



Table Tennis News

No. 166

APRIL 1987

80p



 **DUNLOP**
WINNERS IN ACTION

Historic approach keeps us as Cinderella!

THE absence of television at many of our major events has given referees the option of moving the singles events, far-and-away the most important, to the end of the finals programme. Singles are always on first at Wimbledon, mainly because the players are fresher and in all racquet sports, top players do not take doubles seriously. Crawley referee Trevor Openshaw (Greenwich) explains in detail on Page 33 why, despite requests, to bring the mens singles final into the middle of the order to help the media, he did not do so.

On behalf of all the media men present at Crawley, I would take issue with him on all his major points. He is so worried if a player should be asked to play two finals in a row. If a player he or she, is skilful enough to reach more than one final they should be and they usually are, willing to play after a short break, nearly always supplied by a presentation. The crowd rightly expects value. It is totally old-fashioned to insist that the singles must be held to the end at the expense of big stories being lost in the national press.

He asks why certain other sports who finish later than we do get big splashes on a Monday morning? Unfortunately, mainly through old-fashioned, outdated, historical attitudes as we are now debating table tennis is mainly regarded as a poor relation against its rival sports by all sections of the media including television. Your attitude Mr Openshaw, typical of many, is the reason why we are the Cinderella who gets pushed aside.

With or without television, racquet sports take the lead from Wimbledon more and more. In squash and badminton top presentation is given to the singles, doubles are little more than consolation events. That is the modern promotion line. The sooner ETTA officials and the tournament committees understand this policy, then and only then shall we go forward.

A number of table tennis people, myself included, have seen several major badminton and squash events this winter. Some of us saw at the same Crawley venue as our English championships the badminton equivalent, their "Nationals". Even though they had Channel 4 present, their presentation was superb with both singles finals well up the programme with a very large crowd staying right to the end.

JOHN WOODFORD



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SIDE COURTSIDE

Compiled by

JOHN WOODFORD

A DAY LONG WIND-UP

MERCIFULLY, amongst all the hazards, confusion and incompetence in Delhi there were lighter moments and time to have a laugh. Happily, Paul Day, the victim of a well thought out and carefully planned practical joke had as big a laugh out of it as the rest of the England party - although Paul's laughter at the end of the day was probably generated by relief that it was all a wind-up.

Paul, unlike most of the England party did not have the series of inoculations advised for those travelling to India. The plot was that a duplicated letter was produced supposedly to all team captains advising them that typhoid had broken out in a neighbouring province and that all visitors who had not been vaccinated had to report to the Medical Centre on the following day.

Some secondary corroboration was needed to make the joke seem real, so Peter Hirst the New Zealand coach was also given a copy of the letter and let in on the plot.

Our man from Soham was almost totally convinced on being shown the letter and was totally wound-up when he approached Hirst to see his copy.

Stage three came when Paul finally reached the medical centre at the appointed time with a face as long as Big Ben, at which point the England team could not contain themselves any longer and collapsed with mirth!

SURVIVAL?

THE road traffic accident involving Des Douglas and Sky Andrew in Delhi was not quite as serious as was suggested by the "survive" headlines that appeared in several newspapers.



DE LUXE transport in Delhi and other parts of Asia consists of these motorised scooter-rickshaws, often seen carrying families of eight plus the driver.

The lads were travelling on the free day in one of the thousands of motorised rickshaws, photographed here by Ron Crayden. Accidents happen every few minutes on the crowded streets. On this occasion a scooter with two up became airborne as it hit the rickshaw, leaving one man with serious injuries and our pair shaken but able to continue their journey.

That was just one incident amongst many. Probably the most upsetting aspect of India is seeing the vast amount of "housing accommodation" especially out in the country. So many people live in the most degrading conditions varying between small shacks resembling pigsties and other shacks not fit for dogs to live in.

WEDDING BELLS?

COMING UP - the summer of the table tennis brides. Three of England's top table tennis girls are heading for the altar - Lisa Bellinger gets married in Dunstable in June whilst I am told that Alison Gordon and Max Crimmins are soon to take the plunge.

In addition Joy Grundy is said to be heading in the same direction, leaving Fiona Elliot the England champion as the only single lady in the top four. It will be fascinating to see how the top of the ranking list shakes up for or against the brides or brides-to-be.

NEWSPAPER TALK

Chairman John Prean is in favour of a column in this magazine "What the Papers Say". I also think it is a good idea although even with four extra pages, I have been unable to find space this season - one reason has been a very welcome increase in advertising.

However, looking at some of the recent "crossfire" directed at the chairman and his son Carl, I am not so sure that it is a good idea. Recent implications have been that Carl's leg injury that kept him away (mercifully say some that went) from New Delhi was not serious enough to prevent two days practice at Reading before the team arrived home. That was in "The Daily Telegraph".

Rather more serious were allegations in another newspaper that the chairman had attempted to influence England selections. This report referred to a Sunday newspaper column called "Inside

Track" (Sunday Times) which suggested that John Prean had penned "scathing criticisms of Desmond Douglas and Skylet Andrew."

The chairman's reply was that he was not sure what these scathing remarks were and he would never try and influence selection in his son's favour. John Prean is remarkably calm when Press criticism comes along. He keeps his cool admirably and is always ready to comment.

THE TRUTH

DESMOND DOUGLAS remains the most outspoken of the English professionals. There has been concern at high levels on a story and interview with him in which he is reported to have expressed the view that he would not encourage his son to enter table tennis.

More recently, the London Evening News journalist Ian Stafford reported on an interview with our champion in which Douglas said about the world championships "I have been to hell and back - the whole thing was a nightmare and a farce - I would not wish the traumas of Delhi on my worst enemy."

Some might say that our star player was exaggerating but those of us who were there know the truth. Speaking for myself the Douglas verdict is absolutely true and it is the ITTF who collectively must share the responsibility of allowing the Indian Table Tennis Federation to run it.

BUNDESLIGA NEWS from ALAN FLETCHER

NEW RULES ON FOREIGN PLAYERS

BORUSSIA Düsseldorf, Desmond Douglas's former club, has opened up a clear lead at the top of the Bundesliga 1 table. Only TTC Grenzau has any chance of catching up. Recently, Düsseldorf lost the first two doubles against Steinhagen and then reeled off nine consecutive singles wins to clinch an easy 9-2 victory.

Soon after this match, with relegation clearly threatening, Steinhagen signed Liarg Geliarg as trainer for the rest of the season. Similarly, Stella Bengtsson has signed as ATSV Saarbrücken's trainer, in the hope of improving that club's fortunes. Saarbrücken has the chance of moving into third place

(now that Xu has left Bad Hamm, Carl Prean's team).

There will be a lot of changes next year when only foreign players not representing their countries can play. Carl Prean is apparently hoping to circumvent the rule with his dual passport which must classify him as a home and not foreign player.

The Ladies' Bundesliga 1 will be won either by ATSV Saarbrücken, FTG Grankfurt or DSC Kaiserberg; the former club is still the favourite.

The top seven men on the Joola computer list are: 1 Georg Böhm, 2 Ralf Wosik, 3 Jörg Roskopf, 4 Jürgen Rebel, 5 Peter Stellwag, 6 Wilfried Lieck, 7 Engelbert Hüging.

Wilfried Lieck is incredibly still ranked at No. 6 despite being 41 years old. There's hope for John Hilton and Nigel Eckersley yet!

By contrast, the Germans might rely on the youthful talents of Roskopf and Rebel for the 'crunch' match against England in Würzburg on the 9th April. Bohm and Wosik have had enough thrashings from Desmond Douglas!

Yours truly won his only tournament (in Warburg, over Christmas) since leaving England 18 months ago - but it will be my last. I really miss the English tournament scene and it is very professional compared to most tournaments over here! We turned up late (my driver's car broke down) and my first opponent was someone who had already won one match and was playing his second when we walked in! I felt guilty all through the tournament.

MONDAY, 4th MAY
2.30 p.m.

BANK HOLIDAY TABLE TENNIS EXHIBITION

by an

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including

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Dunlop National School Team Championships Finals *by David Lomas*

NEW NAMES AMONGST THE WINNERS

THE unique atmosphere which prevailed at the previous twenty Grand Finals of the National School Team Championships was again noticeable when the English Schools' Table Tennis Association celebrated the "21st" at Lea Green, Matlock, Derbyshire, on Saturday, March 21st.

All the twenty-four teams - who had battled their way through local, county, area and regional stages of the Championships - were well-supported. Although five of the eight titles at stake were being defended only three were successful. Bedford Modern had little trouble in retaining the Boys' U-19 trophy, Cumnor House, Croydon, had to be satisfied with holding on to the Boys' U-11 crown but handing over the Boys' U-13 title to locals, Gosforth School, Dronfield.

The five-strong Shropshire challenge was blunted with only two winners in the shape of The Grove, Market Drayton, (Girls' U-13) and neighbours Market Drayton Junior School (Girls' U-11), who chalked up their amazing eighth successive appearance in the Finals of the Girls-U11 category. They received their trophy from the donor, Martin Foulser, formerly with original sponsors, Stiga.

The three Barrow-in-Furness teams went away with runners-up awards, but the three Greater Manchester teams had a surprise winner

to celebrate when Hathershaw Comprehensive School, Oldham, emerged victorious in the Girls U-16 section after a tight contest in which Thurleston High, Ipswich, came third when at one time they looked possible winners.

There were new names on the winners list in the shape of Kesteven & Grantham Girls' School (Girls U-19) and Ifield Community College, Crawley (Boys U-16). The Lincolnshire Girls' school again revealed - with some apparent reluctance - that amongst their "Old Girls" is none other than the Prime Minister, Mrs. Margaret Thatcher.

Delighted again

This was the fourteenth consecutive occasion on which the Finals had taken place at Lea Green and ESTTA officials were again delighted with the generous hospitality and co-operation of the Centre staff.

The ESTTA marked the occasion of the "21st" by hosting a special celebration lunch. Amongst the guests were founder Chairman,

John Maxwell, founder Secretary, Gerald Gurney, former World Champion Johnny Leach (who presented the Leach-Carrington Trophy to the Boys' U-16 winners) and newly returned un-opposed chairman of the ETTA, John Plean.

Another day to remember for the 100 players on show with few problems for organiser, Geoff Gardiner, backed up by an experienced team, a 5 p.m. finish, followed by a reception at which ESTTA Chairman John Arnold was the surprise recipient of a goblet from President, Tom Matthews.

Results:

Boys Under-19:

1. Bedford Modern (Bedfordshire); 2. Stockport School (Greater Manchester); 3. Wellingborough School (Northamptonshire)

Stockport 6 Wellingborough 2; Wellingborough 1 Bedford Modern 7; Bedford Modern 6 Stockport 2.

Girls Under-19:

1. Kesteven & Grantham Girls' (Lincolnshire); 2. Highfields, Wolverhampton (West Midlands); 3. Luton Sixth Form College (Bedfordshire)

Luton 3 Highfields 5; Kesteven & Grantham 6 Luton 2; Highfields 2 Kesteven & Grantham 6.

Boys Under-16:

1. Ifield Community College, Crawley (West Sussex); 2. Parkview, Barrow-in-Furness (Cumbria); 3. Mary Webb,

Pontesbury (Shropshire)
Parkview 2 Ifield 6; Mary Webb 2 Parkview 6; Ifield 2 Mary Webb 2.

Girls Under-16:

1. Hathershaw, Oldham (Greater Manchester); 2. The Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire); 3. Thurleston High, Ipswich (Suffolk)

Thurleston 4 Hathershaw 4; Hathershaw 5 The Grove 3; The Grove 5 Thurleston 3.

Boys Under-13:

1. Gosforth, Dronfield (Derbyshire); 2. Cumnor House, Croydon (Surrey Metropolitan); 3. Mary Webb, Pontesbury (Shropshire)

Mary Webb 1 Gosforth 7; Cumnor House 6 Mary Webb 2; Gosforth 4 Cumnor House 4.

Girls Under-13:

1. The Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire); 2. Parkview, Barrow-in-Furness (Cumbria); 3. Hillcross Middle, Morden (Surrey Metropolitan)

Parkview 7 Hillcross 1; Hillcross 0 The Grove 8; The Grove 7 Parkview 1.

Boys Under-11:

1. Cumnor House, Croydon (Surrey Metropolitan); 2. Yarlside Primary, Barrow-in-Furness (Cumbria); 3. Holmead Junior, Bristol (Avon)

Yarlside 5 Holmead 3; Holmead 2 Cumnor House 6; Cumnor House 5 Yarlside 3.

Girls Under-11:

1. Market Drayton Junior (Shropshire); 2. Woodley Junior, Stockport (Greater Manchester); 3. St. Joseph's RC Primary, Rotherhithe (Inner London)

Woodley 1 Market Drayton 7; St. Joseph's 3 Woodley 5; Market Drayton 7 St. Joseph's 1.

SUN LIFE SUPPORT AT BRISTOL



OUR photograph shows John Lewis (left), Promotions Officer of Sun Life Assurance, presenting a sponsorship cheque to Peter Sandford, Treasurer of the Bristol and District Table Tennis Association. The sponsorship from Sun Life has enabled the Association to stage its second Bristol Two Star Open Table Tennis Championships, to be held at the Whitchurch Sports Centre over the weekend of 16/17 May 1987. The junior events take place on the Saturday, followed by the senior events on Sunday. Last year's event, staged at the Thornbury Sports Centre, attracted a maximum entry of around 600 players from throughout the country, including many of the leading nationally ranked competitors. The organisers have been forced to switch the venue to Whitchurch this year due to the fact that the Thornbury Centre will be undergoing improvements and building work at the time. This could prove to be a blessing in disguise, however, as the larger playing area at Whitchurch can accommodate more tables and the organisers anticipate an increased entry of 700. Sun Life are pleased to be involved with the growing popularity of table tennis in the West Country and both they and the Bristol Table Tennis League, the largest in the country, are confident that the Open Championships will again be a successful event.

Crayden survives Delhi

FORMER England captain Ron Crayden was taken ill during the last three days in Delhi. The England party were extremely concerned at his state of health on the return journey. On arrival in England he sought medical advice and was diagnosed as suffering from bacterial dysentery, no doubt the cause of most of the stomach troubles in Delhi and after. The cause was said to be food. Ron has never been so quiet as he was in the closing stages in Delhi. He is now back on form and full recovered after many phone calls from concerned friends especially those with him in India.

WEBSTER MOVE

As from the 1st April, Brian Webster, Sports Photographer, Researcher & Statistician, will be at:

Flat 5
Martingale Gardens
Dundee
DD4 6BR

Universities Tournament

LOGSDON PIPS MOORE FOR VARSITIES TITLE

PHIL LOGSDON from Nottingham is the new British Universities champion. In an exciting final round of the men's singles at Warwick University, Logsdon overpowered the Sussex champion in a thriller. Logsdon who is already the English Universities champion has now added the Universities title.

He climaxed a run of seven singles wins with a 3rd game final victory over Adrian Moore of Keele. Logsdon appeared to have lost his chance when letting slip a big lead in the first game but became more consistent as the match progressed, forcing the errors from Moore as he grew in confidence to take the crown.

The non-arrival of No. 1 seed Jean Parker of Lancaster opened up the women's singles but eventually Sheffield's Michele Hams justified her 2nd seeding to beat Scottish champion Pat Calder of Heriot-Watt who had overcome Oxford's Mari Izumi, quarter-final conqueror of English champion Gabi Winter.

Cambridge's Simon Crieve, with Alan Whitton, added this year's men's doubles title to one won previously with Paul Dilger, beating Exeter's Stuart Richards and Martin Tate in the final after losing to the same pair in the initial groups.

Oxford's Laura Goldsmith and Izumi made up for their semi-final defeats in the singles by winning the women's doubles despite a strong challenge from English champions Hams and Jill McEwen of Sheffield.

Results

Mens singles - Quarter-finals: A Moore (Keele) b I Fullerton (London) 11, 11; M Jukes (Bath) b D Smith (Heriot-Watt) 11, 11; S. Richards (Exe) b J Wilson (Strath) 10, 19; P. Logsdon (Nottm) b J Murdoch (Warw) 18, 16. **Semi-finals:** Moore b Jukes 9, 12; Logsdon b Richards 12, 13. **Final:** Logsdon b Moore - 22, 15, 18.

Womens singles - Semi-finals: P. Calder (Heriot-Watt) b M. Izumi (Oxf) 10, 12; M Hams (Sheff) b L. Goldsmith (Oxf) - 10, 10, 15. **Final:** Hams b Calder 16, 19.

Mens doubles - Semi-finals: Richards/M Tate (Exe) b Smith/J Further (Heriot-Watt) 10, 8; S. Griew/A Whitton (Camb) b Moore/S Smith (Keele) 16, 21. **Final:** Griew/Whitton b Richards/Tate - 18, 14, 19.

Womens doubles - Semi-finals: Hams/J McEwen (Sheff) b J Solley/C Phillips (Camb) 11, 5; Goldsmith/Izumi b C Winter/B West (Exe) 8, 11. **Final:** Goldsmith/Izumi b Hams/McEwen 19, 15.

Mixed doubles - Semi-finals: Griew/Solley b Richards/West - 19, 17, 19; Fullerton/G Sharpe (Lond) b Logsdon/L Thompson (Nottm) 13, 13. **Final:** Fullerton/Sharpe b Griew/Solley - 18, 16, 9.

THE CHINA TOUR

● WITH astonishing speed eight towns and cities each came up front with £2,500 to get in on the eight-match tour of England by a Chinese team, with daily matches commencing on Saturday, April 25th. Top attraction will be Chen Xinhua, the Delhi semi-finalist and world No 4 who it is said has a bride waiting for him in Manchester and intends to settle here with everything revolving round a Chinese restaurant in Manchester!

The other three Chinese will be Fan Changmao, the world No 16, Cheng Yinghua and Yong Guang Di.

● England will be fielding their top four, Desmond Douglas, Alan Cooke, Carl Preat and Skylet Andrew, plus John Souter.

The venues are Sunderland, Oldham, Halifax, Bath, Bletchley, Norwich, Gillingham and Plymouth.

● The opening clash will be covered by BBC Television for transmission on the same day. The series is being organised by the ETTA and sponsored jointly by Lensun, who are a combination of S. Lenton (Holdings) Ltd., a British company manufacturing sports equipment and Patsun Services who have trade links with China.

The Daily Telegraph

AS we approach the end of the season the Tuesday table tennis column in The Daily Telegraph may become intermittent depending on the strength of the stories that develop in the next few weeks. The re-start date for next season is either September 15 or 22.

J.W.

ENTRY UP

ESTTA Individual Competitions Secretary, Paul Birch, says that the total of entries for the Dunlop English Schools Individual Championships - to be held at Mansfield Leisure Centre on Saturday, May 22nd - are slightly up on last season's total of 244.

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Delhi — Teams final positions

TEAM EVENTS — FINAL POSITIONS

SWAYTHLING CUP

1. CHINA
2. SWEDEN
3. KOREA (DPR)
4. YUGOSLAVIA
5. POLAND
6. JAPAN
7. GERMANY F.R.
8. CHINESE TAIPEI
9. KOREA
10. HUNGARY
11. USSR
12. ENGLAND
13. FRANCE
14. CZECHOSLOVAKIA
15. AUSTRIA
16. INDIA
17. NIGERIA
18. HOLLAND
19. AUSTRALIA
20. BELGIUM
21. DENMARK
22. FINLAND
23. ITALY
24. CANADA
25. TURKEY
26. USA
27. BRAZIL
28. SCOTLAND
29. NORWAY
30. INDONESIA
31. WALES
32. HONG KONG
33. BULGARIA
34. PAKISTAN
35. SPAIN
36. SWITZERLAND
37. IRAQ

38. NEW ZEALAND
39. MALAYSIA
40. SINGAPORE
41. PORTUGAL
42. LUXEMBOURG
43. EGYPT
44. SAUDIA ARABIA
45. IRELAND
46. YEMAN
47. MACAO
48. GHANA
49. BANGLADESH
50. PERU
51. THAILAND
52. JORDAN
53. GREECE
54. NEPAL
55. PALESTINE
56. ISLE OF MAN
57. SYRIA
58. ECUADOR
59. CYPRUS
60. BERMUDA

CORBILLON CUP

1. CHINA
2. KOREA
3. HUNGARY
4. HOLLAND
5. KOREA (DPR)
6. USSR
7. JAPAN
8. JUGOSLAVIA
9. CZECHOSLOVAKIA
10. CHINESE TAIPEI
11. ENGLAND
12. SWEDEN
13. HONG KONG

14. GERMANY F.R.
15. POLAND
16. FRANCE
17. BULGARIA
18. FINLAND
19. USA
20. BELGIUM
21. CANADA
22. SINGAPORE
23. DENMARK
24. MALAYSIA
25. ITALY
26. INDIA
27. INDONESIA
28. AUSTRALIA
29. SWITZERLAND
30. LUXEMBOURG
31. AUSTRIA
32. EGYPT
33. BRAZIL
34. MACAO
35. NIGERIA
36. NORWAY
37. THAILAND
38. SCOTLAND
39. GREECE
40. NEW ZEALAND
41. PERU
42. SPAIN
43. NEPAL
44. JORDAN
45. GHANA
46. SYRIA
47. MALTA
48. ISLE OF MAN
49. PORTUGAL
50. ECUADOR

DELHI HEAT...

OCCUPYING one of the hottest seats at the world championships in Delhi was the general secretary of the International Table Tennis Federation Tony Brooks. Normally an official calmly in charge of every situation, Tony appeared to have a nightmare three weeks wrestling with the organisational problems. And now he has a new president - Ochiro Ogimura from Japan.

CORRECTION

LAST month's first Delhi report was emphasised as being prepared hastily with no chance of corrections - very few readers noticed a results error - the winner of the womens was He Zhi Li, as correctly recorded in The Daily Telegraph but not in Table Tennis News! On the last day at Delhi confusion reached its climax. Most people were so concerned with getting their flights home confirmed that few paid attention to which Chinese lady won the womens singles, believe it or not. Most reporters left the stadium before the official results were issued with no transport to the hotels only to an outdoor final party which according to reports by those who were there, was a total flop - no surprise to those who worked in Delhi for the fortnight.

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Butterfly

Butterfly

All teams were below their best

by John Woodford

STOMACH upsets hit every team competing at Delhi. Without checking every single one of the 64 nations and associations, I did not hear of one unaffected. And so for England men their 12th finishing spot, two down on Gothenburg was achieved without Des Douglas in the closing stages.

The England women were never a complete fighting force as at least one of the three girls was unfit to give of their best most of the time. Our girls who finished 7th in Tokyo and 9th in Gothenburg finished 11th in Delhi - not a happy graph line and with three of our top four soon to become married ladies - Lisa Bellinger, Alison Gordon and Joy Grundy - bopes for the future of the England team must lie with Fiona Elliot and the youngsters coming up.

As England men's fine run came to an end losing 5-1 to China and 5-4 to West Germany, Alan Cooke's never to be forgotten victory over Chen Xinhua 13, - 11, 17 was still seen as the biggest shock of the entire championships although Georg

Bohm's triple against Sweden when the Swedes scraped home although not fit by 5-4 is still being talked about. Desmond Douglas took 14 out of 16 wins in the team event, losing only two against China.

The result that I still cannot fathom is Bohm taking three against Sweden for West Germany, but reports indicated that the Swedes were ailing at the time.

England womens team sailed through the first stage, but soon came unstuck losing all three matches in the second stage, the less said the better on those matches. One exception - England women finished on a brighter note with a late 3-2 victory over Sweden with Lisa Bellinger winning the decider against Svenson 12-21, 22-20, 21-7.



A general view of the tournament. A picture by Ron Crayden

ORGANISATION FAILURES

WHY was the organisation of the 39th World Championships such a dismal failure? It appears that the Indian Federation were awarded the event partly on the performance at Calcutta in 1975 when Mr T.D. Rangaramanujan was a reasonably successful director. But that gentleman did not reign in New Delhi.

There are so many examples of Indians trying hard to please but failing. Here are just three examples - at a world event a sophisticated glossy programme of events is expected. All we had was duplicated copies of the draw including each day's events and a list of players stapled together with a crude colour cover that fell apart as soon as pages were turned.

A nightmare

The promise of ample coaching arrangements from the hotels to the venue was in reality, often a nightmare. The hotels, all quite pleasant were in some cases 8 miles from the stadium. Our hotel the Ashoka, housed nearly 200 people who wished to travel to and from the stadium sometimes twice daily. Instead of running more coaches at

peak hours, the half-hourly service was rigid and often led to 30 people crushed in and standing and people left stranded at the stadium.

On finals day, I saw five members of the Swedish team trying to get a taxi having walked half a mile from the stadium at the end of play.

Final word on hotel rooms - those lucky enough to find a room without hours of argument were frequently placed three in a room and even two men in a double bed - this happened to the England team, but I will not name those affected! Comment from Johnny Leach - "No way would I accept that in my day as team manager."

Summing up Delhi

ENGLAND always seem to come up with something worthwhile at the big events. In this case Des Douglas's sparkling 14 out of 16 in the Swaythling Cup came out top. Second only was the emergence of Alan Cooke as a world last sixteen player and a young man capable of beating top-ranked Chinese players. Unfortunately for India, their country is not a suitable place in which to entertain 64 countries in a world event. The effort was there but the know-how was not. The health hazards are well-known but media arrangements were so poor that sports editors will remain reluctant to support substantially freelance journalists on such occasions let alone assign staff reporters.



The Indira Gandhi Stadium with Ron Crayden in the foreground

DELHI RESULTS - SUMMARY

Swaythling Cup: England b Belgium 5-1; b Greece 5-0; b Macao 5-0; lt China 1-5; b France 5-1; lt Germany 4-5, b Czechoslovakia 5-2; lt Hungary 2-5.

Corbillon Cup: England b Australia 3-1; b Scotland 3-1; lt 0-3 to Korea, Czechoslovakia and Yugoslavia; b Poland 3-2, b Sweden 3-2.

Mens Singles:

Qualifying Rounds: J Souter b PT Mohammed (Pakistan) 13, 8; lt S Fraczyk - 12, -9; **Round 1:** H Huang (Tapei) b M Syed 11, 12, 6; A Cooke b M Seiro (Fin) 19, 10, 11; JP Gatien b S Andrew 19, 20, 19; D Douglas b J Javorek 19, 21, 17; **Round 2:** Douglas b Podnasov (USSR) 16, 11, - 10, 19; Cooke b LS Ma (Hong Kong) 13, 8, 14; **Round 3:** Cooke b Z Kristol (Hun) - 14, 10, 20, 10; Douglas b J Secretin (France) 6, 13, - 15, 11; **Round 4:** Wang Hao (China) b Cooke 10, 14, - 14, 11; J Waldner b Douglas - 14, 19, 18, 19; **Semi-finals:** Jiang Jialiang b Chen Xinhua 18, 14, 10; J Waldner b Teng Yi 17, 20, 9; **Final:** Jiang b Teng Yi - 14, 18, 11, 22.

Womens Singles:

Round 1: A Gordon b M Leong (Malaysia) 9, 20, 12; L Bellinger b C Polk (Denmark) 13, 19, 13; **Round 2:** K Bogaerts (Belgium) b Gordon 20, - 17, 14, 16; S.W. Hong (Korea) b Bellinger 15, 11, 15; **Semi-finals:** Zhili He b Jianhua Guan 7, 7, 18; Yang Young Ja b Dai Lili 16, 14, - 13, - 19, 18; **Final:** He b Yang 17, 19, 18.

Delhi exit visa for the president

The rise and fall of Roy Evans, OBE ...

John Woodford talks to the former President of the ITTF.

ROY EVANS, 77, the man who took table tennis into the acceptance stages of the 1988 Olympic Games in Seoul was not permitted after a stunning defeat the polls in New Delhi, to go forward to the final stages to lead the sport into the arena in Seoul.

Instead Ochiro Ogimura the former world champion raced to victory by 65 votes to 39.

There was I believe, some injustice of the operation headed by China and Japan to change the leadership in Delhi - the results could have gone against the Asians in Dortmund in 1989.

There were damaging newspaper stories from the Asians, quoting Asian TTU sources that Mr. Evans was 82.

"Frankly, I expected to lose but the margin suggests that friends apparently committed to support me did not live up to their word," said Mr. Evans.

"My unseating is another indication of the trend that led to Sir Stanley Rouse being ousted by Havelange and Charles Palmer losing his international judo presidency to a Japanese" he said.

CAREER

Roy Evans started playing table tennis in 1925. He became a Welsh international in the early thirties including playing in the 1932 world championships in Baden-bei-Wien. At that event he became a member of an ITTF committee, the first step on a long ladder that led to the very top.

In the RAF he rose to Squadron Leader; after leaving the service he became honorary secretary of the ITTF in Vienna in 1951 and for sixteen years worked entirely on his own as the Federation grew.

He became the President in Stockholm in 1957 and while the ITTF membership swelled to the present 130 countries, completed his 20 years at the top.

He was responsible in collaboration with Michael Lawless and Norwich Union in creating the World Grand Prix and later with Lawless and IMG, inaugurating the World Cup.

Mr. Evans said, "In 1971, on my way to the World Championships in Nagoya, I was asked to go to China who were just returning to the World scene after the Cultural Revolution. In consultation with Chou-En-Lai, I suggested that to reinstate themselves after six years absence, they should invite some teams to visit China after the World Championships. This was done, including, most surprisingly, the invitation to the USA team, which took place with a great deal of publicity, leading to the coining of the phrase "Ping Pong Diplomacy". For this, and other ef-

forts in the sports field, I received the OBE from the Queen in 1972."

"But perhaps the most significant achievement relates to the Olympic Games. In company with Bill Vint in two or three years before the World Championships in Birmingham in 1977, I tried to get the IOC to recognise us. By altering our Constitution, we succeeded in 1978 to secure recognition. Then came the next step - to get into the Olympics. This became my sole responsibility, and after many meetings and much correspondence, we and Lawn Tennis finally become Olympic Sports at the IOC Congress in Baden Baden in 1981."



Roy Evans

"Table Tennis will be in the Olympic Games in Seoul in 1988 and all the vast amount of negotiation necessary for this involvement has been carried out under my direction."

"A further significant development came when I was able to get from the Olympic Eligibility Commission clearance for all our players to be eligible for the Games," he said.

In all this activity Mr. Evans has been supported by Nancy Evans whose devotion to the sport has been so evident. They met in 1929. Nancy played for Wales for years and in 1938 was ranked No 7 in the world. She is still secretary of the Welsh Association after countless years. She became secretary and treasurer of the European Table Tennis Union 1968 and retired in Moscow after 24 years service.

In New Delhi last month she was re-elected to the Chairmanship of the ITTF Press and Publicity Committee at the same meeting that blatantly ousted her husband.

I asked Mr. Evans for an idea of his plans from now on. He said, "As Honorary Life President I have no idea what that entails."

OLYMPIC TELEX

Copy of telex from Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch to Mr. Roy Evans 2nd March 1987

I would like to congratulate you and thank you for your splendid achievement during your presidency.

I cannot forget that it was under your leadership that table tennis became an Olympic sport and will be on the Olympic programme for the first time in 1988.

Best wishes and kind regards

Juan Antonio Samaranch
IOC President

REFEREE AND THE PRESS...

GREENWICH referee Trevor Openshaw makes some strange statements on press coverage in his letter on Page 33. Taking up three of his points: (a) He complains that the media did not watch most of an afternoon match at Crawley that was brought forward. Reporters spend many hours on the telephone. They cannot watch all the play, at peak times it is almost impossible to watch any play. Perhaps the referee did not spot press men watching from the top balcony at the rear of the officials rostrum.

(b) He talks of good coverage of most other sports in Monday papers who finish later. This is naively comparing table tennis with major sports most of whom finish early. Our great rival badminton makes sure that singles events are played early.

(c) We are all well aware of the amount of time given up at week-ends by officials for sport but media people are there earning a living that is threatened along with coverage of the sport if the major finals are running into supertime on a Sunday.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

April

- 18/19 Tunbridge Wells Junior 2-star
- 19 VETTS Northern Masters, Macclesfield
- 25 Lancashire 2-star, Bolton
- 25/26 Yorkshire Junior Select
- 25 England v. China, Sunderland
- 26 England v. China, Oldham
- 27 England v. China, Halifax
- 28 England v. China, Bath
- 29 England v. China, Milton Keynes
- 30 England v. China, Norwich
- 31 England v. China, Gillingham

May

- 1 England v. China, Plymouth
- 2 Hollington Junior 1 star, Hastings
- 2 ESTTA Individual Champs, Mansfield
- 3 Hollington 1-star, Hastings
- 4 China team exhibition, Gloucester Leisure Centre
- 9 Stiga Grand Prix Finals, Milton Keynes
- 10 National Team Finals, Mansfield
- 16 Bristol Junior 2-star, Bristol
- 17 Bristol 2-star, Bristol
- 23/24 VETTS National Age groups, Bracknell
- 30 ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN, Newcastle
- 31 ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN, Newcastle

Burton-on-Trent pulls in the press

PRESS coverage for table tennis of the Burton-on-Trent Senior League is certainly one of the best in the country. Regional stalwart Terry Gadsby reports that every Saturday in the Burton Daily Mail there is a full page of table tennis during the winter season and a half-page during the run of the summer league.

Terry Gadsby says, "I think we have the best coverage in the country with a 50,000 population, or does anyone know better?"

That certainly takes some beating. Burton are of course, a little fortunate to have a daily paper with that small a population. They also think that they ought to be awarded a prize or a framed winner's scroll for their success. It is an idea worth following up. Local leagues

with excellent local and regional coverage could submit their press cuttings once a year for judging, but having seen Burton's whole pages, their challenge would take some beating.

Southampton is a hot spot

For a number of things, but table tennis publicity is one of them. Brian Lamerton, the local live-wire is a regular broadcaster and is also Southern Regional Co-ordinating committee publicity officer. Brian has submitted cuttings of big reports from the Hampshire region, Southampton and Portsmouth in particular, two towns that have supported big table tennis fixtures in the past but have had nothing recently.

PROGRESSIVE PUBLIC RELATIONS



Brian Spicer, Vice-chairman PR.

Up-to-the minute news from PR vice-chairman BRIAN SPICER

PRESS interest in English Table Tennis continues and preparations are under way to present to management committee a sound committee structure for the future.

Richard Eaton and John Woodford's continued advice have supported the contacts with media men and Fiona Brown, John Preen and my contact in Fleet Street have now set up relationships with senior personnel in the newspaper industry.

What we need now is a media specialist to provide news more regularly, create stories and support Mike Watts, Deputy General Secretary at Hastings with press releases. We are looking for a volunteer! Structure of the future committee to be proposed will include:-

- A volunteer from a media agency to improve the style and cost of production of our publication.
- A 'major sport' press officer to develop the press offices and media coverage of our major championships.
- A strong recreational support to improve the content of press documentation.
- A strong link with English Championships Committee to continue our support of a close working relationship between all committees.
- Continued input from national journalists to increase our involvement with the right contacts.
- Improvement in the sale of ETTA sales items. Background support to our editor of Table Tennis News to continue the improvement of our magazine and to examine new distribution channels.

Our task this season of improving media coverage, and Table Tennis News is now behind us. Attention has been to hard work, rather than sitting around meeting tables. The cost of our departments have been lowered in line with our treasurer's objectives.

Any readers who feel suitably qualified to add their personal input to the team will be welcome to correspond with us. Less meetings — more work with our contacts — this will be a deliberate change.

WEST MIDLAND REGIONAL REPORT



LILLESHALL IS TOPS

COURSES at Lilleshall are a hit with youngsters from the West Midland Region. The region have already held three two day courses there this season and pictured here are 22 youngsters who attended the most recent one on February 7th and 8th. Jenny Heaton, pictured on the right, organised the course and was ably assisted by Jill Harris. George Moreton, who took the photograph, also assisted with the coaching.

Two further courses are planned; for May 16th/17th, which will be open to cadets and for June 20th/21st which will be for junior girls. The region already runs regular girl only sessions and have given 17 different girls the opportunity to take part. These have also been run by Jenny Heaton and Jill Harris.

West Midland Regional Club League

This was a new League started at the beginning of this season with eight teams from around the region. Players could only take part if they did not play for a team in the British Schildkrot League as the matches were to be held on the same dates as the British League.

At the end of the first half the leaders were Thorns T.T.C. from Quarry Bank, with James Birk T.T.C. from Stoke-on-Trent two points behind. So the second half match between these two teams would decide the first winners of this new league. Unfortunately for Thorns, James Birk turned up with a stronger team, and won 7-3. With a better games average this made James Birk fairly sure of the league title. Illness hit Thorns in their very next match against West Warwicks, which they consequently lost. This made it certain, barring disasters, that James Birk will be the first West Midland Regional Club Champions.

BRIBAR TABLE TENNIS

125 Tankerton Road.
Tankerton,
Whitstable
Kent.
(0227) 276581

● END OF SEASON SALE ●
● END OF SEASON SALE ●

	RRP	Offer Price
	£ p	£ p
Double Fish 815 -Superb Fast "Tacki" Chinese Rubber our top seller	13.99	10.99
Friendship 729 -the U.K. best selling rubber	13.99	10.99
Twister extra long pimple rubber from Armstrong	13.99	11.25
Attack New Anti — attacking anti loop for the combination player	13.75	10.99
Double Fish 1615 — medium pimples for control with unpredictability	11.99	9.99
Sliver -Butterfly top selling rubber	15.99	12.99
Tackiness -top control Japanese rubber	18.99	14.99
Player Blades -quality budget blade - FL/ST/AN	11.50	9.25
Defender Blade -5 ply defensive blade from Armstrong - FL/ST	16.99	13.50
Douglas/Grubber/Dvoracek blades	15.99	12.99
Power 21 -5 ply offensive Hinoki blade - FL	21.50	16.25
TSP 3 Star Balls -per doz.	9.36	7.45
Schildkrot 3 Star Balls -per doz.	8.30	6.75
Dunlop Tournament 3 Star Balls -per doz.	7.35	6.25
Stiga Shoes -size 6 - 11	17.99	14.75
TSP Shoes -size 5 1/2 - 11	17.99	14.85
TSP Internat. Shirts Navy Red, Burgundy and Black	32/34" 15.99 36/42" 17.99	12.75 14.85
Butterfly Shorts Navy/Sky or Black/Sky	12/14 9.55 S/M 10.99	7.65 8.80
Yellow or Red trim	L 11.50	9.20
Double Fish Holdall -Black with Red trim		9.50 7.25

PLUS MANY CLEARANCE ITEMS

- rubbers from £5.99. Shoes, Shirts and Shorts from £7.50; receive £7.50 table tennis token FREE if you are the first to supply BRIBAR TABLE TENNIS with your Local League Handbook - ACT FAST!!

Name

Address

Please send me your comprehensive offer/clearance leaflet tick box

I enclose Association Handbook and claim a £7.50 token tick box



Schildkröt

British Table Tennis League



Promoted by the English Table Tennis Association

WOLVERHAMPTON STILL LOOKING CHAMPION

STEELSTOCK Wolverhampton led by the almost unbeatable Desmond Douglas are still holding to their lead in the premier division after capsizing Omega Reading 8-0 in Berkshire.

If it is any consolation to the Berkshire players Douglas is regarded as almost untouchable by the best players in Germany! The combined strength of Douglas, Nicky Mason, Phil Bradbury and the improving Carl Morgan is such that it is difficult to see how any other team can get close to them.

Mason has of course, had a season of mixed fortunes but in the second half his reaching the semi-finals at Crawley and then being chosen for the England squad in the European League has given him the confidence he needed. Bradbury is always a player to be feared, whilst Morgan under Douglas's tuition, has also shown the improvement that was expected in Midlands circles.

Andy Wellman saved the day for Omega with a double when the Reading side travelled to St. Neots. The Berkshire side led 4-3 near the end but Richardson came to the rescue for MBS St. Neots when we stopped Reeves 21-12, 19-21, 21-11.

Ormesby had a rough ride when they were almost taken apart by Rotherham who triumphed 7-1 at Thornaby Pavilion. What ever happened to the former European champion John Hilton? He lost -16, 15, -18 to Chris Rogers the England No 14 and then went down -13, -17 to Stephen Scowcroft the England No. 9 (Bolton) who was nominated as man of the match.

Division 1

Dagenham FC who were recently beaten in a shock defeat by TCB Dolphins managed to hold Byker Newcastle to a draw with Eddie Smith winning two (including David Newman) and becoming man of the match.

Rupert Bole emerged as top player from Larkhall's 6-2 win away to Dolphins at Hurstpierpoint. The bright spot for Sussex fans was the -18, 15, 18 win by the new Sussex champion Ritchie Venner against

Michael Hammond but the Surrey men always held the ace cards.

Entertaining

West Warwickshire, Birmingham were on top of their form when they hammered Omega 7-1. The only Reading win was when Savins beat Barry Johnson 18, 12. After that Johnson, Rich, Palmer and Wilkes carried on undefeated with Rich getting the accolade for "two wins and entertainment value".

Championship contenders Express Torbay did not get all their own way although they won 5-1 away to Chan Construction. No-one was nominated as best player but England No 43 Philip Gunn gunned down Whiting 14, 13 and Paul Giles 19, 15. But it was left to the sometimes flashy Gary Lambert to clinch the match winning over Jukes -18, 18, 16 in the last match of the day.

North

It was nice to see Denis Neale's name on the scoresheet as Ormesby II visited March with the Northerners winning 7-1. However, Ian McClean got the vote for "his fighting qualities". He was unbeaten as was Neale and Lindsay Taylor. Andy Withers stopped the rot for March holding Mark Simon 15, -16, 8.

Rising star

A maximum by Martin Kinsella pushed Bradford Investments towards their 6-2 win over Steelstock Wolverhampton II. The rising England star Michael O'Driscoll was also unbeaten although he had to fight all the way to topple Mark Evans 17, -17, 17.

Waveney and Lincoln battled through an exciting draw with Russell King nominated as man of the match, but Phil Logsdon of Norwich, the brand new British Universities champion was also undefeated for Waveney. Logsdon

whipped Stuart Worrell 9, 10 and finally Philip Vickers 20, 15.

South

David Holman who seems to have played for more clubs, leagues and counties than can be easily recalled was undefeated as Larkhall poleaxed Medway 6-2 in the 2nd division south. That most indestructible veteran Gordon Chapman beat Amos -13, 16, 14, but Kelly upended the Surrey vet 16, 18 in the second half.

Cool head

Middlesex ace David Tan beat both the Proffitt brothers as Nittaku fired on all cylinders to overpower Gunnersbury Triangle 6-2 at Northolt. Joey Kennedy kept a cool head to beat Jon Proffitt and then Simmonds 12, 18.

That wellknown and long-established club Fellows Cranleigh pulled out all the punches to beat Jacques Fareham 7-1. Paul Sayer, Peter Northcott and Jason Clark were unbeaten with Marker Wicker going under to Ramash Bhalla 8, 10.

Max Crimmins is playing No 2 for Ashford whilst ranked England No 25. Playing No 1 against Global Plymouth was Ken Jackson who is ranked No 162! However Ashford raced home 7-0 with Crimmins, Jackson, Goode and Bakervall winning in straight games.

North III

Jevon Chan with an excellent display of consistent attacking table tennis was the star for Ormesby III when they slammed Crusader Lincoln at Lincoln. Fewsdale, Miller and Healy were the other three Ormesby men on form.

Two Phils

There are two Phil Smiths on the England ranking list, one in Sussex, one in Leicester. The Midlands player took the first game for Leicester when they lost 6-2 to Chan Construction but in the middle of the match at 2-2, Smith went down to Ron Vose 16, 14 and from then on Chan kept on the victory path.

BOY MEETS GIRL

STOCKWELL-BASED Rejects journeyed to the Ashford Table Tennis Centre for their 13th match in the Schildkröt British League. Ashford had won 5 of their 12 matches and were lying in 5th place while the unbeaten Rejects were at the top of the division by a whisker. When these two teams last met it was Rejects who scraped home with a 5-3 win. This time they struggled to reach 4-4 with just one match remaining.

Once again Ashford's No 1 player was England international Alison Gordon who is currently the country's No 3 lady. Having recently returned from the World Championships in New Delhi she was in fine form. In her first set she met Rejects Richard Beckham from Dulwich who she despatched in two straight games. In the first she took a commanding lead which she retained with powerful shots to win the game 21-14. Richard Beckham took a lead in the second game but seemed to lose his concentration and let Alison power through to a 21-17 victory.

Classic game

England No 5 Mandy Sainsbury was next at the table challenged by Willesden's Mike O'Leary, the Rejects No 1 player. In a classic game of attack versus defence the young Irishman was unable to contain the powerful shots of a very determined Mandy Sainsbury who had previously lost to the Rejects player. Mandy's 21-18, 21-18 win put Ashford 2-0 ahead. The Rejects fightback then started with Trevor Campbell securing a surprising win over the former Welsh No 2, Dave Welsman, Ashford's team coach. Welsman dominated much of the game and showed that at 36 years of age he is still a force to be reckoned with. But the Middlesex veteran's combination bat defence saw him home at 21-17 in the third game.

(Continued on Page 11)



Schildkröt distributed by Butterfly



Schildkrot British League



DARREN GRIFFIN, from Gloucester is the recipient of the Player of the Month Award for December. He plays for Leominster in the Schildkrot National League.

Schildkrot British League

(as at 16.3.87)

Premier Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steelstock Wolverhampton	13	11	2	0	93	11	24
Grove Market Drayton	12	9	3	0	75	21	21
Panoramic Bath	11	5	1	5	46	42	11
Butterfly Cardiff	11	5	1	5	39	49	11
Rotherham	10	4	2	4	42	38	10
Ormesby I	9	4	1	4	29	43	9
Omega Reading	11	0	1	10	17	71	1
MBS St Neots	11	0	1	10	11	77	1

First Division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Express Torbay	12	10	2	0	67	29	22
Chan Construction	12	8	1	3	64	32	17
Trebtor Dagenham FC	13	7	2	4	62	42	16
TSP Larkhall	13	7	0	6	56	48	14
Byker Newcastle	12	5	2	5	49	47	12
TCB Dolphins	12	5	2	5	48	48	12
West Warwicks Birmingham	12	2	1	9	35	61	5
Omega Claw	12	0	0	12	11	85	0

Second Division North	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bradford Investments	13	10	1	2	68	36	21
Ormesby II	12	9	1	2	52	34	19
EAE Waveney	12	8	2	2	64	32	18
Sincil Lincoln	13	5	2	7	50	54	12
Steelstock Wolverhampton	12	4	3	5	49	47	11
March	13	4	1	8	42	62	9
Kingbro Insurance	13	1	4	8	37	67	6
Oldham	12	1	2	9	28	68	4

Second Division South	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ashford	13	13	0	0	95	9	26
C & L Nittaku	13	7	3	3	61	43	17
Global Sports Plymouth	13	8	1	4	57	47	17
Fellows Cranleigh	13	6	1	6	53	53	13
Medway	12	3	2	7	40	56	8
TSP Larkhall	13	3	2	8	34	70	8
Jaques Fareham	12	3	1	8	34	62	7
Gunnersbury Triangle	13	2	2	9	34	70	6

Third Division North	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Grove Market Drayton	13	11	0	2	77	32	22
City of Leeds	12	9	1	2	70	34	19
Leicester	13	9	0	4	69	49	18
Chan Construction II	13	7	2	4	60	52	16
Ormesby III	12	7	1	4	60	57	15
Byker Newcastle	13	1	2	10	30	64	4
Crusaders Lincoln	13	2	0	11	25	56	4
Vickers Barrow	13	2	0	11	17	64	4

Third Division South	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rejects	13	9	4	0	72	32	22
Team Ramlosa Essex	13	10	1	2	70	34	21
Countryside T. Wells	13	7	1	5	55	49	15
Ashford	13	5	1	7	52	52	11
Abeng Warriors	13	4	3	6	47	57	11
Thorn EMI Ellenborough	12	4	1	7	40	56	9
Deptford Rams	13	3	2	8	40	64	8
Erreys Print '84	12	2	1	9	32	64	5

Third Division East	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Well Connected W'bro	12	9	3	0	69	27	21
Norwich Foxwood	12	9	2	2	66	30	20
Britannia Ipswich	12	7	2	3	58	38	16
Trebtor Dagenham FC	12	6	1	5	52	44	13
AHW Pioneers	12	4	4	4	52	44	12
MBS St Neots	12	3	3	6	44	52	9
Witham Town FC	12	1	3	8	36	60	5
Smiths Motors Peterborough	12	0	0	12	7	89	0

Third Division West	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Doleq Carpets*	13	12	1	0	84	20	25
Opella Leominster	13	10	1	2	69	35	21
Jolliffe Poole	12	8	2	2	66	31	18
Express Torbay	13	5	0	8	40	64	10
KCD Stiga	11	3	3	5	40	48	9
Duchy Launceston	13	2	2	9	35	69	6
Panoramic Bath	11	1	3	7	30	58	5
Omega Reading	12	1	2	9	28	68	4

Schildkrot British league Results - Sunday 15th March

Premier Division: Ormesby 6 Omega Reading 2; Rotherham 2 Steelstock Wolverhampton 6; MBS St Neots 1 Butterfly Cardiff 7; Panoramic Bath 1 Grove 7.

First Division: Trebor Dagenham FC 2 TCB Dolphins 6; Express Torbay 5 TSP Larkhall 3; Omega Claw 1 Byker Newcastle 7; Chan Construction 7 West Warwicks Birmingham 1.

Second Division North: Ormesby 4 Bradford Investments 4; Sincil Lincoln 5 Steelstock Wolverhampton 3; Oldham 2 March 6; EAE Waveney 5 Kingbro Insurance 3.

Second South: Medway 1 C & L Nittaku 7; Ashford 8 Gunnersbury Triangle 0; Jaques Fareham 4 TSP Larkhall 4; Global Sports Plymouth 5 Fellows Cranleigh 3.

Third North: Ormesby 1 Leicester

7; Byker Newcastle 4 Chan Construction 4; City of Leeds 7 Crusaders Lincoln 1; Grove 8 Vickers Barrow 0.

Third South - 14th March: Thorn EMI Ellenborough 1 Ashford 7.

15th March 1987: Countrymen T. Wells 6 Abeng Warriors 2; Ashford 4 Rejects 4; Erreys Print 4 Deptford Rams 4; Thorn EMI Ellenborough 5 Team Ramlosa Essex 3.

Third East: Well Connected W'bro 8 Smiths Motors Peterborough 0; MBS St Neots 1 Norwich Foxwood 7; Witham Town FC 3 Trebor Dagenham FC 5.

Third West: Opella Leominster 6 Duchy Launceston 2; Doleq Carpets 5 Jolliffe Poole 3; Omega Reading 2 Express Torbay 6; Panoramic Bath v. KCD Stiga Postponed.

REJECTS

(Continued from page 10)

The Rejects team were looking pretty gloomy as their 4th draw of the season had been recorded and a valuable point had been dropped. It appeared at that stage that their title hopes had evaporated. Then came the news that their closest rivals, Team Ramlosa Essex, had suffered a 3-5 defeat at the hands of Enfield's Thorn EMI Ellenborough team. This leaves Rejects one point clear at the top of the division.

Rejects hope to pocket the £500 prize money by winning the division and gaining promotion to the Second Division South.

MIKE LOVEDER

IF there was a competition awarding a prize for the most active and efficient publicity officer in the League, Wimbledon's Mike Loveder would win by 25 lengths. His efforts for Rejects TTC have been quite exceptional and many other clubs envy having such a young man who is also a player in their ranks. In the next issue of Table Tennis News Mike has accepted an invitation to write a round-up review of the British League season with an extra page allocated.

BRAVE DEBUT FOR NICKY MASON

NICKY MASON of Bexhill and Surrey, man-of-the-moment in English table tennis landed two wins from three as England beat Norway 5-2 at the Halstead Sports Centre, near Braintree on March 21st.

Mason was understandably a trifle nervous but he stuck bravely to his guns attacking with stunning power even when under pressure.

A lamentably late start and Mason's long opening game against Strom gave Fleet Street journalists palpitations as the Surrey man's victory was cheered right on the early edition deadlines. However, Mason came through his baptism well, his speedy attacking shots often fooling the Norwegian No. 2.

Des Douglas quietly went about his business of destroying his two singles opponents. In the second game of the night he stopped the formidable Tom Johansen 14, 19.

Former England champion Alison Gordon, still the England No. 3, then set about her task of unsettling Kristin Hagen and this she did admirably 16, 14 to put England 3-0 ahead and coasting to what would seem to be an easy victory.

Douglas was rested from the doubles — a wise move by Don Parker, so it was left to Mason and Skyler Andrew to take England through to the unassailable victory point, although as it happened England and Germany were so far ahead of the other teams in the divi-

sion that an English defeat would still have led to the promotion showdown at Wurzburg.

Mason and Andrew are a smart combination but Johansen is a strong player. He does the same job for Norway as Douglas for England — plays in all four games when the chips are down. The English pair just lost the second game but in the third they piled on the pressure to win 21-13 giving England the point that momentarily put England right on top of the table.

Two rather surprising defeats came for England and Norwegian faces brightened as they saw themselves possibly escaping from relegation.

England lost the mixed doubles — 17 in the third as Alison Gordon twice miscued on serving in the last few points of the third game, full credit to Johansen and Hagen.

Mason with two wins under his belt looked more confident in the penultimate game of the evening. Although he lost the first game 15 to Johansen he fought back brilliantly to take the second game 18. Mason is a young man who seems to get himself in an extraordinary number of tight spots and



Nicky Mason of Surrey and Bexhill.

often manages to extricate himself by counter-hitting. However he lost the third 17 and England were only 4-2 ahead.

Douglas then moved into the arena with the clock edging towards 11 p.m. and the Fleet Street presses rolling. He quickly did a demolition job 12 and 13 against gallant Ken Strom and the scoreline looked slightly more respectable at 5-2.

Bear in mind that England kept three of their top players on ice, preparing for the big match in Germany, so really 5-2 against the fighting Norwegians was not at all

a bad performance.

It did, however, put England in second place in the tables Germany won their sixth round match 7-0 against Australia.

Results

N Mason b K Strom — 22, 20, 11; D Douglas b K Johansen 14, 19; Miss A Gordon b Miss K Hagen 16, 14; Mason/Andrew b Johansen/Strom 12, — 20, 13; Andrew/Gordon lt Johansen/Hagen — 19, 17, — 17; Mason lt Johansen — 15, 18, — 17; Douglas b Strom 12, 13. England 5, Norway 2.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

SUPER DIVISION

Hungary 5 Bulgaria 2 at Budapest

Tibor Klampar b Stephan Stefanov 13, 17; Zsolt Kriston lt Mariano Lukov — 17, — 20; Edit Urban b Daniela Gergeltcheva 20, 18; Kriston/Harczi b Lukov/Stefanov 14, 11; Harczi/Urban b Lukov/Gergeltcheva — 11, 13, 18; Tibor Klampar b Mariano Lukov 16, 8; Zsolt Kriston b Stephen Stefanov — 19, 12, — 21.

Sweden 4, Czechoslovakia 3 at Kiruna

Jorgen Persson b Jindrich Pansky 15, 19; Ulf Carlsson b Miroslav Cevaca 15, 19; Barbro Wiltorsson b Alena Safarova — 17, 12, 13; Persson/U Bengtsson b Pansky/Cevaca 21, 18; Carlsson/Wiktorsson lt Pansky/Safarova — 14, 19, — 14; Jorgen Persson lt Miroslav Cevaca — 10, 15, — 7; Ulf Carlsson lt Jindrich Pansky — 19, — 13.

Poland 6, Netherlands 1 at Gneizno

Leszek Kucharski b Ron van Spanje 11, 16; Andrzej Grubba b Rob Turk 14, 18; Jodviga Kawalek lt Gerdie Keen — 12, — 17; Dryszel/Molenda b Van Spanje/Turk 12, 13; Molenda/Szatko b Van Spanje/Keen 17, — 17, 16; Leszek Kucharski b Rob Turk 28, 16; Andrzej Grubba b Ron van Spanje 15, 19.

Yugoslavia 4, France 3

DIVISION ONE

Norway 3, Denmark 4 at Gjovik

Tom Johansen b Lars Hauth — 14, — 14; Morten Gustavsen b Jan Harkamp — 21, 13, 15; Kristin Hagen lt Charlotte Polk — 17, — 17; Johansen/Gustavsen lt Hauth/Harkamp — 18, — 14; Johansen/Hagen b Hauth/Polk — 19, 15, 19; Tom Johansen b Jan Harkamp — 13, 20, 21; Morten Gustavsen lt Lars Hauth — 8, — 14.

Austria 5, Turkey 2 at Lenzing

Dietmar Palmi b Oktay Cimen 17, 18; Gottfried Bar lt Gurhan Yaldiz — 18, — 17; Vera Kottek b Selda Dogan 12, — 16, 15; Palmi/Fraczyk lt Cimen/Yaldiz 17, — 15, — 14; Palmi/Kottek b Cimen/Dogan 16, — 17, 21; Dietmar Palmi b Gruhan Yaldiz 10, 10; Gottfried Bar b Oktay Cimen 10, 14.

Italy 2, Federal Germany 5

DIVISION TWO

Switzerland 7, Guernsey 0 at Langnau

Stefan Renold b Mark Pipet 5, 14; Jan Gurtner b Joe Bailey 6, 12; Beatrice Witte b Tina Pipet 8, 6; Gurtner/Renold b Bailey/Pipet 7, 10; Renold/Hirzel b Pipet/Pipet 10, 9; Stefan Renold b Joe Bailey 10, 9; Jan Gurtner b Mark Pipet 11, 19.

Scotland 0, Belgium 7 at Alexandria

David Hannah lt Jean Michel Saive — 16, — 24; John Broe lt Thierry Cabrera — 18, — 15; Carole Dalrymple lt Sophie Thirion — 20, — 19; Broe/Hannah lt Saive/Cabrera — 20, — 16; Hannah/Dalrymple lt Leroy/Thirion — 19, — 17; David Hannah lt Thierry Cabrera 11, — 19, — 12; John Broe lt Jean Michel Saive — 11, — 15.

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Picture Parade



Mr. Richard Paine bought a Dunlop table tennis table at an auction at the NABC boxing finals at the Grosvenor House, London. Mr. Paine (right) is seen here being presented with the table (which is not in camera shot) by Mr. Alec Pearce. Dunlop are sponsoring the National Association of Boys Clubs table tennis championships finals at Gloucester Leisure Centre on Saturday June 13. In the background is a well-known face, Jimmy Hill.

THE HERTS CHAMPION MEN'S SINGLES 1987 ...



John Taylor, the new Herts county champion. Sue Felstead was the winner of the women's singles.

OLDFIELD, O'DRISCOLL WIN JUNIOR AWARD

by Hans Soova, Chief Coach, Leeds Centre of Excellence

MICHAEL O'DRISCOLL and Chris Oldfield (both age 15) are happy to have received this year's Yorkshire Post Newspaper Junior team award for 1986. Michael was voted runner up in the junior individual award (Yorkshire junior cricket team were 2nd in team awards).

This is the first one for table tennis. Just to mention the mens and womens individual winners Martin Bell (skiing) and Tessa Sanderson (javelin) so this is quite an honour for our boys and T.T. in general.

The boys deserve a little acknowledgement for they worked very hard at Yorkshire and Humberside Sports Council Centre of Excellence for Table Tennis for 3½ years leading up to the Junior European Championships in Belgium July 1986, where they won the cadet team championships, and runners-up in cadet doubles, and Michael was runner up in cadet singles.

I am very grateful to the pre-European training camps, they were excellent preparations for the boys, by Donald Parker and Paul Day and our thanks to Sports Aid Foundation for financial help and Butterfly UK for equipment sponsorship. It takes an all round team effort to win European gold.



Chris Oldfield



Michael O'Driscoll

THE PRESIDENT DETHRONED

by George R. Yates

OVERSHADOWING all else at the two sessions of the I.T.T.F. B.G.M. in New Delhi was the contest for the I.T.T.F. Presidency between H. Roy Evans, OBE, of Wales and Ichiro Ogimura of Japan.

In the event, at the second session on Saturday, February 28th, the votes were duly cast and of the 104 ballot forms to be counted, 65 were in favour of Mr. Ogimura and 39 in favour of Mr. Evans thus terminating the Presidency of the Welshman after twenty years in office.

Prior to, from 1951 to 1967, Mr. Evans had served the I.T.T.F. as Hon. Secretary in succession to England's W.J. 'Bill' Pope - altogether a stint of service commanding the utmost praise. And this was realised when it was moved by Mr. Ken Wilkinson of New Zealand, and seconded by the writer, that Mr. Evans become the Life President of the Federation - a proposal that received due acclaim.

ELITE BAND

Unopposed Mr. Lollo Hammarlund of Sweden took over Mr. Ogimura's vacated position of Deputy President with Hans Giesecke of the Federal Republic of Germany, without opposition, remaining as Treasurer. Dr. György Lakatos of Hungary was made a Personal Honorary Member joining an elite band now comprising K. Kunodi

(Austria), L. Makarov (USSR), B. Popovic (Yugoslavia), A.K. 'Bill' Vint, OBE, (England), Hisao Kido (Japan), T.D. Ranga Ramanujan (India) and J. Mercier (France).

One resolution on the constitution, put forward on behalf of Palestine by Rabee Al Turk, proposed that the chairmen of all special committees should be appointed either by the ITTF Council or the ITTF Management Committee and not, as previously, by the President. The vote went in favour of the Council by 57 votes to 23.

Subsequently on the recommendation of the Standing Orders Committee, chaired by Amin Abou Heif of Egypt, Council approved the following:- Classification - Andre Damman (Belgium); Equipment - J. Rufford Harrison (USA); Medical - Dr. David Ryde (England); Press and Publicity - Mrs. Nancy Evans (Wales); Rules - Colin Clemett (England) and Technical - Yap Yong Yih (Malaysia).

Europe's six nominees for the ITTF Council were approved as follows:- Henk van Dilst (Netherlands), Esa Ellonen (Finland), Dr. Vladimir Palacek (Czechoslovakia), George R. Yates (England), Bernard Jeu (France)

and Dr. Vito Penna (Italy).

The elevation of Mr. Hammarlund to the Deputy Presidency of the ITTF mean that, at the ETTU BGM in Paris next year, a new Deputy President of the ETTU will have to be elected.

Dortmund in the Federal Republic of Germany, will be the venue for the next world championships in 1989 followed by Chiba City, Japan, in 1991 with England having an option for 1993 along with Yugoslavia.

Apart from Dr. Ryde and Colin Clemett, as chairmen of committees, the writer was re-appointed on to the Press and Publicity Committee and Ron Crayden onto the Equipment Committee thus maintaining England's representation at ITTF Level.

CO-OPTED

Messrs. Clemett, Harrison and Damman all now co-opted members of the ITTF Council, along with Mrs. Nancy Evans and Dr. Ryde, will henceforward be allowed to attend Council meetings with the right to speak but not to vote except on their own subject matters.

This proposal, put forward by Palestine, was duly carried which in the view of Mr. Clemett made such co-optees second class Council members - a view subsequently ex-

pressed to the Council by Messrs. Clemett and Damman and fully supported by Mr. Harrison who had threatened his resignation.

LAWS

On the subject of Laws, Sweden's proposal "To require the covering materials on the two striking surfaces of the racket to be of the same type and thickness" was heavily defeated as was the Rules Committee proposal "To combine the offences of volleying and obstruction as a single offence of obstruction, in accordance with the present 3.5.8" in the ITTF Handbook.

Czechoslovakia's proposal "To require the ball in service to be thrown upwards so that it rises at least 16cm from the free hand" was passed as were the Council's proposals "To make the intervals between games the same throughout a match" and "To limit the interval between successive games in a match to two minutes." And also passed was England's proposal "To forbid the use of brick, concrete or stone as flooring materials."

Also gaining approval was the proposition from the Federal Republic of Germany "To allow advertising inside the surrounds on the shorter side of the playing area." This in accordance with 4.2.4.2. (See ITTF Handbook).

GRADED TOURNAMENT SUCCESS

by Rea Balmford

DESPITE a number of withdrawals as a result of a last minute change of date, the Butterfly Yorkshire 2★ at Huddersfield on February 14th did much to encourage those who feel that there is a future in graded tournaments.

Hardest worked of the competitors was former Irish international Martin Kinsella, who not only reached the semi-final of the Mens Singles from an unseeded spot, but also came out on top of the pile in both Class 2 and Class 3 Singles.

Others rarely off the table in the final stages were the Yorkshire trio of Chris Oldfield (MS semi final and C2 final), Tony Bottomley (MS quarters and C3 semi), and John Bult (C3 final and C4 winner), and the two last named, along with Kinsella, could possibly have been wondering, while soaking fatigued muscles in a hot bath, whether a restriction on the number of events entered might be considered by future tournaments of this type.

John Hilton, a long term favourite at Yorkshire events, was the MS winner with a straight sets win over the ever improving Eddie

Smith, while, in a small Ladies' entry, Joanne Shaw and Jill Harris topped their groups with the title going to the girl from 'down the road' at Normanton.

Results

Mens Singles - Quarter finals: J Hilton b MGJ Browne 14, 13; EA Smith (Nd) b T Bottomley (Y) 17, 14; M Kinsella (Dy) b S Slater (St) 12, 17; C Oldfield (Y) b SMP Deakin (St) 16, 12. **Semi finals:** Hilton b Kinsella 11, -10, 13; Smith b Oldfield 18, 18. **Final:** Hilton b Smith 18, 20.

Ladies Singles: Group A: 1. J Harris (St) 4-0; 2. K Burrows (Y) 3-1; **Group B:** J Shaw (Y) 3-0; 2. S Roden (Wo) 2-1. **Final:** Shaw b Harris 16, -17, 11.

Class 2 Mixed Singles - Semi finals: Kinsella b D Skerratt (Li) 12, 9; Oldfield b MJ Simon (Cv) -14, 21, 13. **Final:** Kinsella b Oldfield 14, 16. **Class 3 Mixed Singles - Semi finals:** Kinsella b T Vine (Ca) 15, 19; J Bult (Y) b Bottomley 17, -10, 15. **Final:** Kinsella b Bult 14, 14. **Class 4 Mixed Singles - Final:** Bult b Priestley 10, 10.

THE CHAIRMAN'S REPLY

In reply to P. Charters' allegations:

- (1) I do not look on the necessary re-organisation of our Coaching Scheme as a dismissal of Dave Fairholm. He was given different duties at the same salary.
- (2) I recall no public statement unfavourable to either Desmond Douglas or Skylet Andrew. I AM unhappy about certain statements attributed to them in sections of the Press, but I prefer the England Captain to deal with such matters.
- (3) As to the 'sacking' of Paul Day, as far as I know, at the time of writing he was still in his post.
- (4) However, a Working Party (which included Paul and P. Charters) - in a document dated the 10th December 1986 - recommends inter alia "that the National Trainer should select senior teams." The Management Committee subsequently accepted that principle. It was part of my election platform and endorsed by the members.
- (5) My disillusionment with the committee selection process began when P. Charters was Chairman of the department. It was an undistinguished period, when England often looked a second class country.
- (6) I am sorry that he is continuing his election campaign, but I will continue to turn the other cheek as I did during the election. One of several unlovely features of his 'campaign' was to drag in members of my family. Carl has borne his antics with great patience, but I understand he will reply in the next issue.

In my view there is no need. P. Charters got his answer from the electors when I was elected with a very big majority.

I have worked for the sport with great vigour and dedication and will continue to do so. I am content to be judged by the members on my record when the time comes.

JOHN PREAN

THE STATE OF THE SPORT

Fine, if we can stop shooting ourselves

BEFORE I was elected, I was often told that the cause of Table Tennis was, in effect, hopeless. It was bad to play, worse to watch. The members were only interested in their pint at the end of their local league match and their main topic of conversation was that at £2 per head per year (or so) they were being grossly overcharged by the ETTA. The members, so the reports went on, were not in the least interested in such abstracts as Coaching or our National Team. The Press were not interested in us. Neither was TV, as they had hundreds of better sports they could feature. The Sport was too fast, too complicated, too boring, not like Snooker or Darts or whatever else is in fashion at any given time.

PROGRESS

Therefore I expected a very hard battle indeed with TV, media and sponsors. I expected to be treated as a raving eccentric at best or at worst a naïve fool for suggesting to them that Table Tennis not only had something to offer to their viewers and readers, but that it is a fabulous sport.

However, the problems I found were quite different. In my visits to "Fleet Street" I got an excellent reception wherever I went and much valuable advice on what we had to do to have our sport written about. At the BBC there was genuine interest and three showings have been booked already. In short, in very little time we were making visible and substantial progress. My election was taken as a sign that the Sport was aware of modern marketing needs and conditions and was ready to take on the successful competitors.

IN LESS THAN A YEAR ...

What I did not expect was the Sport's unflinching ability to shoot itself in the foot. Perhaps it was too much to expect the antics I had experienced in the election to stop once the electorate had made the choice. In less than a year members will again have the opportunity to decide whether I have done a good job. Unfortunately the clique so active in the election has now switched its attention to the National Press. My shoulders are broad and I am hardened by experience. However, any story that makes the sport look bad or second rate will make it harder to sell and sponsors may be forgiven if they feel that a sport in which people can't get their act together is not worth supporting.

SQUALID ANTICS

For good or ill, a large majority has elected me Chairman of the Association and often I have to speak for the sport. When I do, people who support the sport will want to know that the sport supports them. There are others who want to make what they said during the election a self-fulfilling prophecy. The sick hobby of dragging in members of my family continues. Their time

will come if and when I offer myself for election. Till then I ask members to dismiss these squalid antics in the same way they did during the election.

MIDDLE-AGED CHILDREN

The sport is at the cross-roads. It will not grow without vastly increased support from media, sponsors and television. Such support has to be earned. The sight of middle-aged children squabbling will earn a few column inches today. Tomorrow it will earn us the contempt of our fellow men. The day after the newspapers, too, will tire of this foolishness.

I have learned to live with the flak and the innuendos and they only make me more determined. A lot of members have shown their confidence in me and I would hate to feel that they think I have let them down. So, when the next bunch of rumours arrives via your newspaper or whatever the method, pick up your 'phone and talk to me. It is always easy to do nothing and that way you offend no one. The sport needs change if it is to survive. That was your verdict. It is a time for unity.

THE FUTURE ...

In this issue you will see details of new events. The Chinese Tour should create immense interest and give many of our members a chance to see the best. The Chinese Team is a very strong one. Chen Xinhua is the best defender in the world with a bullet-like loop and a semi-finalist in the World Championships. Chen Ying Hua in the U.S. Open Champion who demolished the Swedes Fang and Yong are internationals of the highest class. The Chinese National Squad consists of 20 players, all of world class. These four are part of this great strength that wins all those world titles. What a challenge for our players and what a treat for the rest of us to see these great players!

The Match-Play Championship is a new concept. It will reunite Des Douglas and Alan Cooke in yet another contest, a replica of the memorable ones they have fought

SMILES AT THE TOP



JOHN PREAN, unopposed this time as Chairman of the ETTA. He has secured four of his vice-chairmen, but lost the support of George Yates, Aubrey Drapkin and Keith Ponting.

out this season. We have borrowed this idea from Chess and Boxing. We hope these matches will take place regularly and that the title will be a valuable asset. In the meantime the first contest at the Lakeside Country Club (June 7) will be an outing for the whole family and a great evening out in luxurious surroundings. Table Tennis will be the only winner.

We have secured Television for the first match of the Chinese Tour (Sunderland April 25), the Master of Europe (September) and the English International Open (January). This is a vastly improved picture, but we are looking for more. Watch this space.

At the time of writing we had concluded no big sponsorship deals to show for all the efforts made in this competitive field. The effort continues. The sport is being talked about, written about, seen more. We hope soon more will pick up their bats and get hooked, as many of us were and still are.

JOHN

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FOR PLAYERS WITH TASTE

TOP PLAYERS ARE INVOLVED

by Doug Moss

MORE of the top players take part in County Championship matches. In February Skylet Andrew represented Essex, in a Division 2 match v Middlesex II. At this stage (early March) results are most important with promotion and relegation being highlighted. I comment on present prospects.

SENIOR 2A: Glos. 2 Warwicks 8; Leics 8 Cheshire 2; Northumberland 7 Worcs. 3; Yorks II 7 Cambs. 3.

Leics. look to be on their way back to Premier Division. Chris Rogers and sister Karen (Smith) continue unbeaten. And it seems Glos. are likely to be back to Division 3 after one season. Barry Johnson (Wa) was in good form with three wins against Glos. Yorks II introduced Steve Sharpe and Bob Shutt, who won both his singles against Cambs. The Worcs. ladies, Sandra Roden and Mandy Mytton, got the three events against Northumberland.

SENIOR 2B: Avon 2 Kent 8; Essex 6 Middlesex II 4; Dorset 6 Surrey II 4; Wilts. 2 Devon 8.

Essex, after a break of two seasons, seem determined to return to Premier Division. Skylet Andrew won two events against Middlesex II but lost to Graham Sandley - 11, - 13; Kim Mudge and Elaine Sayer won three for Essex. Wilts. are in difficulty - Kevin Satchell got the only two events v Devon. Surrey II are also without points. In their match v Dorset III wins by Tony Clayton influenced their 4-6 defeat.

SENIOR 3A: Cheshire II 1 Clwyd 9; Warwicks II 8 Notts. 2; Lancs II 6 Warwicks 4.

Cheshire II are struggling this season and a heavy defeat against Clwyd didn't help. Lancs win over Warwicks makes them favourites for promotion.

SENIOR 3B: Avon II 7 Worcs II 3; Somerset 8 Cornwall 2.

Somerset look well set to make an immediate return to Division 2. Brian Reeves and Rebecca Russe continue their unbeaten run. Worcs. II are without any points. Two players made their debut v Avon II - Sue Meredith won her singles but Paul Garner was unfortunate losing to Gary Baldwin (Av) - 13, 19, - 20 and to Clive Ellison - 18, - 20.

SENIOR 3C: Essex II 4 Suffolk 6; Cambs II 5 Norfolk 5.

Suffolk's win over Essex II helped promotion prospects. Stuart Palmer (Sk) is, of course, a strong force - unbeaten in singles and doubles. John Kitchener and Mick Palmer contributed wins against Essex and Sue Welham and Andrea Ambrose, despite losing their singles matches, won the doubles against Kim Hayden/Su Harness - 19, 19, 19! Cambs II/Norfolk was an exciting

match. Cambs. twice came back from a two sets deficit. Richard and Martyn Stevenson (Nk) in good form winning four events but Richard lost to Andy Withers (Ca) 17, - 18, - 22. Three wins by Alison Edge and Helen Gipp helped Cambs to secure a draw.

SENIOR 3D: Berks. II 4 Herts. 6; Oxfords. 5 Sussex II 5.

Despite dropping a point to Oxford the Sussex II team look likely to win the champs. P. Elphick made a good contribution with two singles wins, one being the last event to secure the draw. John Taylor and Rob Liquorish got five wins for Herts. John's win over Paul Savins (Bk) was - 19, 13, 23!

SENIOR 4A: Hunts. 8 Beds. II 2; Northants II 0 Leics. II 10; Suffolk II 3 Essex III 7.

Leics. II must be firm favourites for the championship. Keith Willett and Keith Lakin (Hu) won their four singles against Beds. but lost doubles to Mal Hussain/David Hyde - 18, - 19. Two of Suffolk's losses against Essex III were at 19 in 3rd game - Paul Gooding v Mark Wicker - 14, 16, - 19, and Sylvia Kenyon v Marjorie Dawson - 11, 20, - 19.

SENIOR 4B: Cornwall II 1 Somerset II 9; Glamorgan 10 Hants 0; Herefords 4 I.O.W. 6.

Glamorgan look set for promotion. Although a "whitewash" for Hants, six events went to a decider. At Lauceston Ian James got the one event for Cornwall with a - 18, 7, 18 win over D. Wilson. Nice to see a win for I.O.W. after journeying to Leominster. Their ladies, S. Urry and H. Kulsdon, contributed three wins and C. Angus won final event to secure a win.

JUNIOR 2A: Beds. 8 Derby II 2; Gwent 6 Staffs. II 4; Suffolk 5 Yorks. II 5; Warwicks. 6 Cheshire II 4.

The Juniors look set to give a Warwicks team Premier status. They are a good all round team with Leigh Jeffries as No 1, who lost his 100% singles record to J Taylor in Cheshire match, Suffolk did well to draw with Yorks with R. Hutchinson involved in three wins.

JUNIOR 2B: Berks. 3 Surrey 7; Cornwall 3 Middlesex 7; Herts 3 Essex II 7; Devon 5 Middlesex 5; Cornwall 8 Herts. 2.

Despite dropping a point to Middlesex, Devon look favourites for the title. Helen and Jane Wright are unbeaten in singles events. Berks. and Cornwall are struggling but Cornwall's win over Herts. must have been encouraging.

JUNIOR 3A: Cumbria 8 Cheshire II 2; Durham 7 Northumberland 3; Clwyd 3 Leics. 7.

Lancs. are in command in this section. Northumberland seem short in the girls' department which was a telling factor in defeat by Durham, whose girls got their first wins of the season. Clwyd are as yet without a point.

JUNIOR 3B: Cambs. 7 Oxford 3; Norfolk 8 Hunts. II 2; Norfolk II 0 Hunts 10; Northants 7 Cambs. II 3.

Hunts I dominate this Division. All their players (Simon Pryke, Karl Albon, Ian Windle, Tracy Slater, Julie Haslop) have been impressive. Cambs. II look set for the "wooden spoon". The clash of the University towns brought a victory for the light blues.

JUNIOR 3C: Cornwall II 2 Somerset 8; Dorset 4 Worcs. 6; Glos. 7 Warwicks II 3; Hants 4 Wilts 6.

Somerset seem now to have established their superiority. Tina Sadler (So) is unbeaten. Hants/Wilts was a close match with the home team losing three events narrowly in deciding games. Worcs, without No 1 Richard Pratley, did well to beat Dorset. Nicola Jones (Wo) had a good win over Tracy Scott-Pawson - 8, 20, 16.

JUNIOR 3D: Bucks 5 Sussex 5; Herts II 1 Essex III 9; Middlesex II 8 Kent 2; Surrey II 8 Berks II 2.

At this stage Middlesex look favourites for the title but Kent are making a late bid. The Bucks/Sussex was a closely fought contest throughout. Marcus Greenbrook (Sx) won the final event against Ian Plimsaul to secure a draw. The boys doubles was vital with S Baggaley/D Murphy (Bu) beating Stephen Dyball/Jeremy Kempton - 16, 22, 19!

VETS PREMIER: Middlesex 3 Essex 6; Worcs. 2 Cheshire 7.

Cheshire, even with on match to play, have the champs. wrapped up. Relegation must concern about 4 teams so Essex must be pleased with their win over Middlesex. Worcs v Cheshire was a hard fought match. Mervyn Wood/Ray Dixon (Wo) b Derek Schofield/Eddie Griffiths - 16, 13, 20; Roy Norton (Wo) lost to Derek - 12, 13, - 20 and Janet Hunt (Wo) lost to Doreen Schofield - 20, - 20.

VETERANS 2A: Cheshire II 8 Northants 1; Herts 5 Essex II 4; Leics 6 Northumberland 3; Notts 5 Yorks 4.

Herts look favourites for the title with five wins, four of them at 5-4! Against Essex David Seaholme (He) won both singles at deuce in decider v Ray Murray and Fred Lockwood. At the other end of the Table Northants and Northumberland look in danger of early return to Division 3. In match with Leics., Northumberland lost three events very narrowly.

VETERANS 2B: Bucks 5 Berks 4; Hants II 2 Dorset 7; Surrey 8 Middlesex II 1; Kent II 8 Wilts 1.

Bucks look well set for early return to Premier Div. It was a vital 5-4 win over Berks - and without their unbeaten No 1 Alec Watson. John Cooper (Bu), on debut, was involved in two narrow victories. With Les Wooding won the doubles at 20 in third - after being 18-20 down. And then at 4-4 Cooper beat Colin Dyke 16, - 22, 16. Hants II, without a point, may well be demoted to make room for their 1st team!

LATE NEWS

MIDDLESEX landed the Premier division title for the sixth time in succession at Oldham on March 22 whilst Staffordshire and Sussex were relegated. Full details in the next edition.

February 28th Results -

2A - Worcs 3 Leics 7; Cheshire 8 Glos 2; Warwicks 4 Yorks II 6; Northumberland 6 Cambs 4. 2B - Avon 3 Middlesex II 7; Devon 8 Dorset 2; Surrey II 6 Wilts 4; Kent 3 Wilts 7; Surrey II 0 Essex 10. 3A - Lancs II 6 Warwicks II 4; Notts 8 Cheshire II 2; 3B - Dorset II 4 Devon II 6; Somerset 8 Avon II 2. 3C - Cambs II 2 Suffolk 8. 3D - Bucks 5 Herts 5; Hants 9 Oxfords 1. 4A - Essex II 8 Hunts 2; Beds II 4 Northants II 6. 4B - Herefords 5 Somerset II 5. Junior - 2A - Warwicks 6 Beds 4; Derby II 3 Cheshire 7; Warwicks 6 Gwent 4; Yorks II 10 Beds 0 (W/O). 2B - Sussex 8 Middlesex II 2; Surrey 3 Devon 7; Cornwall 8 Herts 2. 3A - Lancs II 6 Lincs 4; Cumbrian 2 Lancs II 8; Cheshire II 10 Durham 0; Leics 5 Cumbria 5; Clwyd 4 Lincs 6; Northumberland 1 Lancs II 9. 3B - Hunts 6 Northants 4; Norfolk 6 Norfolk II 4; Oxfords 8 Hunts II 2; Cambs 10 Cambs II 0. 3C - Avon 3 Wilts 7; Worcs 8 Warwicks II 2; Glos 5 Avon 5; Somerset 7 Dorset 3; Wilts 10 Cornwall II 0; Wilts 8 Warwicks II 2. 3D - Berks II 10 Essex III 0; Kent II 3 Surrey II 7; Middlesex II 8 Sussex II 2; Herts II 2 Bucks 8. Veterans - Prem - Essex 1 Lincs 8. 2A - Yorks 8 Leics 1; Northants 4 Notts 5. 2B - Wilts 3 Surrey 6; Hants II 2 Middlesex II 7; Dorset 2 Bucks 7. 3A - Lincs II 3 Norfolk 6; Hunts 1 Yorks II 8. 3B - Bucks II 1 Hunts II 8; Herts III 8 Herefords 1. 3C - Oxfords 8 Wilts II 1.

County Notes 1

CUMBRIA

Martin Tickner

KEITH DYMOND (Chapelcross) and Julie McLean (Tailor Made Windows) scooped the major awards at the Cumbria Insurance Table-Tennis Championships at Carlisle Sports Centre. Keith won the mens singles title for the first time beating Paul Watson (Royal Oak) in the final and the mens doubles title with Andrew Endredy defeating George Gray and Ian Oliver of Sportstyle.

Julie McLean was also a duel winner taking the Ladies Singles title from Josie Dymond and the mixed doubles title with Martin Tickner defeating Keith and Josie Dymond in the final. Julie failed to make it a hat-trick losing the handicap final to Manus Harkin of Dumfries.

As expected the junior title was won by Stephen Temple who beat Nick Thompson both of the Sports Centre in the final. The results were as follows:

Mens Singles: K Dymond (Chapelcross) b P Watson (Royal Oak); **Ladies Singles:** J McLean (T.M.W.) b J Dymond (Chapelcross); **U17:** S Temple (Sports Centre) b N Thompson (Sports Centre); **U15:** P McQuire (Dumfries) b M Greenup (Sands); **Veterans:** G Gray (Sportstyle) b G Lapping (Wigton); **Handicap:** M Harkin (Dumfries) b J McLean (T.M.W.); **Mixed Doubles:** M Tickner/J McLean (T.M.W.) b K & J Dymond (Chapelcross); **Sports Centre Trophy:** P Corbishley (Sands) b P Southworth (Sands); **Mens Doubles:** K Dymond/A Endredy (Chapelcross) b G Gray/I Oliver (Sportstyle).

BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

ALL Table Tennis players in Reading and Berkshire and those elsewhere who knew Dave Jones, will have been greatly saddened to hear of his tragic and sudden death whilst playing in the VETTS Tournament at Brighton. Dave was a fine player whose name was rarely if ever absent from the Champions list whether at County or League level and 1987 has been no exception as the paragraph below shows. In addition Dave was a true sportsman in every sense who will be truly missed. Brian Halliday has written elsewhere in this issue his appreciation of Dave's contribution to Table Tennis which reflects the feelings of us all. Our sympathy is offered to Barbara, and to Dave's children Colin, Raymond and Karen.

The "Transaction Point/Scottish Provident" Reading Closed Championship held at Bulmershe in late

February attracted a good sized entry with an especially encouraging crop of new youngsters, all itching to play. This meant that under 11 events in both girls and boys sections were no pushover for the eventual winners, Nicola Hunt and James White (who might have found the competition really tough if Ben Johnson had not decided to concentrate his efforts on the under 13 event), Ben made it to the final of the latter event but then came up against Martin Adams who managed to keep his grip on both this and the under 15 title. Nicola Cracknell performed a similar feat in the girls under 13 and under 15 events whilst Mary Allan took the Youth trophy as well as regaining the Junior title from Karen Slatford, whom she partnered to success in the Junior Doubles. The Junior boys singles saw a repeat of the equivalent Berkshire final, with the same result as Robert Ettridge again just failed to defeat Keith Hodder who then proceeded to take his second trophy of the Championships by teaming up with Martin Adams to take the Junior boys doubles.

Happier

Sean Gibson, rarely to be seen without a cheerful grin on his face, was looking even happier after defeating Paul Savins in the Mens singles since along with the title he had just collected the prize of £100. Janet Parker looked similarly pleased to take the Ladies Singles from last years winner Jane Cohen although Jane came away far from empty handed with the Ladies doubles (with Claire Plumridge) the Mixed Doubles (with Dave Jones) and the Division 1 restricted all to her credit.

Beneficial

This last named event also proved beneficial to Martin Adams since by beating three county ranked seniors before going down in the semi-finals, to the wiles of Dave Wise, he impressed Reading Chairman Robin Lockwood and Referee John Freeman sufficiently to be selected by them as winner of the Reading Chronicle trophy for the best individual performance. Dave Jones retained his Veteran title by defeating Wally Allanson whilst Brian Halliday patiently as ever chopped and floated his way to victory in the Senior Veterans event.

All the family

The Mens Doubles went to Steve Hodder and brother Keith and just to underline how much Table Tennis is a sport for all the family the aforementioned Jane's husband Jeff Cohen took the Division 2 crown and Robert's brother James Ettridge the Division 4. John Simmonds, Tom Dicker and Mike Dunn were triumphant in Divisions 3, 5 and 6 respectively.

Newbury Press Officer Bruce

Mackenzie reports that the Newbury Closed Championships produced some exciting Table Tennis with Mandy Sainsbury and Dave Reeves not unexpectedly monopolising the major events. Mandy beat Caroline Stevens in the Ladies Singles, partnered Janet Parker in a successful Ladies Doubles over Caroline and Brenda Lee and no doubt gained immense satisfaction in taking the Mixed Doubles with father Wally Smith. Meanwhile David Reeves picked up the Mens Singles by beating his team mate Malcolm Cummins, plus the Mens Doubles in which he was partnered by David Wise. Having now passed the age of 17 (just!) Mandy and Dave Reeves did not qualify for any of the Junior events, so the way was clear for the aforementioned Ettridge brothers James and Robert to take the Under 15 and Under 17 titles respectively. Robert, with Julian Jones took the Boys Junior Doubles whilst big brother Darren Jones lifted the Dave Large (Under 21) Cup for the third year in succession. Another Darren (Higgs this time) won the under 11, Edward Leach the under 13, whilst at the other end of the age spectrum, Derek Basden took the Veteran title by defeating Dave Wise in the final. Divisional titles went to John Golding, Graham Knapp and Jason Savage.

DERBYSHIRE

Malcolm Allsop

CONGRATULATIONS to Kerry Hall who joins Alan Cooke in the England team for the trip to the Czechoslovakian Open. At the time of writing, Derbyshire are worried about their Senior Premier Division place.

Derbyshire's strength will not compensate for losing our No 1 man and women from the team to play the second Senior Premier weekend, which was already depleted with the continued absence through injury of Julie Billington.

British League sides could obtain a postponement under these circumstances yet Derbyshire will have to play four matches with a side depleted by International duty.

Our hopes are resting upon the ability of Jackie Billington to obtain a skirt! The change of County colours this season has been all right for playing shorts, but Jackie prefers playing in a skirt.

Matlock 1st moved a step nearer retaining the Division One Championship of the Derbyshire Inter-Town League with an easy 9-1 win over Eastwood 1st.

Matlock have a strong squad at their disposal with excellent team spirit allowing team captain, Dave Fearn, the luxury of sitting on the sidelines.

Ivor Warner turned out for Derby 1st and they gained their first win

of the season by 7-3 at the expense of Burton 1st.

In Division Two, Derby 2nd were too strong for Buxton for a 10-0 whitewash; but then found Burton 2nd on top form when losing 4-6 who had Andy Walker and Roger Vernal to thank with 2 singles wins each and combining to win the doubles.

The Derbyshire Table Tennis Association have put out an S.O.S. for a blue table tennis skirt in a bid to retain their position in the Senior Division of the County Table Tennis Championships!!!

Derbyshire have to play their four remaining fixtures in Oldham on Saturday and Sunday, 21st and 22nd March in the Senior Premier Division without their No 1 man and woman, Alan Cooke and Kerry Hall who will be playing for England in the Czech Open.

Derbyshire's No 2 woman, Julie Billington, who helped the team gain promotion has missed all season with a wrist injury, leaving Derbyshire weak in the ladies department - an area where they had expected to be at their strongest this season.

Derbyshire have called up Jackie Billington, a National Champion in the 1960's - mother of Julie and Kerry Hall's auntie, but she prefers playing in a skirt rather than shorts which have come into fashion during recent years.

Derbyshire's colours are yellow shirts with blue skirt/shorts. The Derbyshire team has been provided with Stiga kit by Racket Sense of Nottingham but Stiga do not manufacture a blue skirt.

With a team already depleted by International calls and injury, Derbyshire wish Jackie to play her best and she plays better in a skirt, so Derbyshire are hoping that someone can provide a blue skirt. Any offers?

Derbyshire go into the Senior Premier Weekend with relegation at stake, because of International calls for two players.

Any second or third division match of the County Championships or British League match can be postponed if two players are on International duty. Yet Derbyshire will have to play four matches over the weekend with two players on International duty.

We may have done enough on the first weekend to ensure our position but with two teams being relegated nothing is certain at this stage. Maybe someone will be kind enough to let us get a point, but realistically the competition is too cut-throat for that!

Derbyshire has taken the opportunity of inviting people to meet the cricket-loving John Prean at the newly opened Roos Indoor Sports Centre in Derby, a venue which is promoting indoor cricket.

Derbyshire are keen supporters of Mr. Prean.

County Notes 2

DORSET

Martin Hughes

AFTER two months of relative inactivity, our local players have been in regular action again as the backlog of fixtures are played. County matches and Schildkrot British League matches were postponed with seeming regularity, but we are now on the move again.

County Championships

Dorset teams are not having the best of fortunes this season, and there have been many team changes due to players making themselves unavailable for selection, mainly the women.

We regularly have the response to selection of, "sorry, I have to go shopping that Saturday," or "sorry, but I am going to a party that night." It has now reached the stage where we may not be able to field two senior teams next season due entirely to the lack of women players.

Surely it is time to look again at the composition of the teams?

Dorset number one Tony Clayton has had some fine wins this season in County matches. Tony is currently ranked at number 105, but he has seen off the following players: Paul Whiting (19), Paul Giles (35), Mark Mitchell (50), David Harding (51) and Rupert Bole (57). Unfortunately, these individual successes have not resulted in team victories, but they are fine wins in their own right.

Dorset Closed

The Dorset Closed Championships were held on Tuesday 3 March 1987 at Ferndown Community Centre, and despite a poor number of entries, the final of the men's singles was contested by Dorset's top two players, Tony Clayton and Halcon Sigrell. On their way to the final, Tony Clayton defeated John Robinson in straight sets in his semi-final, whilst Haken Sigrell defeated Martin Hughes, also in straight sets, in the other semi-final.

The final itself was a closely fought match. In the first game there were some excellent rallies, but Clayton won the vital points to take the game 21-18.

The second end saw Clayton take an early lead and now allow Sigrell to settle into his game, and he comfortably ran out the winner at 21-9.

The men's doubles also saw success for Clayton as he teamed up with John Robinson to despatch the scratch pairing of Sigrell and Mike Hughes 21-16, 21-11 in the final.

Schildkrot British League

Jolliffe Poole are still in contention near the top of the Third Division West in the Schildkrot British League, and appear to be battling with Opella Leominster for the second place prize money.

The spectators are beginning to turn up in quantity for recent mat-

ches due to extensive publicity, and interest in the league has reached an all time high in our area.

We must endeavour to keep improving the situation, but a problem which has occurred this season has been the postponement of matches at very short notice, ie. the day of the match or the day before, which does not help our cause.

Exeter Junior One Star

I am informed that Kevin Smith, one of our most promising junior players in Dorset, performed well at the recent Exeter Junior One Star tournament.

Kevin reached the quarter-finals of the U14 boys singles where he lost to Andrew Harris at 21-18 in the third. He also reached the quarter-final of the U17 boys doubles with his partner Jonathon Maggs of Cornwall.

DURHAM

Harry Black

DARREN McVITIE is the new holder of the mens singles title when he totally outplayed Stephen George in the final of the Durham County Closed Championships on February 22nd.

Lynne Yarnell retained her ladies singles title, beating Christine Thompson. McVitie and Lynne Bainbridge retained their mixed doubles title by beating surprise finalists Allan Thompson and Linda Spensley.

Top seeds in the mens doubles David Godbold and Cliff Olsson lost their title when they were beaten by the No 4 seeds Stephen George and Michael Polkinghorn. Polkinghorn went on to win the class 2 singles when he beat Bishop Auckland's Martin Gent.

Ian Callier from Sunderland took home three titles defeating Dermot Ledwith in both U15 Youth singles and U17 youth singles and teamed up with Ledwith to take the junior youth doubles event defeating Angela Wiffen and Ingrid Naisby in the final.

Unseeded Jeff Ridley from Sildon is the new holder of the veterans singles title following his win over the No 2 seed Gordon Bissett in the final.

Results - Finals

M/S: D McVitie b S George 17, 14; L/S: L Yarnell b C Thompson 14, 16; M/D: George/M Polkinghorn b D Godbold/C Olsson 17, 15; L/D: L Spensley/S Gelder b Thompson/A Wiffen 15, 13; X/D: McVitie/L Bainbridge b A Thompson/Spensley 15, 17; Vets: J Ridley b G Bissett 16, 19; U15: I Collier b D Ledwith 11, 12; U17: I Collier b D Ledwith 13, 15; JVD: Collier/Ledwith b Wiffen/I Naisby 4, 13; C25: Polkinghorn b M Gent 15, -19, 9.

During the February half-term holidays about 50 schoolchildren each day went to a coaching course held at Balingbroke Hall, South Shields from 10am - 4pm with

coaches operating from the M.S.C. Scheme under the guidance of the promoter Norman Pescod. 40% of the pupils on the course were girls so hopefully these will filter through to play in the local leagues to help swell the number of female players.

A schools league in South Shields has been set up and was due to start on 10th March with matches every Tuesday at Balingbroke Hall from 4.30 - 7.00pm and from 7.00 - 10.00pm there would be coaching given by ETTA 3-star coach Peter McQueen.

A similar schools league in Sunderland is due to commence at the end of April.

Durham County League

Philadelphia A after beating Sunderland A 8-2 held a seven point lead at the top of the senior division and now look certain to win the title.

Sunderland A hold a narrow two point lead over Sunderland B following their 6-4 win over the B team.

Philadelphia lead Sunderland by three points in the veterans division.

League Tables

Senior Division	P	W	D	L	Pts
Philadelphia A	4	4	0	0	16
Sunderland A	4	2	0	2	9
Sunderland B	4	2	0	2	8
Sunderland C	3	2	0	1	7
Peterlee	4	2	0	2	6
Philadelphia B	4	1	0	3	5
Darlington	3	0	0	3	1

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Peppard

I AM told by Rudford's ever busy general secretary, Stenneth Salisbury, that this somewhat large club affiliated to the City League (13 teams all together) which only moved its headquarters in 1984 is now applying to the local council for permission to extend its already existing playing area so as to accommodate another table. It appears that some old local farmer and his wife are selling up a certain property where the club has had playing access for numerous years.

In this day and age of considerable apathy in our sport, the administrators of this Gloucestershire village club are setting a fine example to the rest of us — of just what can be done and we all should remember that we only get out of life that of which we are prepared to put in. Well done Rudford, you are setting a fine example to all of us.

As visiting county teams to Gloucestershire already know, a very high proportion of our scheduled home matches are played at the GEGB's staff gym at Barnwood, Gloucester. Needless to say being a vulnerable building the entire

premises are quite rightly patrolled by top class security staff.

Just after Christmas at the end of a senior county match, I left the CEGB to go home, just outside the building that we had been playing in I stopped to speak to one of the civilian security patrolmen, it was a very still night, cold and frosty but quiet, the security guard suddenly went rigid and said: "What's that ticking sound in your bag, sir?" I froze also, I think he thought that I had some form of concealed mechanism in my sports bag destined to blow up the entire CEGB.

I instantly rumbled what this mysterious ticking sound was and duly opened my bag to show him the offending articles. Upon reflection I still think that in his total ignorance of table tennis he did not really appreciate that it was only the two county umpire's TIME CLOCKS happily ticking away, and not some dastardly evil plot to blow up the CEGB.

Most counties these days appear to suffer from a lack of qualified umpires, Gloucestershire for years have indeed been relying upon the services of the old hands — like Trevor Golding and Alan Giles, etc. (and still do). However at the start of the season a new umpire's secretary was appointed, namely Frank Jones, who in all good faith has introduced fresh blood into the umpiring fraternity in the valued form of Simon Moysey of Cheltenham and Lee Bruton from Gloucester, both of whom have been well and truly blooded this season.

Thanks to the strenuous coaching activities of Paddy Jackson and George Novorth, there are very positive signs in Gloucester that we could well be on the verge of a good young junior in-rush of forthcoming youngsters.

Some of these juniors attained honours in the recent "City Closed Junior Championships". Their worthy results below: Finals: Under 11: Paul Morley b John Print 12, 11. Under 13: Ray Powell b Richard Moore 16, -17, 8. Under 15: Ray Powell b Andrew Harris 20, -14, 18. Owing to only three entries the Girls Under 17 singles was played as a round robin. Results: 1 Cheryl Fannin, 2 Lisa Crawford, 3 Heather Fannin.

Some little time ago former county chairman and current chairman of the Stroud League, John Bunn, indicated that he proposed the somewhat arduous job of writing the entire history of the Stroud TT League, ie from 1936 onwards. Well John has done just that, and a very well edited 52 page booklet dropped through my letter box early in March.

What can we all say? Whether we are Stroud League members or not, John has produced a magnificent portion of table tennis history, and is to be congratulated for his devotion and work.

County Notes 3

HAMPSHIRE

David Cosway

A GOOD win for the County Senior team by 9-1 against Oxford with Graham Toole, Ramish Bhalla, Sarah Hammond and Cheryl Buttery all unbeaten. Mark Wilding lost the last set of the match 25-27 in the third. Good to see Graham Toole up to number 48 in the national rankings. Terry Halley having been demoted to number 2 in the County rankings is not now available for the senior team! The Juniors lost a match to Wiltshire which County Secretary, Harold Albery told me we could have won if 100% effort had been given. It is a pity players do not have to do more to earn their place! When you hear dedicated officials like Harold and Southampton's Alec Swanell, saying they wonder why they bother with this attitude prevalent amongst some of Juniors, you fear for the future of the game. However with Mark Thorne, Bryant Gonsalves and Jeff Giles all having two more years as Juniors the future is not all bad!

In the second black match day of the Junior inter town league again the division 1 matches were disrupted by the withdrawal of the Basingstoke team. Aldershot A with their Surrey ranked Juniors were far too strong and dropped only 6 sets in their 3 matches to remain unbeaten and retain their championship. Their three boys dominate the individual averages with Peter Burgess-Allen unbeaten and Graham Connelly and Robert Marles only losing one set. Mark Thorne of Southampton also lost only one of his six single sets and was responsible for the only defeat of Marles. The success however was one of only two sets gained by Southampton in their 2-8 defeat - Rachel Cheffey won the other. I was disappointed by the play, attitude and lack of interest shown by the top two Southampton Juniors, Martin Johnstone and Greg Moore. You would not have guessed the league depended on this match! Aldershot A also beat Southampton B 9-1 and Southampton A beat Southampton B 8-2. The two sets dropped by the A team cost them second place which thereby goes to Bournemouth A who did not have a match in this second session with the withdrawal of Basingstoke. Their Tracy Scott-Pawson topped the girls averages with a 100% record.

A much closer fought second division with three teams still in contention for the championship when the final match between Portsmouth and Gosport/Fareham took the table. A draw or win would give Portsmouth the title. A win for Gosport/Fareham by 9-1 or better would give them the lead while a lesser win would give the championship to Aldershot B. The result was a 5 all draw so Portsmouth are promoted.

HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

IT was the year of the veteran at the Hertfordshire closed table tennis championships, held at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre recently. The men's singles final was between Barnet's John Taylor, who is 37 years old, and Watford's super veteran Dave Seaholme, who between them saw off all the young pretenders to the throne.

Taylor took the trophy after a tremendous battle with his old adversary 21-15 and 21-9, after both sets had gone into expedite. The first set stood at 3-0 to Seaholme when the umpire Dave Edwards called time after nine minutes, (a mutually previously agreed time by both players for expedite). Amazingly, in winning the third point Seaholme, and his opponent Taylor actually hit the ball 490 times.

Super mum and veteran Sue Felstead from Letchworth overcame the exuberance of youth by unexpectedly beating Barnet's Linda Walters, the No. 2 county lade, 17, -21, 17, in a classic final which saw Felstead defending whilst Walters was doing the hitting, a game that see-sawed all the way until Felstead's consistent defending finally wore down Walters. Felstead of the North Herts League also added the ladies veteran crown to her collection when she beat Watford's Sally Bax in the final.



Sue Felstead

But Bax bounced back in the ladies doubles final by retaining the title with her partner Sylvia Tyler from Cheshunt, when they defeated Karen Morton and Lindsey Booth from Stevenage in a repeat final of last year.

The mens doubles was won by the Cheshunt pair of Mark Taylor and Mare Dare, when they defeated the Rob Liqueorish of Barnet and Glen Wilkes of Hemel Hempstead partnership in a scintillating final that enthralled the spectators with fast topspin attack and counter attack.

Keith Hartridge of Hatfield won the senior veteran title when he beat Watford's Geoff Bax, following a dour but interesting three setter.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Terry Bown

THE Rose Johnson Bowl team handicap competition is currently taking place the length and breadth of the county and the organiser, Harold Clark reports to me that the closing stages of the event are approaching. As it does, some interesting and close matches have been played. Belgrave Liberals WMC finally lost to Knighton Park despite some pretty high scoring by Geoff Hancock. Steve Want, also of Belgrave, had two close sets in his favour of 21-20 against Mike Numan and Tony Lapworth, however the handicap of 60 points proved too much for Belgrave in the end. Byron Roofing proved to be the victors of the Hinckley League clash with Ashby Parva, Stu Haines with four wins to his credit and a handicap of 92 was too much for Ashby to pull back. Electricity II are having a good run and go to the semi-finals following the defeat of Knighton Park II. Park started well with good wins from David Ball and Mike Lapworth eating well into the 100 point handicap deficit. However Electricity seemed to have both a good start and a well balanced team with both teams appearing to have enjoyed the fixture.

Results: Belgrave Liberals WMC 309 Knighton Park II 330; Byron Roofing 408 Thurnby Northwood 313; Byron Roofing 363 Ashby Parva 299; Knighton Park II 303 Electricity II 367.

Semi-final draw: Byron Roofing v Electricity II; Hogg Robinson or Syston Casuals will play Gynsillor Knighton Park II.

It was nice to see the Hinckley League's newsletter - the 'Hinckley Loop' - back in circulation after an absence of nine weeks. Yet another duplicator has been kicked into touch and Editor, Richard Collins has resigned, as I understand it, through pressure of work. Nevertheless, the new Editor, Ian Lawrence has got off to a flying start with his first edition which is packed with mind boggling information amongst other things.

The Couture Division 1 of the Hinckley League shows Exclusive Kitchens running away with the title and are 22 pts clear of Earl Shilton Albion. (The Hinckley League use the points per set won system). In third place, and the probable runners-up, are Croft 'A' who are 1pt behind Earl Shilton with two matches in hand. John Iliffe heads the individual challenge for this division with 97.4%, a lead of .4% over Pete Muir who in turn is pursued by Alan Philpott .3% behind. Ashby Parva 'B' head the Terrivision division 2 by 2 pts over Earl Shilton Albion 'B' in second place with anyone guess as to which will win the title. Mencap 'A' look like having to settle for third place 12 pts adrift of Earl Shilton.

NORFOLK

Ray Hogg

MY favourite team, the veterans, have made a comeback by winning their last two matches and setting up a grandstand finish as they and Hunts have exactly the same record and the winners of the match between them should go up. This could mean more or less travelling dependent which division they are placed in. I would point out to those people responsible for divisionalisation of teams that geographically we are placed as far east as possible to go without getting wet so we are not particularly keen on playing in Cornwall or Devon.

Impressed

Our team were most impressed with the conditions at Kath Fishers Lincoln venue which no doubt enabled them to raise their game which they were not able to do at Blackburn. Should Norfolk obtain promotion thoughts turn to a second team. I have already enquired about this but all depends on enough players being keen enough to travel god knows where.

We have at least two other ladies coming of age or returning to the game for next season. I am willing to administer a second team and finance should be no problem, so when league secretaries are reading their free copy of this magazine keep this in mind should they have interested parties in their league.

The Finland match is history now but with the profit from that and the China match which was a sell out before the tickets were printed, we hope to provide for next season some benefits to member leagues. Properly organised coaching sessions for both juniors and seniors with qualified coaches actually in the towns of residence for a start have been suggested. To be continued.

A word of congratulation to Mark Wilson, ranked about 6 junior, for beating the number 2 and 3 juniors when playing for Norfolk IIs versus Norfolk I. There will be some changes in next season's rankings I should imagine as with this result and the possible arrival of James Patterson from Herts who is now resident in Norfolk.

Speech

On the VETTS scene Great Yarmouth gets the headlines for supplying three of the over 60s winners at Brighton - must be that east wind - congratulations to Edna Fletcher, Joan Rodwell and John Mansi.

Our county secretary informed his committee that chairman John has accepted an invite to our end of season presentation of colours on May 7th. We wait with great interest to hear his 'state of the nation' speech.

County Notes 4

MIDDLESEX

Iris Moss

ONCE again we have had to cancel the Middlesex Senior Closed Championships. At the closing date we had received 37 entries which I am sure all will agree is insufficient to warrant running the event. I am not sure who is to blame for this fiasco; individual entry forms were sent to a number of people who have regularly entered the event; I personally sent a batch of forms to every League Secretary and to as many large Clubs as I could find addresses for. Admittedly the forms were sent out a little later than would have been ideal, particularly as they were sent out a week before Christmas but each batch was accompanied by a request that they should be distributed to players as quickly as possible and with the closing date of 16th January, it should have been possible to get a better entry than 37.

So is it League and Club Secretaries who are to blame, or is it just the apathy of the players? We had more than 50 Middlesex players in the Stiga Middlesex 3-Star Open Championships, so obviously there are Middlesex players who want to do more than play their weekly League matches and I would have thought that even more would have wanted to enter the Closed Championships.

Apathy?

The ETTA are anxious to improve the standing of Table Tennis in the sports world - and so are we all - but if the players are apathetic, how do we do it? I know that most League officials are over-worked, but if they are so parochial that all they do is run their Leagues, are they being fair to the players? If we want to improve the image of Table Tennis, NOW is the time to do it, not tomorrow or the day after. I do not mind how many bricks are thrown at me - as long as they are constructive bricks - but what I hate is being ignored, and that is what most Middlesex players are doing at the moment and I am sure that is the experience of other County officials. So once again I appeal to players; give us your views, make suggestions, help us to help you enjoy your sport, don't just ignore us, PLEASE.

The Middlesex Junior Closed will have taken place by the time this article appears in print. At the time of writing the entry is not as good as last year but knowing the way some of the coaches leave things until the last minute - or later - they might pick up. In any event the Tournament will be held however small the final entry as we feel it is essential to our future to encourage the youngsters. I will try and put a report of the event into the next issue of Table Tennis News.

A few of our members have been further afield than their own League areas. Jack Randall went to Switzerland to umpire in the European Top 12; Doreen Stannard and Jack Melnick went to America, also on umpiring duties; Mark Mitchell went to Australia as the official coach to the British Paralympic Table Tennis team who took part in the World Championships there; and of course John Souter went to Delhi to take part in the "other" World Championships. We thank them all for carrying the Middlesex "flag" for us but particularly our congratulations go to "Sooty" for winning his place in the English squad.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Mike Tunningley

The Great Escape

Notts juniors travelled to St Neots for the second Junior Premier league weekend, with the knowledge that they required a minimum of three points to avoid relegation, but hopes were high within the squad that they would achieve this target. In their opening fixture against fellow relegation strugglers Glamorgan, Notts completed a confident 9-1 win with John Holland starring for the boys and Kay Mayall recovering brilliantly in the third set against Denise Ellwood.

A 7-3 defeat against Lancashire puts Notts back in trouble but one of the highlights of this match was John Hollands first victory over the England No. 4 Sean Gibson. Paul Wood made his county debut in this match and despite losing both his singles he did enough to suggest that he has a good future ahead of him.

Essex were our next opponents and optimism was high in the camp of securing a victory but alas a 6-4 defeat left Notts requiring one point from their remaining fixture with Kent. Whilst mentioning the match with Essex, Adrian Bolton's superb win over Damian Holland certainly gained him a lot of friends.

The vital match with Kent was a real nail biting fixture with our opponents gaining an early 2-0 lead but inevitably it was the Notts number one. John Holland who put Notts back in the match with a single win over Michael Harrison followed by a doubles victory after teaming up with Robert Fearn. Bolton lost an incredible match with Brian Mileham 18, -21, -16, but Claire Oldham rescued Notts with her third set win over Shelley Garlinge and Hollands win over Houghton left the scores level at 4-4. Kay Mayall, who was nursing an injured right arm fought her way to a gallant win over Lynne Roberts to give Notts the most vital point and avoid the dreaded drop. Kent eventually levelled the match, but Notts left for home very relieved that they had

had a great escape. With the departure of Holland, Fearn, Bolton to the seniors next season, much work has to be done with the remaining juniors who have a great opportunity to represent their county.

The Premier League Championship in Nottingham has been thrown wide open following a dramatic win by Gedling Premier over Rolls Royce Raiders by a close 6-4 margin. Seven out of nine games went to the deciding third set, of which four were 21-18 or closer. The surprise win was mainly due to an inform Trevor Kerry who gained a brilliant maximum. The title race has now been narrowed to just four teams, Mapperley Sports, Rolls Royce, Sycamore Raquet Sense and Gedling Premier.

An unfortunate arm/shoulder injury to Paul Clarke meant he was unable to defend his open singles title in the annual Worksoop & District Championships. Paul has successfully defended this title for the past five seasons but at least it has given the competition an air of openness. Dale Ajeto, Paul Davison and Stephen Harrison have each reached the semi-final stage along with Mick Vesey. Andrew and Shaun Lee provided a doubles shock when they put out the favourites Harrison and Davison, but they then lost themselves in the second division doubles, when the experience of Trevor Thomas and myself proved to be too much for the young pair. Simon Rafferty and Steve Beeston will contest the third division singles final while it is nice to see debut club Abbey Youth Centre represented by John Parker and Terry Butkeraitis in the doubles event. Kay Mayall will meet Gloria Stocks in a repeat of last season's ladies final, while the veteran's event will bring together Keith Bloomfield and Mick Hargreaves.

NORTHANTS

Dennis Millman

COUNTY enthusiasts were shocked last month to hear of the sudden death of Shirley Everard, who for forty years had been an integral part of the local table tennis scene.

Her book-keeping expertise had made her an ideal treasurer, and she had faithfully served her county, her local league and her club in that particular capacity, always to the utmost benefit of the organisation concerned.

A founder member of the Kettering Town Club, she held the position of treasurer for thirty years until 1982, and she relinquished the post, only to become fully committed to making an unqualified success of the club's main fund raising activity.

She was Kettering League Treasurer from 1974 to 1979, serving on the league committee as early

as the 1950's and at times fulfilling the duties of county representative, divisional organiser and tournament organiser. Perhaps she is best remembered in this role, for the coffee and home made cakes she provided during the early hours of the morning were much appreciated by the faithful few preparing the venue for the day ahead.

On the county scene she made her solitary appearance for the Veterans as long ago as 1971, and in typical Shirley fashion, she immediately offered to drive the team to an away fixture in Kent.

This was the highlight of her playing career, for her administrative ability overshadowed her prowess on the table. Nevertheless she won many trophies by virtue of her indomitable spirit and her positive attitude, and she was playing just as effectively in her final match, a few days before she died, as she had in her first - forty years before.

She will be sadly missed, but long remembered by those of us who had the good fortune to know her.

The local tournament season recently got under way at Northampton and provided a complete contrast in family fortunes, with Richard Elliott reaching a major final for the first time while his father Ray gained nothing more than a torn calf muscle which halted his progress at an early stage.

Richard meanwhile negotiated the varied talents of David Gallo, Keith Jones and Mick Edwards before his personal ambitions were terminated in a one-sided final by the irrepressible Graeme McKim, whose gilded chance was further enhanced by the non-appearance of Keith Nicoll and Andy Edmonds.

Graeme however, hadn't quite got the patience to guide younger brother Scot to victory in the men's doubles, despite several fine wins, and it was the tried and trusted pairing of Keith Jones and Brian D'Hooghe which eventually triumphed to leave Rafe Miller and Gary Webb with the minor honours.

Margaret Maltby and Joyce Porter dominated the distaff side of things, with Margaret inevitably ending on the winning side and in the process helping Keith Jones to gain one of his four successes, in the mixed doubles. Keith also retained his titles in the Veterans Singles and the Hard Bat Singles, beating Greg Dobrowolski in the former, and genuine hard-bat player Dennis Millman in the latter, although with the dice loaded in his favour Millman did have the satisfaction of accounting for McKim at the semi-final stage.

At junior level, Kieron Dabbs confirmed county rankings over David Evans, while in the girls' event Sarah Young reigned supreme. Finally as Phil Slade took a bow for his superb organisation, an unheard of expedite situation unfolded in the final of the Division 3/4 Handicap Singles with Colin Stanbridge ultimately ousting Alan Ashberry.

County Notes 5

NORTHUMBERLAND

Pauline Long

THE only success gained in the county matches on February 28 was the senior team's 6-4 win over Cambridgeshire. Eddie Smith (2), Neil McMaster, Ian Robertson, Clare Mouzon and Caron Guthrie (one each) all contributed to the victory.

The juniors, however, lost 1-9 to a very strong Lancashire team with Steven Penman winning the only set, and the veterans fared even worse a week later when they were whitewashed 0-9 away to Hertfordshire. However, the excellent hospitality at Barnet went a long way towards making up for the eventual result.

The Northumberland League men's team lost 3-5 to Bolton in the Wilmott Cup and the women's Rose Bowl team also went out of their competition, losing 1-5 to Castleford. Clare Mouzon (ranked No. 57) at least had the satisfaction of defeating No. 24 ranked Karen Burrows to win the only set.

Congratulations

Barry Forster of Blaydon Youth Club is to be congratulated on two notable successes. He won the North Yorkshire Cadet U12 title at Leeds on February 28 and followed this up a week later by taking the Derby Cadet U12 singles as well.

More successes for Northumberland players came in the Maureen Kerry Memorial Tournament at Consett on March 7, with Clare Mouzon outstanding in winning a hat-trick of titles. She was successful in the women's singles, the women's doubles with Caron Guthrie, and the mixed doubles with Durham's Darren McVittie. Caron was runner-up in the women's singles and also in the mixed with Ian Robertson, while Larry Cartmell took the veteran's singles, beating Charles Mouzon in the final.

Aubrey thanked

As everyone now knows, the Northumberland 2-star open will not be held this year owing to lack of sponsorship. However, thanks to assistance provided by Newcastle City Council and sponsorship negotiated with the Evening Chronicle, the English junior international championships will take place over the weekend May 30 and 31 at Eldon Square Recreation Centre.

ETTA treasurer Aubrey Drapkin has been responsible for the negotiations involved, which included a grant from the Tyne and Wear Council abolition funds towards the administration, and the Evening Chronicle promotions manager agreeing to provide printing and transport costs, as well as the finals

night buffet. The Newcastle Moat House Hotel also offered an extremely generous accommodation rate.

Invitations have gone out to England, Scotland, Wales, Ireland, China, Denmark, West Germany, France, Netherlands and Sweden. The association is most grateful to Aubrey and all those involved in the staging of this event, which is a tremendous boost for the sport in the region and a fine opportunity to see the top juniors in action.

SHROPSHIRE

Ian Marshall

THERE is little doubt that 1986 was one of the most successful years on record for the Shropshire Schools Table Tennis Association and it would seem that a good start has been made to the campaign in 1987 with the county the best represented association in the National Schools' Teams Finals at Lea Green in March. Mary Webb School of Pontesbury will be on duty in the boys Under 16 and Under 13 events whilst on the distaff side Market Drayton's Grove School contest the same age groups and Market Drayton Junior School maintain their unique record of appearing in every national final in the Under 11 girls age group since the competition started in 1980.

Healthy

Schools table tennis appears most healthy in the county especially following the February half term holiday coaching days held at Pontesbury, Telford and Market Drayton where the week long programme saw all centres well attended; the current situation where Pontesbury and Grove dominate could well be threatened as proposed coaching in Shrewsbury at Belvidere School and at New College Telford bear fruit.

Guise

Meanwhile the County Schools individual championships saw David Morris (Mary Webb) and Caroline Ashcroft (Grove) both double victors as the Under 19 and Under 16 titles fell their way, whilst Mary Webb had further success in the guise of Allister Corfield who won the Under 13 boys and Grove School's rapidly improving Gail Otolini won the counterpart event on the distaff side. The strength of Market Drayton Junior School was seen in the Under 11 events with the male victor Philip Edge and the exuberant Tracey Garratt the girls' champion.

Grove's monthly graded singles tournaments prove extremely successful with large numbers entering

the events which cater for all abilities, it would seem that the player to beat is rejuvenated veteran Maurice Alcock whose pimped rubber bat causes heartaches for those using glue, anti-spin or whatever. The tournament is completely computerised with N.M.W. of Stapeley completing the draw, producing all the score sheets, order of play, ranking lists and grading lists to keep a high level of interest and reduce the human administrative task.

The Shropshire County League which is organised on the morning of the graded singles day sees Keith Sillitoe the dominant player as Grove head the first division table but it is pleasing to see the two Telford teams in second and third place with Ashley Grainger, Tim McGill and brothers Robert and Nigel Holding giving splendid support. The only disappointment is the continual non attendance of the only sides from Shrewsbury with Dyno Rod and Longeville Arms failing to fulfil fixtures and not affording the organiser the courtesy of an apology or explanation; sadly the only result is to expel the teams from the competition. Unfortunately the majority of teams are from Pontesbury and Market Drayton who support with splendid regularity, a greater involvement from Telford and Shrewsbury would be most welcome.

Titanic struggle

However the associations in Shropshire must be congratulated on the support given to Grove in the British League especially in the Premier Division titanic struggle against Wolverhampton where the Market Drayton players were afforded splendid encouragement from the county. The Grove continue to press for honours with both their teams in the British League whilst the West Midland Club League, gives the club's young players valuable experience.

On the open tournament scene Grove and Pontesbury players continue to battle with Market Drayton girl Elizabeth Creasey making impressive progress in major competitions as Grove continue to sponsor all their players to tournaments.

Entry forms are available for the Pontesbury Cadet and Under 12 team tournaments on June 6th/7th at Mary Webb School, the competitions have excellent reputations and are recommended most strongly. Further details are available from John Morris (Tel. 0743 791 340).

Finally, a plea, umpires are essential and at the moment only Liz Wilson and Gerald Green appear active in the blue jacket. Anyone interested please don't be shy, give Gerald a call and take the test to relieve the workload on the faithful few.

SURREY

Frank Hams

The latest mens ranking list shows Nicky Mason at No 6. Over a year ago we predicted he would go into the top five. A good tournament at Cleveland or Essex could make all the difference. Glen Baker, who doesn't want to play for the County (or get picked?) is at 22. He's had good results in the National League. The selectors should, if possible, persuade him to play again. Max Crimmins is at 23, Mike Hammond 29 and Dave Harding 51. In the ladies, Jane Barrella has slipped to No 24. With fewer league matches and more practice she could regain her higher position. Jane tells me, however, that she finds it difficult to get serious practice locally. But in April she'll be in Japan at the invitation of the J.T.T.A. where she will undoubtedly get plenty of practice. Leslie Popkiewicz, is the next Surrey player on the list (No 38) but due to previous disagreements with the selectors I hear she has asked to play for Kent.

Matthew Pernet is justifying Alan Grants confidence in him by reaching No 12 in the junior boys. Provided he doesn't play league matches every night he could get even higher. Other players who have overtaken Richard Jones, 72, are Graeme Connelly, 43 and Jeremy Krzystiniak, 44. Our coaches must be concerned that there is not one junior girl in the top 50!

The 11 Senior team played a rearranged game and a scheduled game on the same Saturday. The first game against Wiltshire began in the morning and was won 6-4. This was their first win of the season. Dave Harding (1) Brian Garroway (1) Rue Bole (2) Linda Clement and Deborah Simmonds (1), however, could not maintain their form in the afternoon against Essex when they lost 10-0.

Promotion

The unbeaten veterans II team travelled to unbeaten Sussex II knowing that whoever won would probably win promotion. Unfortunately they lost 2-7. Many of the games went to 3 but they couldn't win the decider. The VETS I travelled to Berks and won 6-3.

At the British Universities T.T. Championship Michele Hams (Sheffield University) defeated Pat Caulder (Heriot-Watt) in the final of the ladies singles. In earlier rounds she had defeated Sue Brame (Warwick) and Laura Goldsmith (Oxford). In the mens final Phil Løgsdon (Notts) beat Adrien Moore (Keele).

The S.T.T.A. and particularly the Veterans send their condolences to the family of David Jones (Berks) after his death at the Veterans Masters Tournament, Brighton.

County Notes 6

WORCESTERSHIRE

Doug Moss

THE county closed championships were held in Dudley with a total of 65 entries — somewhat disappointing. The thriller was the ladies singles final with Sandra Roden beating Louise Davis (champion for the past four years) at 25-23 in the decider. A surprise in the men's singles with Simon Claxton losing to Mark Roden, who was beaten in the final by Ken Walton. This emphasised the disappointment of Mark Roden not being available for the county teams. Simon took two doubles titles with partners Nicky Mytton and Alison Westwood. Louise Davis/Sandra Roden held on to the ladies doubles title with a very close final against Mandy Mytton/Sue Meredith. Roy Norton won the veteran's mens title beating Ray Dixon (holder for two years), and Lynda Reid beat Janet Hunt to win the new "Di Moss" trophy. Ray Dixon had recompense winning the veteran's doubles with R. Underhill.

It was good to see that Four Pools club (Evesham), which is sponsored by Gordon Andrews (Data Sports), reached the last 16 of the national club teams competition. They were eliminated at this stage by Handsworth Vics (B'ham), who have Barry Johnson and Phil and Ian Gunn. Simon Claxton, Lewis Siket and Steve Gough represent Four Pools.

The Worcester League championships saw 16-year-old Richard Pratley win four titles — men's, intermediate and junior singles and the men's doubles with Nicky Mytton! Alison Westwood (Worthing) won the ladies singles beating Lynda Reid in the final. But Lynda with Nicky Mytton took the mixed doubles title. Sue Meredith/Beryl Shammon got the ladies doubles. Sarah Stone won the girls singles, Mark McCloskey the under 14s, Adam Burman the under 12s and, in a draw for partner event, he and Nicola Jones won the junior doubles.

The Bromsgrove League championships saw all titles change hands. Mark Fiddian won the men's singles beating David Rogers in the final. Anthony Higgins won the junior singles and David McNaught took the handicap singles with a final win over John Harrison (former B'ham and Warwickshire county player). Ron Butterton donated a trophy for a new veterans event and he won it!

The county team knock-out competitions are reaching a conclusion. In the scratch event Four Pools (Evesham) meet Baggeridge (Dudley) in the final, which is being arranged and staged in Evesham by Gordon Andrews (Data Sports). In the handicap competition Post

Office Sports (Worcester) meet either Four Pools Falcons (Evesham) or Ledbury Plough Lions in the final.

Jims Gym top the Dudley division one with a strong team — Trevor Washington, Mervyn Wood and Janet and Steve Dunning. Worcestershire players were to the fore in the Wolverhampton League finals. Trevor Washington beat Andy Rich to take the men's title.

SUSSEX

John Woodford

RITCHIE Venner is the new champion of Sussex. In the TSB-sponsored all-Sussex championships at Southwick Sports Centre on March 8th, Venner surprised even himself by beating Stephen Moore in the semis and then potential sportswriter Paul Elphick in the final.

Absentees must be mentioned. Adrian Moore was at the clashing British Universities Championships, Phil Smith the top seed was suffering from a 'flu bug and Crawley's footballer Phil Richardson was sidelines with a wrist injury.



Only Teresa Moore and Stephen Moore were present at the TSB all-Sussex championships. Teresa lost her title in the womens final to Sally Weston whilst Stephen lost to the new men's champion Ritchie Venner in the semi-finals.

But it was Crawley who re-emerged as the top town in Sussex table tennis, after being under the shadow of Bexhill for several years, Crawley can now boast the two new senior champions Ritchie Venner and Sally Weston (Horsham) and the new junior champions Scott Greenbrook and Tracey Cole.

The overall surprise was that although the Moore family were one short they still did not emerge with one single title, whilst an enormous shock came in the womens final when Teresa Moore was a game and 19-15 up but lost the match as Weston piled on the pressure with

lopped top-spin.

Venner and Smith have not been enjoying the sort of successful run in the Schildkrot British League that they did last year, so it was a question of the clouds rolling away for Venner as he landed the title for the first time 21-16, 21-17.

Smith's absence left the top of the draw a little lopsided. Hastings stalwart Kevin Farrier found himself in the semi-finals but he was swiftly taken out by Elphick, the holder of the Brighton crown.

Elphick has certainly enjoyed a fine season and deserved a better seeding than equal five at Southwick, but at 19, his time will come.

MS: R Venner b P Elphick 16, 17; **WS:** S Weston b T Moore — 11, 19, 14; **MD:** Venner/R Stace b A Walker/P Bartram 14, 17; **WD:** Weston/C Hewett b T Moore/S King — 13, 14, 16; **XD:** Weston/K Horton b S Moore/T Moore 16, — 17, 20.

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

Chinese to visit Yorkshire

YORKSHIRE are delighted to learn that the touring Chinese will be visiting the county in what promises to be a 'Grand Finale' to the season.

The County Association and Calderdale Leisure Services have joined forces and will present the third of a series of eight matches at the North Bridge Leisure Centre, Halifax on Monday April 27th.

Chen Xin Hua, World Ranked No 4 will lead a four strong squad made up by Fang Chang Mao, Cheng Ying Gua and Yong Guang Di — the latter, who has won a number of Asian titles, not only a world class player, but a personality and entertainer of the highest calibre.

A large crowd from all corners of the Broad Acres is expected to watch what is expected to be some of the finest table tennis ever staged in Yorkshire as the visitors line up against Desmond Douglas and company.

With seven weeks of the season still to go, reigning champions Y.P.I. Vikings have already just about sewn up a further year's tenure of the Premier Division title in Hull.

With Derek Munt, the former Birmingham international, Dave Randerson and Pete Bowsley to call upon, Vikings skipper Glenn Miller has yet to sign a losing card, but he is the first to say that the present Premier Division set-up on North Humberside is unsatisfactory and needs drastic change.

The cracks have been steadily becoming more obvious over the past three years or so, during which time the 'elite' section has been reduced from its original fourteen clubs to a present day ten, and many of these ten have found their strength decimated as players have, for various reasons, departed.

During the last two seasons alone at least a dozen players, most of whom have represented the city at Yorkshire League level, have become unavailable — some through injury, some retired and many having left the area for work or study.

So, with the Premier players disillusioned after a stop — start season of spasmodic, rather than weekly, matches, and many of the Division 1 'regulars' disinclined to move in with the 'big boys', Hull's new look committee, which took over at the start of the season, have major decisions to make before September.

Good luck to Steve Hopkins, the new Chairman, and his men in their deliberations, for top table tennis in the city is at the cross roads — something has to be done, and it must be done with the interests of all parties, but, most of all the sport itself on North Humberside, in mind.

Clubs have already been circularized, and one particularly interesting idea comes from veteran Stan Dixon, who thinks in terms of League table tennis played on a golf handicap system with the handicaps, as in golf, being adjusted after every competition.

My own solution is very much long term — a comprehensive coaching scheme bringing together talented youngsters and ambitious intermediates from clubs throughout the East Riding, who will, as they develop, WANT to test their skills against the best.

North Yorkshire Cadet championships

Ten year old Sally Marling was a triple champion at the North Yorkshire Cadet Championships, retaining her Under 10 Singles title and then following up with a close three set victory over Lesley Radford from Essex. The youngster made it three titles in three different age groups when she joined forces with elder sister Samantha to take the Cadet Girls Doubles, scoring wins over two seeded pairs on the way.

Yorkshire Club Championships

Yorkshire Club Champions Harrogate Wanderers went out in the quarters of this season's competition to Yarnbury (Leeds), who now take on Hermits (Bradford) in the semi. With favourites Clayton Heights Trimda, also from Bradford, due to face TSB East Cowton, an all Bradford final could be on the cards.

Yorkshire League - Ladies

Reigning champions Bradford were held to a draw by nearest challengers Sheffield. Melody Hill returned a maximum for Bradford, but two each from Josette Ryalls and Janet Deakin, who held match points against Mrs. Hill, plus the doubles kept the South Yorkshire team in the race which now looks certain to be settled on sets average.

LANCASHIRE'S GIBSON SWEEPS THROUGH

by Laurie Darnell

THE No 1 seeds from Lancashire swept all opposition aside when winning the Junior titles at the Essex Open Select Championships at the Harlow Sports centre over the weekend on 14/15th February.

Sean Gibson (La) maintained a 2-straight superiority all the way through the Boys singles event. His toughest game was against John Holland, the No 3 seed from Nottinghamshire, in a semi-final. Gibson kept his nerve and powered his way to the Final by 9, 26 where he met the No 10 seed Tom Cutler (Mi).

Cutler ran out of steam in the first game of the final, losing 15. In the second he came back from 12-8 to 13-12 down. He kept the difference pegged at no more than two points and levelled terms at 18-18. With Gibson serving Cutler managed to save one match point but could not further contain the No 1 seed.

In the semi-final Cutler had overcome Michael Oakley (Dy) 9,1 4.

Earlier Andrew Houghton (K) and Oakley had stormed through. Both fought through Groups tooust two seeded players either side of the draw.

In the top half Houghton beat Suffolk's Richard Hutchinson in a hard battle, - 23 in the third. Then reached the Quarter-finals by beating Adrian Thorpe (St) in another 3-ender, - 12, 19, 19.

Oakley beat Darren Smith (Wa) 18, - 13, 17 and later booked a staged Semi-final place by overcoming Damian Holland (E) in straight games, 15, 7.

Another seed who failed to flourish was Gary Knights (St) who was beaten 18, 20 by Jason Tendler (E) in the first round. Tendler progressed to the last sixteen but could not delay the onward march of Derbyshire's Oakley.

There were three reversals amongst the seeds. No 14 Neil Bevan (Co) b No 5 John Taylor (La) - 13, 13, 21. No 13 D Morris (Sp) b No 7 Michael Ward (Y) - 14, 13, 18 and No 10 Cutler b No 2 Chris Oldfield (Y) 16, - 21, 12.

In the Junior Girls singles all the seeds made it to their nominated places in the Quarter-finals. It was Nicola McGrath (La) who reversed the trend when she took the No 4 seeded position which had been booked for Melonie Carey (So) whom she beat 15, 13.

The No 1 seed Andrea Holt (La) fought an intriguing final against the No 2 seed Kerry Hall (Dy). Hall's plan of top-spin serves to the Holt backhand and hitting the return on the opposite wing succeeded in the first game. The next game found Holt standing 7-4 up but allowed Hall to level at 10-10 and again at 15-15. It was then that the Derbyshire girl gained the upper hand against serve to lead 16-19. Hall was within two points of becoming the first holder of the Royal Bank of Scotland Cup but it was the Lan-

cashire lass who won this game. With great concentration and determination she returned the compliment by scoring five points in a row from her opponents serves.

In the third game Holt returned service better and started to counter-hit with great assurance, stretching the gap between them finally to eight.

To get to the Final Holt had beaten Debbie Toole (Y) 13, 11 and Hall defeated McGrath 17, 16.

In the Cadet Girls singles only Alison Gower (E) came through to the Quarter-finals from an unseeded position. She beat the No 4 Caroline Buckley (Bd) 20, 9 but went down in three to the left-handed Katherine Goodhall (Y). Joanne Roberts (Y) got past Sarah Pengelly (Dv) to face her Doubles partner, "KT" Goodhall, for a place in the Final. The No 1 seed survived a challenging 3-ender to win 18, - 21, 19.

In the lower half Helen Potts (Ch) came through a very hard match against Helen Wright (Dv) - 17, 23, 22 and beat Samantha Marling (Y) in straight games. Marling had earlier knocked out the No 2 seed Ellen Meddings (Y).

In the Final the No 3 seed counter-attacked well in the opening game. Potts lost the next but regained the initiative to beat the No 1 seed Roberts and become Cadet Girls champion by 12, - 15, 14.

There were no surprises in the last sixteen of the Cadet Boy singles.

Then Alan Cole (Sx) the No 10 beat the No 3 Andrew Eden (La) 17, - 21, 15 which was the start of a flurry of seeds being turned over. No 8 Michael Auchterlonie (Wi) beat No 4 Gary Knights (St) - 18, 19, 14. No 5 Brian Mileham replaced No 2 Neil Bevan (Co) - 10, 18, 19 and continued to the final by beating Peter Bowler (Bd) 17, - 9, 14. Bowler had accounted for Cole in the Quarters in an exciting 21 in the third.

Meanwhile in the top half the No 1 seed, Leigh Jeffries (Wa), was keeping up a straight games advance to the Final. Both Mark Stephenson (Y) and Auchterlonie stretched Jeffries into a deuce game.

Results

Under 12 Girls Singles: K Goodhall (Y) b L Radford (E) 11, 19.

Under 12 Boys Singles: A Nicholls (Y) b A Perry (Dv) 17, 19.

Under 13 Girls Doubles: C Buckley (Bd)/H Potts (Ch) b K Goodhall (Y) J Roberts (Y) 18, 19.

Under 14 Boys Doubles: AT Cole/P Carter (Sy) b N Bevan (Co)/M Stephenson (Y) - 19, 16, 15.

Under 14 Girls Singles: H Potts (Ch) b J Roberts (Y) 12, - 15, 14.

Under 14 Boys Singles: L Jeffries (Wa) b B Mileham (K) 18, 12.

Under 17 Girls Doubles: A Holt (La)/M Carey (So) b H Lower/N McGrath (La) 15, 15.

Under 17 Boys Doubles: J Holland/R Fearn (Ng) b C Oldfield/M Ward (Y) 12, - 17, 19.

Under 17 Girls Singles (The Royal Bank of Scotland Cup): A Holt (La) b K Hall (Dy) - 14, 19, 13.

Under 17 Boys Singles: S Gibson (La) b T Cutler (Mi) 15, 19.

At the Reading Championships ...

Photographs by courtesy of the Reading Chronicle



Martin Adams was rewarded for his efforts by being presented with the Chronicle trophy for the best performance of the tournament. Here Martin is pictured receiving his trophies from Chronicle Sports Editor Alan Porton.



At the Reading Championships — The finalist of the mixed doubles with sponsors Mr John Basinger (left), Sales Manager of Transaction Point), and Mr Geoff Johnson (Branch Manager of Scottish Provident). The players are (left to right) Paul Savins, Mary Allen, Jane Cohen and Dave Jones.

Midlands, Heart of England Cadets

MIDLAND LEAGUE

by John Barber

Mens Section

Division 1: Wolves A 2 Glos. 8; Chesterfield 0 Notts A 10; Notts A 7 Glos A 3.

Nottingham go to the top with two fine wins and their match against Derby will decide the championship

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Notts A	5	4	1	0	38	12	9
Derby	4	4	0	0	31	9	8
Glos. A	5	2	2	1	28	22	6
Coventry A	5	2	0	2	24	26	6
Wolves	5	1	1	3	18	32	3
B'ham A	3	0	1	2	10	20	1
Chesterfield	5	0	0	5	1	39	0

Division 2: Loughborough 0 Bath 10; Stafford 3 Loughborough 7; Notts B 9 Dudley 1.

Bath finished their season in fine style and thus have progressed from Division 4 to Division 1 in three seasons. Nuneaton were the only team to take a point from them, but they lost to Notts B who take the second promotion place by beating Dudley. Loughborough's win at Stafford hoists them from the bottom rung but both will be in Division 3 next season.

Bath	5	4	1	0	37	13	9
Notts B	5	4	0	1	34	16	8
Nuneaton	4	2	1	1	22	18	5
Dudley	4	2	1	1	18	22	5
L'borough	5	1	0	4	17	33	2
Stafford	5	0	1	4	14	36	1

Division 3: Leamington A 7 Lincoln 3; Glos B 9 Lincoln 1; Leicester 4

Notts C 6. A good first win of the season for Leamington where Lincoln's Paul Moore was in outstanding form winning his treble. Lincoln took seven to the third at Glos B but could win only one of them their only consolation in which every game was keenly contested. Glos thus retain their 100% record to worthily take the championship.

Leading teams:

Glos B	5	5	0	0	40	10	10
Notts C	4	3	0	1	23	17	16

Division 4: Leamington C 3 Coventry B 7. P. Calloway and A. Stockham recorded maximums for Coventry, who gained a useful win after being held 3-3 at one point in the match.

Juniors Section

Division 1: Wolves 4 Notts A 6.

Wolves went 3-1 ahead, but John Holland took all three for the visitors and the home team's defence cracked to give Notts the match. This was Wolves first defeat and five teams have dropped only two points each so the championship is wide open, between Wolves, Notts, Derby, B'ham and Coventry.

Division 2: Coventry B 6 Walsall 4. This win takes Coventry to the top.

Division 3: Leamington 10 W. Brom 0. Another superb win for Leamington who still have not dropped a set all season.

HEART OF ENGLAND CADET T.T. LEAGUE

by BRIAN ASTON

IN the final session on February 7th at A.P. Ltd. Leamington, Banbury A won the Heart of England Cadet League title. Coventry were surprise runners-up after beating Leamington A 6-4.

Banbury's trio of Sally Hughes, Dawn Barnett and Michael Rose were undefeated, dropping only five games throughout.

The surprise was in their match against Evesham, with Neil McLean defeating both Michael Rose and Sally Hughes who together with Dawn Barnett were all on the same average before this match. Thus Dawn emerged overall average winner of the league with 96%.

Coventry's trio of Matthew Jordan, Stuart Carey and Gary Woodward came with a late burst defeating Leamington B 9-1 and Banbury B 7-3. Leamington A and Kidderminster finished equal on points and games and either side could have finished second. Credit to the Rugby side who fought hard throughout the competition.

The singles competition was won by Coventry's Matthew Jordan who defeated Banbury's Michael Rose 11 and 19. Matthew had to play all of Banbury's successful league side on his way to and in the final. So well done Matthew!

Mr Bob Davies from our spon-

sors 'The Cirencester Benefit Society' presented the trophies and travelled down specially for this. Grateful thanks to them for without the generous sponsorship of the society the league would not run so smoothly.

Final table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Banbury A	9	9	0	0	85	5	18
Coventry	9	7	0	2	63	27	14
Leamington A	9	7	0	2	56	34	14
Kidderminster	9	7	0	2	56	34	14
Banbury B	9	4	1	4	45	45	7
Leamington B	9	3	1	5	31	59	7
Walsall	9	2	2	5	38	52	6
Bromsgrove	9	2	1	6	31	59	5
Evesham	9	1	1	7	35	55	3
Rugby	9	0	0	9	10	80	0

Results

Leamington B 1, Coventry 9; Banbury B 3, Coventry 7; Banbury A 10, Walsall 0; Leamington B 6, Bromsgrove 4; Leamington A 6, Evesham 4; Banbury B 8, Bromsgrove 2; Leamington A 4, Coventry 6; Banbury A 10, Kidderminster 0; Leamington A 7, Walsall 3; Leamington B 8, Rugby 2; Evesham 2, Banbury A 8; Bromsgrove 2, Kidderminster 8; Walsall 5, Banbury B 5; Rugby 0, Kidderminster 10; Evesham 9, Rugby 1.

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HALTING THE DECLINE

by Mike Watts

A SUGGESTION was made at National Council that Management Committee consider ways of halting the decline of membership. The following proposals whilst controversial would help the overall position, although initially the suggestions could mean a further drop in affiliations. However the overall effect would be to provide a much stronger structure.

THE PROBLEM

As I see it one of the main problems with the present structure is that it is weak.

FACT Numerous clubs consisting of one team with only three or four players.

FACT Use of venues depending on the whims and fancies of landlords.

FACT The economic situation has meant the closure of many companies including Table Tennis facilities.

FACT The apparent lack of competent officials to administer the game at local level.

COMPARISON

The structure of table tennis on the continent particularly in Federal Germany is very strong. I speak from knowledge having lived and played in Germany for three years and my current links with a major club in the Ruhr.

FACT Current approximate affiliations are 700,000 registered players in Germany compared with 75,000 in England.

FACT Sponsorship within their National League enables the top structure to be completely professional.

FACT Big clubs are the norm and continue to thrive even though the economic situation has been just as devastating as in England.

FACT Nearly 90% of clubs in Germany are based on schools and large Sports Clubs.

STRUCTURAL DIFFERENCES

When you compare table tennis in Germany to that in this country the most noticeable difference is their competition structure. In England our grass roots are the League structure. In Germany their grass roots are their District Leagues. Taking Birmingham and Bristol as our biggest cities there are approximately 189 clubs and 541 teams in total with 2,200 members registered. In Germany taking Dusseldorf and Cologne as comparable cities there are only 137 clubs but over 1000 teams and over 12,000 members. There are no Leagues in these cities but their clubs take part in District Leagues the equivalent of our Inter-League.

INFLUENCES

Probably the biggest influence on the German system is the schools. A large percentage of their clubs are based in schools. The schoolchildren are the life blood of the clubs. If our structure is to survive we must look to a similar system.

The immediate answer would be to scrap our leagues and start again but realising that this would not be possible, a start should be made in one or two smaller Leagues around the country using the experiment to encourage others to follow.

PROPOSAL

— Disband Leagues in their present structure and bring all the members together into one, two or three big clubs situated in schools or sports centres.

— Organise inter-club Leagues on the lines of the current League structure.

— Introduce nine Regional Leagues based on the RCC structure bringing together representative teams of the clubs at first, second and third team level etc.

★

ADVANTAGES

— All local matches played at one venue with better playing facilities and equipment.

— A strong club structure which would encourage further developments within the area.

— An adequate supply of officials easily identifiable with the local club rather than a League.

— A steady stream of ready made replacements if allied to schools.

— More opportunities for sponsorship of clubs with equipment, clothing and cash.

— Setting up of many more MSC schemes located at the clubs.

OTHER INFLUENCES

It has been publicity stated by the CCPR/Sports Council that dual use of schools premises should be encouraged. A survey I carried out with the President of the English Schools TTA Tom Matthews identified in the Leeds area over 70 tables located in schools of which less than 5% were being used outside of schools activities. Five schools were prepared to consider senior clubs using their facilities and premises.

If the above proposals were considered viable then, in conjunction with the English Schools TTA this survey should be carried out throughout the country to identify the areas where schools premises would be available.

STRUCTURE OF THE CLUBS

Those clubs located in school premises would have an immediate advantage. Schoolchildren would be encouraged to go straight to the table tennis club from school and the local clubs would provide the coaches/leaders to encourage and coach them. These helpers would come from retired members, housewives and unemployed coaches associated with the various MSC schemes. The Senior Club would take over in the evening organising their own League structure arranging coaching and other activities. The Regional League would take place at weekends preferably on two tables and a large audience would almost certainly be guaranteed from the membership.

CONCLUSION

The suggestions contained in this article would be the forerunner of a new revolution which could bring stability and strength to our membership and offers ideal opportunities for development of the game in this country.

LONDON YOUTH GAMES 1987

AS PART of the tenth annual London Youth Games a Table Tennis event will be held at Crystal Palace. With teams consisting of 4 players (2 boys and 2 girls) all under 21 years of age from each of London's 33 Boroughs, preliminary rounds will be held at Finsbury Leisure Centre, EC1 on Saturday, 27th June. The top ten teams will progress through to the Finals which will be held at Crystal Palace on Saturday, 11th July in the Cricket School. The organisers think that the competition should attract some 130 competitors who could prove to be our future generation of international competitors.

Pool system

The event will be run according to the rules of the English Table Tennis Association and be run in the form of a drawn pool system.

For further information please contact: London Youth Games Ltd., Queen Mother Sports Centre, 223 Vauxhall Bridge Road, London SW1V 1EL. Tel: 01-630 9789.

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JOHN PREAN AND ETTA COACHING

An open letter from Ken Muhr, resigned coach

JOHN PREAN has promised the National Coaching Scheme something similar to what Margaret Thatcher has said about the National Health Service; that it is safe in his hands. Presumably he means that there will be no cuts. The scheme will have his moral and actual support. We shall see whether he honours that commitment. Already it is looking decidedly thin.

My words of concern expressed for the March edition of Table Tennis News were almost immediately overtaken by events. On February 12th I was shocked to learn that the Management Committee, led, we must assume by Mr Prean had 'removed' David Fairholm as Director of Coaching.

Working in a new and demanding post, Dave has, I believe, proved to be dedicated and thorough, conscientious and capable. He is in time with the pulse and needs of coaching, and is highly respected in the field. He could not have worked harder. Behind the scenes he has spent considerable time and energy monitoring and directing the activities of the other national coaches and inducting Nick Jarvis in his new position. Dave was developing well and looked the man for the job. His 'removal' is incomprehensible. He has not been given a fair crack of the whip.

Plan of action

As Director of Coaching why was David Fairholm not given the necessary time to assess the state of coaching in England and then to produce a plan of action? How far has John Prean sought, listened to and heeded David's professional advice? How far has John and the Management Committee given him the authority and backing to do the job? What is their concept of the role of the Director of Coaching? What are their plans for coaching? What specific criticisms were levelled at Fairholm? What are his alleged deficiencies? Where, exactly, did he go wrong? What was his right of reply? Was he given appropriate counselling and support in his post? Were the proper procedures followed in removing/demoting him? What is to happen to the savings made on various coaching salaries, salaries which are largely contributed by the Sports Council? These questions need answers. So far we have not had them.

Donald Parker is to be Director of Coaching, surely a downgrading for the importance of that position. Don has been a successful England trainer but he will (should) be far too busy to give proper attention to this additional role, despite help from Jill. Following the sacking of Paul Day and the rest of the England Selection Committee (I will

resist the temptation to comment on this here), Don also becomes sole selector. He will be overburdened with work and responsibility, and open to undue influence. I am doubtful that he can continue for long to function effectively. Good luck to him.

Drastic

In making these drastic and far reaching decisions, whose opinions and advice did John Prean and his Management Committee seek? Not apparently the Chairman of Coaching and the Regional Chairman. The National Coaching Committee was not consulted. Who was? Alan Ransome, a member of the Management Committee appears to have been an influential figure. He has a reputation as a very successful coach and his views demand a hearing. But his opinion, alone, could hardly be said to represent the Coaching Scheme. Prean himself is a skilled commentator on the national and international game and has nurtured Carl to stardom. However, he is not particularly qualified to speak with great authority on the structural side of coaching. Without extensive advice having been sought, might not Prean's own interest in his son's career be open to question by cynical observers?

Problem area is coaching

In 'Modernise or Die!' from the February Edition of Table Tennis News, John Prean again refers to coaching as a problem area. He implies that David Carpenter of the Sports Council agrees with him. (What is the role and view of the Sports Council in all of this?). But he gives no examples, no instances, no facts, no clarification, nothing specific on what is wrong. Later on he says, "Hard decisions have to be made. Some of these will be misunderstood." Hard decisions still need to be the right ones. The will be misunderstood if they are not explained. Vague generalisations, with which nobody can really disagree or challenge, clarify nothing.

Likewise, unless John makes explicit exactly what his and the Management Committee's criticisms of David Fairholm are, we will have no way of judging whether there are

any grounds for them, and Dave will have nothing to defend himself against.

I shall take up John Prean's kind offer to discuss things privately, but these matters also require a public hearing. Until he comes up with some plausible explanations, I am inclined to think he should leave coaching alone and concentrate on

what he is really good at; publicity and marketing. The coaching scheme was beginning to look quite buoyant until he took the E.T.T.A. helm.

KEN MUHR
23 York Road
Stony Stratford
Milton Keynes MK11 1BJ

MIDLAND LEAGUE

Continued from Page 28

Division 4: Glos 10 Bromsgrove 0; Banbury 9 Coventry C 1; B'ham C 6 Glos 4. An exciting and enjoyable match.

Intermediates: Walsall 8 Rugby 2; Worcester 7 Walsall 3; Rugby 4 Bromsgrove 6. Worcester have halted Walsall's run of success to leave the section in an interesting situation:-

Walsall	7	5	0	2	42	28	10
Dudley	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Worcester	5	3	0	2	30	20	6
Bromsgrove	6	3	0	3	26	34	6
Rugby	6	0	0	6	14	46	0

Women's Section: Wolverhampton 7 Kidderminster 3; Notts 2 Kidderminster 8; Leicester 8 Notts 2.

Leicester	3	3	0	0	22	18	6
Wolves	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
K'minster	4	2	0	2	21	19	4
Derby	2	1	0	1	17	7	2
B'ham	3	1	0	2	12	18	2
Notts	4	0	0	4	5	35	0

Veterans:

Division 1: Oxford A 8 Leicester 2; B'ham A 9 Leamington 1; Leamington 7 Telford 3; B'ham B 3 Oxford B 7. Brian Aston scored a fine hat-trick for Leamington against Telford. B'ham B were soon five down to Oxford although two games were close at 27-25 in each. The home team had a better second half but could only manage three against three strong defenders.

Division 2: Stroud 3 Coventry A 7; Stratford A 5 West Brom B 5; Walsall 8 W. Brom B 2; Walsall 7 Notts B 3. In both their encounters, Walsall had the edge in many close games.

Division 3: Rugby 2 Stratford 8; B'ham C 2 Cheltenham 8; Rugby 1 Nuneaton 9; Stratford B 4 Cheltenham 6; Coventry 5 Pontesbury 5; Nuneaton 5 Stratford B 5. Stratford took the first four sets at Nuneaton but could manage no more until the final set when Brian Lloyd edged home at 19 in the third against Arthur Cross to clinch a draw. Cheltenham won their last 2 matches to take the title.

Veterans Division 1

Notts A	4	4	0	0	38	2	8
B'ham A	4	3	1	0	31	9	7
Oxford B	3	2	1	0	20	10	5
Oxford A	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
B'ham B	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
Leamington	5	2	0	3	18	32	4
Telford	6	0	1	6	16	44	1
Leicester	5	0	1	4	12	38	1

Division 2

Walsall	5	5	0	0	36	14	10
Coventry A	5	4	0	1	36	14	8
W. Brom A	4	3	0	1	27	13	6
Notts B	5	2	0	3	23	27	4
Stroud	5	2	0	3	23	27	4
Stratford	5	0	1	4	16	34	1
W. Brom B	5	0	1	4	10	40	1

Division 3

Cheltenham	6	5	1	0	40	20	11
Nuneaton	5	3	2	0	31	19	8
Pontesbury	5	1	2	2	26	24	4
Coventry B	5	1	2	2	26	24	4
Stratford B	5	1	2	2	22	28	4
B'ham C	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Rugby	6	0	0	6	14	46	0

STOP PRESS

DEVASTATING BLOWS

English Table Tennis suffered two stunning blows on April 9th and 11th. The 6-1 defeat by West Germany was bad enough but the major walkout at the National Council meeting by George Yates, Aubrey Drapkin and Keith Ponting has left many people almost speechless. See May issue of Table Tennis News for facts and comment.

WANTED: M.A.S.D.A. is looking for an experienced coach for weekend sessions and also to play for the team. The applicant must have training experience in China, Korea or Germany and played international tournaments. For details Phone 01 7339145.

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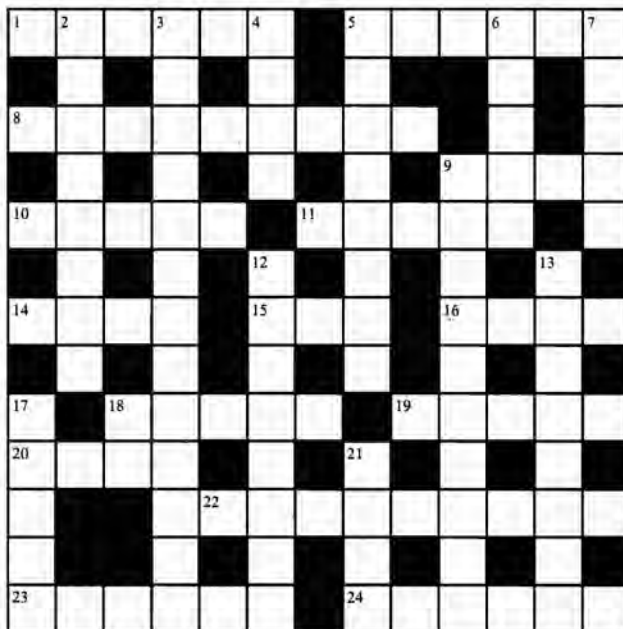
CLUES

ACROSS

1. See 24
5. and 8. Chinese stick to repeated ecstasy (6,9)
9. Andrzej at the ends of the Earth (4)
10. Colour of face after Hash encounter? (5)
11. Initially, George to smell inhabitant of next European Youth venue (5)
14. Lied about doing nothing (4)
15. Curve described by Papal follower (3)
16. Ties in knots ancient Egyptian King (4)
18. Think hard about dusty den (5)
19. Adversary in war-torn Yemen (5)
20. Flower found in Middlesbrough, Crete, Estonia ... (4)
22. In America, Danny and Rick appear unwell hesitantly! (9)
23. Students who shrink from the bright lights (6)
24. and 1. Dark new style designed for ace server (6,6)

DOWN

2. Ena rides round in the inner lane (8)
3. Deputises concerning gifts (10)
4. Show in knowing glance - know what I mean? (4)
5. Divert attention from underworld motoring organisation in Table Tennis (8)
6. Stream of TT equipment from Alec (5)
7. East South South East 10 - Home for 24 (5)
9. Lorna yelps excitedly, and individually (10)
12. Den slays Mixed Double act from Potters Bar (8)
13. Crazy Pete's mad rush? (8)
17. Banned by the ITTF, but required by the Post Office (5)
18. Organisation in the lead at Wimbledon (3,2)
21. Paul had doubles partner called Andy in the days of Black and White (4)



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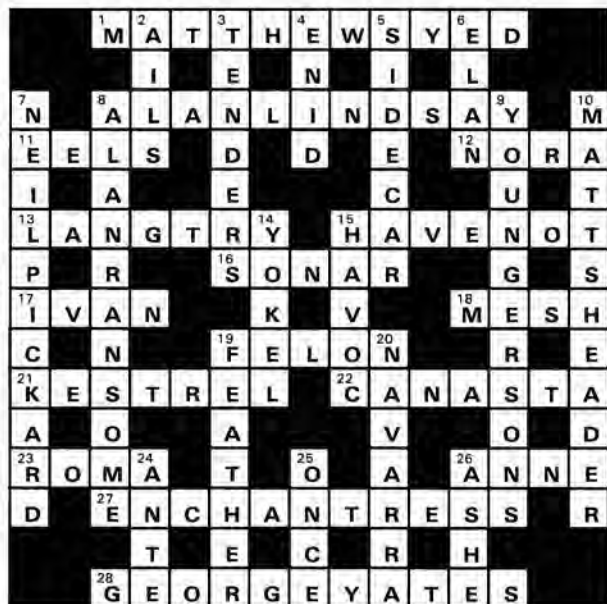
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WINNERS OF CROSSWORD No. 4 February Issue

First prize, (2 sheets rubber): Miss J. McLean, "Eden Heights", Little Salkeld, Penrith, Cumbria.

Runners-up: Clive Oakman mini-bat 1, Steven Rose, 18 Crest Court, The Crest, Hendon, London NW4 2HL; 2, Peter Harmer, 162 Steppingstone Place, Leighton Buzzard, Beds. LU7 8PT; 3, Heather Tucker, 149 Hillcrest, Baker Street, Wey Bridge, Surrey KT13 8AS.

The referee answers back ...

I FEEL that I must reply to your "One Fault" article in your Triumph Adler English national championships report in the February issue of Table Tennis News.

Firstly, I agree that Crawley was a delightful venue, as to whether it was a big improvement on Oldham or Bletchley I would not like to comment, but I am sure that there are numerous people around the country who would disagree with you, but maybe you have a bias for the southern end of the country.

I may even be inclined to agree with you that I am a 'relatively inexperienced' referee, as far as national events are concerned, but what I cannot agree with is the statement you made about "an attempt to run the singles events last at the finals session," at NO time did I 'state' that the singles final would be played last, I was not in a position to say that because at the time I was still awaiting the result of the Douglas/Andrew semi-final, and as I pointed out to Fiona Brown I could not give an order of play due to the fact that at that time I already had two players, Lisa Bellinger and Fiona Elliot, playing in three finals each with a possibility of another had the semi-final gone the other way, so as you may appreciate I had quite an interesting problem to sort out, yes at one stage I did write down a possible finals order, but nothing was definite.

In trying to promote/sell table tennis I, and I'm sure most other referees, do try to give the 'paying public' good value for their money, and as stated in your report we had an audience of approximately 1,000, so I tried therefore to set up an interesting 'finals session' for them, but I also had to be fair to the players involved, I could not expect any player to play one final directly after finishing a previous one. Another point that I took into account was the fact that most people look forward to watching the mens singles final, so by putting this at the end of the session it keeps the crowd at the finals, anyone who is truly interested in the sport will quite willingly sit through the doubles events before they see their preferred event, this all goes towards creating a good atmosphere throughout the complete finals session, and stops a repeat of what happened after the men's final this year, i.e. the crowd disappeared during the presentation of trophies etc., and before the mixed final began, I take it you noticed this, or were you elsewhere?

You also stated in your final paragraph that "On a Sunday particularly, new technology in Fleet

Street and Wapping means that sports editors will not wait even for a 6.00 pm finish." Can you tell me then why it is that we can always get good coverage of most other sports in the Monday papers, some of which finish far later than we did?

Personally, I think that one of the reasons for this is that most other sports get a far more interesting and detailed write up than we appear to, to back up this point may I just add that on the Saturday of the championships I was approached by Mr Brian Spicer on behalf of the media, stating that due to the 'byes' in the draw no seeded player was due on table until 16.30 at the earliest, as this would be too late to get anything in the press on the Sunday, was there any possibility, if the players agreed, to bring a certain match forward, so once again trying to promote the game I did alter my schedule to accommodate this request and the match was played at 15.50 — when the match was played it was not until the start of the third game that any of the media, yourself included, came into the hall to show interest, so on the Sunday morning when we read our newspapers expecting to see table tennis, what did we get? In most papers about three lines — GREAT.

Whilst airing my views, perhaps you can tell me why it is that you the media are very quick to put down the officials of this sport? I would like to say that the English officials are by far the best anywhere, ask any foreign player or coach! It's about time you gave us some praise, I don't know if you realise or appreciate the amount of weekends that are given up voluntarily to promote the sport we love — we are not in it for any gains and I dread the day when people say that officials are no longer required.

Finally, Mr Woodford, if you are going to criticise me please do me the honour of getting my name right, I would hate to think that someone else might want to accept the blame for something that I have worked hard at.

TREVOR OPENSHAW
"A relatively inexperienced referee"
12 Jennings House
Eastney Street
Greenwich
London SE10 9NX

Editor's Note: *Trevor Openshaw's attitude is typically the old-fashioned image. Of course, we want a good deal for the paying customers but the top players are usually professionals or semi-pros — they should be prepared to play two in a row with a short break. Big stories were missed — one was a four-column spread in The Independent — because Richard Eaton could not deliver a singles victory story by around 4 pm for Sunday publication. Officials can cost journalists their jobs — one*

answer to the allegation that the media always put down the officials.

I do not think that Mr Openshaw has been around long enough to pass judgement of English officials against foreigners.

When, as I have, you have been to five world championships and seven Europeans you may agree with me that the rate of incompetence is on a par everywhere with the possible exception of New Delhi where it is much higher. Sorry about the wrong name, I was misinformed by yet another incompetent official who has now fled the country.

The service laws are complex

I DO agree that it is about time that the question of umpiring standards had its periodic airing. It is significant that, as before, the criticism centres around the application of the service law. This indicates that this is the most difficult one on which to get any uniformity of action.

I was discussing this with Fred Groom, another international umpire of wide experience, to see if we could come up with any reasons — there's bound to be more than one. We started off with the following list:

1. Well, he got no advantage from it.
2. It wasn't really all that bad.
3. It took me by surprise.
4. I don't want to start a big row and then get no backing.
5. I haven't got the nerve.

I wouldn't think that all these apply to any umpire, or that any one of these applies to all umpires.

There's no future in discussing all of the above in detail, but (1) can arise from the fact that the service law is complex, and has been modified more than once to try and take account of various ways players have dreamed up which have been considered would give the server an unfair or undue advantage. Unfortunately, the law has not been pruned to get rid of unessential restrictions. I don't suppose I shall ever get round to faulting a server because on his free hand his little finger was not quite touching the next finger while serving. The more provisions in the law, the more ways there are of just, or just not, complying.

But there are also some things that it is not possible to be certain about because of the angle or position from which the umpire is viewing them (eg) serving just over the end of the table, or throwing the ball up slightly more than 45 degrees from the vertical. No time, as there is on the box, to stop for slow-motion playbacks from different

angles.

So there are occasions when some doubt may arise as to the legality of some part of the service action. This leads to (2), and perhaps it is not good that, when as assistant umpire is present, one is not allowed to warn a player that he is pushing his luck (eg) if it was not immediately obvious that the ball was falling when struck in the service. There is a reluctance to leap in and call a fault on a very doubtful point which clearly didn't give any advantage, but it can be the beginning of a slippery slope for the umpire. But is it reasonable for players to adopt an attitude of let's see what we can get away with?

Concentration

If you think that (3) is in itself surprising, then you are expecting the umpire to be at peak concentration from beginning to the end of a tournament. A player can demand a rest interval between matches, but an umpire may do six matches on the trot. It would be too expensive to get enough umpires along to all events — there was a rota of 36 umpires officiating at six tables at the recent Top 12 tournament in Switzerland, and I do not recall any umpire being caught out.

By the way, the English umpires pay their own way to get to these foreign events.

I have to confess that I have never been involved in anything under heading (4). It doesn't really happen ... does it? (5) What can I say?

So what can be done to improve things? Remembering that it is difficult to achieve exact consistency in calling faults, but easy to achieve consistency in not calling them, I believe part of the answer lies in simplifying the law as much as possible, and not giving the player the benefit of the doubt — ever.

I would remind you of law 3.6.7 which says: "It is the responsibility of the player to serve so that the umpire or assistant umpire can see that he complies with the requirements for a good service." I don't think "see" means "have some sort of guess".

There will be a period of moaning, and some players (and audiences, coaches, relatives and assorted well-wishers) can get quite aggressive, but this will die away and players will be seen to be trying to comply with the spirit of the laws. Also, I am sure that players will respect more the firm, impartial, umpire who gives them the feeling that they know where they stand. However, there will always be differences and points for discussion arising from the fact that umpires are only human after all, but they are not always wrong just because you think so!

JACK S. RANDALL
(International umpire)
9 Greystoke Gardens
Hanger Lane
London W5 1EP
Tel: 01-997 1294

Answers requested

WHAT is going on under the new Chairmanship? Accusations made against John Preat in the national press over the sacking of David Fairholm, the dismissal of Paul Day and the Selection Committee, the questions raised over the reason for Carl Preat's withdrawal from the World Championships, the reported attempts to influence Donald Parker against Des Douglas and Skylet Andrew, demand a full reply or it must be assumed that they are true. If false, then John should give explanations to the table tennis community for the sake of his own integrity. Silence will be seen as verification.

PETER CHARTERS
57 Burghfield Road,
Reading,
Berks

Crawley was the tops

I LOOKED forward to and paid a visit to the Closed at Crawley Leisure on the last weekend in January. What an ideal venue! The arena was small, with tiered seating so that the spectators were very much involved with what was going on and could see and hear what the players and officials were doing and saying.

I had views from several directions. I spotted a seat some way up, centre tier, empty, amongst the crowd. After clambering over spectators, making myself comfortable, I found the view almost completely obstructed by a tripod and camera! The neighbourly enthusiast said he was going to mention it! There were a number of colourful and interesting trade stands in the foyer and the cafeteria was reasonable with a friendly staff, (much over-worked on the Sunday).

Modest champion

The play and players. Well, Terrific standards by all those involved, particularly in the closing stages. What does one say about the champion? Desmond Douglas was not at his best, struggled and won. A worthy and modest champion. No sign of stress or tantrums when things were not going right, pulling back from crucial points with some fine attacking play.

By chance, I sat near Des and his coach during the men's singles final. I was so impressed by the way Desmond listened intently to his coach between games - a national example on how advice should be given

and received. At the victory point, widely acclaimed by the crowd, Des's first reaction was to give a smile and a wave to his mentor. The champions few friendly words via Albert Shipley to the crowd on receipt of his trophy summed it all up. A much respected and exemplary winner for the record tenth time.

On a lighter note during the final session, I was amused by the enthusiastic couple who sat behind me. At a break in the play, knowledgeable wife sent husband climbing down the seating framework, fifth row back, to get apples from the car, without the need to disturb other spectators. Table tennis people are like that. (With respect to the couple should they read this!)

BRIAN N. PETTITT
176 Tivoli Crescent North,
Brighton, Sussex.

Proud to be British

I WAS one of a small contingent of British fans who saw Des Douglas's great performance in winning the European Top 12 in Switzerland.

For once I was proud to be British at a sporting event and from the applause given to him he was a very popular winner and worthy of it as he has always been a credit to the game.

Nearly every single match over the three days had fantastic rallies and would have been great for viewing on TV.

Table tennis on TV?

Unlike Mr Lucas's opinion in his letter in the December edition of TT News, I believe we could and we have to get table tennis back on TV to popularise the sport. So my first step would be to ban live table tennis on TV (we have seen nothing spectacular these last two years).

Second step - Only film top class table tennis such as Top 12, European or Worlds. Use three cameras, one on each player and the middle one situated at right angles to the length of the table in a continuous line with the net and slightly above it.

Show a split screen of both players and when the action starts, switch to the middle camera and move the camera lens to a wide angle to take all the long range action by both players.

Edit each game and show every good point in slow motion and then Joe Public will be able to appreciate the skill of both players.

We would end up with table tennis more attractive on TV than live table tennis but it should certainly make the sport more popular.

My final step would be to standardise the bounce of a ball on a bat from a 12" drop, allowing only a difference of 1" between backhand and forehand sides.

The above ideas are based on being a keen player and spectator for the last 40 years.

Finally, I wish the new TT News magazine every success under its new editor.

PHILIP SLADDIN
107 Pannal Ash Road
Harrogate
Yorkshire

Too far

GEORGE STEDMAN'S letter in last month's issue concerning Junior County matches is absolutely true. The amount of travelling in Division 2B is horrendous and not fair on the Juniors, also if I was a girl I would refuse to play. Essex travelled to St. Ives, Herts to Penzance, having done the trips to Cornwall and Devon previously, this year I reversed our fixture with Cornwall and at least played two matches on one weekend even though I have to apologise to Devon for a late arrival. One can only feel sorry for Devon and Cornwall Juniors who do this all of the time. Question? Do the drivers who take these Juniors to matches break the law rest period between long distance driving?

On the playing side it is equally unfair to ladies in the senior teams who also give up all day for 20 mins. play. Often in a match that they either win or lose without any effort. Due to the difference in standard. The time has surely come when the County Championships should be run as tennis, separate events for ladies and men. Three-a-side played on Corbillon Cup lines also played on two weekends as in the Premier Division it would be more enjoyable for players and officials and also less time consuming.

Finally through this column may I say on behalf of Middlesex thank you to Cornwall for your hospitality and friendship during our match and Devon for being such good sports.

J.A. PACITTO
63A The Avenue
Wraysbury
Middlesex

Editors Note: It has been said again and again and nothing is done at the county championships AGM that regrettably the distances involved from Essex to Cornwall and Devonshire are unacceptable, as much as the eastern counties realise that the West Country people have to travel the distances more often. Essex should decline to play in a division that includes Cornwall and Devon, that is the only answer.

County Umpire aged 13

I AM pleased to inform you that the Cambs umpiring committee have just recently passed with flying colours the youngest county umpire in the country. He is Christopher Weston from Peterborough, aged 13 years old, who passed his written paper with 95% of his second attempt. Then at the Cambridgeshire County Championships held at Soham on 21st February he umpired many events during the day under the watchful eye of Mr. P. O'Brien who used to be the County Umpire's Secretary and is a Police Sergeant who always expects above average standards and while he was Secretary no one passed. In fact he was very impressed with Christopher control of the game and competence. Christopher gained 8A's and 4B's on the practical side.

Apart from his umpiring at Soham he won the Under 14's boys and a semi finalist in the Under 17's losing to the No 1 seed.

His ambition is to gain sufficient experience over the next few years to sit for his National when he is 16.

BARRIE WESTON
77 Welland Close
Peterborough
Cambs.

Missing girls?

DID anyone else spot the contradictory reports on pages 21 and 28 of February's Table Tennis News? The Northumberland County Notes remarked upon the absence of their girls from the Northumberland v. Clwyd junior match but were thankful that at least the Clwyd girls had been spared a wasted journey. However, the Welsh notes lament "A disappointing day for Clwyd's girls duo of Natasha Willams and Nicola Harris who could only sit and watch their team lose." Were the Clwyd girls there or were they not?

A VIGILANT READER
Burnley
(name and address supplied)

Thanks to writers

Many thanks to all letter writers who have taken the time and trouble to make Mailbox a fine forum this season.

EDITOR

TRAGEDY AT BRIGHTON

by Mike Watts

THE Veterans English Table Tennis Society mourns the passing of one of its founder members following the tragic death of David Jones from Reading, Berkshire who collapsed during the Southern Masters Open at the Hotel Metropole in Brighton on Sunday 1st March 1987.

David had earlier reached the Over 50 Mens Doubles final with partner Gerry Batt-Rawden (Sussex) and was playing a second round Over 40 Mens Singles against Ralph Gunnion (Warwick) when he collapsed with a heart attack. Immediate medical assistance was rendered by Gerry and two ladies, one a qualified nurse, and he was rushed to the Royal Sussex Hospital in Brighton where he died about one hour later.

Our sympathies go out to his wife Barbara and family. David was a most respected player and known throughout the South of England as both a Senior and Veteran player and was ranked No 37 in the Lentec Veterans Ranking Over 40 list and No 6 in the Over 50 rankings.

Massive

The tournament had attracted a massive 174 entries, by far the biggest entry since VETTS began in 1974 and Referee Len Pilditch should be congratulated on completing a very tight schedule on 14 tables right on time.

Needless to say the tournament lost enthusiasm after the tragedy but following a brief Committee meeting a decision was taken to continue as it was felt David would have wished this.

The major shock in the Mens Over 40 Singles was the defeat of holder Henry Buist (Kent) in the groups courtesy of Rodney Potts from Bucks 22-20 in the third after Henry had been 20-17 up.

Top seed Ralph Gunnion obviously upset at the unfortunate situation immediately withdrew from the tournament leaving the way open in the top half for Connie Warren (Surrey) to reach the final where he lost to third seed Derek Schofield two straight games.

True to form

The Womens Over 40 Singles however went true to form with top seeds Doreen Schofield (Cheshire) and Connie Moran (Lincs) contesting the final won in three by Doreen Schofield.

In the Over 50 Mens Singles, top seed Derek Schofield scratched in the semi's still shocked by the earlier incident leaving Henry Buist to face second seed Matt Sheader

(Cheshire) in the final. Buist has had the advantage in recent encounters but on this occasion it was Sheader who came out on top two straight.

Joyce Coop (Dorset) now almost fully fit after a major operation showed her mettle in the Over 50 Womens Singles by overcoming second seed Connie Moran but the title finally went to top seed Joan Beadle (Kent).

Ron Etheridge (Kent) as expected captured the Mens Over 60 Singles. His final opponent being a newcomer to VETTS Derek Lake (Bucks). Whilst in the Over 70 Mens Singles the winner was Trevor Jenkins (Bucks).

A record

A record 81 entries entered the Mens Restricted Singles. John Millward (Sussex) came through to the final in the top half with good wins over Eddie Griffiths (Cheshire) 21-16 in the third at the quarter final stage and Ian Walmsley (Yorkshire) in the semi final. Clive Morris (Kent) was his final opponent with Morris, who only a couple of years ago was a top 50 senior player, far too good winning comfortably.

Major shock

The Womens Restricted was won by Pauline Steele (Sussex) with a good win over Jenny Vass (Surrey) in the final.

A further major shock occurred in the Over 40 Mens Doubles when top seeds Ralph Gunnion and Connie Warren lost in the first round to Stan Battrick and Fred Lockwood (Essex) 21-9 in the third. They in turn only lasted one more round and the eventual finalists were Clive Judson (Yorkshire) and Roy Norton (Worcs). Derek Schofield and Matt Sheader the second seeds sailed comfortably through to the final and clinched the title without conceding a game.

Not played

The Over 50 Mens Doubles final was obviously not played with Derek Schofield and Matt Sheader the top seeds taking their second title.

The Over 60 Mens Doubles was won by Ron Etheridge (Kent) partnered by John Mansi (Norfolk) over Alec Gould (Lancs) and John Husband (Bucks) 21-17 in the third.



The late David Jones of Reading.

Unseeded Gill Knightley and Mary Stafford (Berks) won the Over 40 Womens Doubles beating top seeds Doreen Schofield and Connie Moran but Connie partnered by Pam Butcher (Kent) gained some consolation in the Over 50 Doubles beating John Beadle and Mary Stafford.

Top seeds Ralph Gunnion and Doreen Schofield reached the final of the Mixed, their final opponents being Alan Timewell (Cheshire) and Mable Neary (Lancs) the number four seeds. This final was not played and will be contested at Bracknell during the National Masters Open in May.

RESULTS

Mens Singles (Over 40)

Semi-final: C Warren (Sy) b R Stace (Sx) - 17, 10, 17; D Schofield (Ch) b K Horton (Sx) 11, 18.

Final: D Schofield b C Warren 20, 18.

Mens Singles (Over 50)

Semi-final: H Buist (K) b D Schofield (Ch) W/O; M Sheader (Li) b G Batt-Rawden (Sx) 12, 10.

Final: M Sheader b H Buist 23, 14.

Mens Singles (Over 60)

R Etheridge (K) b D Lake (Bu) 9, 9.

Mens Singles (Over 70)

T Jenkins (Bu) b D Satchell (Sx) 18, 11.

Womens Singles (Over 40)

Semi-final: D Schofield (Ch) b M Neary (La) 17, 10; C Moran (Li) b M Stafford (Bk) 9, 9.

Final: D Schofield b C Moran - 18, 16, 12.

Womens Singles (Over 50)

Semi-final: J Beadle (K) b P Butcher (K) - 26, 6, 18; J Coop (Do) b M Stafford (Bk) 16, 11.

Final: J Beadle b J Coop 12, 12.

Womens Singles (Over 60)

E Fletcher b J Rodwell - 18, 12, 16.

Mens Doubles (Over 40)

D Schofield (Ch)/M Sheader (Li) b C Judson (Y)/R Norton (Wo) 12, 18.

Mens Doubles (Over 50)

D Schofield (Ch)/M Sheader (Li) b D Jones (Bk)/G Batt-Rawden (Sx) W/O.

Mens Doubles (Over 60)

R Etheridge (K)/J Mansi (Nk) b A Gould (La)/J Husband (Bu) 13, - 19, 17.

Womens Doubles (Over 40)

G Knightley (Bk)/M Stafford (Bk) b D Schofield (Ch)/C Moran (Li) 19, - 21, 17.

Womens Doubles (Over 50)

P Butcher (K)/C Moran (Li) b J Beadle (K)/M Stafford (Bk) 18, 15.

Mixed Doubles

R Gunnion (Wa)/D Schofield (Ch) v A Timewell (Ch)/M Neary (L) Not Played

Mens Restricted Singles

C Morris (K) b J Millward (Sk) 9, 17.

Womens Restricted Singles

P Steele (Sk) b J Vass (Sy) 19, - 18, 13.

Womens Doubles (Over 60)

E Fletcher/J Rodwell b B Bonner (So)/D Penney (Sy) 18, 9.

Surrey ex-international is veteran stalwart ...



Connie Warren (Surrey) losing finalist in the Mens Over 40 Singles.

WALES IN NEW DELHI

H. Roy Evans reporting

IT was ironic that in the same way that Wales pipped Scotland for a better place in the European League when the two met in Guernsey earlier this season, so it was Scotland's turn to deny Wales an improvement in World ranking we had hoped for at the World Championships in New Delhi.

As a result Wales stayed at No 31 but Scotland moved up to 28.

We started our campaign with a good win over Luxembourg in the first stage, the 5/3 margin in our favour being a comforting revenge for our European League defeat by Luxembourg in Wales in January.

Although we were expectedly beaten 5/0 by Korea, we finished second in the group, and were therefore re-grouped with Holland Denmark and Scotland in the second stage matches.

We started Stage 2 disappointingly, going down 5/1 to Holland, against whom we expected to do much better, Mark Thomas gaining our only success with a win over Ron van Spanje.

Confrontation

Then came the confrontation with Scotland. Mark Thomas got us off to a fine start by beating John Broe, and Nigel Tyler increased the lead by beating McLroy. Although Nigel Thomas took the first game against Hannah, he lost the second at 21/23, and was then beaten in the decider. Nigel Tyler, after taking the opening game against John Broe, lost the second 21/23, and just lost the third at 19 to level the overall score.

Then Mark Thomas lost two straight to Hannah, but Nigel Thomas brought the score level again by beating McLroy in three games. Nigel Tyler went down disappointingly to Dave Hannah, but Nigel Thomas came to the rescue again with a good win over John Broe.

So Mark Thomas, as so often has happened, was left to face David McLroy with the score at 4 all. Mark won the first, and in yet another nail biting second game, went down 22/24. He had match points in that second and then to our dismay lost at 15 in the decider.

Scotland went on to lose to Holland by the same margin as we, but we accomplished one of our best performances ever by beating Denmark 5/3, our first ever win against the Danes. Nigel Tyler won two, Mark Thomas two, and Nigel Thomas one in this splendid success. But it was of no avail. Denmark, who beat Scotland took top place, and with a tie between us and Scotland, elevation to a higher Stage 3 group went to them by virtue of their win against us!

We started our Stage 3 campaign with a 5/2 loss to Brazil. Although mostly an unknown quantity, the

Brazilian team included Claudio Kano, who had been Latin American Champion, and is now playing in Sweden. He took three matches against us. Nigel Tyler won one and Nigel Thomas won one - our only successes.

Then came Norway and we lost 3/5 after thinking we had a chance to win. But the lanky Tom Johansson took toll, winning three matches. Nigel Tyler had two good wins, and Nigel Thomas one.

We finished our team matches with a good win against Hong Kong, who, although containing Yong Lu Veng, is a comparatively young side. In this our first ever success against Hong Kong, Nigel Tyler won two, Nigel Thomas one, and Mark Thomas, after an opening good win over Chan Chi Ming, found himself once again playing the ninth match for victory or defeat. He beat Ma Lung Sang easily in the first game, lost the second through complete lack of concentration, but pulled himself together for a convincing win in the third to ensure that we maintained our 31st position.

Mark Thomas didn't play in the individuals, being yet another victim of the stomach problems that assailed most people. Nigel Tyler lost in the first round proper to Norbert Mnich of Poland, the fourth game agoing to 22/24. Had he taken it he looked to be in with a good chance to take the decider. Nigel Thomas won the first of his qualifying matches, but lost to Tomas Janci of Czechoslovakia.

Nigel Tyler teamed up with John Souter of England, and they won their group, beating Italians Maneschi and Mannoni, and the Saudi Arabians Al Soliman and Al Hamdan. But they met their Waterloo in the shape of Chinese seeds Chen Longcan and Wei Dingguang, who were the ultimate winners of this event.

Welsh Closed Championships

by H. Roy Evans

BRIAN JEANES, Gwent's hitherto erratic star, kept his concentration up for longer than ever to win him, the Welsh Closed title at the National Sports Centre. Admittedly helped by the staleness of the top three Welsh players who had done so well in the exhausting World Championships in New Delhi, Jeanes nevertheless produced so many more of the incredible shots which have always been part of his game, but which have been cancelled out by lapses in concentration.

He came nearest to disaster when Wrexham's John Ellis lead him

17/13 in the third game of the quarter final, but failed to score more than one more point. In the semi-final, Brian beat No 1 seed Nigel Tyler, who paid the penalty for a very lack lustre performance, whilst in the final against holder Nigel Thomas, Brian built up a long lead, which Nigel whittled down to almost 20 all. Nigel then took the second game with ease, but in the decider Brian again got away to a good start, and won at 16 despite a second last ditch fight by Nigel.

No 3 seed Mark Thomas of Rhyll was Nigel Thomas's semi-final victim, the latter looking to be a comfortable winner, but having to withstand a great fight back by Mark in the second game.

Evelyn Wright failed to beat the bad weather in the North and was a notable absentee from the women's singles, which went to No 1 seed Lesley Tyler. The latter beat Wrexham's Justine Thomas in the semi-final, and faced Heidi Cotter in the final, after the latter had beaten Jayne Bennett in her semi. Heidi was well on top to take the first game of the final, but thereafter Lesley became the more accurate in her attack, and took the next two games to take the title. These two combined to win the women's doubles, with a two straight win over Sian Evans and Justine Thomas.

Struggle

John Ellis retained his junior boys' title with a convincing win over Chris Kelly. Although John beat Richard Harry with ease in his semi-final, Chris had to struggle against Eastern Valley's David Buck, who had just scraped home in a good quarter-final against Steve Ward of Newport.

Justine Thomas took the girls' singles, with a two straight win over Sian Evans, and the diminutive Natasha Williams from Prestatyn beat Cardiff's Laura Collier in the cadet girls' event. Jason Brooks of Cardiff beat Steve Gill in a close semi-final battle in the cadet boys' event, whilst Spencer Harris beat Mike Gabriel of Swansea in the other semi-final. Although Jason took the first game from Spencer in the final, the latter came back strongly to win the next two, and thus complete a North Wales coup of all the junior and cadet titles.

Results

Mens Singles - Semi-final: Brian Jeanes b Nigel Tyler 20, 17; Nigel Thomas b Mark Thomas 15, 21.

Final: Jeanes b Thomas 19, -9, 16.

Womens Singles - Semi-final: Lesley Tyler b Justine Thomas 17, 19; Heidi Cotter b Jayne Bennett 13, 15.

Final: Tyler b Cotter -14, 15, 15.

Mens Doubles: Nigel Tyler/Andrew Jones b Nigel and Mark Thomas 16, 18.

Womens Doubles: Lesley Tyler/Heidi Cotter b Sian Evans/Justine Thomas 15, 17.

Mixed Doubles: Nigel and Lesley Tyler b Nick Williams/Heidi Cotter -19, 19, 11.

North Wales Counties Closed Tournament

by CHARLES BAYLISS

THE North Wales closed tournament held at Castell Alun Sports Complex, Hope, near Wrexham on March 1st, saw Paul Griffiths from Deeside beat Simon Jones in a hard fought final to win the mens singles title.

In the ladies singles final Wrexham's Cris Watkins beat her young opponent Natasha Williams taking the match in the third game 21-19.

In the veterans singles Llandudnos Don Hobbs beat his fellow league player Karl Harrison. Both the boys cadet and junior titles went to Spencer Harris and in the same girls events Natasha Williams the ten-year-old player won both of these events. Natasha also won the mixed doubles with Justin Evans.

In the mens doubles Simon Jones/Richard Lloyd were winners over Paul Griffiths and Justin Evans. The mixed doubles saw Justin and Natasha winners over Arthur and Joyce Jones. The veterans doubles winners being beaten vets singles finalist Karl Harrison with Ray Howland, and in the junior doubles Kris Mouldsdale and Tracy Sambrook beat Spencer Harris and Gary Jones in an exciting third game which went to 23-21.

Results

Mens singles - Final: Paul Griffiths (Wrexham) b Simon Jones (East Flint) 13, 18. **Ladies singles - Final:** Cris Watkins (Wrexham) b Natasha Williams (Wrexham) 17, 21, 19.

Veteran singles - Final: Don Hobbs (Llandudno) b Karl Harrison (Llandudno) -23, 16, 8. **Junior boys singles - Final:** Spencer Harris (Wrexham) b Kris Mouldsdale (Wrexham) 19, 16. **Junior girls singles - Finals:** Natasha Williams (Wrexham) b Tracy Sambrook (Wrexham) 16, 21, 14.

Cadet boys singles, round robin - Spencer Harris 1st, Andrew Jones 2nd, both from Wrexham. **Cadet girls singles, round robin:** Natasha Williams 1st, Susan Lees 2nd, both from Wrexham.

Mens doubles - Final: Simon Jones/Richard Lloyd (East Flint) b Paul Griffiths/Justin Evans (Wrexham) 17, 13. **Ladies doubles - Final:** Cris Watkins/Nalda Holden (Wrexham) b Janet Manning/Natasha Williams (Llandudno) 9, 14. **Mixed doubles - Final:** Justin Evans/Natasha Williams (Wrexham) b Arthur and Joyce Jones (Wrexham) 12, 21, 16. **Veterans doubles - Final:** Karl Harrison/Ray Howland (Llandudno) b John Bowen/Ivor Jones (East Flint) 11, 13. **Junior doubles - Final:** Kris Mouldsdale/Tracy Sambrook (Wrexham) b Gary Jones/Spencer Harris (Wrexham) 21, 20, 21.

NATIONAL INTER-LEAGUE COMPETITIONS

The finals will be on Sunday May 10th at the Mansfield Leisure Centre, 2 p.m. Semi-finals are:

Wilmott Cup: Leicester v. Bolton; Plymouth v. Willesden.

J.M. Rose Bowl: Leicester or Wolverhampton v. Castleford, Pont., Newbury v. Plymouth.

Carter Cup: Sheffield v. Birmingham; Launceston v. Ipswich.

Bromfield Trophy: Leicester v. Preston; Plymouth v. Chelmsford.

QUARTER-FINAL RESULTS:-

Wilmott Cup: Bolton 5 Northumberland 3; Leicester 5 Birmingham 2; Thames Central 3 Willesden 5; Hastings 1 Plymouth 5.

J.M. Rose Bowl: Northumberland 1 Castleford, Pontefract 5; Leicester ?? Wolverhampton ??; Chelmsford 2 Newbury 5; Woolwich 0 Plymouth 5.

Carter Cup: Sunderland 0 Sheffield 6; Nottingham 2 Birmingham 5; Ipswich 5 Reigate, Redhill 4; Tunbridge Wells 2 Launceston 5.

Bromfield Trophy: Preston 5 Ormesby 2; Leamington Spa 4 Leicester 5; Chelmsford 7 Willesden 2; Bournemouth 4 Plymouth 5.

OBITUARIES

DAVE JONES

An appreciation by Brian Halliday

BERKSHIRE mourns the loss of one of its finest and best loved players. Dave Jones was a product of the golden age of the game and his special talents were appreciated and admired wherever he played.

He was a respected opponent who has graced our local leagues in Berkshire for many years. Numerous local successes came his way but it was not so much the winning but the manner and style of winning that won him so very many friends. Here was a player with a grace and flair not often seen in these days of the third ball kill. He had the skill and touch envied by friend and foe alike and was always gracious to those of us who he defeated with such monotonous regularity.

He recently regained the coveted Berkshire Veterans No 1 ranking position, as a result of a wonderful season's table tennis where he was playing as well as ever.

In the last few years his talents reached a wide audience through VETTS and there are now many players and officials from all over England who join Berkshire in their sorrow at his passing.

My personal memories of him are many, however one of our very best moments came in Rimini last year when I partnered our own 'Evergreen Maestro' to the quarter finals of the Vets World Doubles. That was a very special time for Dave and I. On behalf of all veteran players, and all who knew and played against Dave, I offer Barbara and family my deep and heartfelt sympathy.

TONY MILLER

by RON CRAYDEN

YET another dark cloud cast its shadow over the Surrey table tennis scene when Tony Miller, a star from the past, died in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, on 11th March.

Peak

Tony reached his peak in the early fifties, when pimpled rubber bats and defensive tactics were the norm, rather than the exception. He was a 'no frills, no flops' competitor, a dour, defensive player with a strong fighting spirit. Many experts considered him to be the best player never to win an International badge, although he came desperately close in 1953 when chosen as a reserve against Scotland and then later in the season, reserve for England's Swaythling Cup team.

Victories

Although he chalked up several Open Tournament victories his major successes were made in the National County Championships. His contemporaries in the Surrey Premier team were all fully fledged Internationals, yet Tony managed to hold a position in the team for several seasons and in 1956, when Surrey were the National Champions, he won many important matches.

The funeral service was held at the Church of the Holy Name, Esher, on 20th March.

NEXT ISSUE:

— Last of the season

★ ENGLAND DEFEATED —

John Woodford in Wurzburg

★ COUNTY CHAMPIONSHIPS —

The campaign round-up

★ ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN

Late report from Newcastle

★ COUNCIL ERUPTION —

Top men walk out

★ RICHARD EATON

His last story of the season

★ ROY MOORE

Fleet Street doyen on the Sports Aid Foundation

CANCELLED

THE Droylsden 2-star senior open optimistically planned for Saturday May 30th has been cancelled. Organiser Joe Beadle reports insufficient sponsorship funds to proceed.

NORTH WALES

Continued from Page 36, col. 4

English Counties Championships Junior division 3A

Played at Castell Alun Sports Centre, Hope, near Wrexham, Saturday 28th February 1987. Wins for Clwyds Boys trio Spencer Harris, Kris Mouldsdale and Nigel Roberts and Natasha Williams gave hopes of a home win, however Lincolnshire had other ideas and with Jason Williams winning two singles and with Jonathan Rowson the doubles and their girls Helen Stephens and Sally Johnson their doubles and also singles wins from Jonathan Rowson and Helen Stephens the visitors just pipped Clwyd to win by 6 sets to 4.

Results

Spencer Harris lt Jason Williams - 16, -9; Nigel Roberts b Neil Smith 17, 15; Kris Mouldsdale b Jonathan Rowson 22, 22; Natasha Williams/Tracy Sambrook lt Helen Stephens/Sally Johnson - 16, -20; Kris Mouldsdale/Spencer Harris lt Jason Williams/Jonathan Rowson - 16, -20; Harris b Smith 17, 14; N Williams b Johnson - 20, 15, 16; Mouldsdale lt J Williams - 15, -19; Sambrook lt Stephens 14, -14, -8; Roberts lt Rowson - 18, -14.

STOP PRESS

STIGA GP FINALS: There is a third and final change of date. The new date for your diary is Saturday, May 9th, venue is Stantonbury Leisure Centre, Bletchley, starting 10 a.m. Mens and womens only, 8 men and 8 women, finals 4 p.m. This change is to avoid a clash with the Bristol 2-star.

WALES TO HOST 1989 COMMONWEALTH

WALES will host the 9th Commonwealth Championships in Cardiff in March 1989, prior to the World Championships in Dortmund. The event will be sponsored by Butterfly Europa, and will take the place of the Welsh Open, which would have been organised in that year. Wales hosted the Second Commonwealth Championships in 1973 prior to the 32nd World Championships in Sarajevo.

COTSWOLD SELECT -

On Page 35 in the last issue there is a correction to the result of the Under 14 girls final: The winner was Joanna Roberts who, we are told, beat Helen Potts 14, -18, 16.

This error was wrong information supplied.