win over Les Hewitt.

Derby gained an equally impressive 9-1 victory over Chesterfield. Eastwood were made to fight hard all the way by Burton, with Rose Haggard in good form for Burton with two singles and a doubles victory with Alan Haynes; Dave Inkley won three singles for Eastwood and was well supported by Colin Cheetham who had two wins in Eastwood's 6-4 victory.

Veterans Div	P	W	D	L	SETS	Pts
Matlock	2	2	0	0	19-1	4
Derby	2	1	1	0	14-6	3
Eastwood	2	1	1	0	11-9	3
Burton	2	1	0	1	12-8	2
Buxton	2	0	0	2	3-17	0
Chesterfield	2	0	0	2	1-19	0

Experience was a telling factor in the matches played in the junior division. Burton and Derby gaining 9-1 victories over Matlock and Eastwood respectively.

Junior Div	P	W	D	L	SETS	Pts
Burton	1	1	0	0	9-1	2
Chesterfield	1	1	0	0	8-2	2
Derby	2	1	0	1	11-9	2
Eastwood	1	0	0	1	1-9	0
Matlock	1	0	0	1	1-9	0

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

by Alf Pepperd

The Tsakarisanos family dominate the news in Gloucestershire this month. Paul (Nina's brother) has temporarily left these shores to travel overland to Israel where he plans to seek work in a kibbutz. The entire venture, I understand, is likely to last in the region of six months, so hopefully he will be back in time for next season in the city league and the county premier league.

And Nina is doing sterling work each week at the Gloucester leisure centre coaching a mixed section of the local community. I hear she has already attended some of Bryan Merrett's coaching courses for coaches held for a period of six weeks at Cheltenham.

Cirencester operational

Cirencester, after 26 years of table tennis demise, have formed a league (with perhaps a little help from county officials and others). Chaired by Andy Alridge - a school teacher at Deer Park - a sound working committee has already been formed and the league became fully operational from 20th January with nine teams making up one division. It is the most encouraging news to come out of the county for several years. While most of the country suffers from its recession in general here at long last in rural Gloucestershire our game is on the increase. It could well be argued that few people in the sport want to give up any time at all for the general promotion or running of the sport, so this initiative is doubly commendable.

Rudford lead

We have now reached the half-way stage of the Providence Capitol county premier league, of 10 meetings. To date all teams have played each other and it is clear that Rudford are heading for the championship.

With Darren Griffin, Steve Moreman, Martyn Lane and Richard Pepperd at their disposal Rudford present a great threat to any other teams competing and they must surely be favourites to take the title even with five more matches to play.

Their lead is now 17 points clear, but 4 points separate the next three teams; CEGB with 25 points, and Cheltenham Saracens on 21.

Cinderford 13, and Stroud, 11, are battling to avoid the wooden spoon - nevertheless it is interesting to note that each team has won at least one match and no-one playing in more than two matches has won less than two sets.

At the time of writing our seniors in division 3C are sitting at the top of the table unbeaten. But we do have postponements on the list, so by the time this is printed it could be that we have been overtaken!

Footnote: Readers will appreciate that no league can be formed in a hurry. At present Cirencester are not affiliated under the county's official umbrella, but no doubt this will come about in due course.

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 (G)
- 5 June Hall (C)

Junior Boys

- 1 Dale Saunders (G)
- 2 Howard Williams (S)
- 3 Craig Saunders (G)
- 4 Laurence Symonds (G)

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.

Mike Prosser

I was saddened to hear of the death of well-known former Hereford player Mike Prosser. Mike not only played in his native Herefordshire but, in company with Steve Moreman and Dave Harvey - all playing for Tibberton and Taynton in the late 70s - won the Gloucester first division team championship two years running in 1978 and again the following year. Mike will indeed be sadly missed.

Fee increase

The English Table Tennis Association have agreed an affiliation fee unit of 168p for the 1986/87 season - an inflationary increase of 6.3% as determined by reference to the Retail Price Indices for November 1984 and November 1985.

LANCASHIRE NOTES

George Yates

The first task of new county match secretary Norman Pearson (0254 53376), following the resignation of Marjorie Riddle, involved the registration of both Andrea Holt and Sean Gibson for senior play. The former made his senior debut against Warwickshire in division 2A on 15th February, his male teammates being Paul Hutchings of Liverpool and Phil Aspinall of Oldham. Young Sean is a Preston inter-league player whilst also playing for British Aerospace, Lostock in the Bolton league.

Lancashire's senior team did well in again finishing runners-up, to

Middlesex, in the senior premier division of the county championships. From all accounts the second premier division weekend at Oldham was a well-conducted affair thanks to the efforts of Stuart Sneyd whose son, Darryl, figures as the county's top Lancastrian cadet at No 15.

Sean Gibson is the top Red Rose player in the junior boys list at No 7 followed by David Carse of Bolton at No 11. And, in the junior girls list, Andrea Holt rides high at No 1, taking over from Cheshire's Claire Potts. Nicola McGrath of Preston figures at No 13.

HAMPSHIRE

David Cosway

Again a defeat for the county first team, this time against Wiltshire. To be fair this is a very strong division and we have played the strongest teams first.

As for most of the season, county champion Clive Young, was unavailable and Jill Green missed her first county game for some time, through injury. I can do no better than quote from Chris Shelter's report: "A very disappointing match which we lost -28", wrote Shelter. Even though Kevin Satchell, now ranked 16th in England, played, I was hoping for a draw".

"Graham (Toole) remains an enigma, brilliant one match, rubbish the next. Certainly he has the ability but is far too inconsistent. Rhamish (Bhalla) not at his best - no chance against Satchell, but managed to win one singles. Yours truly won one of this singles very easily and only lost in the third game to Kevin Edwards in the other".

"The girls played very well in the doubles and lost a close match in the third game. They should really have won this one two straight though, being 17 up (sic) in the second having won the first. Sarah (Hammond) played very well in her singles, probably only losing through lack of experience at this level. She was up in the third game but lost through several unforced errors right at the end against Janet (New) Parker".

"Cheryl (Buttery) was up against a good opponent in Clare Maisey (ranked in the top 30) but even so her performance was slightly erratic and never looked like winning at any stage of the game".

"So, another defeat. Still you can only do your best and the spirit in the team is good. Everyone is enjoying it even me with my 35 year old legs! The next match is against Somerset first at Hambledon and this could be the one where we break our duck!"

The junior match against Avon was a good 8-2 win with the team of Paul Hudless, Phillip Watson, Martin Johnson, Lisa Rice and Racheal Cheffey all contributing.

The veteran A team 7-2 win over Avon had Ray Lush, Fred and Ivy Kershaw winning all their singles and Ken Giles one singles. The Veteran B team had a comfortable 8-1 win over Herts 4th, thanks to Maurice Shave, John Harvey, George Philpot and Anne Abraham.

At the half way stage in the inter-town league, Aldershot head the mixed division having beaten all their three opponents in the first half. Southampton are in second place having lost only to Aldershot.

Therefore many outstanding matches in the mens division but again Aldershot lead the way having won both the matches they have played. Alton making their welcome first appearance in the league have lost their first two matches.

Southampton A lead the veteran division 1 with three wins, veteran division 2 with two wins followed by Bournemouth C who have won their only match to date. Again many outstanding matches in the veteran division - time was when fixtures could only be postponed in exceptional circumstances.

The Hampshire junior closed attracted a good entry although slightly down on last season. Tournament organiser Harold Alberry states that once again he had no assistance from the many umpires in the county and had it not been for the help he received from John Hammond, he would have been hard pushed to cope.

Results

U12GS: Joanne Windsor (Portsmouth) b Heidi Wheaton 16, 13. U14GS: Elizabeth Schubrook (Aldershot) b Tina Caws (Southampton) 11, 5. JGS: Sarah Hammond (Southampton) b Lisa Rice (Portsmouth) 13, 14. U12BS:

LEICESTERSHIRE

Terry Brown

In division 1 of the Leicester & District League, Knighton Park 1, as they have done repeatedly over the past few years, are sweeping all before them with the irresistible Chris Rogers enjoying a 100% performance so far.

Division 2 is currently topped by Leicester Electricity 1 with the power play of Steve Zanker and the solid backing of Phil Overend very much in evidence. That club again, Knighton Park 5 look to be running away with the division 3 pot thanks to an all-round team effort spearheaded by Michael Lapworth.

Leicester Building Society 2 are building up what looks like a useful lead at the top of division 4 with Neil Talbot running at 90% interest. Belgrave Liberals 1, with Geoff Hancock at the helm, are waiting in the wings should the Society men falter.

Thorn EMI 2 are currently shining bright at the top of division 5 with a 4pt buffer over Knighton Park 7 & Great Glen 5. Hogg Robinson's Bob Norman leads the race for the individual honours.

Hinckley league

In Hinckley league, who adopt the 'points for sets won' system, the Croft first team are leading the pack in division 1 three points clear of the second placed Queens Head and with a match in hand. David Grundy - of Croft - tops the averages with 21 wins out of 21.

Ashby Parva's first string occupy top spot in division 2 with a massive 30pts lead over Mencap Casuals A who have three matches in hand. Alec Downes of Ashby Parva B is the man of the moment at the head of the averages with 89%.

Mark Shutler (Gosport and Fareham) b Neil White (Basingstoke) 12, 8. U14BS: Mark Thorne (Southampton) b Bryant Gonsalves (Aldershot) 13, 16. JBS: Paul Hudless (Aldershot) b Stuart Ottley (Basingstoke) 10, 17. U14XD: Thorne/Shutler b Gonsalves/M Nash (Aldershot) 20, 21. JIXD: Hudless/Hammond b Thorne and Greg Moore (Southampton) 16, 13.

In the Hampshire Schools individual Championships again held at Redbridge Sports Centre, Southampton. Once again Harold Alberry in charge assisted by John Hammond. Most of the events were played on a group system; the results as follows:-

U19BS: Andrew Davies (Farnborough Salesian College) b Richard Mandair (Richard Taunton, Southampton) 9, 13. U16BS: Jason Hicks (Richard Oldworth, Basingstoke) b Stuart Ottley (Richard Oldworth, Basingstoke) 20, 15. U13BS: John Crouch (Farnborough Salesian College) b Stephen Crouch (Farnborough Salesian College) 12, 18. U11BS: Charles Fell (Wallhampton) b Guy Erricker (Wallhampton)

LINCOLNSHIRE

Wayne Noon, from Grimsby, was in excellent form during the Lincs junior championships at Grantham barracks, Grantham, on 11th January. He won the boys U15, U17 and, to make it a hat-trick, the boys doubles with Glen White, also from Grimsby.

The girls events were dominated by the Grantham players who featured in every final - a great achievement for one town. Only young Sally Johnson, from Lincoln, stopped them from taking all the titles by winning the U13 event. She was also runner-up in the U17.

The championships had a slight increase in entries from last year, which is a good sign for the future. The standard of play was very high and the behaviour of competitors excellent.

Results

JBS: Wayne Noon (Grimsby) b Vernon Carthew (Grantham) 19, 12. U15BS: Noon b Jason Williams (Boston) 11, 16. U11BS: Matthew King b Terry Paxton (Grantham) 8, 16. U13BS: Matthew Jackson b David Onuga (Grantham) 10, 15. JBD: Noon/Glen White (Grimsby) b Williams/Gary Hill (Boston) 13, 12. JGS: Joanne Mole (Grantham) b Sally Johnson (Lincoln) 14, 17. U15GS: Helen Stephens b Jeanette Baxter (Grantham) -20, 11, 15. U13GS: Johnson b Baxter 7, 19. U11GS: Winner: Catherine Challis. Runner-up: Abigail Durrands (Grantham). JGD: Mole/Stephens b Catherine May/Baxter (Grantham) 15, 12. XS: Hill b Matthew Warren (Grantham) 13, 19.

No fluke

Lincs beat Cheshire 7-2 in the veterans premier division of the county championships to prove that last year's win against this great team was no fluke.

After a shaky start, losing the first two sets, Matt Shearer stopped the rot by beating Peter D'Arcy. And then Connie Moran really set the Cheshire team back by defeating Doreen Schofield, the England No 1 veteran lady.

This is the first game Doreen has lost in this event in seven years, and only the second in any competition for veterans in this country - an excellent win for Connie.

12, 20. U19GS: Sarah Hammond (Richard Taunton, Southampton) b Racheal Cheffey (Barton Peveril, Eastleigh) 13, 14. U16GS: Lisa Rice (Horndean) b Kerry Hughes (St Edmunds, Portsmouth) 4, 4. U13GS: Clare Woodham (Farnborough Hill) b Tina Caws (Glen Eyre, Southampton) 8, 12. U11GS: Heidi Wheaton (Solent Middle, Portsmouth) b Alison Thorne (Hardley, Southampton) 24, -12, 19.

Last year, Sarah Hammond went from winning this individual championship to win the national event.

NOTTS NEWS

Mike Tunningley

Once again the Nottinghamshire junior team progressed one step nearer to promotion from division 2A of the Stiga county championships when they overcame some strong resistance from Lincolnshire to eventually run out comfortable 8-2 winners.

The convincing scoreline however, did not reflect the determined effort by the division's bottom team as no less than six of the ten matches resulted in third game deciders.

John Holland got Notts off to a fine start when he beat the Lincs No 1 Wayne Noon 21-18 in the third. But a close defeat for Robert Fearn 22-20 in the third quickly levelled the match.

Tim Sheppard who is having a really good final season for the county defeated Vernon Carthew to put Notts 2-1 ahead. Wins in the girls doubles by Kay Mayall and Claire Oldman along with Holland and Sheppard's win in the boys doubles took the score to a healthy 4-1.

The run was sustained by Holland with his win over Peter Wilkinson and, though Claire Oldman lost in the girls singles against Helen Stephens, three successive wins for Sheppard, Mayall, and a fine recovery by Fearn against the Lincs No 2 Carthew gave Notts a hard-fought victory.

Surprises

There were plenty of surprises in the Mansfield league's annual championships with the holders of four trophies seeing their dreams of a double crash in the United Friendly Insurance-sponsored event.

One of the major upsets came in the Hildreth open singles where the holder Brian Hill lost 19-21 21-8, 16-21 to his Packer Sports colleague Geoff Gill.

However, Hill still finished with a winners trophy after he teamed up with Gill to win the doubles final against Tony Rusinowski and Ray Wright.

David Brown the holder of the Packer veterans singles trophy also became another scalp for Gill as he outgunned him to win in straight sets.

The womens title went to Jane Vickers who shocked the holder Jackie Bull in an all Rolls Royce final to win 21-16, 21-15. She then followed up this success by teaming up with Steve Taylor to win the mixed doubles against Barry and Alison Taylor.

It was Taylor's second winner's trophy of the championships following his victory in the U17s event while Lee Coppock gained success in the U14s section. Ray Bostrom, the district manager of United Friendly Insurance, presented the awards during the afternoon.

Both the Northumberland senior county teams entertained Lincolnshire in a 'double header' at Byker Community Centre on 11th January. The first team's match was originally scheduled for 22nd March but was brought forward to the same day at Lincolnshire's request.

The teams experienced mixed fortunes, with the first team achieving their fifth successive victory (8-2) to extend their lead at the top of division 3A. The seconds, unfortunately, remain rooted firmly at the other end after putting up a brave fight, only to narrowly lose 4-6. They are still looking for their first victory. The success of the veterans team continued when on the same day at Blaydon Youth Club they had an excellent 6-3 win over a good Hertfordshire second side, who had only come down the previous season because their first team had been relegated from the premier division. Maurice Cheek again won two singles to preserve his unbeaten record - as did Fred Short - while Larry Cartnell at last got off the

mark with his first singles victory and also a 'first' in the mixed doubles with Pauline Long.

This result means that Northumberland are currently lying second in the table, hoping to at least hold that position as Yorkshire II cannot gain promotion with their first team in division 2A.

The Christmas break proved to be a disaster for the Byker Newcastle first team in the Halex National league as they lost their vital match to Chan Construction Handsworth to record their first defeat of the season. Neil McMaster and Eddie Smith were their only set winners in a 2-6 defeat. The second team fared even worse when they crashed 0-10 to Kingsborough Insurance Services. The second half of the Northumberland league season only recommenced on 6th January after the Christmas and New Year break, so not many results were to hand at the time of writing. Byker CC A, North Shields YMCA A and Norland Road A are all currently locked together at the top of the

premier division equal on points. But the Byker team have one game in hand over the second placed team and two games over the third.

There is a similar battle in division 1 involving Boldon CC A, DHSS A and Byker CC D, while in division 2A, Ouston CC A and Gateshead B are fighting it out for the leading position. Newton 'A' are still leading division 2B by three points, but will have to watch Tyne Gas A and Shanklea A as they appear to be the teams most likely to close the gap. Wills SRA, Electrics D and possibly Northumbria Centre appear to be the likely promotion challengers in division 3A, while in division 3B, Jarrow CC A and Ashington YMCA B are the current leaders. But they could face a challenge from third placed North Shields YMCA D.

Lemington B are now five points clear at the top of division 4, but Shanklea C have emerged to challenge Northumbria Fire Service C for second place.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Pauline Long

SOMERSET

Les Bridges

Among the Somerset players who appeared in six of the eight finals at the Exeter Open in early February, Phillip Payne and Tina Sadler emerged as singles winners in the U17 boys singles and U14 girls singles.

Sarah Webb and Kirsty Withyman won the girls doubles and Tina Sadler also reached the final of the U17 girls event defeating England ranked Sarah Webb and Kirsty Withyman on her way.

Other finalists were Katherine Gent, U11 girls, and Mark Smith U11 boys.

Phillip Payne put on a splendid display of defending to beat Richard

Aitken (Dv) in straight games, while Tina Sadler beat the England U14 No 10, Sarah Pengelly (Dv) in the third in the U14 final.

All of the Somerset players train at the Chilton Trinity School club in Bridgewater.

Junior Boys

1. Phillip Payne (B)
2. David Woodridge (Y)
3. Paul Smith (B)
Paul Fowler (B)
4. Keiron Boucher (Y)
Adrian Gillham (Y)

Sir Stanley Graham Rowlandson

MBE, JP, FCA

It is with great regret that I have to announce the death of our President, Sir Stanley Graham Rowlandson, MBE, JP, FCA. Graham, as he liked to be called, boasted that he had one of the longest entries in Who's Who, and certainly he held a great number of appointments both in the business world and public service. It was because of his position as Chairman of the now defunct Middlesex County Council that we approached him 28 years ago and asked him to become our President, a post he was pleased to accept and which he has occupied ever since.

Although a polio victim and confined to a wheelchair, he became quite keen

on watching our sport, and only twice (once through ill-health and the other because of the diabolical weather) did he fail to come to the finals of the Middlesex 3-Star Open Championships, even when he had to be literally carried up the stairs in the old days at Hanwell. He also held receptions for our victorious teams when they won the County Championships and attended many of our functions.

He will be remembered with affection by many Middlesex table tennis players and will be sadly missed by us all.

Iris Moss

Junior Girls

1. Melonie Carey (B)
2. Sarah Webb (B)
3. Kirsty Withyman (B)
4. Fiona Stuart (B)
5. Tina Sadler (Y)
6. Joanna Webber (B)

Cadet Boys

1. Leon Bovett (B)
Steven Durley (Y)
3. Adam Gallop (B)
James Webber (B)
5. Terrance Austin (Y)

Cadet Girls

1. Tina Sadler (Y)
2. Sarah Grassam (Y)
3. Kate Pearce (B)
Marnie Jarvis (B)
5. Katherine Gent (B)

U12 Boys

1. George Ball (B)
2. Mark Smith (B)
3. Michael Price (B)
4. Robert Fearn (B)
5. Daniel Finberg (Y)

U12 Girls

1. Sharon Fowler (B)
2. Kate Gent (B)
3. Kay Dorrett (B)
4. Sarah Bawden (B)
5. Stephanie Fox (B)

B — Bridgewater; Y — Yeovil

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Jack Chalkey

For those who have followed the performances of Staffordshire in the county championships over the years, perhaps the most remarkable feature of this season's results is success in the doubles matches. Our three wins over Berkshire, Leicestershire and Kent, all 5-4, depended on doubles victories and two doubles wins also took us very close to a defeat of the champions, Middlesex. In fact, Fiona Elliot's only singles defeat of the championships unluckily came in the Middlesex match, denying us a famous win over the top county. Nevertheless, finishing equal fourth with six points was a very creditable performance and as good as we could have expected.

There were excellent contributions from Fiona and from Adrian Dixon (7 wins out of 14) and Andrew Bellingham (4/14, playing No 1); Craig Bakewell and Andy Rich completed the team and added a singles win each, whilst the doubles wins came from Bellingham/Dixon (5/7) and Elliot/Rich (4/7).

The county join team captain, Paul Chester, in being well pleased with retaining our place in the premier division and the chance to have another go at the top counties next year.

Our other defeats came from Yorkshire (4-5), Lancashire (2-7) and Surrey (3-6). As a final word, I should make special mention of junior Adrian Dixon's outstanding performance as a member of the senior team. His 7 wins included the notable scalps of Steve Mills of Yorkshire (No 12 in the national rankings) and Steve Turner of Lancashire (No 28).

Douglas a success for GKN

Another success story at premier division level is that of GKN Steelstock Wolverhampton. Their

latest win against Bath (5-3) keeps them on top of the national league, with Desmond Douglas remaining unbeaten.

If they continue to hold this position, they will be the first midland team to win the premier division. Having seen their recent match against Ormesby, one cannot help but refer to the outstanding example which Desmond Douglas gives to table tennis. His talent needs no comment from me the results say it all. But added to this he is one of the few players at the top who can be described as a true sportsman, always displaying good manners with no outburst of temperament or ill-feeling. If only coaches would instill in young players that temper and loss of control contributes all too often to lost matches. 'If you can keep your head when all about you are losing theirs. . . !

Our junior second team looks set to hold their place in division 2A. They gained another victory over Suffolk by 6-4, singles wins coming from Nigel Tongue (2), Adrian Thorp, Mark Stretton and Louise Sherratt, with Thorp and Tongue adding the doubles.

The same team, which also included Jane Winter, travelled to Yorkshire but were unable to upset the strong Yorkshire second team. Thorp recorded two singles victories in the 8-2 defeat and must now be a serious contender for a place in our junior side to go to the second premier weekend.

His win in the junior boys event in the Grove 2-Star tournament emphasises the progress he has made this season.

Plans are going ahead for another hard bat tournament this season. 11th May is the likely date and once again individual (Turner Trophy) and team (Beattie Trophy) events will be held.

SURREY

Frank Hams

When Nicky Mason walked through the doors of the Elmbridge Leisure Centre, on Saturday 25th January, the hopes of the other competitors flew out of the windows. When he scored his first point or blocked a seemingly outright winner, it was apparent there would only be one victor of the mens singles in the Surrey closed championship.

His opponent in the semi-final, Dave Harding, gave him the hardest game 21-16, 21-13. His opponent in the final was Steve Holloway who beat Mike Hammond in the other semi.

Steve is tall, but Nicky, who had travelled up from the English Open, looked taller than the Brighton Dome. During the match he had Steve locked up and under complete control.

His services were tricky and difficult to read and resulted in outright winners or easy openings. When rallies did happen he moved around the court faster than an excited ferret.

Steve did his best and hit the odd winner but at the end the scoreline of 21-11, 21-13 tells its own story. For the first time the trophy has the name of Mason on it.

The score of the womens final tells a story of a different kind 21-15, 17-21, 24-22. The match between Jane Barella and Debbie Simmonds was fairly predictable—Jane slow looping, Debbie blocking; both trying to hit the odd winner.

Jane serving tight spinny services; Debbie, who was faulted a few times when she was younger, serving absolutely impeccably. Flat, open hand but still with plenty of variation.

First game to Jane; second to Debbie. In the third with Jane 17-11 up it looked all over, but when Debbie won the next two points her opponent suddenly had doubts.

At 20-20 it was anyone's game—who had the nerve? Jane looped; Debbie blocked with pimpled rubber; the ball died characteristically near the end of the table. Jane lunged, the ball balanced on top of the net and fell over. The next point evened the score and the crowd roared. Had their impartiality changed because of the previous point?

They seemed behind Debbie, but Jane won the next two points to become the champion.

Shocks

There were shocks in the veterans event. Frank Hams, Brian Simmonds, Ron Wilde and Gordon Chapman all lost and it was left to Ron Langheim to beat Mike Pearson 10-21, 21-10, 21-15 in the final.

The event was the last to be held; next year it should be one of the first so that veterans who support the tournament by playing in all events are not put at a disadvantage.

The mens doubles won by Martin Shuttle and Neville Miller; the womens doubles by Barella and Heather Payce-Drury; the mixed doubles by Simmonds and Hammond; the consolation by Alun Garroway.

Neither Glen Baker (the holder of mens singles) or Leslie Popkewitz entered the tournament. Glen said his forms arrived too late (everyone received their forms late) and Leslie, because she no longer wants to be associated with the county.

She is upset with county selection; selector Mike Kercher has asked her to reconsider but I understand she may join another county.

In the final of the U17s Richard Jones was beaten by Simon Philipsz who also beat Matthew Pernet. In the girls U17s Cheryl Bateman beat Tracy Pritchett 15-21, 24-22, 21-16 after being 17-20 down in the second. In the U14 girls Karen Ashley beat Amanda Dewsbury and she also won the U12s.

Graham Connelly won the U14 boys, the U12 boys winner was Jason Blake, and Matthew Pernet was awarded the Jim Forest trophy for the most improved player.

Recovery

The premier team recovered from their poor results at Tolworth by winning three out of four matches in the second premier weekend. They finished fourth. At the veterans southern tournament at Brighton Connie Warren lost in the final to Henry Buist. Jenny Vass lost in the womens semi-final.

The veterans lost against Kent 4-5. Gordon, Frank and Brian won one each, plus a mens doubles.

Rupert Bole made his debut in the 2nd senior team away to Cambridge. He won one in the team's draw. Jerome Jonah also played his first game in this match.

Now—a question that many people will not answer—which of you are older than the Surrey committee? They have a problem. Is the Surrey Table Tennis Association 40 or 50 years old? In 1936 the STT League was formed. In 1946 the STT Association was founded but the founders of the league also helped form the association. Should we be celebrating our Jubilee? Answers please to Ron Craydon.



Members of the Staffs junior second team who represented the county in several of the earlier matches this season. Left to right: Adrian Thorp (Wolverhampton), Nigel Tongue (Stafford), Jane Winter (Tamworth), Louise Sherratt (Stafford) and Mark Stretton (Wolverhampton).

Photo courtesy of the "Tamworth Herald"

SUSSEX NOTES

John Woodford

Phil Smith, 29, the season's most successful player on the Sussex ranking list has finally driven a wedge between the Moore brothers!

In the latest list, effective from March 1st, Smith appears at No 2 in Sussex with Adrian Moore back at No 1 and Stephen Moore down to No 3. Smith has had a fine season for TCB Dolphins in the national league, with an outstanding win at Cardiff by Alan Griffiths; he has also beaten Stephen Moore three times.

His reward is virtually certain to be a No 2 seeded berth at the all-Sussex championships at Lancing on 16th April. On current performance that should give him a place in the final—inform Ritchie Venner should be in the top half with Adrian Moore—and Smith should have a clear run after trying for that elusive crown for many years.

Shortly after the re-rankings however Dolphins were humbled at St Neots and Stephen Moore got his own back on Venner. But at the Kent Open in Gillingham the Crawley v Bexhill battle royal for supremacy took another strange turn when Venner reached the mens singles final at the expense of Adrian Moore. This was certainly Venner's finest hour even though he lost to Colin Wilson in the final.

Come-back

Former Sussex champion Carole Hewett is making a welcome come-back. After a mix-up over a letter at the start of the season she is now available for the county.

In the Brighton championships on 24th February she swept the board

winning the womens singles against her sister Christine in the final, took the womens doubles with Christine and the mixed doubles with Malcolm Francis who also won the coveted Brighton crown against Andy Walker in the final.

Shock at the Brighton tournament was the defeat of Roger Chandler at the hands of Robin Stace who then went down to Walker, another fine performance by the Lancing man.

It is vital that these young Sussex men start to come through, bearing in mind players like Chandler, Stace and Keith Horton are now all veterans. Incidentally that is certainly a strong veterans team added to the strength of Alan Rowden, whose record in Sussex as a veteran is second to none. The top Sussex veterans team is on a high-flying run, challenging for the lead in the county championships with Rowden the star performer.

I seek hard for good news on juniors and it is hard to find, but there is some relief at Crawley. After trying for 16 years Ifield Community College—guided by stalwart Andy Meads—are through to the national finals of the ESTTA competition. Scott Greenbrook, Marcus Greenbrook, Alan Cole and Paul Sutton are the high-flying Crawley quartet.

Another high-flyer, at Hastings, is Rosemary Rainton, 16, who plays in one of the lower divisions of the local league. She is on the way up with a fine win over Sheila King, England No 41 woman player in the Hastings championships. Paul Rowden won his fifth title at Eastbourne and Sheila King took the womens crown for the second time.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

Mary Rose

The second session of Warwickshire League matches were held at the Phoenix Club, Coventry on Sunday 19th January 1986, but referee Brian Lloyd reported them a disaster, as only two of the planned seven matches were played due to Rugby and Stratford being unable to send teams because of other commitments.

A date has been booked in March, again at the Phoenix Club, but with such a congested programme during the next few months it will obviously be a problem re-arranging the postponed matches.

Tournament Success

Anne Lloyd of Birmingham after playing for two seasons in local veteran events has decided to branch out and enter major events around the country.

Her first successes came at Coventry in November, reaching the semi-final of the Over 40s womens singles and the final of the restricted Over 40s ladies. At the Midland Zoned Tournament held at Wolverhampton Anne won her group matches in the singles event beating Janet Allen of Worcester on the way, but losing to Linda Reed in the final. Last but not least was a trip to Brighton for the English veterans tournament winning her group, and pairing with Joyce Coop to reach the semi-finals of the womens doubles.

Perhaps Anne's success and obvious enjoyment in playing veterans tournaments will encourage other ladies in Warwickshire to admit to their veteran status.

COVENTRY

There has been considerable activity on the Inter City front, mainly in respect to the cadet sides. The A team has played two series of matches and after six matches remain undefeated, sharing top league spot with Loughborough. Jonathan Baldwin remains undefeated after 18 sets, while David Clarke and Peter Rose each have 15 wins to their credit.

The B side did not meet with the same success when they played a session in the Heart of England league winning only one of the three matches played. Coventry trio of Daniel Swallow, Carl Jackson and Philip Balfe lost 3-7 to Banbury, 4-6 to Worcester, but defeated Leamington B 7-3.

The Midland League mens A side have recorded two useful 8-2 wins over both Wolverhampton at home and Chesterfield away. Adrian Pilgrim being undefeated winning six sets in two matches. Kevin Pilgrim winning five sets and Chris Martin four.

The B side have had mixed results, gaining a creditable 5-5 draw at Burton after being 2-4 down, they then fell to Leicester B 3-7.

The junior A side had a good win against Derby coming back from 3-4 down to win 6-4. The turning point came when Simon Brain won his singles against Amanda Dawkins after three very close games.

PING PONG FOR CHARITY



A marathon 24-hour table tennis session has netted up to £500 for charity.

Members of the Leabrook Table Tennis Club in Wednesbury in the West Midlands aimed at raising £250 for the Marie Curie Foundation for

cancer research.

But organisers believe the final figure is now likely to be between £400 and £500.

The marathon was officially opened by Desmond Douglas, the national singles champion. Organiser, 15-year-old Andy

Richards, a pupil at Willingsworth High School, Tipton said: "It's very hard going but worth it. We had a rota with 20 people playing on two or three tables all the time!"

*Some of the sporting team members who took part; left to

right they are David Hiley, James Wills, Matt Phillips, Matt Richardson, Andy Richardson, Tony Chadwick and Matthew Gibbs.

Reproduced with permission from the Sandwell Mail, West Midlands.

ERIC HILL — A TRUE TYKE

Rea Balmford

Eric Hill, after serving the county as coaching secretary, county championships secretary and national councillor, has recently taken over the 'hot seat' as chairman of the Yorkshire Association.

Like all Tykes, Eric is intensely proud to be a Yorkshireman, and that is the motivation behind his willingness to stick out his neck and put Yorkshire where he feels that they belong — at the top.

A busy man in his professional life as a director of a Bradford firm of wool merchants, Eric's sporting background covers not only table tennis, but lawn tennis, soccer, squash, snooker and golf.

This versatility extends to his family, where two of his four daughters, Rebecca and Bronwyn, gained representative honours at swimming and

rowing respectively, while sons Greg, who made 95 Yorkshire League appearances for Bradford, and Adrian, a former No 1 ranked Yorkshire junior as well as an Oxford half blue, both made their mark in table tennis.

The family table tennis connection was extended when Greg, now a successful business man in his own right, married Melody (Ludi) who, although, like 'dad in law', always busy, still finds time to play for Bradford and, of course, Yorkshire.

Over twenty years with the Clayton Heights club sees the new chairman steeped in table tennis at all levels from the grass roots up to the highest, and all his many friends from the 'Woolopolis' and far beyond will wish him well and give him every support in 'life at the top'.

Selby success

With the news that the Selby league are looking for a new coaching centre as a result of rebuilding and modernisation at the Squash Club comes a five year success story from that busy little town situated between the industrial West Riding, historic York and rural East Yorkshire (now politically known by that horrendous misnomer of North Humberside).

Five years ago when the local league boasted only a handful of juniors, a nine table coaching centre was set up at the Squash Club, thanks to the efforts of Mike Hanley and Mick Wilcockson and, from the beginning, the tables were overflowing with enthusiastic youngsters working under the guidance of the two equally enthusiastic coaches.

One of the already established youngsters at that time was Mick Emmerson, now with Harrogate, who became Selby's first to achieve a county junior ranking — at No 8. Younger brother Steve and Mandy Holmes from neighbouring Castleford followed suit twelve months later, and the scheme

went from strength to strength with one junior and five cadets named in last season's England ranking lists.

This success is not only a tribute to the work of the young players themselves and a squad of dedicated coaches, but it has seen that handful of youngsters of five years back grow to thirty — over one third of the 86 players registered in the league — and provide the nucleus of the table tennis future in the town.

The coming of the coaching centre offered an opportunity and, often, even nine tables were insufficient to cope with the demand, particularly in a league where many clubs are attached to local industry and thus unable to open their doors to those who want to get a foot on the ladder.

One of the few independent clubs is in the nearby village of Thorpe Willoughby, and here thirty of the fifty members were in the junior or cadet age group, with thirty more on the waiting list, and these latter were channelled into the coaching centre. Now four of

the nationally ranked cadets, all of whom began their table tennis activities at the centre, live in Thorpe Willoughby, although not all play for the village side.

If so many young people in one small village in Yorkshire are eager to learn to play our sport, how much untapped talent and interest is there throughout the length and breadth of the land — a sobering thought!

Another equally sobering thought — the Selby success story has come to, what everybody will hope, is a merely temporary halt as the league urgently seek new premises in which to continue their work. Everybody in the county will be hoping that this progressive league can quickly get the show back on the road and the talent can continue to come to the fore.

Dewsbury enthusiasm

News from another of the smaller, but flourishing leagues in the county comes from Dewsbury, where it really is a players' organisation, with all members of the executive playing regularly in domestic competition.

No less than eight of the 24 member clubs are represented on the executive committee, led by hardworking chairman Gordon Sanders, who combines the duties of press secretary and match secretary with those of keeping law and order in the committee room.

Gordon must have a persuasive personality. When I asked him how he managed to get his committee from among the players — not an easy task, most administrators will agree — the reply was along the line of "We just tell the AGM that we are short of a helper and somebody volunteers to do the job".

On the playing side Stuart Milnes (Moorend WMC), who represents Dewsbury in the Yorkshire League at both senior and veteran level, currently shares the lead in the Division I merit table with Stuart Beaumont of Battyeford Boys Club, the only player to have beaten him this season.

Both players have 29 wins, but with Milnes gaining his revenge in the recent return fixture between the players and only one defeat against his name, Beaumont is left with a mountain to climb, for the Battyeford man has lost four times, having played one more match than his rival.

Dewsbury, too, take a full share in county affairs with general secretary Bevan Walker on the management committee and very much involved in the county championships programme, Chris Clemson travelling the country in the blue umpire's uniform and Bob Ryder, when time away from his milk round permits, still taking great pleasure in his work as a coach.

Frank Briggs fund

At a recent meeting of the Yorkshire management committee it was decided to keep open the Frank Briggs Memorial Fund for a further period of time in order to make it possible for table tennis enthusiasts from both within and beyond the boundaries of the county to show their appreciation for the work of a man who devoted much of his life to the cause of table tennis in general and Yorkshire table tennis in particular.

Leagues, Associations, members and friends are invited to make donations to add to the County's own substantial contribution, while, at both the major national tournaments due to be held in this calendar year, the Beneficial Trust Yorkshire Junior Select and the newly inaugurated Yorkshire and Humberside 3-Star Open, opportunity will be available for individuals to associate themselves with the fund.

County championships

In finishing third in the final senior premier division table behind Middlesex and Lancashire, Yorkshire are pleased with their effort and pay tribute to a tremendous performance from their teenagers.

Against powerful opposition Michael O'Driscoll, who came out with four victories and four defeats on his debut at this level, will regard this as an extremely good performance, while Joanne Shaw also broke even in her four singles outings.

The two wins, six defeats record of Steve Mills and Chris Oldfield hardly reflect their standard of play, with many of the games being extremely close. Bevan Walker and his squad came away with their heads held high.



Rea wishes to record his thanks to the following for their help in supplying information for these notes:

Malcolm Hartley, Bradford Telegraph and Argus (Eric Hill).

Dawn Harris, Hon Match Sec, Selby TTA (Selby Coaching).

Gordon Sanders, Chairman, Dewsbury league (Dewsbury).



Former British and European heavyweight boxing champion Henry Cooper is still striking blows for charity. Here he is seen presenting Mr. Cullimore of J.H. Dewhurst Ltd. with table tennis equipment auctioned in aid of the Boys Clubs Association.

Equipment manufacturers Dunlop had donated the table, bats and balls (worth £212), which went to Mr. Cullimore for £350. He obviously knows good value when he sees it!

Butterfly Cardiff maintain National League record

by H. Roy Evans

In Butterfly's 6-2 win against St Neots, Alan Griffiths and Nigel Tyler continued their winning ways, with two victories apiece, whilst Nigel Thomas also came up with two good performances. Alan beat Stuart Palmer and Keith Richardson, Nigel beat Richardson and Stephen Moore. Nigel Thomas accounted for Michael Harper, and gave one of his best performances to beat Palmer.

Unfortunately Gary Wilkins is still right out of form, going down

to Moore and Harper, and looked as if all confidence had deserted him.

Pengelly Sports, narrowly beaten by Norwich Foxwood in the first half of the season, did well to force a 4 all draw at Abersychan.

Although Nick Williams lost to David Honor and Douglas Bennett, Warwick Armstrong, after losing to Bennett, beat Neil Pickard. Captain Angie Evans, veteran of the side, but as ever a grand fighter, beat both Steward

and Honor, and it was left to the inexperienced Paul Williamson, after being comprehensively beaten by Pickard in his first outing, to prevail over Steward 28-26 24-22 in a game full of errors. It gave Paul his first national league success and produced a draw for Pengelly.

Against Gunnersby Triangle, also at Abersychan on the following day, Nick Williams came good with wins over Jonathan Proffitt and ex-

Swansea player Peter Harry. This time it was Warwick Armstrong's turn to blot his copybook and he lost to the two Proffitt brothers. But Angie Evans again came up with the savers, with two straight wins over Don Smith and Simon Proffitt.

Paul Williamson had lost to Peter Harry quite comfortably in his first match, but now, encouraged by his success against Norwich, Paul got his head down. Although he lost the first game to Don Smith, he took the second in good style, then battled out a nail-biting decider to win 23-21, and thus assure Pengelly of a 5-3 win.

CLWYD

Charles Bayliss

Wrexham schoolboy Spencer Harris, aged 12, is the youngest player to compete in the first division of the Wrexham League.

He is the latest star to emerge from the table tennis crazy family of Harris's of Coedpoeth near to Wrexham.

And he has already made a big impact by winning more than 50% of his matches for Caergwrle Boys Brigade so far this season.

Spencers success has earned him a place in the Clwyd county junior squad and his current position as cadet champion of North Wales and the Wrexham league.

His father Alan who is chairman of both the North Wales TTA and also his local Wrexham league said, "Spencer has been playing in the Wrexham league for about three years but this is the first time he has competed in the first division.

"He is extremely enthusiastic about his table tennis and his aim is to break through into the Welsh cadet squad.

"I must admit I have been surprised by his progress this season. He has won more matches than I could have hoped, some of his victories have come against top class players."

Spencer who attends Bryn Offa school, Wrexham practises on a table installed in his garage at home.

And he has no trouble finding opposition. His father has played for around 20 years and his sister Nicola aged 14 also plays. Even younger brother Daniel is taking up the sport, at age six.

Truly a table tennis mad family are the Harris's.

(Part of an article from the Wrexham Evening Leader)

Wrexham

Leaders in the division one of the Wrexham league are Caergwrle BB (82 pts) with Malpas still in contention with 79 points. They have, however, played a match more than Caergwrle.

McAlpine Quarries first team are close behind with 74 points. The division two situation is still quite open

with Llay RBL B in the lead with 81 points and Telecom C second with 74 and third are early pacemakers Wrexham B on 67 points.

Division 3 show Telecom Juniors with a lead of one point over Wrexham B who have 87 points.

East Flintshire league

Caergwrle Boys Brigade lead division one of the East Flintshire league with 106 points from their 12 matches played, second position are BSC Shotton with 99 points.

In division two Caergwrle Boys Brigade C are leaders on 69 points with their D team second with just one point less, they are joint second with Hawarden A also on 68 points.

The DR Ledgard Challenge Cup competition is now at its final stage after BSC Shotton beat Sealand Youth Club 9-1. And in the other semi-final, Caergwrle Boys Brigade routed British Aerospace with a clean sweep 10-nil.

County Championships

After a journey through snow and icy road conditions, Clwyd arrived at Kendal to play their away match with Cumbria. The journey had been a bad one but the welcome was very warm from the local county.

Clwyd playing without their number one Mark Thomas had in his place John Ellis. Paul Griffiths, Terry Turner, and for their debut together Evelyn Wright and Heidi Cotter, completed the squad.

All three men won both of their two singles and the two girls also their singles and combined together to take the doubles 21-15, 21-11.

In the mens doubles John Ellis and Paul Griffiths had bad luck in just losing the set which would have given the North Walians a clean sweep. However they failed to win in the third game so a very useful away win by 9-1.

This result was all the more satisfactory because Clwyd were without both Mark Thomas and also Trevor Manning.

GWENT

Stephen Gibbs

Andrew Evans (Eastern Valley) regained the Gwent singles title at Abersychan Leisure Centre with an exciting three set win over Jeremy Hobbs (Tredegar) in the Halex Gwent Closed Table Tennis Championships 1986 on Sunday 9th February. When Warwick Armstrong withdrew at the last moment Hobbs only had to contend with the challenge of the junior Paul Jones and of Kevin Boalch on his way to the final.

Andrew Evans, having disposed of Graham Sell, should have played Paul Williamson in the semi but Williamson lost to Jeff Turner. Turner came close to causing an upset as he led Evans through most of the first game only to see Evans steal through 22-20. Evans took the second 21-17 and was decidedly pleased to have done so.

In the final there was little doubt that Jeremy Hobbs was out to show the Gwent selectors that they were wrong in leaving him out of national league side. Hobbs played his best ever table tennis in Gwent as he gave Evans as good as he got.

Hobbs led 15-11 in the first game but Evans fought back with his usual fierce approach and took the set 21-18.

Even more determined, Hobbs entered the second set with renewed strength and took it comfortably; it was 9-9 in the deciding set before Evans could take the initiative.

A combination of fine attacking forehands combined with some good blocking with his pimpled rubber put him 15-10 in front. From then the players battled out each point but Hobbs could not close the gap and Evans regained the title previously won in 1982 with a 21-15 win.

The two finalists faced each other in another final when Kevin Boalch and Evans were defending the doubles title against Hobbs and Jeremy Price. Having scraped home 30-28 in the third set of the semi final against Turner and Williamson there was no way that they were going to give up the final game easily.

Hobbs, having just lost the singles final, could not raise his game again and Evans and Boalch retained the doubles title with a clear 21-13, 21-18 win.

For Kevin Boalch it was a good day. He excelled himself, as indeed he had to, in the Handicap Singles event as he played through six rounds conceding double figure starts in four of those rounds!

The junior title went as expected to Paul Jones of Newport. Jones' only scare was against David Buck in the semi final. Steve Ward (Eastern Valley) is one of the few Gwent juniors to have scored wins over Jones and always at Abersychan. But this time Jones, knowing it to be his last chance of the junior title, made no mistake and he won powerfully 21-16, 21-13.

The other two events in the tournament were contested by very small groups of players. With the large numbers of Veteran players throughout the county it was extremely disappointing to see less than a dozen take part.

Alan O'Connell (Tredegar) was favourite to retain his title and that he did. Stan Williams of Newport was thought to be the dark horse of this event but he was nowhere near steady enough to outwit O'Connell who won 21-11, 21-14.

Gwent re-introduced a womens singles for this closed event and again numbers were very small. The four ladies involved played for the title on a round robin basis.

The crucial game proved to be between the junior, Sian Evans (Newport) and the favourite, Janet Helps (Eastern Valley).

Sian's attacking play proved to be too strong for Janet and with three unbeaten sets to her name she took the title. Janet Helps with two wins was runner up.

Results

MS: Andrew Evans (E. Valley) b Jeremy Hobbs (Tredegar) 18, -16, 15. WS: Sian Evans (Newport) b Janet Helps (E Valley) 14, 18. VS: Alan O'Connell (Tredegar) b Stan Williams (Newport) 11, 14. JXS: Paul Jones (Newport) b Steve Ward (E Valley) 16, 13. IXD: Evans/Kevin Boalch (E Valley) b Hobbs/Jeremy Price (Tredegar) 13, 18. Handicap singles: Boalch b Martin Prior (Newport) (+15) 20, 16.

Trivial

Readers who play the latest craze of "Trivial Pursuit" might like to be forewarned on the accuracy of some of the answers. Seeking relief from interminable meetings, Rubberneck joined the ETTA's management committee for a game in the hotel after the Oldham championships.

The structure of the game is simplicity itself. Players move around the board answering questions on six subject areas: history, geography, art and literature, entertainments, science and nature, sport and leisure.

The management team were

Invisible Man 2

ETTA coaching committee meeting held January 1986, minute 23.1: *Gordon Stegall hoped that the ESTTA would be able to appoint someone for the next meeting. He then asked about the ETTA's representation to their meetings. PS replied that due to short notice he had been unable to attend the last meeting.*

ESTTA Executive meeting held 12th May 1985, minute 13: *1985-86 dates - no change in venues. Executive meeting, 5.1.86.*

Stuck

Sorry Dot (White of Devon who had asked for a snappy table tennis car sticker - December Rubberneck)! Imagination seems in short supply.

Except that is for England No. 11 Kevin Satchell and Surrey press officer Frank Hams who, between them, provided all of the saucy suggestions for Dot's dilemma.

Satchell, a fast mover at all times we are told from sources in Melksham, Wiltshire, provided "Table Tennis players do it faster!" at the top of his list. Incidentally, what is "it"?

And Hams, who submitted 26 thoughts in quick succession ranged from the upmarket plagiarism of "No TT - No comment!" to the vulgar, which cast aspersions upon the virility of (presumably) Surrey players with whom he is no doubt familiar.

For pure sexism, reference to "rubbers" and "(long) pimples" were right out of order for the disapproving Rubberneck. Hams gets the free sub for his "no ping - no zing" and "I (love) TT" in the accepted style of a heart for the word "love".

unbeatable it seemed.

"What colour shirts must table tennis players wear in official competition", asked questionmaster Whiteside. This apparently simple problem provoked much surprising discussion.

"Anything goes", selected the laissez-faire Charters - advocate of the MK Top 12 approach - from the telephone in the cor-

ner. "A playing shirt shall be mainly of a uniform colour other than white, but ...", said ITTF rules committee chairman Clemett, his voice trailing off as he searched for the international handbook. "...but it has to have a Butterfly logo", interjected vice-chairman development Ransome helpfully.

"No", said Rubberneck, "you're all wrong. The answer is "black".

"That's not right", they all protested. "I know" said Rubberneck, "but I set the questions".

Got a loight boye?

With the ETTA facing a £15,000 plus bill for the refurbishment of the Hastings office after years of neglect, Rubberneck was surprised to receive the unusual request for an experienced arsonist after a recent meeting of the management committee.

One knowledgeable in such matters advised that the best method of tackling the problem was via the side alley where access to the back of the building may be gained unobserved.

Sky high

East London extrovert Sky Andrew has had his chips it is reported. Sky, like many others, was flabbergasted when the latest Joola computer ranking list put the England international at No. 31 in Europe.

An unconfirmed report to Rubberneck has suggested that the flamboyant Skylet was quick to point out his amazement - having barely won a match of European significance since the previous listing when he was unplaced.

Snookered

TV watchers in the North East have informed me that Steve interesting Davis and darts champion Eric Bristow have cancelled their subscription to the Desmond Douglas fan club.

Appearing on Tyne-Tees television, the England table tennis No. 1 pulled no punches when asked why table tennis did not attract the same money and popularity as other sports like snooker and darts.

"Snooker? Darts?", said the incredulous Douglas. "You can't call them sports. Meanwhile, it looks as if the audience viewing figures for these two sedentary pastimes have reached the top of the much vaunted "arousal curve".

• • • • •

An apology, too, to readers for the "Coachess" article in the last magazine.

The editor, it seems, deleted all reference to "he" from the Director of Coaching advert to ensure it complied with the requirements of the Equal Opportunities Act, rendering Rubberneck's quip incomprehensible.



South Yorks apology

Graham Coe of South Yorkshire table tennis club has disputed the accuracy of the report (January Rubberneck) which suggested an outstanding payment due by the club to one of their players.

The editor is pleased to accept Mr Coe's assertion that this matter - involving an amount of less than £200 - had been resolved by the time of the Bath and Reading national league matches and apologises unreservedly to the South Yorkshire club for any embarrassment which the report might have caused. The Rotherham-based club have long been recognised as an efficiently administered organisation and working to the promotional benefit of the sport.

Des on the defensive

There was standing room only at the Karen Witt benefit exhibition on Thursday 6th February. Rubberneck, suitably disguised with a scarf to fend off the biting cold, shook the snow from his boots as he slid into the Omega Reading clubhouse to pay tribute to one of England's most-liked players - retiring from table tennis in order to enter a nursing career.

Highlight of the exhibition was Des Douglas against fellow recordbreaker Alan Cooke. Des, just back from the Europe Top 12, was in brilliant form.

He astounded onlookers including ETTA Chairman Tom Blunn with a hitherto unrevealed defensive talent as he retrieved balls of the floor from the back of the arena.

Wells up two, Sandley continues slide

Rob Oldfield

Dave Wells, now No. 7, is up two places in the latest Lentec ranking list. But former international Graham Sandley has continued to slide down the rankings and just makes the top 10 in ninth position.

Most obvious changes include

the rise of Mark Mitchell to a ranking more usually associated with his consistent form - back to No. 24 from 49 since January. And leading juniors Jimmy Stokes and Adrian Dixon have leapt 14 and 12 places up the latest classification.

In the womens, little change - particularly below No. 31 where few players appear to have gained any points since January. An exception is Sheffield's Lesley Longstone (nee Broomhead) who comes into the Top 50 at No. 38.



Men			Women		
No.	Name	Town of Residence	No.	Name	Town of Residence
1	Desmond Douglas	(Birmingham)	1	Lisa Bellinger	(Dunstable)
2	Carl Prean	(Ryde)	2	Allison Gordon	(Reading)
3	Alan Cooke	(Chesterfield)	3	Joy Grundy	(Preston)
4	Skylet Andrew	(London E15)	4	Fiona Elliot	(Wolverhampton)
5	John Souter	(Neasden)	5	Karen Witt	(Reading)
6	Nicky Mason	(Bexhill)	6	Mandy Sainsbury	(Newbury)
7	David Wells	(Milton Keynes)	7	Jackie Bellinger	(Dunstable)
8	Andrew Syed	(Reading)	8	Joanne Shaw	(Normanton)
9	Graham Sandley	(Potters Bar)	9	Jill Harris	(Walsall)
10	Philip Bradbury	(Aylesbury)	10	Suzanne Airey	(Grantham)
11	Kevin Satchell	(Frome)	11	Jean Parker	(Preston)
12	Steven Scowcroft	(Bolton)	12	Karen Smith	(Leicester)
13	Steve Mills	(Sheffield)	13	Carol Butler	(Plymouth)
14	Colin Wilson	(Cuffley)	14	Susan Collier	(Maidenhead)
15	Chris Rogers	(Leicester)	15	Claire Maisiey	(Swindon)
16	Matthew Syed	(Reading)	16	Juliet Houghton	(Tonbridge)
17	David Dodd	(London SE7)	17	Sarah Sandley	(Potters Bar)
18	Carl Morgan	(Birmingham)	18	Elaine Short	(Plymouth)
19	Andrew Wellman	(Reading)	19	Helen Bardwell	(Ware)
20	Adrian Moore	(Bexhill)	20	Jane Barella	(Surbiton)
21	Nigel Eckersley	(Warrington)	21	Karen Burrows	(Castleford)
22	Tony Taylor	(Manchester)	22	Teresa Moore	(Bexhill)
23	Michael Hammond	(Surbiton)	23	Kim Mudge	(London E13)
24	Mark Mitchell	(London N9)	24	Helen Williams	(Enfield)
25	Max Crimmins	(Wimbledon)	25	Jill Powis	(Wolverhampton)
26	John Hilton	(Manchester)	26	Melody Hill	(Bradford)
27	Jimmy Stokes	(Reading)	27	Elaine Sayer	(London E12)
28	Stephen Turner	(Preston)	28	Angela Mitchell	(Edmonton)
29	Phil Smith	(Horley)	29	Michelle Hams	(Morden)
30	Adrian Dixon	(Wolverhampton)	30	Helen Perrott	(Bristol)
31	David Barr	(Newbury)	31	Debbie Soothill	(Carnforth)
32	Stuart Palmer	(Lakenheath)	32	Diane St Ledger	(Birmingham)
33	Keith Richardson	(Soham)	33	Lisa Haydon	(Brentwood)
34	Andrew Bellingham	(Wolverhampton)	34	Sandra Peakman	(Birmingham)
35	Bradley Billington	(Chesterfield)	35	Jackie Billington	(Chesterfield)
36	Brian Johns	(Northwich)	36	Mandy Reeves	(Slough)
37	Stephen Moore	(Bexhill)	37	Julie Dimmock	(Dunstable)
38	Joe Kennedy	(London SE15)	38	L Longstone	(Sheffield)
39	David Gannon	(Leicester)	39	Rebecca Russe	(Weston-super-Mare)
40	Steven Dorking	(Hornchurch)	40	Julie Revill	(Oadby)
41	Andy Creed	(Bristol)	41	Sheila King	(St Leonards)
42	Desmond Charley	(London E13)	42	Sally Weston	(Horsham)
43	Barry Johnson	(Birmingham)	43	Kerry Hall	(Chesterfield)
44	Kevin Beadsley	(Bradford)	44	Jenny Collins	(Reading)
45	Neil Taylor	(Cirencester)	45	Doreen Schofield	(Stockport)
46	Richard Venner	(Crawley)	46	Susan Butler	(Plymouth)
47	Philip Gunn	(Birmingham)	47	Joanne Palmer	(Newmarket)
48	Paul Whiting	(Plymouth)	48	Helen Shields	(Bradford)
49	Dipay Topiwala	(London N17)	49	Cheryl Buttery	(Lincoln)
50	Malcolm Green	(Telford)	50	Lesley Popkiewicz	(Purley)

Des seeded fourth in Prague

Rob Oldfield

England's No. 1 Desmond Douglas has risen two places in the latest European ranking list, issued after his superb performances in the Europe Top 12 in Sodertalje where he finished in second place.

Douglas is up to No. 4 and was seeded fourth for the European championships in Prague, held 5th-13th April. In the top half, he

faced the prospect of a semi-final meeting with the new Europe No. 1, Jan-Ove Waldner.

This list has been prepared by Joola computer and comparison with the previous European list is therefore difficult. It looks as if a combination of human intuition and "imaginative programming" has provided the current classifications.

Not shown here but in the European list for the first time is Skylet Andrew at No. 31. In the women's, Lisa Bellinger's win over Olga Nemes in the Triumph Adler English Open puts her up seven places to No. 15.

Alison Gordon and Joy Grundy have also risen, thanks mainly to the non-appearance of Valentina Popova (URS), Marie Lindblad

(SWE), and Narine Antonian (URS) on the current list. The defensive English Open champion Elena Kovtun has entered the rankings for the first time, coming straight in at No 19.

The team for Prague included Douglas, Prean, Cooke, Andrew and Souter, with Bellinger, Gordon, Grundy and Elliot representing England's women.

Men (previous positions in brackets)

1 (2)	Jan-Ove Waldner	SWE	16 (7)	Jacques Secretin	FRA
2 (1)	Andrzej Grubba	POL	17 (29)	Boris Rozenberg	URS
3 (3)	Erik Lindh	SWE	18 (24)	Patrick Renverse	FRA
4 (6)	Desmond Douglas	ENG	19 (19)	Mariano Loukov	BUL
5 (4)	Mikael Appelgren	SWE	20 (27)	Ralf Wosik	FRG
6 (5)	Leszek Kucharski	POL	21 (16)	Zsolt Kriston	HUN
7 (10)	Ulf Carlsson	SWE	22 (20)	Janos Takacs	HUN
8 (11)	Jorgen Persson	SWE	23 (22)	Henk van Spanje	HOL
9 (17)	Milan Orlovski	TCH	24 (31)	Vladimir Dvorak	URS
10 (15)	Zoran Kalinic	YUG	25 (21)	Georg Bohm	FRG
11 (9)	Tibor Klampar	HUN	26 (35)	Jarmo Jokinen	FIN
12 (14)	Dragutin Zubek	YUG	27 (-)	Jörg Roszkopf	FRG
13 (12)	Andrei Mazunov	URS	28 (26)	Ilie Lupulescu	YUG
14 (13)	Carl Prean	ENG	29 (-)	Andras Podpinka	HUN
15 (8)	Jindrich Pansky	TCH	30 (30)	Zoran Primorac	YUG

Women

1 (1)	Olga Nemes	FRG	16 (17)	Alica Pelikanova	TCH
2 (2)	Marie Hrachova	TCH	17 (20)	Sonja Grelberg	FIN
3 (7)	Fliura Bulatova	URS	18 (16)	Brigitte Thiriet	FRA
4 (3)	Bettine Vriesekoop	HOL	19 (-)	Elena Kovtun	URS
5 (5)	Csilla Batorfi	HUN	20 (23)	Barbro Wiktorsson	SWE
6 (4)	Zsuzsa Olah	HUN	21 (21)	Nadine Daviaud	FRA
7 (8)	Branka Bbatinic	YUG	22 (25)	Alison Gordon	ENG
8 (11)	Daniella Guergueltcheva	BUL	23 (32)	Renata Kasalova	TCH
9 (9)	Maria Alboiu	ROM	24 (27)	Györgyi Fazekas	HUN
10 (15)	Mirjam Kloppenburg	HOL	25 (24)	Vesna Ojstersek	YUG
11 (12)	Edit Urban	HUN	26 (30)	Alena Safarova	TCH
12 (10)	Gordana Perkucin	YUG	27 (28)	Jolanta Szatko-Nowak	POL
13 (19)	Anita Zacharian	URS	28 (26)	Anke Schreiber	FRG
14 (18)	Otilia Badescu	ROM	29 (31)	Pia Eliasson	SWE
15 (22)	Lisa Bellinger	ENG	30 (34)	Joy Grundy	ENG

Mind Games

"It's all in the mind" says Tony Russe

I was most interested to be introduced to Dr Tony Morris at the Triumph Adler English Open by the England captain, Don Parker. Dr Morris from Chichester College of Higher Education was appointed to the England squad for the championships to act as team psychologist. He was observing and will formulate his opinions in due course. Hopefully we will hear more later of his conclusions.

However, the meeting reminded me how important it is that a coach should try to understand his player. The more I work in the corner of various players the more I am aware of the absolute importance of keeping a player balanced.

We are often told that given two players of equal ability, it is the one that is 'fittest' on the day that will win. But what is meant by fit?

Any player knowing he is to play in a tournament where results are determined over the best of five games will have trained and practised to that end. But will he have brought his mind to bear on the needs of concentration over longer periods? It is as important as the physical training.

I take the trouble with the players that I work with on a regular basis to try and assess where they start on the arousal curve.

Some are so keen and anxious to succeed that they can be 'over the top' mentally within a very short period of play. Commands of 'come on' are likely to produce the adverse to the desired effect.

In fact their game can disintegrate. For instance players having difficulty in receiving serve will play all kinds of unsuccessful returns, believing themselves to be positive when in fact they are being negative because their efforts are

counter-productive. It is the coach's job to make them aware of what they are doing?

On the other hand, there are players who do need the reminder from the corner. They will begin well-motivated and will then start to fall back from the peak point on the curve. These players are easier to captain than the former, probably because all coaches in the first instance seek to 'gee-up' their players.

The players that are most difficult to keep balanced are the ones I call 'see-saw merchants' because they tilt first one way and then another from peak during a remarkably short period.

At the English Open I was assisting in one doubles match which my players were winning comfortably in the decisive third. One of my pair became 'under-aroused', played two poor losing strokes and then immediately became 'over-aroused' and made four more unforced errors in his desire to be positive.

Six losing points and the game was gone. The player felt deeply how much he had let down his partner, which is natural, and he agreed with me that he was a bit of a 'closet case'. Nevertheless we talked and came up with one word which we now use to trigger certain thought processes when in play. We tried it in a subsequent match and he played very well under extreme pressure and won. Time will tell if we have found a 'cure' for him.

* * * * *

Laurie Neville (Club Coach) asks "Should coaches continue to play competitively, or devote their time to coaching?" Does anyone have strong views on the subject?



England No 3 Alan Cooke helps out in a local coaching session at the Uxbridge table tennis centre.

Photo reproduced by kind permission of the "Burton Daily Mail".

ARE YOU COVERED?

Tony Russe says 'Check your insurance'

Following substantial claims against the Norwegian Association on behalf of players who suffered injury and death on a Spanish trip, the ETTA have been reviewing their insurance cover in the public liability area.

The following guidelines apply to all ETTA registered coaches:

1. If a player suffers an accident which results in loss whilst attending your coaching/training session he could have a claim for damages against the course organiser. S/He would have to successfully establish negligence against the coach and, as a registered ETTA coach, against the ETTA itself. If the coach/trainer is liable, so is the ETTA, *provided* it is an ETTA sanctioned session.
2. The ETTA does have public liability insurance which confirms that Acts of Negligence by professional coaches, injury to Third Party caused by coaches whilst playing, and liability to Third Party for injury or damage on the part of ETTA coaches *not actually employed by but acting for the ETTA* are covered under the Public Liability Section of the policy as long as liability falls legally on the ETTA.
3. Where a coach (other than professionals employed by ETTA) undertakes a training session for which he receives remuneration, he has an obligation to ensure that he is insured by the body paying the remuneration or otherwise makes separate arrangements for himself.

I would remind ETTA coaches who do receive monies for coaching, selling equipment etc., of their obligation to be registered Permit Holders with the ETTA. The holding of the Permit might, in my lay opinion, strengthen your personal case in any claim against the ETTA. You would be seen to have done that which you ought to have done.

It is up to each coach to ensure that the session that he runs is ETTA approved. If not, make separate arrangements.

Where in doubt, enquire now.

Coaching Seminar

The ETTA are to hold a seminar for league coaching liaison officers at the National Water Sports Centre, Holme Pierpoint, Adbolton Lane, Nottingham on Sunday, 29th June 1986.

Subjects will include an explanation of the aims of the national coaching scheme, the Dunlop Skills Award scheme and other matters relating to coaching, particularly at local level.

The charge of £5 per person will cover lunch, morning coffee and afternoon tea beginning at 10.00 a.m. Details from the ETTA. Tel: 0424 433121.

Juniors and Cadets are to attend a two day coaching course at Lilleshall Hall on 7th/8th June writes Jim Hayward and on 26th-28th September there is a residential course at Lilleshall Hall for student and advanced coaches. There are only 24 places for this Sports-Council sponsored weekend.

In addition, schools of sport will be operating in all counties after the August holidays.

Contact Jim Hayward regarding information for any of the above events (0902-751427).

Holidays

If you want to get the kids off your hands this summer, what better way to do it than an activity holiday?

Table tennis holidays are again being run by Constance All-Stars (in Bournemouth), Jill Hammersley-Parker (Lancaster), Jarvis Sports (Cleveland), Helen Sewell (Canterbury) and Tees Sport (Durham).

But if you want to go Dutch then Infosport of Amsterdamse Straatweg 173, 3551 CA Utrecht, Holland are to hold a five-day training camp in Scherpenzeel (nr Amersfoort) between 28th July and 1st August. Cost £70 including coaching, accommodation and meals.

The English Table Tennis Association are also holding a residential holiday course for players with some match experience at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre between Sunday 13th and Friday 18th July. The course, run by a national coach, costs £105. Details from the ETTA, Tel: 0424 433121.

Thanks, but no thanks

It would be ungracious of me not to break my silence after the kind contributions from Ian Knights and Iain Perks. It is good to know that I am not completely forgotten. Both are well argued letters which the leadership should study.

The ETTA's National Publicity effort is pathetically inadequate. Failure on that front is now accepted as the norm. We *are* the *Forgotten Sport* and a new generation is growing up that has hardly heard of us. Therefore, as Iain Perks and others have unanswerably argued, we do not attract new members, whilst the old ones are getting older.

We have 'achieved' what businessmen call the classic marketing failure, the relentless erosion of our membership base.

I am not one to brush aside an olive branch when it is offered which seems to be what the editor is doing in his footnote. Nevertheless I shall remain silent, hard though I might find this. The fact remains that the first piece I submitted to the new editor he sought to cut by nearly half, which distorted what I was trying to say and eliminated the better passages. There is a sort of bright and breezy conformity now, an almost desperate effort to get away from the George Yates era. This is not for me. There was then a mass of reading material and I

looked forward to my copy every month. Now one can skip through a whole issue in 15 minutes without missing a thing. The lack of international news is particularly sad.

The price fate extracted from me for my contributions was sometimes heavy. One could live with the drudgery of getting a piece together every month, but a cult seemed to form. It became fashionable, a passport to wider fame, a virility symbol to become one of my victims. I was always careful not to wound in a personal way. If I was unkind, it was about trends and policies, but I had no control over self-inflicted or imaginary wounds. People of whose existence I was only dimly aware seemed to beg me to insult them, so that the leadership might become aware of their loyalty or existence, which would erect a platform from which they could protest their devotion and enhance their promotion prospects.

I could live with this comic opera, but soon we were to witness what Mr St John Stevas called an 'auction in illiberality' and unpleasant things were written about my wife and son. In time the scene so sickened my wife that she resigned as national councillor and county secretary. Nationally we lost an independent voice, locally

an excellent administrator, but perhaps this was judged a small price if it helped others to snooze more peacefully. My son now plays most of his table tennis abroad. He, too, has been almost forgotten.

Sometimes I am right and sometimes I am wrong and, if I am, I don't mind hearing about it. What is not possible is that I am always wrong. Nevertheless a spokesperson could be found who was prepared to expound precisely that view. This was the self-proclaimed apostle of moderation. Whatever I wrote would bring him out in front of the curtains to proclaim the total wisdom of what had been done. There was an equally total unwillingness or inability to admit that mistakes had ever been made. It is not possible to conduct dialogues with people so blissfully convinced of their own infallibility and that, too, has contributed to my silence. To have to endure censorship after so many years merely provided the final straw.

I shall have a few months off and consider my position. I have not given up my battle for a better sport and I shall be back, though not in these columns until there is much change of heart and policy.

John Prean
12 Marlborough Road
Ryde
PO33 1AA

Ray's letter has been edited to make it shorter for publication but he also requested an explanation about the reason for the late production of the January issue which was the programme for the Open. The circumstances relating to this were outlined in the Feb/March edition.

His speculation on the reasons for the non-attendance of the top European stars is absolutely correct. The dates of the Europe Top 12 were, unfortunately, altered after the European calendar had been fixed and without reference to the English Table Tennis Association - Ed.

The report on how England's No. 1, Desmond Douglas, fared in the Top 12, having played at Brighton the previous weekend, appears earlier in this edition. On the personal conclusions expressed by others, I can make no comment - Ed.

TT exchange

We would like to send our son, Benoit, 14 to England in July in order to learn English.

As far as Table Tennis is concerned, Benoit is minor, second year, class 35 and takes part in France Minors' Championship with our region's team (Touraine Orleanais) and as an individual too.

He likes all sports including athletics and swimming. Moreover, he has the same tastes as the children of his age; he enjoys listening to music. He has been learning English for three years and is now in third form. For our part, we would be pleased to take the son of his guest family with us in August.

We are pharmacists and will spend four week's holiday on the mediterranean coast in Cap D'Agde (in Languedoc). Our visitor will be able to play table tennis if he likes; Agde's club plays in National 4 with class 20 and 25 players.

This child will share our family life and we do hope that this exchange will be possible.

Max Ladouble
36130 Deols
CC.P. Limoges 119.79
Tel. (54) 34.19.21

A vice-chairman replies

In reply to Les Bridge's letter in the last issue of the magazine, at the subsequent meeting of the national coaching committee it was decided to change the "Sports Centre Leaders Award" to the "Sports Leaders Award". This results in a very basic coaching award being available to a great number of people involved in recreational table tennis, a move of which, I am sure, Les would approve.

This was done for a number of reasons, including those raised by Les at the National Council Meeting. A certificate of attendance system was also introduced.

With regard to John Prean's comment "Self of moderation" I will gladly confess to it, if it means that I am not an extremist I do hold some immoderate views however over some aspects of ETTA activity, where I believe changes are necessary for the good of table tennis. (I will expound on them if the need arises).

Peter Charters
ETTA Vice Chairman Selection & Coaching
57 Burghfield Road
Reading RG3 3NE.

Open Dissent

Having spent 3 days at the Triumph Adler English Open in Brighton, which I enjoyed to a degree, there are a couple of points I would like to raise.

I have recently received some circulars from the ETTA one of which was a letter from the chairman, Mr. Tom Blunn saying how successful the Open had been. He also stated "our English Open is second to none on the open Tournament Circuit."

If this is so, could someone please explain why it is that a great number of top international players did not enter? The Open two years was a little better than this year regarding players. The real crowd pullers surely are players like Secretin and Grubba (as in Cardiff last year), also Orłowski, Surbek, Appelgren, Bengtsson and the top young Swedes, but none of them entered this year, and at least 10 of the top players whose names were on the competitors list in the programme did not

arrive!

We paid a lot of money for tickets and accommodation and travelled a round trip of over 300 miles to see this tournament, only to find that most of the stars are missing, and it is to say the least, very disappointing! Possibly it will be said that these players were preparing for the European Top 12 the following weekend, but if the English Open is as good as we are led to believe, then I would have thought that this tournament would have given them all the preparation they could want. Having in the last few years watched two Top 12's (in Nantes and Cleveland) and the World's in Sweden, it makes my friends and I wonder if it's worth spending money and holidays to watch the Open as it is!

Ray Drew Chairman
King's Lynn TTA
67 London Road
King's Lynn
PE30 5EU

Douglas charged up

The atmosphere at the 28th Essex 3-Star at Harlow on 8th/9th February 1986 was electric right from the start *reports Laurie Darnell*. It attracted the largest entry which included all the top players.

And the support of Butterfly (UK) Ltd, Harlow sports centre and Clive Oakman Services was essential. With no major sponsor available, their help enabled the event to be held.

The appearance of England No 1 Desmond Douglas was the spark. It was if every player was determined to play at the top of their form and many incidents come to mind.

Horatio Pinteá, the Canadian No 1, miscued his serve to give Graham Sandley a deuce in the third result; Kevin Satchell, forced Dave Hannah to play at his very best to get through another deuce in the third encounter; and John Souter, having lost the first game, came good to beat Alan Cooke to the cheers of the Middlesex umpires on the balcony.

In the womens, Lisa Bellinger, seeking her touch, lost 11-21 in the first game against Mandy Sainsbury . . . she showed her character to fight back and win this very tough semi-final match; Steve Dorking fought hard to come through two very competitive three-enders with Phil Logsdon and Paul Giles in the Class 2 . . . many observers said they were worthy of the finals arena; and he further delighted the Essex contingent when he overwhelmed Gary Wilson for the Class 2 championship.

In the mens singles final, Douglas hit his forehand winners down the line into Carl Prean's backhand. His reflexes, coupled with the depth and angle of his shots, exposed the slowness of the defending champion.

Prean tried to force Douglas to exchange long-range shots. At 7-3 and 12-8 down, he tried to reduce the point-gathering of the No 1 seed by winning three out of his five serves.

But it was not long before Douglas again applied his relentless quicksilver stroke play to win the title in straight games. The womens final was a classic . . . Lisa Bellinger's subtle defensive spins caused Alison Gordon to overhit continually.

Lisa was behind after drawing level at 10-all in the first game but many long rallies showed off the skill of both players. One rally in particular was stupendous . . . the ball being given more and more air until, with great agility, Lisa struck a telling backhand kill to wrong foot the defending champion.

The finals, well-supported by spectators on three sides of the arena, were played mainly on two tables, beginning at 6.30 pm and being completed by the last ball of the mens singles at 8.20 pm.

MENS SINGLES

Semi-finals
Desmond Douglas (Wa) b David Hannah (SCO) 18, 17; Carl Prean (IW) b John Souter (Mx) 8, 18.

Final
Douglas b Prean 12, 14.

WOMENS SINGLES

Semi-finals
Lisa Bellinger (Bd) b Mandy Sainsbury (Bk) -11, 15, 14; Alison Gordon (Bk) b Jackie Bellinger (Bd) 20, 15.

Final
Bellinger b Gordon 15, 13.

MENS DOUBLES

Final
Alan Cooke/Douglas (Dy/Wa) b Horatio Pinteá/Colin Wilson (CAN/Mx) 6, 17.

WOMENS DOUBLES

Final
J & L Bellinger b Gordon/Sainsbury 11, 15.

VETERANS SINGLES

Final
Matt Shearer (Li) b Ralph Gunnion (Wa) 21, -8, 16.

CLASS 2 MIXED SINGLES

Final
Steve Dorking (E) b Gary Wilson (Dv) 14, 14.

Mandy keeps title

Mandy Sainsbury, the No 1 seed at the Kent 2-Star, retained her womens singles at the Black Lion Sports Centre, Gillingham on 22nd/23rd February 1986. Hardly troubled until the final where she met county colleague Susan Collier, Sainsbury let the second game of the final slip as she won 21-19, 14-21, 21-16.

The mens singles also went to the favourite - Colin Wilson of Middlesex. But he had a shock in the semi-final facing a strong challenge from Steve Dorking of Essex.

In the other half, after No 2 seed Michael Hammond crashed in the second round to Kent's Andy Cunningham, Ritchie Venner emerged from a match with county team-mate Adrian Moore. But he was no match in the final for Wilson.

The tournament, first established in 1925, have applied to the ETTA for 3-Star status in 1987 or 1988.



The Irish Open was held in Belfast during February, under the sponsorship of the "Wedgie" logo for cheese.

Milk Marketing Board marketing director Jim Noble with Irish international Mervyn Kelly, tournament director Alan Strong, and Ulster's youngest No 1 and Irish No 3 Andrew Dennison

MENS SINGLES

Semi-finals
Colin Wilson (Mx) b Steve Dorking (E) 19, -17, 18; Ritchie Venner (Sx) b Adrian Moore (Sx) 11, 17.

Final
Wilson b Venner 14, 14.

WOMENS SINGLES

Semi-finals
Mandy Sainsbury (Bk) b Jane Barella (Sy) 13, 7; Susan Collier (Bk) b Elaine Sayer (E) 18, 11.

Final
Sainsbury b Collier 19, -14, 16.

MENS DOUBLES

Final
Adrian & Stephen Moore (Sx) b Wilson/Joey Kennedy (Mx/K) 15, -20, 24.

WOMENS DOUBLES

Final
Lesley Popkiewicz/Sainsbury (Sy/Bk) b Collier/Teresa Moore (Bk/Sx) -17, 11, 11.

VETERANS SINGLES

Final
Babs Adedayo (Mx) b Ramish Bhalla (Sy) 14, -18, 13.

CLASS 2 MENS SINGLES

Final
Dorking (E) b J Drew (E) 19, -18, 16.

CLASS 2 WOMENS SINGLES

Final
Sheila King (Sx) b Jane Barella (Sy) 17, -14, 18.

Gloucester prestige hammered



**Beneficial Trust
Junior Grand Prix**

Of the ten titles in the Beneficial Trust Cotswold Junior Select held in Gloucester on 1st/2nd February, local prestige took a bit of a hammering, writes *Alf Pepperd*. At least to the extent that not one of the local under 17 boys entered managed to emerge as a group winner and thus qualify for a first round place.

Unfortunately the 1984 Grand Prix winner and this year's No 1 seed - Reading's Andrew Syed did not participate owing to a torn tendon, but the family name was upheld by Matthew appearing in the final of the U17 singles against his old sparring opponent Bradley Billington of Derbyshire. It apparently was not Matthew's day, Bradley won this encounter two straight 21-12, 21-18.

To rub salt into existing Syed wounds - Matthew & Adrian Dixon were surprisingly beaten in the U17 doubles by Michael O'Driscoll & Chris Oldfield. O'Driscoll, the previous day, had captured the cadet boys doubles with Damien Holland and I can only mention that O'Driscoll and Oldfield played to a standard that was both incredible and delightful to watch.

After losing the first 13-21, to Andrea Holt and Juliet Houghton, the West of England pairing of Melanie Carey &

Helen Perrott kept us all on tenderhooks in the U17 girls doubles. The second game saw-sawed first in one direction and then the other before Melonie & Helen took it eventually at 29-27.

When the crucial third set went to 20-all, tension was building up on both sides and Carey and Perrott finally clinched the title at 30-28; a real nail biter!

Holt (La), as befitting her ranking, cruised quite comfortably to a 21-17, 21-17, win over Debbie Soothill (Cu) in the U17 singles final.

In the girls U12 singles, the diminutive Helen Potts (Ch) - highly reminiscent of her elder sister Clare - stormed into a two straight 23-21, 21-19, win over Ellen Meddings.

While in the boys U12 final Garry Knights of Staffs had a very close three set encounter in beating Brian Mileham 21-14, 16-21, 21-19.

Meddings and Debbie Toole rather surprisingly beat Kerry Hall and Julie Billington 21-15, 21-14, in the cadet girls doubles.

The cadet boys singles was very close but O'Driscoll proved his No 1 seeded position by beating Oldfield 21-19, 22-20.

And in the cadet girls singles, Debbie Toole, after a narrow 21-19 win over Julie Billington,

proceeded to produce the winning game 21-14, giving a two-straight success story for the Yorkshire girl.

In the final of the cadet boys doubles, the Essex/Yorks combination of Damian Holland and O'Driscoll proved far too strong for Garry Knight & Leigh Jefferies, the former running out clear winners 21-19, 17-21, 21-13.

JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES

Final
Bradley Billington (Dy) b Matthew Syed (Bk) 12, 18.

JUNIOR GIRLS SINGLES

Final
Andrew Holt (La) b Debbie Soothill (Cu) 17, 17.

JUNIOR BOYS DOUBLES

Final
Michael O'Driscoll/Chris Oldfield (Y) b Adrian Dixon/M Syed (St/BK) 17, -10, 17.

JUNIOR GIRLS DOUBLES

Final
Melonie Carey/Helen Perrott (So/Av) b Holt/Juliet Houghton (La/K) -13, 27, 28.

CADET BOYS SINGLES

Final
O'Driscoll b Oldfield 19, 20.

CADET GIRLS SINGLES

Final
Debbie Toole (Y) b Julie Billington (Dy) 19, 14.

CADET BOYS DOUBLES

Final
Damian Holland/O'Driscoll (E/Y) b Gary Knights/Leigh Jeffries (St/Wa) 19, -17, 13.

CADET GIRLS DOUBLES

Final
Ellen Meddings/Toole (Y) b Julie Billington/Kerry Hall (Dy) 15, 14.

U12 BOYS SINGLES

Final
Knights b Brian Mileham (K) 14, -16, 19.

U12 GIRLS SINGLES

Final
Helen Potts (Ch) b Ellen Meddings (Y) 21, 19.



Beneficial Trust medal winners Ellen Meddings (Harrogate), Michael O'Driscoll (Mirfield), Chris Oldfield (Sheffield), Debbie Toole (Normanton) with coach Hans Soova from Bradford.

Photo by kind permission of Yorkshire Post Newspapers.

Hard bat Buist triumphs

Despite a forced change of date which was expected to cause a decrease in the number of entrants the Fifteenth International Club Hard Bat event was played at Barnet Table Tennis Club on 19th January with a larger entry than in the previous two years, thus proving that playing with rubber is attractive to many people within the sport, writes *Bernard Chatterley*.

Sally Raymond returned to take the womens singles defeating Paula Rogers in the final and Paula had her turn in the doubles when with Lesley Popkiewicz she defeated holders Mary Symes and Lesley Moscrop.

Lesley Popkiewicz added a second title in the consolation singles when defeating Lesley Moscrop in the final.

The mixed doubles was, as usual, keenly contested with Laurie Landry and Mary Symes coming out the winners over Fred Lockwood and Leone

Lloyd. Since season 1979/80 Laurie has won this title in alternative years, firstly with Marjorie Walker and on the last three occasions with Mary.

The mens doubles was the scene of several surprises with the number three seeds Laurie Landry and Paul Beck being ousted by the Essex combination of Dave Finlayson and Steve Willis. Whilst at number two Fred Lockwood and Stuart Gibbs were comprehensively demolished by John Burleton and Bill Brookman who then went on to defeat the number one pair Henry Buist and Ray Lush in an exciting final.

Fred Lockwood took the mens consolation event defeating Steve Willis by the narrowest of margins.

In the mens singles the excitement ran high for most of the day. Stuart Gibbs was given a good three games work out by your scribe before proceeding via Messrs Lush and Tiplady to

a semi-final clash with John Payne who was dispatched in two games.

It set up a final against Buist who, in the semi final had overcome the surprise challenge of Dave Finlayson. Finlayson had disposed of fourth seeded John Burleton at quarter-final stage whilst Laurie Landry had been surprisingly ousted by late entry Trevor Campbell, the latter however fell to Payne in the quarters.

Despite the final scoreline of 21-12, 21-15 to the 50 plus year old Buist, it was a feast of entertainment. Buist and Gibbs are old adversaries and it must be said that the Kentish veteran appears to be playing even better than when first I saw him play more than two decades ago.

His non-stop aggression tempered with shrewd positional sense enabled him to overcome Gibbs, who fought the whole way with the attacking flair for which he became famous coupl-

ed with excellent defence, without undue trouble.

MENS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Henry Buist (K) b David Finlayson (E) 8, 17; Stuart Gibbs (E) b John Payne (Mx) 13, 14.

Final

Buist b Gibbs 12, 15.

WOMENS SINGLES

Final

Sally Raymond (Mx) b Paula Rogers (E) 13, 10.

MENS DOUBLES

Final

John Burleton/Bill Brookman (Sy/Mx) b Buist/Ray Lush (K/Ha) -16, 16, 18.

WOMENS DOUBLES

Final

Lesley Popkiewicz/Rogers (Sy/E) b Lesley Moscrop/Mary Symes (Mx) 10, -18, 25.

MIXED DOUBLES

Laurie Landry/Symes (K/Mx) b Lockwood/Leone Lloyd (E/Mx) 12, 17.

MENS CONSOLATION SINGLES

Final

Lockwood b Steve Willis (E) 20, 19.

WOMENS CONSOLATION SINGLES

Final

Popkiewicz b Moscrop 13, 14.

Michael's home win

With the constant changes in the junior ranks as the players move up through the age groups, it is something of a rarity for a player to retain the title he has won the previous season. However, this rarity became almost commonplace at this season's Yorkshire Junior Select on 22nd/23rd February, part of the Beneficial Trust Grand Prix writes *Rea Balmford*.

Not only did three of the holders make a return visit into the arena after the finals, but Michael O'Driscoll, from nearby Mirfield, claimed a third tenure of the CBS title which he first won in 1983/4.

Outstanding among the repeat performances was that of JBS champion Adrian Dixon, who came up for his second term with a hard earned final win over top seed Matthew Syed.

Neither of the two finalists were taken the distance on their way to the last hurdle, with second seed Dixon taking out David Morris (quarters) and John Ellis (semi), both of whom had dismissed the seed allocated to their place.

In the top half Syed came through past Sean Gibson and O'Driscoll in a section where the absence of Paul Amos (seeded 9) and the round 2 defeat of Paul Gooding (14) by Mark Ward were the only deviations from the planned pattern of events.

In an intriguing final the Wolverhampton boy worked tremendously hard for his victory against the stonewall defensive game of Syed, using the drop shot well to pull his opponent in and waiting patiently for the openings to hit his winners, often through the backhand wing.

Pushed hard towards the end of the second game, Dixon showed considerable character as he weathered the storm and then turned on the pressure in the final points to ease home against the younger lad, who showed just why he merited an entry into the European Junior top twelve in Austria in January.

As someone who has long believed that combination bats have made a significant contribution to the present ills affecting our sport at all levels, I must admit that this final gave ample evidence that spectacular and interesting table tennis can be played using this type of bat.

Pride of place in the earlier rounds must go to Morris, ranked at 34, who took the Round 1 place set aside for Neil Simms and then dismissed the higher ranked Matthew Pernet and

nth seed Jonathan Goode before going out to Ellis, who, in turn, squeezed out Bradley Billington to clinch a semi-final spot.

Girls singles title went to Debbie Soothill and, though she is far too nice a girl to put her tongue out at the national authorities who preferred Scotland's Sarah Hurry in the No 8 seeding place, she certainly made her point on the table.

Out went top seed Andrea Holt in two close games in the first round proper, then Hurry and title holder Kerry Hall followed suit in the same straight sets pattern to set up a final clash with Claire Potts, seeded 2.

In a hard hitting match the Cumbrian girl came out on top again in two close games, to set the seal on an excellent day's work.

In the groups there was a shock when rapidly rising cadet Joanna Roberts shut the door on Helen Lower (seeded 5). The Leeds girl went out to Rachel Knight in her Round 1 game, but there was another upset at this stage when Ruth Bray overturned sixth seed Lisa Hayden before giving best to Miss Potts.

The JBD saw third and second seeds Billington and Gibson and O'Driscoll with Chris Oldfield quality for the bottom half semi-final, with fourth choices John Bult - David Carse doing likewise in the top section. But Ellis and Morris, the two boys who had caused the singles upsets, joined forces to push out Dixon and Syed in their three-game quarter-final.

Their gallop was stopped in the semi; Bult and Carse lined up for the final against Billingham and Gibson. Although the latter pair were trailing for much of the opening game, they edged home in a late rally and then raced away to take the title in the second.

The Scottish contingent made one of their two semi-final appearances in the JGD when Sarah Hurry and Jennifer Hook came through, only to fall to Billington and Hall, seeded 3. Top seeds Andrea Holt - Juliet Houghton also came out second best to the two Derbyshire cadets, who took the title in straight sets.

In the cadet events all the seeds, with the exception of Brian Mileham, fighting the 'flu bug at home in Kent, came safely through the groups.

Neil Bevan, as the eventual winner of the U12 BS, made the long journey from Cornwall worthwhile, but, in the quarters of the cadets, he made little im-

pression on Lee Jeffries, his predecessor as U12 champion.

With O'Driscoll ousting doubles partner Damien Holland and Yorkshire's latest Premier Division starlet Oldfield accounting for Jeffries, the stage was set for an all-Yorkshire final with the left-hander, using the angles extremely well, the eventual winner.

In the girls, although the rankings were upset when Caroline Buckley (6), Helen Potts (7), Ellen Meddings (4) and Julie Forster (5) all crashed, the semi-finalists lined up as expected, with Hall and Billington coming past Debbie Toole and Hurry. The final went Hall's way in three.

Toole and Meddings had their revenge in the CGD, beating holders Hall and Billington. And, in the parallel boys event - a carbon copy of the 1984/5 final, a nail biting three gamer brought victory for O'Driscoll and Holland.

RESULTS

JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES

Semi-finals
Adrian Dixon (St) b John Ellis 22, 17;
Matthew Syed (Bk) b Michael O'Driscoll (Y) 11, 13.

Final

Dixon b Syed 17, 19.

JUNIOR GIRLS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Debbie Soothill (Cu) b Kerry Hall (Dy) 16, 9; Claire Potts (Ch) b Juliet Houghton (K) 19, 18.

Final

Soothill b Potts 9, 16.

JUNIOR BOYS DOUBLES

Final

Bradley Billington/Sean Gibson (Dy/La) b John Bult/David Carse (Y/La) 20, 10.

JUNIOR GIRLS DOUBLES

Final

Julie Billington/Hall (Dy) b Andrea Holt/Juliet (La/K) 16, 16.

CADET BOYS SINGLES

Semi-finals

O'Driscoll b Damian Holland (E) 7, 12; Chris Oldfield (Y) b Leigh Jeffries (Wa) 13, 17.

Final

O'Driscoll b Oldfield 13, 16.

CADET GIRLS SINGLES

Semi-finals

Hall b Debbie Toole (Y) 18, 19; Billington b Sarah Hurry (SCO) 19, -18, 15.

Final

Hall b Billington 19, -17, 14.

CADET BOYS DOUBLES

Final

Holland/O'Driscoll b Oldfield/Neil Simms (Y) -19, 21, 19.

CADET GIRLS DOUBLES

Final

Ellen Meddings/Toole (Y) b Billington/Hall 18, 20.

U12 BOY SINGLES

Final

Neil Bevan (Co) b Gary Knights (St) 19, -20, 17.

U12 GIRLS SINGLES

Final

Helen Potts (Ch) b Meddings 17, -19, 10.

Fractious Beadsley

Five out of the eight titles went to players from the home county at the recent Pontefract Open in January, writes *Rea Balmford*. A hospitable, homely tournament, it is always popular with both the home based players as well as a cross-section from right across the North of England.

Steve Mills took the MS in a magnificent three-game thriller and Karen Burrows from the host league claimed both WS and WD titles. The latter she took with beaten singles finalist and JGS winner Debbie Toole, one of the most promising and consistent cadets in the country No 3 in the current list - and John Bult won the JBS event.

The stirring mens final highlighted the fighting spirit of Mills, who came back from the dead at 3-13 in the second after losing the first game, to level the match score at 1-1. Then he repeated the performance after turning round at 5-10 in the decider.

It was the sheer brilliance of opponent Kevin Beadsley, who demonstrated both an accuracy of touch and power in finishing, which kept him on top of Mills for much of the match and made him the hero of the hour.

But what a pity that, after such a heartwarming display, the Bradford man should again show his Jekyll and Hyde character by hurling his bat at the ceiling to sour the tremendous atmosphere which had built up.

North Bournemouth 2-Star Open 2nd February 1986

MENS SINGLES

Final

John Burleton (K) b Dave Harding 12, -19, 17.

WOMENS SINGLES

Final

Leslie Popkiewicz (Sy) b Kathy Ridgard

MENS DOUBLES

Final

Andrew Cunningham/John Burleton b W Chopping/Ritchie Verner -15, 19, 13.

WOMENS DOUBLES

Final

B Clark/L Harman b M Fagan/Popkiewicz 12, 17

JUNIOR BOYS SINGLES

Final

J Hegarty b D Stedman 17, -21, 15