

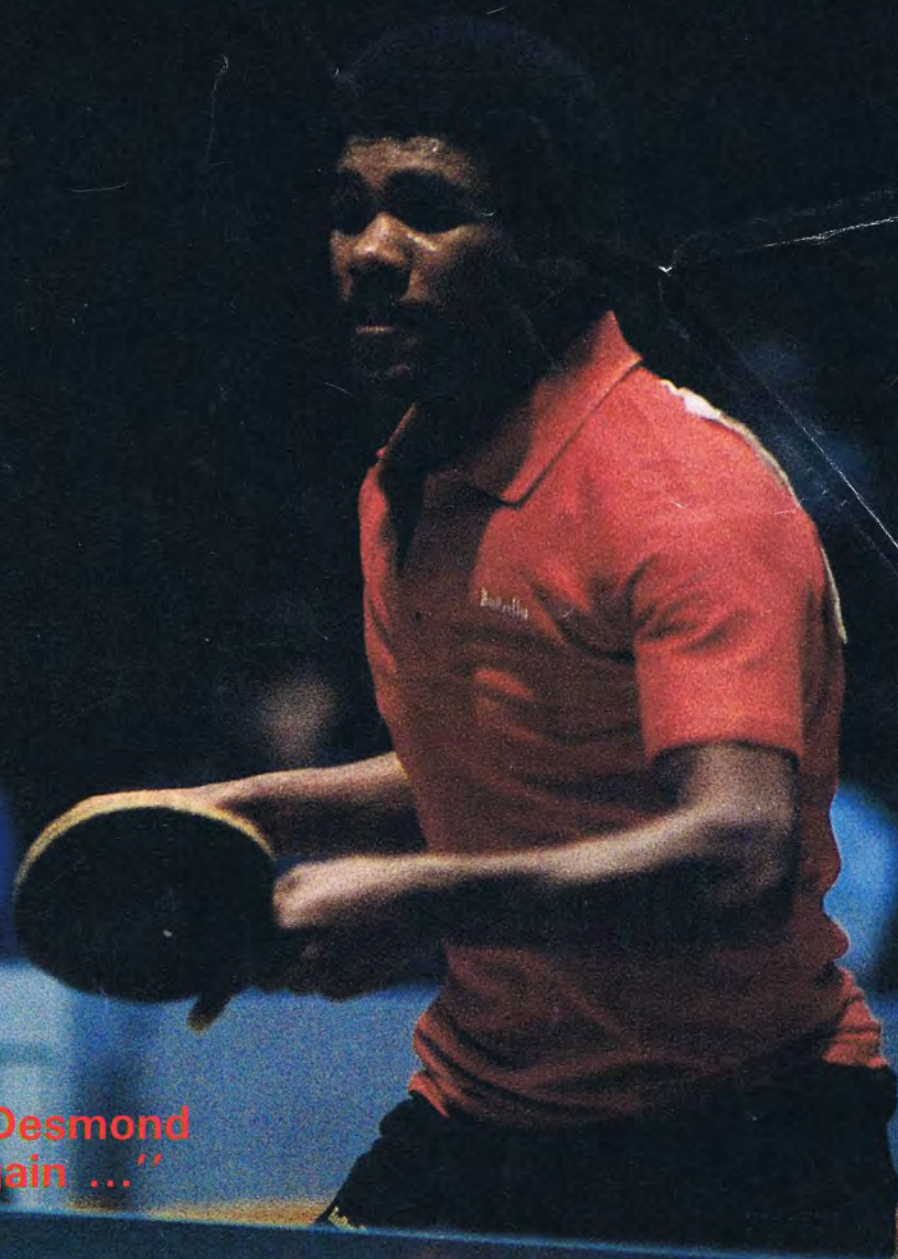


Table Tennis News

No. 164

FEBRUARY 1987

80p



*"Dazzling Desmond
does it again ..."*

JAQUES

**NATIONALS WON ON JAQUES.
The Best? — of Course!**

**John
Jaques**

Whiter than snow?

THE long running argument of whether tobacco sponsorship has a place in sport took another twist on 19th January when sports minister Richard Tracey announced a new 'voluntary' three year agreement between the tobacco industry and the government. Mixed reactions at the time included that of Sports Council vice chairman and Olympic champion Sebastian Coe who noted that this source now represents less than 10% of the money pumped into British sport and CCPR General Secretary, Peter Lawson who said "If the government will not make it illegal then they should leave sport to make up its own mind." ASH (Action on Smoking and Health) have welcomed the agreement which will effectively diminish the visual presence of tobacco sponsors at sporting events, ensure that larger warning signs accompany advertisements, prevent the advertising link by association between sports performers and smoking and put an end to tobacco sponsorship of events aimed at young audiences.

So where do we stand in the tobacco v sport v morals triangle? At the moment we are whiter than snow - but it should be said that this is more by accident than by design. Last season the ETTA National Council agreed on a midway stance, that is to say we do not actively seek tobacco sponsorship but we are open to offers. And so to a new dilemma. You - the members - want to see more televised table tennis, our negotiators have a commercial TV opportunity - do we consider tobacco sponsorship? Mailbox awaits your comments.

So you never thought that you would play for England? Well, maybe not at the table but you are certainly needed to lend your enthusiastic support when the English team line up against Federal Germany on 9th April in Wurzburg. Our latest member service is a fabulous 3 day, 2 night executive coach tour for those of you looking for an exciting springtime break. For only £125 you can be there to see our champions fight their way back to European supremacy. So don't be a stuffed shirt, grab your flag and your deutschmarks and get going - all enquiries to me on 0424 433121.

FIONA BROWN

NEARLY a thousand people at Crawley Leisure Centre on January 24 for the finals of the Triumph Adler English National Championships was we all fervently hope, an omen of an upsurge in the fortunes of table tennis in Britain. Other venues have tried hard with this event. Even ardent Northerners will admit that the crowds when they do turn up, are usually in the South. True, there was a brand new European Top-12 champion of Europe in action and that must also have accounted for some extra people. Those who know the venue will agree it is excellent. The curtaining of the walls must have cost a lot of money, but the more relaxed and slightly plush atmosphere produced at Crawley puts it in a class of its own.

JOHN WOODFORD



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

Editor:
JOHN WOODFORD

Associate Editor:
FIONA BROWN

Advertisements:
Fiona Brown

Subscriptions and distribution:
Beth Davies

ETTA, 21 Claremont,
Hastings TN34 1HF.
Tel: 0424 433121

COPY DATES

March 12 1987
Issue 166 April 1987

April 12 1987
Issue 167 May 1987

Printed by:
Thomas Hill Print (1985) Ltd.
Bishop Auckland
Tel. (0388) 607511

Contents

	<i>Page</i>
Courtside	2
Triumph Adler English Nationals — John Woodford	3
Slaughter at the Europe-Asia tournament — George Yates	5
National Junior Ranking Trials — Mike Watts	6
Mason wins the Stiga South of England — Michael Green	7
The Man at the Wheel — vice-chairman Brian Spicer	7
European Top-12 — John Woodford in Basle	8, 9
Schildkrot British League — Fiona Brown	10, 11
European League	13
Swedish Tactics to Change — Richard Eaton	15
Vetts National Team Event — Mike Watts	15
Lentec Computer Ranking Lists	16, 37
Modernise or Die — Chairman John Prean	17
County Notes	19, 20, 21, 22, 23
Schools as effective venues — David Lomas	25
Coaching — Des Opens the Door — Tony Russe	26
Batorfi's high-toss service — Nobuhiko Hasegawa	27
News from Wales, Scotland and Ireland	28
Fliura Bulatova — spotlight by Eduard Frimerman	29
Workshop points the way, Membership drive — Norman Davison	30
Picture Parade	31
Crossword with another fine prize	32
Mailbox, a pile of letters this month	33, 34, 36



SIDE COURTSIDE

Compiled by
FIONA BROWN &
JOHN WOODFORD

Thumbs up for John

AN old injury, sustained many years ago as a soccer goalie has been holding up our Chairman's phenomenal correspondence output. The thumb injury has been reactivated by the continual typing that has been required merely to answer letters from well wishers! But do not fear - technology is at hand and the intrepid dictaphone will come to his rescue.

Pessimists?

SUPPORT from the regional press continues to maintain high levels. The East Anglian Daily Times is a good example of a smart three column-spread for the Clacton League.

Spare a thought for the ironic name-tag attached to the very bottom team in the bottom division of the Clacton League - Optimists - who have lost all seven matches played but they have gained 5 points which suggests a scoring system of a point per game.

It is interesting how the points scoring in local leagues shows many variations. Years ago of course, it was almost invariably the old football format of 2 points for a win, 1 for a draw, but the vast majority of leagues have now graduated to other systems.

A Cross Word on Crosswords

To the solvers of Newcastle-upon-Tyne, and Elsa, Mark and Lynda

Smith in particular. The compiler is wondering how you can split a tracksuit four ways!

There is no objection to people putting their heads together, but we will not accept four entries in the same handwriting - that was not the intention of allowing photocopies. The idea was to encourage entries from TTN addicts who did not want to mutilate their magazines!

Which is best?

WHETHER the West German or Swedish National Leagues will benefit an English player most is of course, arguable. The Germans have Persson, Grubba, Waldner, Lindh, Orłowski and until recently Xu Zen Cai with (incredibly) Liang Ge Liang and Surbek playing in the second division.

There is no doubt that Carl Prean's reverse commuting from Germany to England is paying dividends but likewise Alan Cooke is also showing steady advancement by playing and practicing regularly with the top Swedes.

Trivial answer?

WE hope the distributors of the obviously highly successful game Trivial Pursuits will be able to make corrections when they find that their answers are incorrect.

One table tennis enthusiast has pointed out a gross error in a question on table tennis in the "Genus" edition. How many people have spotted the mistake? The question is "What colour shirts must table tennis players

wear in official competition"? The "Answer" is given as "black". We all know that is incorrect and no doubt the ETTA will complain accordingly.

Speculation

It is interesting to speculate as to how the wrong answer came into being. Our theory is that the regulations banning at one time, light coloured clothing, were roughly interpreted as "black". There is also a suspicion that this matter may have a connection with the USA where we believe that the game is widely marketed and originated.

Maps question symbols

Another question on the same card refers to a symbol convention on Ordnance Survey maps, which again may point to an American origin. The USA not being into the world table tennis scene like many other nations could account for the error.

My life in their hands

was the rather nerve racking feeling that Desmond Douglas experienced as the 1987 Europe Top 12 drew to a close. "My last match was a 3-0 win so the title rested on the outcome of the game between Sweden's Jan Ove Waldner and Andrzej Grubba of Poland and it was a real nailbiter - I have never felt so helpless in controlling my own destiny." Thankfully Waldner went on to win the match and after three 2nd place finishes Desmond became champion.

Rugger scores a try over table tennis!

THE Butterfly Welsh Open is off. Scheduled for the National Sports Centre of Wales from April 1-4, the event has had to give way to the Wales v Ireland Rugger special at Cardiff Arms Park. It is a long story of problems with hotel beds which Roy and Nancy Evans might like to offer a detailed account, but the short version is that Cardiff does not have a lot of hotel accommodation. There is no way that 170 table tennis people could have been accommodated with the rugger people who no doubt, will pay more money and swamp the city. The rugger match was switched to April because of the bad weather in January.

STOP PRESS!

As TTN goes to press there is news that the Association of Table Tennis Players have made a very late attack in a letter to the ETTA. The main points are allegations of discrimination against Joy Grundy by not picking her for India, faulting the selectors for only sending three women to New Delhi and generally taking the ETTA to task financially. For news of the ETTA's reply see the next issue of this magazine.

Fiona's Farewell

FIONA BROWN, Associate Editor of this magazine, Development Officer for the ETTA and Press Liaison executive is bidding farewell to England and emigrating to Canada. She will be leaving for Canada at the end of February. With her will go the best wishes of all those who have worked with her for the last three years in table tennis.

Her efforts with Table Tennis News were especially valuable to me. For the rest of the season it will be almost a one-man-band again. Next season the team will have to be reformed if we are to continue to progress with the magazine.

Delays in publication

THE January issue was delayed for two reasons (a) late copy from a prominent advertiser in the North of England (b) various delays concerning the weather which at one stage blocked the lines on which copy was flowing back and forth from our printers in Bishop Auckland to Hastings. Since then the post has been delayed, many letters taking a week or ten days to reach destinations.

This has caused some delay in the preparation of material for this edition. We apologise for any inconvenience this may have caused our readers.

Triumph Adler English National Championships

A thousand cheer Des and Fiona to victory

by John Woodford

CRAWLEY 1987 should go down in the history of the sport in England as the week-end when English table tennis came in from the cold. I believe the event was a major triumph. We had a brand new European Top-12 champion in Desmond Douglas. We had a new women's English champion, Fiona Elliot and we had a record-breaking crowd of nearly a thousand.

The standard of play was extremely high and regrettably we were unable to persuade television to attend. How well the unforgettable semi-final clash between Skylet Andrew and Douglas would have shown on the television screen. The anguish of Skylet after he failed to clinch a match-point in the fifth game's dying seconds was portrayed in a photograph in "The Daily Telegraph".

Desmond's tenth title - nine in a row - was achieved without him reaching his very best form as he did in Switzerland when he scalped most of Europe. Skylet now joins the elite squad with Alan Cooke and Carl Preat who have the ammunition to topple him. "They are getting closer all the time" said Des after his victory.

The man who was at his side in Birmingham during the early stages of his rise to fame Alan Murray said, "Any more games like this and I shall need valium" referring to the scorching efforts by Skylet in the semi-final and then Alan Cooke in the final to dislodge the "king" from his throne.

Further comments as Douglas and Cooke faced the media after the men's singles final: Douglas: "I was under a lot of pressure in the two final rounds, really, I should not have won against Skylet." Cooke: Des does not give anyone time to settle down, I take time to get into a rhythm."

Waiting talent

Cooke's counter-hitting from half-distance against some of the best of Douglas's shots was quite remarkable stuff. What talent we now have waiting to take the England throne - Cooke, Andrew, Preat - in no particular order - which one will be the next champion?

Top bunch

And now we could have a fourth man joining the top bunch of challengers - Nicky Mason of Surrey and Bexhill who startled the crowds in the quarter-finals by providing the biggest shock of the last day - his first win over Carl Preat 21-16, 15-21, 10-21, 21-17, 22-20. In the last game, the young man from Bad Hamm led 19-16 with service to come but wilted as Mason threw caution aside and blasted his way through to what could be a higher England ranking than No 7.

Fiona's future?

Watching all season the England selectors picking Lisa Bellinger and Fiona Elliot for the European League matches has made me wonder. Lisa and Fiona are of course, the only full-time women at the top of the England tree.

It is no coincidence that they met in the final after Bellinger foiled Joy Grundy and Elliot took out Alison Gordon, both in five-game thrillers. The two professionals Lisa and Fiona have emerged as the selectors may have been predicting, to the top. It is almost impossible to stay on top if you have to keep rushing back to normal work, it is physically and mentally exhausting, full-time is the answer.

Fiona Elliot believes that turning full-time has put five points on her game. Her performance at Crawley confirms the theory. What was also fascinating was to see cascades of flat-hitting that choppers thrive on top-spin so why not do it without the top-spin? However, in the final, the Wolverhampton lass was always in command to such an extent that the only way out for Lisa was to attack. Whilst her attack is clearly superior to her illustrious predecessor Jill Hammersley-Parker, it was hardly strong enough to match the speedy attack of the winner.

Media interest

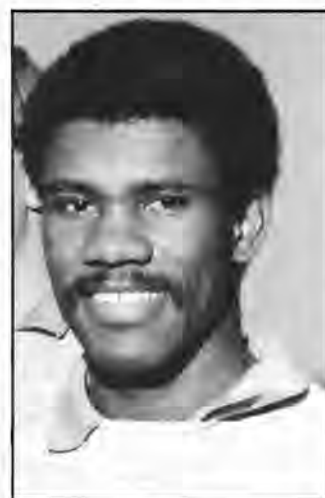
One of the snags of watching as a pressman is that doubles competitions hardly exist, as all the media interest is in the singles. When the doubles matches take-over we usually retire either to the Press centre or the bar.

However, there is no doubt that the win by Andrew and Mason over Douglas and Preat in the semi-finals of the mens doubles was the outstanding doubles victory of the championship. Added local interest came for Sussex fans when Adrian Moore and Lisa Bellinger stormed into the finals of the mixed doubles where Skylet Andrew and the new champion Fiona Elliot did not have a difficult task to win.

One fault

The venue was delightful, a big improvement on Oldham and Bletchley. The only major fault in the organisation at Crawley was an attempt by the relatively inexperienced referee John Openshaw to run the singles events last at the finals session.

A united plea by the media men present to bring the singles into the middle of the programme was met half-way, by placing the mixed at the end. On a Sunday particularly, new technology in Fleet Street and Wapping means that sports editors will not wait even for a 6.00 p.m. finish. The referee's decision lost the media several larger spaces in what is now an expanding scene, but I will have more to say in a later issue on this continuous problem for the sport.



Desmond Douglas



Fiona Elliot

THE RESULTS

Mens singles

Round 3 - Desmond Douglas (Wa) b Paul Whiting (Dv) 11, 7, 14; John Souter (Mi) b Sean Gibson (La) 4, 9, 15; Jimmy Stokes (Bk) b Stephen Dorking (E) 13, 14, 15; Skylet Andrew (E) b Matthew Syed (Bk) - 14, 16, 18, -17, 17; Carl Preat (IoW) b Bradley Billington (Dy) 13, 13, 9; Nicky Mason (Sy) b Kevin Satchell (Av) 18, 14, -21, 13; Steve Mills (Y) b John Hilton (La) 17, -15, 18, -22, 14; Alan Cooke (Dy) b Graham Sandley (Mi) 8, -17, 11, 14.

Quarter finals - Douglas b Souter 17, 8, 14; Andrew b Stokes 14, 11, -19, 19; Mason b Preat 16, -15, -10, 17, 20; Cooke b Mills 8, -17, 11, 14.

Semi finals - Douglas b Andrew - 19, -16, 16, 19, 21; Cooke b Mason 13, 10, 11.

Final: Douglas b Cooke 12, 15, -13, -18, 17.

Womens singles

Round 2 - Lisa Bellinger (Bd) b Juliet Houghton (K) 6, -17, 9, 4; Andrea Holt (La) b Teresa Moore (Sx) 11, 13, 13; Mandy Sainsbury (Bk) b Suzanne Airey (Li) 13, 14, -18, 10; Joy Grundy (La) b Helen Bardwell (Hu) 15, 15, 13; Fiona Elliot (St) b Claire Potts (Ch) -16, 19, 17, -17, 14; Jean Parker (La) b Jill Harris (St) 18, 20, -13, 8; Karen Smith (Le) b Jackie Bellinger (Bd) 13, 19, 16; Alison Gordon (Bk) b Kerry Hall (Dy) 7, 15, 11.

Quarter finals - Bellinger b Holt 14, 13, 9; Grundy b Sainsbury - 15, 20, 13, 15; Elliot b Parker 18, 15, 11; Gordon b

Smith - 19, 16, 13, 14.

Semi finals - Bellinger b Grundy - 19, 17, -20, 12, 12; Elliot b Gordon 18, 20, 19.

Final - Elliot b Bellinger 19, 16, 16.

Mens doubles

Quarter finals - Desmond Douglas/Carl Preat (Wa/IoW) b Paul Whiting/Paul Giles (Dv/Dv) 17, 17; Skylet Andrew/Nicky Mason (E/Sy) b Chris Rogers/Steve Mills (Le/Y) 16, 13; John Souter/Colin Wilson (Mi/Mi) b Glen Baker/Max Crimmins (Sy/Sy) 19, 15; Jimmy Stokes/Alan Cooke (Bk/Dy) b John Hilton/Graham Sandley (La/Mi) 18, 15.

Semi finals - Andrew/Mason b Douglas/Preat - 16, 17, 17; Souter/Wilson b Stokes/Cooke 23, 15.

Final - Andrew/Mason b Souter/Wilson 13, 4.

Womens doubles

Semi finals - Jill Harris/Fiona Elliot (St/St) b Karen Smith/Suzanne Airey (Le/Li) 16, -14, 14; Jackie Bellinger/Lisa Bellinger (Bd/Bd) b Joy Grundy/Jean Parker (La/La) - 11, 11, 15.

Final - Bellinger/Bellinger b Harris/Elliot - 14, 20, 19.

Mixed doubles

Semi finals - Skylet Andrew/Fiona Elliot (E/St) b John Souter/Jill Harris (Mi/St) 15, 11; Adrian Moore/Lisa Bellinger (Sx/BD) b Nicky Mason/Mandy Sainsbury (Sy/Bk) 18, 18.

Final - Andrew/Elliot b Moore/Bellinger 16, 12.

SLAUGHTER AT THIRTEEN VENUES

by George R. Yates, General Secretary of the ETTU

FROM as far north in Japan as Morioka to as far south as Kurume, no less than 12 cities hosted the team events in the second Euro-Asia confrontation with Tokyo providing the thirteenth venue for the individual events — and all within the span of seven hectic days!

It all began on December 9 when, on arrival at Narita Airport, the European party was split into four groups which, after lunch, departed for Hohfu, Kurume, Saga and Akita. And so it went on, living in a suitcase, and taking in Nishinomiya, Miyazu, Tokushima, Morioka, Iwaki Chiba, Kohfu and, finally, Tokyo and the Keio Plaza Hotel of world championships renown.

But, despite the travel involved by air and road, hospitality was of the highest order which went some way to compensate for the results which went decidedly in favour of Asia both in the team events and the individuals. The Asians certainly had their revenge from their overall defeat, back in January in Rome, Eindhoven and Paris.

From the original selections England's Desmond Douglas and Carl Prean, together with Milan Orlowski of Czechoslovakia, all had reasons for declining their invitations as had Csilla Batorfi of Hungary, Olga Nemes of Federal Germany, Bettine Vriesekoop of the Netherlands, Otilia Badescu and Maria Alboiu of Romania, Edit Urban and Zsuzsa Olah of Hungary and Elena Kovtun of the Soviet Union.

One victory

Small wonder then that the women in the team events won only one of nine matches and that by Europe I against Asia III. But, in twelve male team encounters, Europe managed four wins including two successes for Europe I against Asia III and Asia I, the latter 5-4 in their concluding match in Chiba where Jan-Ove Waldner won three and Andrzej Grubba and Jorgen Persson one each.

China had it all to themselves in the individual events with Chen Longcan the men's victor, earning himself 5,000 US dollars, and Dai Lili winning the counterpart women's event and picking up 3,000 US dollars.

Of the Europeans Waldner reached the semi-finals and Eric

Lindh the quarters, the latter sorely troubled by a shoulder injury sustained in the second team match after having a maximum in the opening match when he accounted for Jiang Jialiang, Chen Longcan and Chu Jong Chol!

Europe's stars in the team events were Tibor Klampar of Hungary and Jacques Secretin of France both with an aggregate of 7 wins to 1 loss with Waldner having a 6-2 aggregate.

Wu Wen Chia of Chinese Taipei had a 7-1 aggregate for Asia with Chen Longcan winning seven and losing two. In the women's matches Hyun Jung Hwa of Korea DR chalked up an 8-0 aggregate, Li Bun Hui of Korea PR (6-0) and Jiao Zhimin of China (5-0).

Thiriet wins

But, despite a nil return in the team matches, Brigitte Thiriet of France must be commended on her victory over Fliura Bulatova of the Soviet Union in the women's singles having previously beaten Kyoko Uchiyama of Japan.

Overseen, in the main, by Ichiro Ogimura, the Japanese Association are to be commended on the successful execution of their task whilst Li Furong of China, on behalf of the Asian Union, could equally be delighted with the end result albeit all competitors were thoroughly exhausted come the final curtain at the farewell party.

Memories for me was in meeting up with my Japanese friend Shojiro Ogata in his native Kureme City, another visit to Mr Tamasu's Butterfly Dohjo and meeting up with my co-officers, Mihovil Kapetanic, Lollo Hammarlund and Henk van Dilst and exchanging experiences with them when we all reunited in Tokyo.

All internal air travel in Japan was undertaken in Jumbo 747's such being the volume of passengers seemingly ever on the move. But, then again, so were we!



Lisa Bellinger in Japan.

INDIVIDUAL EVENTS

Mens singles

Round 1: T Klampar (HUN) b T Watanabe (JPN) 11, 15, 12; Ahn Jae Hyung (KDR) b M Appelgren (SWE) 17, 16, 17; Wu Wen Chia (TPE) b J Pansky (TCH) — 20, 16, — 20, 15, 14; Kim Song Hui (PRK) b Z Kalinic (YUG) 15, 19, 19; L Kucharski (POL) b Chu Jong Chol (PRK) — 20, 18, — 17, 15, 21; K Matsushita (JPN) b A Mazunov (URS) 11, 16, — 15, 16; Yoo Nam Kyu (KDR) b J Secretin (FRA) 17; — 21, 17, 18; Yang Jianhua (CHN) b Z Kriston (HUN) 11, — 17, 15, 18.

Round 2: Jiang Jialiang (CHN) b Klampar 14, 14, 19; A Grubba (POL) b Ahn Jae Hyung 13, — 15, 15, 13; Teng Yi (CHN) b Wu Wen Chia 11, 18, 15; J-O Waldner (SWE) b Kim Song Hui 14, 20, 13; Chen Longcan (CHN) b Kucharski — 19, 16, 13, — 10, 11; E Lindh (SWE) b Matsushita 15, 16, 17; Y Miyazaki (JPN) b Yoo Nam Kyu 19, — 22, — 17, 19, 20; Yang Jianhua b J Persson (SWE) — 16, 15, — 16, 14, 13.

Quarter-finals: Jiang Jialiang b Grubba 14, 15, 18; Waldner b Teng Yi 11, 19, — 12, 12; Chen Longcan b Lindh — 22, 13 (Lindh retired); Miyazaki b Yang Jianhua 23, 17, — 10, — 13, 20.

Semi-finals: Jiang Jialiang b Waldner 17, 9, 19; Chen Longcan b Miyazaki 13, 20, 16.

Final: Chen Longcan b Jiang Jialiang 13, — 20, 20, 14.

Womens singles

Round 1: K Ishida (JPN) b B Wiktorsson (SWE) — 18, 16, 20, 5; B Batinic (YUG) b Lee Kye Sun (KDR) 20, 13, — 18, 8; B Thiriet (FRA) b K Uchiyama (JPN) 21, — 18, — 17, 19, 18; D Guerguelcheva (BUL) b Cho Jong Hui (PRK) 16, 13, 13.

Round 2: Jiao Zhimin (CHN) b Ishida 16, 5, 7; M Hrachova (TCH) b M Kit-sukawa (JPN) 12, 9, 12; M Hoshino (JPN) b M Kloppenburg (HOL) 13, 15, 20; Li Bun Hui (PRK) b Batinic 12, 13, 15; Thiriet b F Bulatova (URS) — 13, 19, 10, — 15, 18; Li Huifeng (CHN) b S Grefberg (FIN) 13, 14, 11; Hyun Jung Hwa (KDR) b L Bellinger (ENG) 12, 9,

13; Dai Lili (CHN) b Guerguelcheva 14, 15, 18.

Quarter-finals: Jiao Zhimin b Hrachova — 17, — 18, 10, 13, 14; Li Bun Hui b Hoshino — 17, 9, 13, 13; Li Huifeng b Thiriet 12, 6, 13; Dai Lili b Hyun Jung Hwa 14, 19, — 17, — 20, 13.

Semi-finals: Jiao Zhimin b Li Bun Hui — 18, 14, 17, 17; Dai Lili b Li Huifeng 16, 19, 18.

Final: Dai Lili b Jiao Zhimin 18, 19, 16.

INDIVIDUAL RECORDS

Men

Asia I: Jiang Jialiang 5-4, Chen Longcan 7-2, Chu Jong Chol 1-8; 13-14. Asia II: Kim Song Hui 5-2, Teng Yi 5-3, Yang Jianhua 5-2; 15-7. Asia III: Ahn Jae Hyung 1-7, Y Miyazaki 4-4, Yoo Nam Kyu 5-3; 10-14. Asia IV: Wu Wen Chia 7-1, K Matsushita 4-3, Kim Ki Taek 4-5; 15-9 — 53-44.

Europe I: J-O Waldner 6-2, A Grubba 3-5, J Persson 3-6; 12-13. Europe II: E Lindh 3-5, M Appelgren 3-5, L Kucharski 4-4; 10-14. Europe III: A Mazunov 3-5, T Klampar 7-1, Z Kalinic 3-5; 13-11. Europe IV: J Pansky 1-7, Z. Kriston 1-7, J Secretin 7-1; 9-15 — 44-53.

Women

Asia I: Li Bun Hui 6-0, Jiao Zhimin 5-0, Dai Lili 4-2; 15-2. Asia II: M Hoshino 5-1, Lee Kye Sun 2-3, Hyun Jung Hwa 8-0; 15-4. Asia III: Cho Jong Hui 4-3, Li Huifeng 6-1, K Ishida 2-2, K Uchiyama 2-0; 14-6 — 44-12.

Europe I: M Hrachova 2-5, F Bulatova 2-5, S Grefberg 2-4; 6-14. Europe II: B Batinic 1-5, D Guerguelcheva 2-5, L Bellinger 0-3; 3-15. Europe III: M Kloppenburg 2-5, B Wiktorsson 1-4, B Thiriet 0-6; 3-15 — 12-44.

TEAM EVENTS

Results of the Euro-Asia team competitions are on page 24

National Junior Ranking Trials

JOANNA THE STAR

by Mike Watts

THE National Junior Ranking Trials which took place over the weekend of the 3rd/4th January at Lilleshall were probably the most successful ever organised. Play ran smoothly on both days and, thanks to the co-operation of all the players, finished two hours early on Saturday and one and a half hours early on Sunday. The addition of table stewards helped tremendously and they worked very hard; the only problem was the use of two tables per group on the Sunday - a lesson to be learned for next year not to have more than eight players in a group.

The star of the weekend was undoubtedly young Joanna Roberts from Leeds in Yorkshire. Playing in the Cadet Girls on Saturday she comfortably won all her 7 games with an impressive 14-2 sets average and then proceeded to win the knockout stage, her final opponent being Helen Wright from Plymouth in Devon 10-21, 21-15, 21-16. However her finest moment came on the Sunday. With aching limbs she began the Junior Girls groups and amazed everyone by winning the group with a 7-1 games average including a 12-21, 21-11, 22-20 win over Kerry Hall from Chesterfield, Derbyshire. Her only loss was to Nicola McGrath from Preston in

Lancashire. In the knockouts she then beat Julie Norman from Berkshire before finally losing in the semi finals to Claire Potts from Cheshire.

The Junior Boys ran to form with most of the top seeds qualifying. Unfortunately Matthew Syed withdrew after five rounds with a knee injury allowing reserve Michael Malcolm from Lancashire who only got in when a player failed to arrive going through in first place. At the knockout stage Mark Ward from Sheffield caused the major shock knocking out Chris Oldfield 23-21 in the third and then nearly did it again losing only 21-19 in the third to Michael O'Driscoll. The final was won by O'Driscoll beating Bradley Billington 19-21, 21-17, 21-15.

The Cadet Boys Singles featured Leigh Jeffries from Warwickshire who accounted for Gary Knight from Staffordshire 21-9, 20-22, 21-16.

Results

Junior boys - Group 1 Winner M Malcolm (Lancs) Runner up D Sneyd (Lancs); Group 2 Winner B Billington (Derby) Runner up M Ward (Yorks); Group 3 Winner M O'Driscoll (Yorks) Runner up T Cutler (Middx); Group 4 Winner S

Gibson (Lancs) Runner up D Holland (Essex); Group 5 Winner C Oldfield (Yorks) Runner up J Taylor (Cheshire); Group 6 Winner J Holland (Notts) Runner up W Renton (Lancs); Group 7 Winner A Ball (Yorks) Runner up A Thorpe (Staffs); Group 8 Winner M Pernet (Surrey) Runner up N Pickard (Norfolk).

Round 1 - M O'Driscoll b D Sneyd 11, 13; M Ward b C Oldfield 12, -18, 17; A Ball b N Pickard 22, -12, 16; S Gibson b W Renton 8, 18; J Taylor b M Malcolm 7, 18; M Pernet b T Cutler 20, 19; J Holland b D Holland 14, 18; B Billington b A Thorpe 8, 13.

Quarter final - M O'Driscoll b M Ward 12, -22, 19; S Gibson b A Ball 10, 17; J Taylor b M Pernet 16, -9, 12; B Billington b J Holland 10, 17.

Semi final - M O'Driscoll b S Gibson 13, -21, 14; B Billington b J Taylor 11, 8.

Final - M O'Driscoll b B Billington -19, 17, 15.

Junior girls - Group 1 Winner A Holt Runner up J Norman; Group 2 Winner J Roberts Runner up K Hall; Group 3 Winner D Toole Runner up C Potts; Group 4 Winner M Carey Runner up H Lower.

Quarter finals - K Hall b A Holt -18, 14, 21; D Toole b H Lower 13, 18; C Potts b M Carey 16, 14; J Roberts b J Norman 19, -16, 19.

Semi final - K Hall b D Toole 20, 16; C Potts b J Roberts 15, 11.

Final - C Potts b K Hall 10, -12, 19.

Kerry Hall survived a 20-17 in the third deficit against Andrea Holt and then was 20-18 down in the first against Debbie Toole.

Cadet boys singles - Group 1 Winner L Jeffries Runner up G Solder; Group 2 Winner G Knight Runner up A Cole; Group 3 Winner A Eden Runner up P Bowler; Group 4 Winner M Bawden Runner up J Patterson.

Quarter finals - L Jeffries b A Cole 18, 14; A Eden b J Patterson 15, -20, 20; P Bowler b M Bawden 14, -16, 18; G Knight b G Solder 15, -15, 14.

Semi finals - L Jeffries b A Eden 15, 15; G Knight b P Bowler 19, -15, 16.

Final - L Jeffries b G Knight 9, -20, 16.

Cadet girls singles - Group 1 Winner J Roberts Runner up H Wright; Group 2 Winner Samantha Marling Runner up S Lawton; Group 3 Winner E Meddings Runner up S Pengelly; Group 4 Winner C Buckley Runner up K Goodall.

Quarter finals - J Roberts b K Goodall 9, 20; S Lawton b E Meddings 18, 9; C Buckley b S Pengelly -17, 16, 9; H Wright b Samantha Marling -23, 17, 16.

Semi finals - J Roberts b S Lawton 19, 11; H Wright b C Buckley 22, 19.

Final - J Roberts b H Wright -10, 15, 16.

CONTROLLED POWER

by Alan Cooke in action
and
Automatic Valve Systems
Suppliers of valves and pneumatic
control equipment to industry



Alan Cooke is sponsored
by

Automatic Valve Systems Ltd

Station Road Industrial Estate, Market Bosworth
Nuneaton, Warwickshire CV13 0PE
Tel: Market Bosworth (0455) 290616
Telex: 34352 (AVS G)



Tournaments

Stiga South of England Three Star

SKY'S THE LIMIT FOR MASON!

by Michael Green

MAGNIFICENT Nicky Mason was the undoubted star of the Stiga South of England 3-Star Open, the fourth in the Stiga Grand Prix series, held at Woking Leisure Centre over the weekend of 10th/11th January. Triumphant in both the singles and doubles events, it was the ruthless manner in which he despatched all opposition which was tremendously impressive.

Local press coverage ensured a good spectator following during the afternoon. Most had turned up to view the top seeds Douglas & Bellinger and their absence was a huge disappointment. Scotland's David Hannah was another absentee but there was still plenty of top quality action to enjoy.

Seeded at six, Mason looked to be in superb touch from the off. His lightning quick reflexes saw him easily through to the quarter-final. Here, he faced Skylet Andrew, second seed to Douglas, in what everyone imagined would be a titanic tussle. In fact, it was easily the most one-sided of the quarters with Skylet losing 8-21 13-21 and appearing to be hopelessly out of touch.

Mason's semi-final opponent was Phil Bradbury (Bu) who had only beaten Nigel Eckersley 21-18 in the third to reach that stage. Although Mason flirted with defeat, winning 21-18, 22-20, he always appeared to have something in reserve when it mattered but Bradbury provided Nicky with his toughest test.

The other semi-final was between Yorkshire's Steve Mills, conqueror of Graham Sandley

and Nigel Tyler (Mi). The Welshman had had a superb tournament up to that point defeating defending champion Jimmy Stokes and England's John Souter in a breath-taking quarter-final clash. But the unseeded Mills put a stop to that winning the semi in three games.

One-sided

On paper, a Mills/Mason final was potentially one-sided. Could Steve raise his game ... Well, he couldn't and Nicky cruised to the Stiga South of England title.

Without Lisa, the favourite in the Womens' Singles was certainly Berkshire's Alison Gordon but she was soon dumped out by Yorkshire's Joanne Shaw. Lancastrian Joy Grundy, continuing to show everyone her real worth, won the title with considerable ease beating Mandy Sainsbury (Bk) in the final.

The first round of the Vets saw top seed Ralph Gunnion (Wa) lose to David Seaholme (He) and second seed Henry Buist (K) lose to Ramesh Bhalla (Ha). But order was restored with seeds 3 and 4 contesting the final, Matthew Shearer (Li) defeating Robin Stace (Sx) 21-15, 24-22.



Nicky Mason



Joy Grundy

THE MAN AT THE WHEEL

THE ENTHUSIAST at the helm of the effort to increase publicity of our sport and the image of the game is vice-chairman of public relations, Brian Spicer.

Seen as an aide to Chairman John Prean it means that we can look forward to some smart teamwork, with the experience of the Chairman and the 1980's and 1990's approach to development of Mr Spicer.

His experience includes: Public Relations Committee since 1976, London and South-East Regional Co-ordinating Committee chairman, Tournament organiser in Sussex, National Council or for Sussex, leading consultant on Press Organisation to Norwich Union and Stiga, worldwide experience in Press activities.

With a sound administration and selling flair and background research completed since his appointment as vice chairman in July 1986, he intends to consult with members through this magazine.

He said recently, "In mid-1986 Public Relations in the ETTA was at its lowest ebb. Individuals seeking to take personal credit for achievements found themselves discredited for taking on too much and not using team members.

"No direction was given to the committee, committee costs were too high and there was little to show for the expenditure. London meetings were stopped."

"Fiona Brown, Press Officer lifted the press activity from its knees and saved Table Tennis News from bankruptcy by September.

"She set the style and layout in her own time on top of her full-time activities, paving the way for our experienced journalist colleague John Woodford to become Editor with Fiona's continuing assistance."

"The advertisements on the front cover, sold to create cash input to save the magazine have been skilfully animated and the January issue is rated as the best so far."

"John Prean and the management committee" said Mr Spicer "are keen to promote publicity through the magazine, have meetings with the Press, support four more pages and a free copy to leagues. Fiona Brown has spent most of January and February meeting the Press in Fleet Street and Wapping, an invaluable task.

"I have studied our structure and needs in 1987. We now have a schedule of contacts with Sports Editors, a plan of action and a live management structure to ensure we work to objectives as a team. The results in press cuttings has shown a dramatic improvement. Desmond Douglas as winner of the European Top-12 was just what we needed and his success is no doubt reflected in



Brian Spicer, Vice-chairman PR.

the huge turnout of almost a thousand fans at Crawley at the championships on January 23rd and 24th."

"So to the future, without Fiona Brown who is leaving us for Canada at the end of February, can we survive? I will tell you more in the April issue of Table Tennis News" concluded the PR vice-chairman.

DES BEATS EUROPE AT LAST!

by John Woodford in Basle, Switzerland

DESMOND DOUGLAS succeeded at his eighth attempt to win an exquisite victory, the European Top-12 trophy in Basle on January 4th, after finishing second on three previous occasions. To be on the tournament floor in the dying, dramatic seconds as Jan-Ove Waldner stopped Andrzej Grubba from pipping Douglas at the post was an experience that I shall cherish for a long time.

In the turmoil of congratulations, handshakes, flashing cameras, Desmond's ear-to-ear grin signalled his first ever major European or world victory after trying so hard and with such truly great sportsmanship over some 12 years, years when close followers have always known that he had the armoury, the experience, the nerve to pull it off, although on so many occasions in the past we have seen him falter within sight of the winning post.

There were those who said he would never do it, that he did not have "the bottle". Well, happily, they, the real cynics have been proved wrong although it is rather late in his career - he will be 32 in August.

Hope is here

A bright beacon of hope is now alight in English table tennis. Avid supporters of the new administration shake-up under the heavily dynamic John Prean the new chairman will align this great Douglas victory with the new faces in the corridors of power and say we can go forward from here. Let us hope this comes about - the Douglas coup came at a very convenient time indeed.

Back to the St. Jakob stadium in Basle, seating 7,000 capacity. It attracted 1,500 on the first day, 2,000 on the second and 2,500 on the last day. A fine stadium with high-banked seats - the sort of place you find in many cities on the continent but of course, I have yet to see one of these modern stadiums in Britain, the nearest I have seen is the Brighton Centre.

Those who saw the press reports by Richard Eaton and myself from Basle will know that the tournament was exciting throughout. Douglas suffered a first day defeat by Grubba. At the time this seemed to be a very heavy blow indeed and one from which Desmond might not recover.

However, our impending champion showed great style and determination in literally blasting his way forward to the top of the leaderboard until on the last day, he was caught as he has been caught in the past with a below-par breakfast-time performance by Andrei Mazunov the young Russian champion.

This seemed a deadly set-back. The hearts of the English supporters and those in the Press centre sank. But again the stout-hearted man

from Birmingham prospered scattering the highly-rated Swedish trio of Waldner, Appelgren and finally Ulf Carlsson. Ulf is a great performer in my view. An ungainly stance, a man who can never be ruled out of contention. Douglas made him look like a novice!

Meanwhile Grubba was always looking like a winner until he came up against the 33-year-old Hungarian warhorse Tibor Klampar. Old "Tibby" as he is known to the Hungarian pressmen, did our man a jumbo-sized favour by knocking down the great Grubba.

But the final piece of help for Douglas was the dying seconds battle when Waldner stopped Grubba from winning in tremendous style. Had Grubba beaten Waldner, the Pole would have been the winner on the sole grounds that he beat Douglas, the same ludicrous rule that gave Holland the verdict over England in the relegation battle two seasons back.

LISA BELLINGER

Lisa was there on her debut and for the experience. Her baptism in the Top-12 trenches will surely benefit her. Before play started Donald Parker said he would be delighted if she managed five wins and in fact he was still very pleased indeed with her four wins against Olga Nemes (25-23 in the third) Albiou, Batinic and Guergueltcheva. She lost a match-point against Thiriet, losing 21-23 in the third, which if taken would have given her the target of five.

BEST EVER

The standard of play in Basle was the highest I have seen in Europe. Forecasts that this was the strongest ever Top-12 by Paul Day proved to be right on target.

Comparisons between this event and the European championship itself in Paris next year - are simply the Top-12 is easily the most difficult because you face all your leading rivals, eleven if all fit, ten in this case as Lindh dropped out with an arm injury.

In the European championship, a good draw for a seeded player can mean only about six matches including the final, possibly five and probably only two or three battles with other top players.

END OF
THE RAINBOW
FOR
DESMOND



DESMOND DOUGLAS holds the Top-12 trophy aloft in Basle. Picture: Brian Webster, Dundee.

CARL PREAN

The man from Bad Hamm and the Isle of Wight played his heart out, never looked outclassed, always gave his opponents plenty of trouble but unluckily finished with only one victory over Kriston of Hungary, who was out of his depth most of time.

Prean's disposition in action is improving as are his skills. He has got over the irritating habit of glancing to his captain when he misses a shot and the despairing looks that must have encouraged many of his opponents in the past are now diminishing. I always feel in any

sport if you can appear confident to the opponent even when things are going against you it is worth something!

Glancing through his results on paper, Prean's loss to Appelgren at 24-22 in the fifth shows that he is approaching that class of play and with an age advantage over most of the players and more experience than most, at 19, he must join Alan Cooke in the frame as not only certain English champions of the immediate future, but more than that, success in Europe. Prean was playing in his third Top-12.



ON THE winner's rostrum Desmond Douglas in the centre is flanked by Jan Ove-Waldner who came second and the third placed European champion Jorgen Persson, both from Sweden. Picture: Brian Webster

European Top 12 — 2



CARL PREAN who now commutes to England from West Germany is emerging as a force to be reckoned with world-wide. He stretched most of his opponents in Basle. Picture: Brian Webster, Dundee

PICK OF THE BASLE SCORELINES

TOO Much space has been wasted in this magazine in the past on scores. 24 players over three days play with best of five for the men is too much to record, so each game in each round is shown here without the "full-out" score, but here is a selection of the most interesting scores:

Men - Douglas b Prean 16, 5, 10; Grubba b Douglas 16, 14, 11; Klampar b Prean - 22, 14, - 19, 15, 19; Klampar b Grubba - 17, 14, - 18, 19, 24; Grubba b Prean 18, - 12, 14, - 9, 12; Douglas b Klampar 20, 8, 11; Carlsson b Klampar 13, - 20, 11, 20; Douglas b Appelgren 17, 17, 20; Kucharski b Appelgren - 21, 17, - 8, 17, 20; Mazunov b Douglas 16, 12, - 20, 18; Douglas b Persson 21, - 14, 15, 18; Appelgren b Prean - 17, - 10, 18, 18, 22; Douglas b

Carlsson 16, 10, 12.

Women - Bulatova b Popova - 17, 10, 11; Kovtun b Bulatova 18, 15; Bellinger b Nemes - 13, 15, 23; Popova b Kovtun - 21, 12, 20; Bulatova b Vrieskoop - 11, 18, 17; Kovtun b Bellinger 11, - 19, 14; Bellinger b Guerguelcheva 15, 15; Batorfi b Kovtun 19, 11; Bellinger b Albiou 17, 9; Batorfi b Vrieskoop - 15, 12, 18; Bellinger b Batinic 11, - 19, 17,

QUOTES

DOUGLAS: "I have waited so long for this to happen. I thought my chance had gone early this morning when I lost to Mazunov. I still cannot believe it has happened."

PARKER: "We always knew that Des could pull it. It has taken a long time. All three of our players performed well. Carl could easily have won more games and finished mid-table. It was all valuable experience for the two 19-year-olds."

PREAN: "I am disappointed to finish tenth, but I did not feel I was playing badly."

DAILY TELEGRAPH: (John Woodford) "Throughout the most gruelling tournament in the world Douglas attacked relentlessly. His vast experience, fearsome reputation and superb fitness combined to defeat eight opponents losing to Grubba and Mazunov".

THE RESULTS

Men

Round 1 - Persson b Mazunov 3-0; Lindh b Waldner 0-3; Carlsson b Appelgren 3-1; Grubba b Kucharski 3-1; Douglas b Prean 3-0; Kriston b Klampar 1-3.

Round 2 - Waldner b Carlsson 3-2; Grubba b Douglas 3-0; Prean b Kriston 3-2; Persson b Lindh 3-0; Kucharski b Klampar 3-1; Mazunov b Appelgren 0-3.

Round 3 - Douglas b Kucharski 3-1; Kriston b Grubba 2-3; Klampar b Prean 3-2; Appelgren b Waldner 3-2; Carlsson b Persson 3-1; Lindh b Mazunov 0-3.

Round 4 - Persson b Appelgren 3-1; Grubba b Klampar 2-3; Douglas b Kriston 3-0; Mazunov b Waldner 0-3; Kucharski b Prean 3-1.

Round 5 - Waldner b Persson 3-2; Appelgren b Lindh ???; Carlsson b Mazunov 3-2; Prean b Grubba 2-3; Klampar b Douglas 0-3; Kriston b Kucharski 1-3.

Round 6 - Waldner b Kriston 3-0; Carlsson b Klampar 3-1; Persson b Prean 3-1; Appelgren b Douglas 0-3; Mazunov b Kucharski 3-2.

Round 7 - Waldner b Prean 3-0; Carlsson b Kriston 3-0; Persson b Klampar 3-2; Appelgren b Kucharski 2-3; Mazunov b Grubba 2-3.

Round 8 - Waldner b Klampar 3-0; Carlsson b Prean 3-0; Persson b Kriston 3-0; Appelgren b Grubba 2-3; Mazunov b Douglas 3-1.

Round 9 - Waldner b Kucharski 0-3; Carlsson b Grubba 0-3; Persson b Douglas 1-3; Appelgren b Kriston 1-3; Mazunov b Klampar 1-3.

Round 10 - Waldner b Douglas 0-3; Carlsson b Kucharski 1-3; Persson b Grubba 3-1; Appelgren b Prean 3-2; Mazunov b Kriston 3-1.

Round 11 - Waldner b Grubba 3-0; Carlsson b Douglas 0-3; Persson b Kucharski 1-1; Appelgren b Klampar 3-0; Mazunov b Prean 3-1.

Women

Round 1 - Popova b Bulatova 1-2; Kovtun b Nemes 2-0; Vrieskoop b Bellinger 2-0; Batinic b Albiou 2-1; Thieriet b Guerguelcheva 0-2; Batorfi b Urban 2-0.

Round 2 - Urban b Albiou 2-0; Batinic b Guerguelcheva 0-2; Popova b Bellinger 2-0; Batorfi b Thieriet 2-1; Nemes b Vrieskoop 0-2; Kovtun b Bulatova 2-0.

Round 3 - Thieriet b Urban 0-2; Bellinger b Nemes 2-1; Albiou b Guerguelcheva 1-2; Batinic b Batorfi 1-2; Kovtun b Popova 1-2; Vrieskoop b Bulatova 1-2.

Round 4 - Popova b Nemes 1-2; Bulatova b Bellinger 2-0; Thieriet b Batinic 2-0; Kovtun b Vrieskoop 2-0; Batorfi b Albiou 2-0; Urban b Guerguelcheva 2-0.

Round 5 - Batinic b Urban 1-2; Nemes b Bulatova 0-2; Albiou b Thieriet 0-2; Guerguelcheva b Batorfi 2-0; Vrieskoop b Popova 2-0; Bellinger b Kovtun 1-2.

Round 6 - Kovtun b Albiou 2-0; Bulatova b Thieriet 2-1; Vrieskoop b Batinic 2-0; Popova b Urban 1-2; Bellinger b Batorfi 0-2; Nemes b Guerguelcheva 0-2.

Round 7 - Kovtun b Batinic 2-1; Bulatova b Albiou 2-0; Vrieskoop b Thieriet 2-0; Popova b Batorfi 0-2; Bellinger b Guerguelcheva 2-0; Nemes b Urban 0-2.

Round 8 - Kovtun b Thieriet 0-2; Bulatova b Batinic 2-0; Vrieskoop b Albiou 2-1; Popova b Guerguelcheva 2-0; Bellinger b Urban 0-2; Nemes b Batorfi 0-2.

Round 9 - Kovtun b Batorfi 0-2; Bulatova b Guerguelcheva 2-0; Vrieskoop b Urban 2-1; Popova b Albiou 2-1; Bellinger b Thieriet 1-2; Nemes b Batinic 2-0.

Round 10 - Kovtun b Urban 0-2; Bulatova b Batorfi 1-2; Vrieskoop b Guerguelcheva 2-0; Popova b Batinic 1-2; Bellinger b Albiou 2-0; Nemes b Thieriet 0-2.

Round 11 - Kovtun b Guerguelcheva 0-2; Bulatova b Urban 0-2; Vrieskoop b Batorfi 1-2; Popova b Thieriet 2-0; Bellinger b Batinic 2-1; Nemes b Albiou 1-2.

CAPTAINS OF ENGLAND

With three England players in the tournament at the same time, it was no extravagance to have three "captains" in attendance. Don Parker, Paul Day and Nicky Jarvis did a great job coaching on court, making sure that the players had advice all the time.

THE FOREIGN PLAYERS

In the early stages it looked as though the later round battles would be as expected between the five Swedes and Grubba with Kucharski and Mazunov as dangers. Klampar proved the best of the dark horses. He and Waldner did best to help Desmond Douglas. The injury exit for Lindh, left Waldner as the main Swedish contender but Grubba continued to show his class most of the way.

The fact that there were five Swedes playing, meant that the results between themselves - all played in the early stages - were vital.

Csilla Batorfi, the young Hungarian and European champion continued to dominate the women's matches still using her high-throw service with good results. The Russian choppers Kovtun and Bulatova showed their class and Kovtun was at one stage a leader but when Batorfi and Bulatova met in the late stages it was the Hungarian youngster who had most of the answers to win 18-21, 21-19, 21-11 although Edit Urban also from Hungary came in with a late run mopping up all her late opponents to snatch second place as well as first for Hungary.

EUROPE TOP 12 1987

FINAL TABLES

MEN

	P	W	L	F	A
1 DOUGLAS D. (ENG)	10	8	2	25	8
2 Waldner J-O. (SWE)	10	7	3	23	13
3 Persson J. (SWE)	19	7	3	25	15
4 Grubba A. (POL)	10	7	3	24	18
5 Kucharski L. (POL)	10	6	4	23	18
6 Carlsson U. (SWE)	10	6	4	21	17
7 Appelgren M. (SWE)	10	4	6	19	22
8 Klampar T. (HUN)	10	4	6	16	24
9 Mazunov A. (URS)	10	4	6	17	23
10 PREAN C. (ENG)	10	1	9	12	29
11 Kriston Z. (HUN)	10	1	9	10	28
12 Lindh E. (SWE)	0	0	0	0	0

WOMEN

	P	W	L	F	A
1 Batorfi C. (HUN)	11	10	1	20	6
2 Urban E. (HUN)	11	9	2	19	6
3 Bulatova F. (URS)	11	8	3	17	9
4 Vrieskoop B. (HOL)	11	8	3	18	8
5 Guerguelcheva D. (BUL)	11	6	5	12	11
6 Kovtun E. (URS)	11	6	5	13	12
7 Popova V. (URS)	11	5	6	14	14
8 Thieriet B. (FRA)	11	5	6	12	13
9 BELLINGER L. (ENG)	11	4	7	10	16
10 Nemes O. (FRG)	11	2	9	6	19
11 Batinic B. (YUG)	11	2	9	8	20
12 Albiou M. (RUM)	11	1	10	6	21



Schildkröt

British Table Tennis League

Promoted by the English Table Tennis Association

St Neots misery continues

Fiona Brown reports

PREMIER division basemen, MBS St Neots continued their miserable run when they travelled to south Wales for an 8-0 thrashing by Butterfly Cardiff in early December. Only Keith Richardson and Mike Harper could force a third game against experienced Welsh opposition and Stuart Palmer's fifth set defeat by Nigel Tyler sealed the Cambridgeshire club's fate.

Medicine men

Although holding their own in this top division, Cardiff discovered that they are still 'learners' when they came up against the powerful Grove squad of John Souter, Jimmy Stokes, Graham Sandley and Steve Mills. Tyler was once again Cardiff's most 'likely lad' as he went down fighting 20-22 in the third end against Jimmy Stokes. Stokes himself is struggling this season to maintain the impetus of a senior career which looked so promising only 12 months ago.

Meanwhile, no obstacle has yet succeeded in deflecting the Steelstock Wolverhampton machine which is now driven by the renewed enthusiasm of Europe Top 12 champion Desmond Douglas. In his warm up for that event Douglas showed a clean pair of heels to former European champion John Hilton 11, 8 and Nigel Eckersley 14, 14 as Ormesby were dismissed without scoring and the champions took another step towards their second title in two years.

Torbay scare against Larkhall

First division leaders Express Sports Torbay were held neck and neck by TSP Larkhall in early December before forging a 5-3 victory in the closing sets. At 3-3

Andy Creed, the former Panoramic Bath star, demolished Dave Harding 19 and 5 and Gary Lambert claimed the second point with a 17, 17 win against Rupert Bole. With a 7-1 win two weeks later, by newly sponsored Trebor Dagenham FC over Larkhall, the scene seemed set for a pretty close encounter between Torbay and Dagenham in the first fixture of the new year.

Southern strength

The fact that C & L Nittaku, Ashford's fellow promotees from the third division south, are now sitting in second in division 2 South lends weight to the claims often heard by myself that the southern division is by far the strongest of the thirds.

This season newcomers Team Ramlosa Essex lead by a short head from Rejects whose press officer Mike Loveder is to table tennis what soap powder commercials are to television. Our Hastings office is regularly buried by press releases and, more importantly, press cuttings inspired by his tireless work. His team's efforts on the table give South Londoner's a team to be proud of. As Mike says "We must be the champions of the 5-3 result, even though we are flying high just now, there has never been an easy match for us in this division."

Byker battle on

Byker Newcastle, promoted last season from the second division north, have survived a player crisis which threatened a premature end to their first national season. Bill McMaster, father of Byker No. 3 Neil McMaster, and transport manager for the team whose nearest opponents are based over 150 miles away, says "Generally we enjoy playing British League but the travelling is expensive and without a major sponsor we do struggle to make ends meet. I think we have tried every possible way to raise funds - against this back drop it is hard to motivate our young team." Fortunately the experience of Benny Robertson at No 2 provided the Byker backbone in their 5-3 January win over West Warwicks/Birmingham.



Success breeds success — Doleg Carpets is the new name of our third division west leaders. The squad of Nick Williams, Andrew Evans (captain), Brian Jeanes and Warwick Armstrong celebrated their sponsorship with victory over Panoramic Bath in December.



Schildkröt distributed by Butterfly



Schildkrot British League 2

Ashford in class of their own

Five points clear, seven games lost this season and eight consecutive match wins makes impressive statistical reading for the forward looking Ashford club who have thoroughly justified the promotion last summer which many believed was the result of a one off performance by Kenny Jackson. Jackson is now firmly instated as the Ashford No 1 and leading a team capable of despatching most in the first division let alone their current set of opponents.

Creed in command

Once again it was the experience of Andy Creed who set the scene for a Torbay victory. Against John Burleton he recovered from the loss of the first game to win 16 in the third and then returned to the table to dispense with Tony Penny and push the score to 5-1 leaving Torbay odds on favourite to clinch the first division title.

Wonderful Waveney

EAE Waveney succeeded, where a determined Ormesby effort had failed, to scoop two points against emerging second division North favourites Bradford Investments.

Bradford have made no secret of their intention to take the first division by storm next year and in so doing almost guarantee that rising young star Michael O'Driscoll will retain his allegiance to the club. Earlier this season O'Driscoll said "I am very happy at Bradford so I haven't thought too seriously about other efforts but I will have to consider a move if we don't go up at the end of the season." When Bradford entertained Ormesby in December, Ormesby manager Alan Ransome had boldly predicted a close match and in the absence of O'Driscoll, who was competing in the national junior championships, an Ormesby win was considered likely. However, Ransome had reckoned without the substantial contribution of two new Bradford signings with Steve Turner at No 1 showing his years of experience at Grove and former Irish international Martin Kinsella at No 2, the Yorkshire team were never seriously troubled.

Despite the return of O'Driscoll, Bradford trailed throughout their match with Waveney when the absence of Steve Turner was noticeable, especially as Martin Kinsella, playing at No 1, was dismissed in straight games by Philip Logsdon.

RESULTS FROM EIGHT DIVISIONS

Results

Premier

Butterfly Cardiff 8 MBS St Neots 0; Rotherham 2 Ormesby 6; Grove 7 Omega Reading 1; Panoramic Bath 3 Butterfly Cardiff 5; Ormesby 0 Steelstock Wolverhampton 8; Grove 8 Butterfly Cardiff 0; Rotherham 4 Panoramic Bath 4.

First

TCB Dolphins 1 Trebor Dagenham FC 7; TSP Larkhall 3 Express Torbay 5; West Warwicks/Birmingham 1 Chan Construction 7; Express Torbay 6 Trebor Dagenham FC 2; Omega Claw 1 TSP Larkhall 7; Chan Construction 6 TCB Dolphins 2; West Warwicks/Birmingham 3 Byker Newcastle 5; Trebor Dagenham FC 7 TSP Larkhall 1; Omega Claw 0 TCB Dolphins 8; Express Torbay 6 West Warwicks/Birmingham 2.

Second North

Bradford Investments 6 Ormesby 2; Steelstock Wolverhampton 1 Sincil Lincoln 7; March 6 Oldham 2; Oldham 2 Bradford Investments 6; Sincil Lincoln 5 Ormesby 3; Oldham 1 Steelstock Wolverhampton 7; Kingbro Insurance 5 March 3; Ormesby 5 Steelstock Wolverhampton 3; EAE Waveney 7 March 1; Sincil Lincoln 4 Kingbro Insurance 4; EAE Waveney 5 Bradford Investments 3.

Second South

C & L Nittaku 4 Medway 4; Gunnersbury Triangle 2 Ashford 6; TSP Larkhall 5 Jaques Fareham 3; Fellows Cranleigh 6 Global Plymouth 2; Medway 4 Gunnersbury Triangle 4; Global Plymouth 4 C & L Nittaku 4; Ashford 8 Medway 0; Fellows Cranleigh 8 TSP Larkhall 0; Jaques Fareham 2 C & L Nittaku 6; Global Plymouth 8 TSP Larkhall 0.

taku 6; Global Plymouth 8 TSP Larkhall 0; Ashford 8 Fellows Cranleigh 0.

Third North

Leicester 5 Ormesby 3; Crusaders Lincoln 0 Unity Leeds 8; Grove 7 Vickers Barrow 1; Leicester 3 Grove 5; Chan Construction 7 Byker Newcastle 1; Byker Newcastle 4 Ormesby 4; Unity Leeds 8 Chan Construction 0; Grove 7 Leicester 1; Vickers Barrow 5 Crusaders Lincoln 3; Ormesby 7 Chan Construction 1; Unity Leeds 7 Leicester 1; Byker Newcastle 3 Vickers Barrow 5.

Third South

Abeng Warriors 7 Countrymen Tunbridge Wells 1; Rejects 5 Ashford 3; Team Ramlosa Essex 7 Thorn EMI Ellenborough 1; Deptford Rams 6 Erreys Print 2; Erreys Print 3 Rejects 5; Ashford 3 Countrymen Tunbridge Wells 5; Thorn EMI Ellenborough 6 Abeng Warriors 2; Team Ramlosa Essex 7 Deptford Rams 1; Countrymen Tunbridge Wells 4 Rejects 4; Erreys Print 2 Abeng Warriors 6; Thorn EMI Ellenborough 5 Deptford Rams 3; Ashford 0 Team Ramlosa Essex 8.

Third East

AHW Pioneers 3 Britannia Ipswich 5; Smiths Motors Peterborough 0 Well Connected Wellingborough 8; Norwich Foxwood 6 St Neots 2; Dagenham FC 6 Witham Town FC 2; Well Connected Wellingborough 5 Britannia Ipswich 3; MBS St Neots 7 Smiths Motors Peterborough 1; Witham Town FC 4 AHW Pioneers 4; Dagenham FC 3 Norwich Foxwood 5; Britannia Ipswich 7 Smiths Motors Peterborough 1; MBS St Neots 4 AHW Pioneers 4; Witham Town FC 2 Norwich Foxwood 6; Well Connected Wellingborough 6 Dagenham FC 2.

Schildkrot British League

(as at 5.1.87)

Premier division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steelstock Wolverhampton	7	6	1	0	52	4	13
Grove Market Drayton	6	5	1	0	40	8	11
Panoramic Bath	7	4	1	2	37	19	9
Butterfly Cardiff	8	3	1	4	26	38	7
Rotherham	5	2	2	1	23	17	6
Ormesby I	6	3	0	3	18	30	6
Omega Reading	6	0	0	6	8	40	0
MBS St Neots	7	0	0	7	4	52	0
First division							
Express Torbay	8	7	1	0	45	19	15
Trebor Dagenham FC	8	6	0	2	42	22	12
Chan Construction	7	4	1	2	35	21	9
TSP Larkhall	8	4	0	4	33	31	8
TCB Dolphins	8	4	0	4	32	32	8
Byker Newcastle	6	3	0	3	23	25	6
West Warwicks B'ham	8	1	0	7	21	43	2
Omega Claw	7	0	0	7	9	47	0
Second division north							
EAE Waveney	8	6	1	1	46	18	13
Bradford Investments	8	6	0	2	38	26	12
Ormesby II	7	5	0	2	33	23	10
Steelstock Wolverhampton	8	3	2	3	35	29	8
March	8	3	1	4	30	34	7
Sincil Lincoln	7	3	1	3	29	27	7
Kingbro Insurance	8	1	2	5	22	42	4
Oldham	8	0	1	7	15	49	1
Second division south							
Ashford	8	8	0	0	57	7	16
C & L Nittaku	8	4	3	1	36	28	11
Fellows Cranleigh	8	4	1	3	34	30	9
Global Sports Plymouth	8	4	1	3	35	29	9
Medway	8	2	2	4	36	28	6
Gunnersbury Triangle	7	2	1	4	22	34	5
Jaques Fareham	7	2	0	5	22	34	4
TSP Larkhall	8	1	0	7	14	50	2
Third division north							
Grove Market Drayton	7	7	0	0	44	12	14
Ormesby III	8	5	1	2	42	22	11
Leicester	7	5	0	2	37	19	10
City of Leeds	7	4	1	2	37	19	9
Chan Construction II	7	3	1	3	31	25	7
Crusaders Lincoln	8	2	0	6	20	44	4
Vickers Barrow	8	2	0	6	13	51	4
Byker Newcastle	8	0	1	7	16	48	1
Third division south							
Team Ramlosa Essex	8	7	1	0	48	16	15
Rejects	8	6	2	0	43	21	14
Abeng Warriors	8	4	1	3	34	30	9
Countrymen T. Wells	8	4	1	3	31	33	9
Ashford	8	3	0	5	28	36	6
Thorn EMI Ellenborough	8	2	1	5	27	37	5
Deptford Rams	8	2	0	6	24	40	4
Erreys Print '84	8	1	0	7	21	43	2
Third division east							
Norwich Foxwood	8	7	0	1	43	21	14
Well Connected W'bro	8	5	3	0	44	20	13
Britannia Ipswich	8	5	1	2	40	24	11
Trebor Dagenham FC	8	4	0	4	33	31	8
AHW Pioneers	8	2	3	3	32	32	7
MBS St Neots	8	2	2	4	31	33	6
Witham Town FC	8	1	3	4	26	40	5
Smiths Motors P'bro	8	0	0	8	7	57	0
Third division west							
Doleq Carpets*	8	7	1	0	51	13	15
Jolliffe Poole	8	5	2	1	42	22	12
Opella Leominster	8	5	1	2	37	27	11
KCD Stiga	8	3	3	2	37	27	9
Express Torbay	8	3	0	5	27	37	6
Duchy Launceston	8	2	1	5	24	40	5
Panoramic Bath	8	1	2	5	22	42	4
Omega Reading	8	0	2	6	16	48	2

Note: City of Leeds v Chan and Grove v Leicester results not received.

*Formerly Express Sports Gwent

RESULTS CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS COLUMN

Third West

Jolliffe Poole 4 Doleq Carpets 4; Express Torbay 7 Omega Reading 1; KCD Stiga 4 Panoramic Bath 4; Duchy Launceston 2 Opella Leominster 6; Leominster 5 KCD Stiga 3; Doleq Carpets 5 Opella Leominster 3; Omega Reading 3 Jolliffe Poole 5; KCD Stiga 7 Duchy Launceston 1; Panoramic Bath 6 Express Torbay 2; Opella Leominster 6 Jolliffe Poole 2; Omega Reading 1 Duchy Launceston 7; KCD Stiga 6 Express Torbay 2; Doleq Carpets 7 Panoramic Bath 1.

PROMOTION MARCH GOES ON

England Stop the Finns at Norwich

by Mike Watts

SKYLET Andrew the 24 year old extrovert player from Wanstead, Essex celebrated his elevation to No 3 in the latest Lentec Computer Ranking List with two smart wins in the latest European League match that took place at the St Andrews Hall in Norwich on Wednesday 14th January against Finland.

His first match against the experienced Jukka Ikonen currently ranked number two in Finland showed how much more mature he is as he spread the 29 year old Finn all over the table to win comfortable, two nil. The second singles played against Matti Seiro was equally impressive as Skylet calmly matched Seiro shot for shot and avoided any pressure, winning in two straight games.

Desmond Douglas, who received a tremendous ovation from the crowd for his brilliant European Top 12 win, also played without pressure to win both singles easily and the pair teamed up to win the Mens Doubles.

Flat hits

Not so Lisa Bellinger! Up against the relatively unknown Johanna Kaimio, the replacement for European ranked Sonia Grefberg, she looked to have just as easy a game as her colleagues. However what a shock was in store as Miss Kaimio built up a 19-9 lead in the first game with some breathtaking flat hits that forced Lisa back to the boards.

Maybe Lisa was too relaxed or complacent but suddenly the message became loud and clear and she brilliantly clawed her way back to 19 all and then gained an unplayable edge.

Miss Kaimio not to be outdone

hit back to level at 20 all but now Lisa was in full command and she quickly took the first game 22-20 and the second easily.

Skylet then teamed up with Fiona Elliot in the Mixed and they led this by a game and 20-15 only to concede the second. The third went point for point with the home pair just hanging on to win 19 in the third. The match was sponsored by our old friends Norwich Union and expertly organised by the Norwich League, Norwich Foxwood British League team and the Norfolk County. The whole proceedings ran smoothly with one exception.

Due to the adverse weather conditions neither the Referee Mr Zoolingen from Holland or the Umpires, Gerald Hammond and Brian Rowlen were able to reach the venue. With the agreement of both team captains and the European Table Tennis Union the match was refereed and umpired

alternately by Mike Watts and Denis Calver a local County Umpire.

ENGLAND 7 FINLAND 0

D Douglas b M Seiro 7, 14; S Andrew b J Ikonen 14, 14; L Bellinger b J Kaimio 20, 11; D Douglas/S Andrew b J Ikonen/M Seiro 17, 10; S Andrew/F Elliot b J Ikonen/J Kaimio 18, -21, 19; D Douglas b J Ikonen 16, 14; S Andrew b M Seiro 19, 14.

STIGA ROBOT FOR SALE

GOOD CONDITION
£400 or nearest offer

Dave Constance
42a Brunswick Square
Hove, Sussex BN3 1EE
0273 773674

EUROPEAN LEAGUE

Results and tables following the matches played on January 14th:

Super division

HOL 3 TCH 4; HUN 2 TCH 5; TCH 5 BUL 2; POL 6 HOL 1; FRA 1 BUL 6; SWE 6 FRA 1; FRA 2 HUN 5; YUG 4 FRA 3; POL 5 HUN 2; YUG 7 HOL 0; YUG 1 POL 6; HUN 5 BUL 2; SWE 3 YUG 4; BUL 2 POL 5; HOL 2 SWE 5; SWE 4 TCH 3.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
POLAND	4	4	0	22	6	4
Sweden	4	3	1	18	10	3
Czechoslovakia	4	3	1	17	11	3
Yugoslavia	4	3	1	16	12	3
Hungary	4	2	2	14	14	2
Bulgaria	4	1	3	12	16	1
France	4	0	4	7	21	0
Netherlands	4	0	4	6	22	0

Division 1

FRG 6 DEN 1; DEN 3 FIN 4; TUR 5 DEN 2; ENG 7 FIN 0; ITA 5 FIN 2; AUT 3 ITA 4; AUT 0 ENG 7; ENG 6 ITA 1; AUT 5 TUR 2; FIN 4 NOR 3; TUR 4 ITA 3; NOR 3 AUT 4; ITA 2 FRG 5; ENG 6 TUR 1; NOR 1 FRG 6; FRG 5 FIN 2; NOR 3 DEN 4.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
ENGLAND	4	4	0	26	2	4
FR Germany	4	4	0	22	6	4
Austria	4	2	2	12	16	2
Turkey	4	2	2	12	16	2
Italy	5	2	3	15	20	2
Finland	5	2	3	12	23	2
Denmark	4	1	3	10	18	1
Norway	4	0	4	10	18	0

Division 2

GUE 0 BEL 7; WAL 0 BEL 7; BEL 7 LUX 0; SCO 3 WAL 4; SCO 0 BEL 7; GRE 2 LUX 5; SCO 7 GRE 0; WAL 7 GRE 0; WAL 7 GUE 0; SUI 3 WAL 4; ESP 7 GUE 0; ESP 4 SUI 3; GUE 1 GRE 6; SCO 5 ESP 2; LUX 2 SUI 5; GUE 0 SCO 7; SUI 7 GUE 0.

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
BELGIUM	4	4	0	28	0	4
Wales	5	4	1	22	13	4
Scotland	5	3	2	22	13	3
Spain	3	2	1	13	8	2
Switzerland	4	2	2	18	10	2
Luxembourg	3	1	2	7	14	1
Greece	4	1	3	8	20	1
Guernsey	6	0	6	1	41	0

THE LAST HOME MATCH FOR ENGLAND

HALSTEAD SPORTS CENTRE, Colne Road, Halstead, Essex, is the venue for the last home European League match of the season. The match is set for Tuesday, March 31st, 7.30 p.m. The opposition is Norway, a team who England will recall helped to cause their men's team to be demoted in Moscow at the European Championships several seasons ago. This time England should win as they should have done before. But England must win if they are to maintain their challenge for promotion.

SWEDISH TACTICS TO CHANGE?

by Richard Eaton of *The Sunday Times*

THERE was a bit of a surprise waiting for Desmond Douglas after his triumph in the European Top Twelve. When he turned up for the next England camp there were streamers and crackers, champagne and congratulations, and a sudden unexpected celebration.

"By the time I got to the camp I was beginning to realise what I had done," said the man many believed had forever missed the chance of winning a major title. There was also a bottle of champagne from Skylet Andrew, and phone calls and cards from friends and team mates. "It was such a great feeling," added Douglas, whose serious face had opened into a Grand Canyon of a grin.

These were not only delightful, but important moments. The spirit engendered by Douglas's wonderful performance may well enhance England's chances in the World Championships in New Delhi. Captain Donald Parker believes it may also assist in making a serious challenge upon the European team title in Paris next year. There ought to be other tangible benefits as well.

Douglas points them out. "I hope something comes from it," he said. "Maybe more money in the kitty for the players to go to camps and tournaments abroad. I am pleased with what I have done but I would like to see something happen for the game as well. If possible I would like to see it lead to a sponsorship for the team".

"What it needs is for the idea to be packaged and taken to somebody, and it also needs for us to get someone to do that. The Swedes have a bank that sponsors them. If something like that happens then it will have all been worthwhile."

The Swedes meanwhile are wealthier than us but a little wor-

ried. According to Bengt Grive, the TV commentator who was also a Swedish table tennis champion in the fifties, Douglas's win may lead to concern about styles and tactics.

"The Swedish players have a half distance style which has given them a lot of victories but did not work in Basle," said Grive. "Waldner, Appelgren and Persson are typical representatives of old Swedish style, whilst Ulf Carlsson prefers long distance with counter-attack, and Lindh plays at the tombola wheel. Douglas is on the other hand the one and only in Europe who can play as a Chinese - close to the table, very fast and sure."



Richard Eaton



Sweden's long distance counter attacker, Ulf Carlsson — Douglas' 11th round victim in Basle.

Best method?

Grive asks whether half-distance will still be the best method against the Chinese players. The Chinese have been aware of the importance of ensuring against all eventualities by trying to encourage a variety of styles in their midst. Douglas has also adapted - surprising to those who thought he played simply by the light of day - and can occasionally be seen to be playing at half-distance in important matches.

I believe the best for our best player may still lie ahead. That may seem unlikely at the age of 31, but he is fit, and has a fine attitude to the business of training. He has also rid himself of the mental luggage of never quite living up to his exceptional talent. He is no longer a nearly man!

VETTS National team event



by Mike Watts

THE introduction this season by VETTS of a National Team Competition similar to the Wilmott Cup has been a resounding success. At the time of the draw at the beginning of November 1986 - 81 Leagues had entered. After the draw had been made there were a number of Leagues still trying to obtain entry and the numbers could, next season, be bigger than the senior competition.

Leagues were drawn into 8 zones and the first round was to be played by the 1st January 1987.

In ZONE 1 Stockport seem to be the strongest with Roger Hampson, Derek Schofield and Brian Keen. They duly despatched Farnworth 9-0 in the first round.

All teams in ZONE 2 received byes in the first round so at this

stage it is difficult to know who will emerge as favourites.

Louth would appear to be ZONE 3 favourites. Their team of Matt Shearer, Brian Allison and Bill Moran despatched Coventry in an early Round 2 tie 6-0. Coventry must have been impressed as they claim to have been unbeaten in the Midland League for a number of years.

ZONE 4 looks very open but with half the teams still to play the eventual winners remain a mystery.

ZONE 5 covering mainly Essex could also be a very strong one. Dagenham have a strong team but nearly came unstuck at the first hurdle when an unfancied Braintree team led them 2-0 and 3-1 before Dagenham finally made it 5-3. The ETTA Vice-Chairman (Administration) Ian Whiteside caused the shock of the round beating highly ranked John

Holland 21-18, 21-15 and John Leith beat both Holland 21-15 in the third and Brian Parish two straight for the Braintree games.

In ZONE 6 Slough gained a narrow 5-4 verdict over Maidenhead thanks to three wins from Alec Watson whilst Reading also looked strong as their three man team of Dave Jones, Syd Montgomery and Wally Allanson downed Acton 9-0.

Crawley will be the team to beat in ZONE 7 with Sussex County players Robin Stace, Keith Horton and Andy Meads. Tunbridge Wells felt their might in the first round losing 5-0. Finally in ZONE 8 covering the West Country, Bristol have started well beating West Cornwall 5-3 and Basingstoke also won by the same score against Aldershot.

VETTS players are reminded that the next Masters Tournament

takes place over the weekend of the 28th February and 1st March 1987 at the Brighton Metropole Hotel in Brighton. A dinner will take place on the Saturday evening and members are reminded not only to book their accommodation early but also the dinner with Membership Secretary, Mrs Hilda Watts on 0323 845583.

Round 1 Results

- Zone 1** - Oldham 4 Warrington 5; Rochdale 0 Bury 9; Farnworth 0 Stockport 6.
- Zone 3** - West Bromwich 7 Grimsby 2; Stafford 9 Leicester 0 (W/O).
- Zone 4** - Hunts Centre 6 Northampton 3; St Neots 5 Bedford 1; Welwyn/Hatfield 6 Dunstable 2.
- Zone 5** - Burnham 0 Brentwood 9 (W/O); Braintree 3 Dagenham 5; Thurrock 5 Southend 4.
- Zone 6** - Maidenhead 4 Slough 5; Reading 9 Acton 0.
- Zone 7** - Crawley 6 Tunbridge Wells 0; Thames Ins Central 0 Eastbourne 9 (W/O).
- Zone 8** - West Cornwall 3 Bristol 5; Basingstoke 5 Aldershot 3.

England ranking lists — January

LENTEC COMPUTER RANKING LISTS

MEN

1. Desmond Douglas	(Birmingham)	2302	78. John Taylor	(Golders Green)	244
2. Carl Pread	(Ryde)	1693	79. Michael O'Leary	(Willesden)	242
3. Skylet Andrew	(London E15)	1411	80. Gary Wilson	(Plymouth)	236
4. Alan Cooke	(Chesterfield)	1398	81. Chris Oldfield	(Sheffield)	236
5. John Souter	(Neasden)	1051	82. Andy Withers	(Haverhill)	236
6. Jimmy Stokes	(Reading)	971	83. Graeme McKim	(Northampton)	234
7. Nicky Mason	(Bexhill)	779	84. Russell King	(Lowestoft)	233
8. Philip Bradbury	(Aylesbury)	637	85. Darren Griffin	(Gloucester)	230
9. Steven Scowcroft	(Bolton)	599	86. Tony Sweet	(Plymouth)	230
10. Steve Mills	(Sheffield)	579	87. Steven Moreman	(Gloucester)	229
11. Matthew Syed	(Reading)	564	88. Lindsay Taylor	(W. Hartlepool)	227
12. Graham Sandley	(Potters Bar)	550	89. Peter McQueen	(Gateshead)	226
13. David Wells	(Milton Keynes)	545	90. Lester Bertie	(Birmingham)	225
14. Chris Rogers	(Leicester)	540	91. Michael Brown	(Birmingham)	225
15. Kevin Satchell	(Frome)	537	92. Paul Amos	(Ashford)	224
16. John Hilton	(Manchester)	537	93. Ramesh Bhalla	(Guildford)	222
17. Colin Wilson	(Cuffley)	512	94. Gary Lambert	(Exmouth)	221
18. Adrian Dixon	(Wolverhampton)	504	95. Murray Jukes	(Kidderminster)	221
19. Glen Baker	(Guildford)	492	96. Mike Owen	(Hereford)	220
20. David Dodd	(London SE7)	482	97. Peter Machin	(Rochdale)	220
21. Steven Dorking	(Hornchurch)	455	98. Trevor Washington	(Wolverhampton)	219
22. Paul Whiting	(Plymouth)	452	99. Peter Harry	(Battersea)	216
23. Tony Taylor	(Manchester)	445	100. Andy Cunningham	(Beckenham)	211
24. Nigel Eckersley	(Warrington)	443	101. Tony Clayton	(Poole)	209
25. Max Crimmins	(Wimbledon)	442	102. John Payne	(London N19)	209
26. Michael O'Driscoll	(Mirfield)	440	103. S. Howlett	(Norwich)	209
27. Andrew Wellman	(Reading)	424	104. Denis Neale	(Redcar)	209
28. Carl Morgan	(Birmingham)	421	105. Thomas Blackman	(Newcastle)	207
29. Desmond Charlery	(London E13)	420	106. Ronald Vose	(Stockport)	205
30. Andrew Creed	(Bristol)	417	107. Henry Buist	(Orpington)	205
31. Andrew Syed	(Reading)	415	108. Philip Aspinall	(Oldham)	201
32. Bradley Billington	(Chesterfield)	411	109. Geoff Davies	(Waterbeach)	201
33. Paul Giles	(Plymouth)	410	110. Andrew Bellingham	(Wolverhampton)	200
34. Michael Hammond	(Surbiton)	404	111. Michael Stead	(Bradford)	199
35. John Burleton	(London SE15)	401	112. K. Jackson		198
36. Brian Johns	(Northwich)	375	113. Junior Facey	(London SE23)	196
37. Neil Taylor	(Cirencester)	375	114. Richard Stevenson	(Norwich)	195
38. Barry Johnson	(Birmingham)	373	115. Mark Owen	(Hereford)	194
39. Adrian Moore	(Bexhill)	368	116. Mark Randle	(Rugby)	193
40. Sean Gibson	(Chorley)	361	117. Lee Neil	(Dunkirk)	191
41. David Gannon	(Leicester)	359	118. Les Wooding	(Dunstable)	191
42. Stuart Palmer	(Lakenheath)	354	119. David Tan	(London N4)	190
43. Philip Gunn	(Birmingham)	350	120. Phil Smith	(Leicester)	190
44. Mark Mitchell	(London N9)	342	121. P. Norcott		189
45. Andrew Rich	(Wolverhampton)	338	122. Julian Wheel	(Wood Ditton)	188
46. Kevin Beadsley	(Bradford)	336	123. Stephen Davies	(Tolworth)	188
47. Dipak Topiwala	(London N17)	336	124. Phillip Vickers	(Derby)	187
48. Rupert Bole	(Esher)	330	125. Babs Adedayo	(London SE19)	186
49. Edwin Smith	(Gosforth)	320	126. Damian Holland	(Billericay)	185
50. Stephen Moore	(Bexhill)	317	127. Michael Emmerson	(Selby)	185
51. David Barr	(Newbury)	309	128. C. Luscombe	(Milton Keynes)	184
52. Michael Harper	(Biggleswade)	307	129. Mark Ward	(Sheffield)	183
53. Phil Smith	(Horley)	298	130. Trevor Campbell	(Clapham)	181
54. Ritchie Venner	(Crawley)	294	131. Tony Penny	(Hornchurch)	180
55. Stephen Turner	(Preston)	293	132. H. Sigrell	(Dorset)	180
56. Keith Samuels	(St Neots)	289	133. Ian Attridge	(London E13)	180
57. Craig Bakewell	(Stoke on Trent)	285	134. Gordon Chapman	(Worcester Park)	179
58. David Newman	(Maldon)	285	135. Lee Sadler	(Yeovil)	179
59. John Kitchener	(Ipswich)	283	136. Neil Pickard	(Reepham)	177
60. Ian Robertson	(Newcastle)	281	137. Richard Beckham	(London SE22)	177
61. David Harding	(Carshalton)	281	138. Paul Gooding	(Ipswich)	177
62. Joe Kennedy	(London SE15)	276	139. Simon Proffitt	(Barnet)	176
63. John Green	(Nuneaton)	272	140. Steven Richards	(Plymouth)	176
64. David Goode	(Hayes)	270	141. J. Quansah		175
65. Paul Sayer	(London E12)	268	142. Andy Mitchell	(Gravesend)	175
66. Keith Richardson	(Soham)	267	143. Matthew Sheader	(New Waltham)	172
67. John Dennison	(London E9)	266	144. Stuart Gibbs	(Dagenham)	170
68. Philip Logsdon	(Norwich)	265	145. S. Black	(Torquay)	169
69. Andrew Dodd	(London SE7)	265	146. Jeremy Williams	(Falmouth)	168
70. Gary Jordan	(March)	261	147. W. Allanson	(Shillingford)	167
71. Graham Toole	(Fareham)	258	148. David Pilcher	(Sittingbourne)	167
72. Malcolm Green	(Telford)	257	149. Mark Wicker	(London E6)	166
73. Steven Sharpe	(Wakefield)	255	150. Alun Garraway	(London SW17)	166
74. Percy Collino	(London SW5)	253	151. Neil Harris	(Oxford)	166
75. Michael Short	(Plymouth)	247	152. Keith Fellows	(Leicester)	164
76. Stephen Holloway	(London SE18)	244	153. Joseph Deakin	(Stoke on Trent)	164
77. Jonathan Proffitt	(Barnet)	244	154. Stuart Worrell	(Lincoln)	163

WOMEN

1. Lisa Bellinger	(Dunstable)	1730
2. Alison Gordon	(Reading)	1464
3. Joy Grundy	(Preston)	1359
4. Fiona Elliot	(Wolverhampton)	1218
5. Mandy Sainsbury	(Newbury)	699
6. Jill Harris	(Walsall)	664
7. Jackie Bellinger	(Dunstable)	464
8. Andrew Holt	(Ramsbottom)	450
9. Jean Parker	(Preston)	378
10. Joanne Shaw	(Normanton)	377
11. Karen Smith	(Leicester)	359
12. Susan Collier	(Maidenhead)	342
13. Carol Butler	(Plymouth)	327
14. Juliet Houghton	(Tonbridge)	326
15. Suzanne Airey	(Grantham)	274
16. Claire Potts	(Chester)	236
17. Helen Lower	(Wolverhampton)	216
18. Teresa Moore	(Bexhill)	203
19. Debbie Soothill	(Carnforth)	193
20. Claire Maisey	(Swindon)	186
21. Kerry Hall	(Chesterfield)	185
22. Janearella	(Surbiton)	180
23. Helen Bardwell	(Ware)	177
24. Karen Burrows	(Castleford)	173
25. Debbie Toole	(Normanton)	153
26. Helen Perrott	(Bristol)	148
27. Sandra Roden	(Dudley)	147
28. Rachel Knight	(Twickenham)	146
29. Kim Mudge	(London E13)	144
30. Elaine Short	(Plymouth)	135
31. Cheryl Buttery	(Lincoln)	130
32. Connie Moran	(Grimsby)	121
33. Lisa Haydon	(Brentwood)	117
34. Melonie Carey	(Puriton)	110
35. Elaine Sayer	(London E12)	108
36. Diane St Ledger	(Birmingham)	101
37. Louise Davies	(Bridgenorth)	101
38. Julie Lawrence	(Sussex)	98
39. Melody Hill	(Bradford)	86
40. Angela Mitchell	(Edmonton)	84
41. Julie Dimmock	(Dunstable)	83
42. Lesley Popkiewicz	(Purley)	83
43. Michelle Cohen	(Bristol)	77
44. S. Harness	(Essex)	73
45. Helen Williams	(Enfield)	67
46. Sally Weston	(Horsham)	67
47. Michelle Hams	(Morden)	66
48. Rebecca Russe	(Weston-s-Mare)	66
49. Theresa Butler	(Plymouth)	66
50. Gail Blanch	(Enfield)	64
51. Deborah Simmonds	(Virginia Water)	60
52. Leanne Harman	(Bournemouth)	60
53. Julie Billington	(Chesterfield)	58
54. Sheila King	(St. Leonards)	57
55. Nicola McGrath	(Preston)	56
56. A. Mills		55
57. Claire Mouzon	(Ashington)	53
58. J. Fisher		53
59. Linda Clemett	(Raynes Park)	52
60. Joanne Pettit	(Newmarket)	51
61. Clair Plumridge	(High Wycombe)	51
62. J. Cohen	(Berks.)	50
63. Helen Potts	(Chester)	45
64. Sandra Peakman	(Birmingham)	43
65. J. Richards	(Winslow)	43
66. Susan Butler	(Plymouth)	42
67. Susan Culbertson	(Birmingham)	42
68. Jackie Billington	(Chesterfield)	41
69. Doreen Schofield	(Stockport)	41
70. Dawn Campbell	(Dunstable)	40
71. Kathy Ridgard	(Winchester)	40
72. Janet Deakin	(Warrington)	40
73. Mandy Reeves	(Slough)	39
74. Lesley Longstone	(Sheffield)	39
75. S. Shutt	(Bradford)	38

(MEN'S RANKINGS — 155-200 ON PAGE 32)

MODERNISE OR DIE!

says John Prean

How do things look so far?

TODAY the Magazine is four pages bigger and each County and League Secretary is getting a free copy. This is an advance and shows our commitment to our readers and the Magazine. We hope to continue on this road.

Please push this copy around and make sure as many of your members see it as possible, so that they are encouraged to buy it regularly. This is just as important in your appreciation of the sport as new rubber and a lot cheaper. A year's supply of Table Tennis News costs about the same as half a sheet of rubber.

Media

In my 'election campaign' I identified two areas of concern. One is represented by the falling membership figures, the second by lack of media and TV exposure.

I have proposed a Working Party to address itself firmly to the former and a brand-new Committee "Promotion and

Marketing" to deal with the latter.

I do not really accept the often stated reason for our apparent decline, that the sport is no longer good to watch or even to play. I have seen crowds of hundreds watching matches in Germany, noisy and enthusiastic crowds. It is the same sport. TV viewing figures were rising almost every day during the World Championships of 1977. The fault is not in our stars, but in ourselves. The sport is what we have made it. WE have to do better. I point to the rise of DARTS and BOWLS. If I had told you in 1977 that both these would command more, much more TV than Table Tennis, you would have laughed at me. Now WE have to make things

happen. The sins and omissions of a decade will not be cured overnight, but they can be in time.

One area where you will have seen some early and substantial improvement is on the Press side, John Woodford (Daily Telegraph) and Richard Eaton (Guardian) being outstanding on the national front. Londoners will read Colin Fuller in the Standard - excellent, knowledgeable stuff. Soon David Luddy will write about Table Tennis in the News, London's 24 hour paper. We get good co-operation from the Press Association and Exchange Telegraph, but tournament organisers, British League Clubs and the rest must use this service and not finish their events too late to be printed.

Sadly, the financial situation of the ETTA is unsatisfactory. This implies no criticism of our Treasurer. He reports the position. He cannot pull money from a hat. We owe it to him and ourselves to get the financial position of the ETTA on a sound footing at last, when the investment of a few hundred pounds does not require endless heart-searching and when inactivity seems almost a virtue.

Exciting things

Members do criticise the number of ETTA committees and I see their point, but ANY activity needs a number of people to deal with it and so immediately you form a committee. If it is an active one, full of enthusiasm and idealism, much will be generated that fully justifies the outlay in petty cash. Sometimes just sitting there, creating masses of paper becomes the ideal and then committees do a great deal of harm. All instruments are only as good as the people who use them.

So we will have good people working on the membership problem and look more deeply into why our numbers are shrinking and we shall work actively and hard on Sponsorship, Media and TV. Some exciting things are in the pipeline, but early exposure can ruin the delicate balance of such 'deals' or indeed make us look silly if a last minute hitch kills our best hopes. We start from a low base. I confidently predict an improvement on the TV front - not difficult from our present near-zero base.

The Association is drowning in paper and red tape, so plentiful

as to be unmanageable. I am reminded of what a famous company doctor said, that excessive controls are more dangerous than too few, because the former often mean that management cannot see the wood for the trees. I think that we shall have to trust our people if we want them to do effective work. Less paper will mean more time for creative work. Mistakes will be made, but they are now and often they disappear amidst masses of fresh paper and are not noticed. I have a feeling that work has increased to accommodate staff and not always the other way round. We are not alone. Professor Parkinson has immortalised this trend in his witty books. A bonfire of paper will liberate our spirits. That is the way to financial soundness and sensible management.

Our Sports Council Grants have been reduced. The hopes of my predecessors of greater grants were not realized. Our own falling memberships figures and problem areas, such as Coaching, made the decision inevitable. Grants are not gifts. They are made as a contribution towards attaining certain objectives. The condition is that we DO succeed in broad terms. In the meantime next season's financial problems have increased, because effectively grants have been reduced.

In my talks with David Carpenter of the Sports Council, I found myself very much on the same wavelength. What he said was hard, but fair.

Our office in Hastings has been allowed to deteriorate for several years. The lease is running out and costly repairs will be needed to put it into the condition it was in when we moved in. Tomorrow we shall pay the price for yesterday's neglect.

After all these years we are still in rented accommodation, when so many of our member Associations have managed to finance their own centre. The building of paper mountains had priority over wealth creation and the marketing of the sport.

I have tried to strike a balance between early achievement and long term reforms and pointed to what is still holding us back.

Hard decisions have to be made. Some of these will be misunderstood. I hope they will be viewed in the light of the future of the sport itself. We must modernise or die.

JOHN

CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The English Table Tennis Association is seeking to appoint a Chief Executive to take control of the day to day organisation of the Association and improve the marketing of the sport.

The Chief Executive will be the principal professional officer of the Association with the responsibility for leading and motivating the existing professional staff to ensure the efficient and progressive management of the Association's activities.

An essential function of this new post will be to promote the sport of table tennis in England and therefore candidates should be able to demonstrate relevant promotional and marketing experience and have a proven record of obtaining commercial sponsorship.

Knowledge of table tennis and its organisation in England would be an advantage, but is not essential.

Table tennis is a fast, exciting sport, played throughout the world. The English Table Tennis Association is the governing body and as such is responsible for the organisation of one of the largest participatory sports in the country.

The commencing salary will be between £19,000 and £21,000 p.a.

Applications, including CV, to:

A.E. Ransome
Vice Chairman (Development)
Conifers, Church Lane
Ormesby, Middlesbrough
Cleveland

County championships

1000 participating players

Doug Moss

THE popularity of the County Championships has again been confirmed. More teams entered this season and already over 1,000 players have taken part. For the statistically minded the players are divided as follows:- Seniors 392, Juniors 373, Veterans 254.

New name at the top

There is disappointment at the loss of the services of Aubrey Drapkin as Chairman of the County Championships Committee. He has given excellent and enthusiastic service to the Championships having previously served as Administrator. But congratulations and good wishes to Doug Young, who takes over as Chairman. Doug has had wide experience in table tennis administration as a National Referee and International Umpire. He is a member of the Tournaments Committee and is Assistant Referee of the County Championships, a post he will now no doubt be vacating. Doug was Referee of the Senior Premier Weekend matches at Birmingham in November.

I report on matches played in December.

Senior 2A: Leics 7 Yorks II 3; Worcs 2 Cheshire 8; Northumberland 9 Warwicks 1.

Leics seem to be carrying all before them in this Division. Their third win was against Yorkshire 2nd with Chris Rogers and sister Karen Smith being unbeaten in singles or doubles. Yorks got off to a good start in this match with a 2-nil lead but gained only one other event. Mick Stead is doing very well as Yorks No 3 (!) winning his two singles against Leics giving him 5 out of 6 wins at this stage. Although Worcs lost 2-8 to Cheshire three of their losses were at 18 or 19 in the third game. Tony Taylor continues unbeaten for Cheshire. Northumberland were in fine form against Warwicks, the only event won by that team being Phil Gunn's win over Peter McQueen at 17, -18, 19.

Senior 2B: Dorset 2 Middx II 8; Kent 6 Devon 4; Wilts 4 Essex 6.

Middx 2nd look very strong with 3 convincing wins - not surprisingly with Colin Wilson and Mark Mitchell in their line up. Mark had some hard matches beating Jason Creasy 17 and 28 and against Tony Clayton the scores were -9, 22, -20! The other Dorset win came from Joyce Coop promoted from the Veterans team, who had a 14, 19 win over Gillian Blanch. Kent had a good win over Devon with Dave Dodd, Joe Kennedy and John Burleton each winning a singles and Dodd/Burleton taking their doubles event. Juliet Houghton gave the Kent team a boost by beating Carol

Butler -21, 12, 17 and winning the doubles with Lesley Popkiewicz in straight games. This gives Juliet a 100% record in singles and doubles at this stage. Elaine Short retained her unbeaten singles record for Devon. Essex had a good win over Wilts with Steve Dorking producing a sterling performance in winning his 2 singles and the doubles with Des Charlery. One of Steve's wins was over Kevin Satchell 16 and 21.

Senior 3A: Lincs 6 Cheshire II 4; Lancs II 5 Notts 5.

Stuart Worrell and Chris Bryan made a very good contribution for Lincs by winning their 4 singles events. Although the final result was close this was a match in which all events were decided in straight games.

Senior 3B: Devon II 7 Avon II 3.

S Richards won his 2 singles for Devon and with T Sweet took the doubles. And there was able support from Sue and Theresa Butler who also won their singles and doubles.

Somerset did not have a match in December but look to be the strongest team.

Senior 3C: Beds 3 Suffolk 7.

Just one match in this Division and Suffolk strengthened their lead. Two of the Beds team wins came at the expense of Mick Palmer, who must have felt he had a hard day! David Foster beat him 14, -13, 20 and against David Hyde it was even closer with scores 19, 14, 21!

Senior 3D: Bucks 9 Berks II 1; Herts 8 Oxford 2.

A convincing win for Bucks with Phillip Aspinall retaining a 100% singles record. But Berks played with only one lady for the second successive match. Keith Samuels and John Taylor won their 4 singles for Herts. The ladies doubles was a closely fought event with the Oxford pair of Elly Harrison and Sue Gokgor winning at 26-24 in the third game but this had to be conceded because Sue Gokgor was not on the Oxfords senior teams ranking list.

Sussex II are the only unbeaten team in this Division.

Senior 4A: Hunts 8 Kent II 2; Suffolk II 3 Leics II 7.

Keith Willett won 2 singles for Hunts and Helen Bardwell won her singles and the doubles with Jill Baldwin. The score sheet gave a 6-4 result but J White, who was involved in 2 wins for the Kent team, was not on their ranking list and the score had to be adjusted to 8-2. Leics are unbeaten and head the Table. They were well in control against Suffolk and M Pickles (Le) continued his 100% success in singles events.

Senior 4B: No matches played in December.

Junior 2A: Beds 5 Gwent 5; Cheshire 7 Staffs II 3; Suffolk 3 Warwicks 7; Yorks II 9 Derby II 1.

Beds and Warwicks share the lead in this Division. They are due to meet on 17 January. Beds are particularly well served by their girls, Lisa Robins and Kristina Cox who are unbeaten in singles and doubles. This was important in their match versus Gwent. Gavin Black (Bd) was also in good form winning his singles. David Buck was unbeaten for Gwent. The Cheshire boys (Jonathan Taylor, Michael Parker and Paul Birken) won all their singles matches against Staffs but surprisingly lost the doubles at -19 in the third to Kirk Roberts and Ian Hodgett. Sharon Norman secured the win for Cheshire with a 21 and 8 win over Louise Sherratt. Warwicks got off to a 3-nil lead at Ipswich and were well in control against Suffolk. Leigh Jeffries is a match winner for Warwicks being unbeaten and Darren Smith has won 5 of 6 singles matches. **Yorks II had a surprisingly easy 9-1 win over Derby II. Derbys won the girls doubles, the only event to go to 3 games, with Penny Corden and Amanda Dawkins beating Elizabeth Connell and Joanne Keighley 18, -15, 16.**

Devon leaders

Junior 2B: Herts 2 Devon 8; Berks 5 Middx 5; Cornwall 2 Essex II 8; Sussex 6 Surrey 4.

Devon secured their third win and lead the Table. But there were some close contests against Herts with 2 events being won at 18 in the decider and another at deuce. Sisters Jane and Helen Wright won 3 events for Devon. A close match at Newbury. The score stood at 4 all when Mary Allen (Bk) beat Sara Williams at 16 in the third but Joel Roodyn had a convincing win to secure a point for Middx. Cornwall took the first 2 events against Essex but only at 19 and 20 in the third games. However this was the extent of their success. Surrey had to concede an event against Sussex with their girls being in wrong ranking order so they lost a point.

Junior 3A: Clwyd 3 Northumberland 7; Durham 6 Lincs 4; Leics 6 Cheshire II 4.

Northumberland lead this Division. The 3 events to Clwyd were because Northumberland did not have any girls! Sally Johnson retained her unbeaten singles record in the match v Durham. In the Leics/Cheshire II match the score stood at 4 all when Liz Bryant won her singles and Andrew Clark, who had earlier lost to Cheshire No 3 (Richard Sarre) clinch the win for Leics by beating the No 2 (Roger Taylor) 20 and 16.

Junior 3C: Glos 6 Wilts 4; Somerset 6 Avon 4; Worcs 5 Hants 5; Wilts 6 Dorset 4.

There have been some close matches in this Division as seen from the December results. In the Glos/Wilts match the first 2 events were decided at deuce in the third game - one each way. Howard Williams winning his 2 singles and the doubles, with Dale Saunders was decisive in the Glos win. Somerset beat neighbouring Avon 6-4 with Tina Sadler and Joanne Webber (So) winning their 3 events. Worcs led Hants 5-3 and then Jane McLean won the first game against Lisa Rice (Ha). Lisa however went on to win 23 and 15 and Jason Hickes followed up to beat David Pendry 13 and 19 to force a draw. Nicola Jones (Wo) continued an unbeaten run in singles and doubles. Wilts gained a win over Dorset for whom Tracy Scott-Pawson and Sarah Dench won 3 of their 4 events.

Unbeaten Kent

Junior 3D: Essex III 5 Sussex II 5; Middx II 8 Herts II 2; Surrey II 8 Bucks 2.

Kent II are the only unbeaten team in the Division but did not have a match in December. Essex came back from 1-4 to lead Sussex 5-4 but M Greenbrook (Sx) then beat P Stone 7 and 17 to secure a draw and give him a "clean sheet" for the match. In the Middx/Herts match all events were two straight. E Hurling was involved in the 2 Herts wins taking her singles and the doubles with L Flewers. There was a similar situation in the Surrey/Bucks match with Anna Watton being the successful Bucks player. Jeremy Krzystyniak and Peter Burgess-Allen (Sy) are unbeaten in singles events.

Vets Premier: Essex 4 Kent 5; Worcs 5 Sussex 4.

Kent led all the way against Essex. The final result indicated a close match but two of the Essex wins were at 23 and 19 in the third game. The Worcs/Sussex clash was a closely fought match. Keith Horton (Sx No 1) lost his two singles at 18 and 23 in the third games! Mervyn Wood contributed two singles wins for Worcs and Janet Hunt won her singles and the doubles with Roy Norton. Roy Norton (Wo No 1) beat Keith Horton -16, 16 and 23 and lost to Robin Stae 21, -17, -19!

Vets 2A: Cheshire II 6 Leics 3; Herts 5 Yorks 4; Notts 6 Northumberland 3.

Three teams (Cheshire, Essex and Herts) are unbeaten at this stage and do not meet until February - in fact the Cheshire/Herts clash is the last fixture of the season! Cheshire took the two doubles events against Leics and Myra Lypryckcz (Ch) retained an unbeaten record in singles and doubles with Graham Tomlinson.

County Notes 1

BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

REPORTABLE happenings in Berkshire between mid December and the early part of January seem to be mainly confined to the participation of our Juniors in the National Ranking Trials at Lilleshall on 3 and 4 January and preparation for the Berkshire Closed Tournament at Bulmershe on 24 and 25 January.

At Lilleshall, our seven qualifiers from the Regional Trial put up the expected spirited performance and all came away with wins to their credit. Mary Allen, Robert Ettridge and Keith Hodder finished in fairly low positions, but not last in their respective groups, whilst Lisa Crick and Nicola Cracknell each managed a highly creditable fifth place in their groups of eight contestants. Nicola has been making great strides of late, as this achievement confirms. Martin Adams started off in fine style in his group of nine by beating Craig Smith of Yorkshire, ranked 12 in England cadets on the latest published list, to follow up with a further 5 wins in succession. Craig then obligingly beat the then second placed Peter Bowler of Bedfordshire to leave all 3 on equal second with only one of these to go through to the last eight, knock out stage. Mathematics came to the rescue to declare Peter the narrow, but well deserved, qualifier.

Matt Syed looked to be having a comfortable cruise through to the knock-out stage of the Junior Boys in winning all his group matches without really being challenged. Most unfortunately a knee injury then forced him reluctantly to withdraw. Could this be anything to do with the otherwise excellent, but very 'grippy' floor at Lilleshall? Two other of our players came away with swollen knee joints, one without any previous history of such, and with no other obvious cause.

With Matt's withdrawal, pride of place for Berkshire players in this tournament must clearly go to Julie Norman of Newbury. Shaking off the effects of 'flu she nevertheless reached the last eight by coming first in her group of nine in the Junior Girls.

Most of the above players will of course be anxious to prove their skills to their local County rivals at the Berkshire Closed, appearing well up the seedings. In the senior events, some interesting old against young clashes are predicted, if the seeding committee has got things right. For example, Veteran Alec Watson should meet Paul Savins in the final of the Mens singles, whilst Gill Knightly and Mary Stafford should be fighting it out with Mary Allan and Linda Green in the Ladies Doubles. Watch this space next month to discover if experience triumphed!

DERBYSHIRE

Malcolm Allsop

MATLOCK 1st improved their chances of retaining the Division One Championship of the Inter-Towns League by winning 7-3 against Derby 1st. Geoff Gill won his 3 singles in convincing fashion, with good support from Tony Gregory and Ian Burton. Derby replied with John Whittaker and Kian Ah Chong, on his debut, winning a singles each and combining to win the doubles.

Stuart Brooks and Charlie Kyles won 2 singles each and combined to win the doubles for Burton 1st in a close 6-4 win over Eastwood 1st.

Burton are certain to win the Ladies Division as their three teams are the only competitors. What a shame that the other Leagues could not display some of Burton's enthusiasm and enterprise!

Any thoughts that Burton 1st had of a walkover were quickly dispelled by Burton 2nd with Leslie Smith and Liz Merrick winning 2 singles each. Jane Vickers produced a captain's performance for the first team to ensure a 6-4 win.

Derby Veterans gained a 9-1 win over Chesterfield despite "resting" Ernie Lough. The unbeaten run of Eastwood Veterans came to an abrupt end when they encountered an improving Burton team who romped home by 9-1.

Penny Corden continues to improve and won a maximum in Derby Juniors 7-3 success against Eastwood. Steven Plater won his 3 singles for Chesterfield Juniors only for Chris Anderson, Simon Hall and Jason Latham to produce a good all-round team performance for Burton Juniors in a 7-3 success.

Eastwood championships:

Tim Sheppard played brilliant table tennis to win the Micro Image Trophy at the Eastwood Divisional Table Tennis Championships. Barry Taylor played well to win the first game of the final but Sheppard stepped up a gear and powered his way to victory.

In the Handicap event, Sheppard again played well to reach the Final but lost to the promising youngster Graham Farnsworth.

The strength of the young players in the Eastwood League was emphasised by Jason Bamford and Andrew Clarke overcoming a strong entry to reach the Final of the Division Two event. Bamford took the Birchprint Trophy winning 17, 13.

Andrew Clarke also reached the Final of the Division Two Handicap event, but lost 24-31 to another young player Martin O'Connor.

Results:

Division One: Micro-Image Trophy: Tim Sheppard b Adrian Weightman 14, 12; Barry Taylor b Richard Wool 19, 9.

Final: Sheppard b Taylor - 18, 14, 12.

Division One Handicap:

Graham Farnsworth (18) b Mark Starr (10) 31-27; Tim Sheppard (0) b Tony Holland (5) 31-15.

Final: Farnsworth b Sheppard 31-17.

Division Two: Birchprint Trophy: Andrew Clarke b Dennis Beardsley 15, 16; Jason Bamford b Darren Pacey 10, 13.

Final: Bamford b Clarke 17, 13.

Division Two Handicap:

Andrew Clarke (12) b Dennis Beardsley (16) 31-27; Martin O'Connor (24) b C Clarke (24) 31-24.

Final: O'Connor b Clarke 31-24.

CORNWALL

Jeremy Williams

ALL news has been overshadowed this month by the tragic death of the Cornwall Association's President David Penhaligon M.P. killed in a road crash just before Christmas. Few people knew that David Penhaligon was no mean table tennis player himself and some players will recall his playing days in the West Cornwall League during the sixties.

In 1977 he was elected President of the Cornwall Association, an office he had held ever since, and showed a keen interest in the activities of Cornish table tennis during this period.

County computer print out

Despite the Christmas break, there has been plenty of table tennis activity of late, but there can be no doubt that the County computer lists have created the most interest this season. The first list has been released and shows some interesting placings:

- 1 J Bassett (St. Ives)
- 2 K James (Falmouth)
- 3 J Williams (Falmouth)
- 4 R Jacobs (Truro)
- 5 B Cornelius (St. Austell)
- 6 G Reed (Falmouth)
- 7 N Cock (St. Ives)
- 8 R Prendergast (Falmouth)
- 9 M Peters (Falmouth)
- 10 R Bartlett (St. Austell)
- 11 K Stevenson (Bude)
- 12 M James (Camborne)

At present only the men's list has been released and currently extend from numbers 1 to 100. The next list is due shortly.

Cornish inter town league

The first and second series of the Cornish Inter Town League have now been played and Launceston have taken an early lead. However, the most notable result to date was that obtained by Camborne who won 5-3 at St. Ives with only a half strength team. There was a win here for Mark James over John Bassett which has put Camborne up with the league leaders.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Launceston	2	2	0	0	13	3	4
Falmouth	2	2	0	0	13	3	4
Camborne	2	2	0	0	11	5	4
Bude	1	1	0	0	8	0	2
Truro	2	0	0	2	4	12	0
Falmouth II	2	0	0	2	4	12	0
St. Ives	1	0	0	1	3	5	0
Helston	2	0	0	2	0	16	0

Results: Launceston 5 Truro 3; Falmouth II 2 Falmouth I 6; Bude 8 Helston 0; St. Ives 3 Falmouth 5; Launceston 8 Helston 0; Falmouth I 7 Truro 1; Camborne 6 Falmouth II 2.

Cornish senior knock-out

The draw for the first round of the Senior Knock-out is as follows:-

Camborne A v Dereham (Truro); Falmouth Docks A v Launceston Liberal A; Truro A v Bude Central; St. Just v Helston Godolphin A; St. Ives A v Launceston White Hart B; St. Austell-Slades v Falmouth Docks B; Camborne B Bye; Penzance A Bye.

Cornish club championship

Played at the White Hart Hotel, Launceston over Christmas Camborne A won the Cornish club championship by one point from St. Ives. One of the more popular events on the Cornish calendar whereby clubs must field one man, one woman, one boy and one girl, the winning Camborne team was Mark James, Alison Clemens, Leon Jose and Rachel Boon.

Inter league matches

There has been considerable activity in the Inter-League competitions in which the West Cornwall and Launceston Leagues have been involved with varying success. The Wilmott Cup for men has created the most interest and success. In the second round, Launceston proved that they are now a force to be reckoned with by eliminating the Bournemouth League by a 5-4 scoreline which was an excellent result for the Cornish side. West Cornwall also faced a tough task at home to Bridgewater and after going 2-0 down eventually pulled off a 5-3 victory thanks mainly to a hat trick of wins from John Bassett. Former Devon number one Keith James has strengthened the side and his fine win over Lee Sadler put West Cornwall into the third round. The third round brought Launceston and West Cornwall together for the right to play Plymouth in round four. The match was not the friendliest of confrontations - West Cornwall had an attack of the jitters and went 2-0 down to a fired up Launceston team at Falmouth. However, West Cornwall recovered well to eventually win 5-2. Match scores:-

J Bassett lt N Bevan - 18, 12, - 17; J Bassett b K Stevenson 15, 18; K James lt Stevenson - 16, - 19; K James b A Bevan 19, 7; J Williams b N Bevan 9, 10; J Williams b Stevenson 16, 11; J Williams b A Bevan 20, 9.

County Notes 2

ESSEX

Laurie Darnell

THE ALARM BELLS are ringing!! The Treasurer, Brian Rowlen, reports that the affiliation fees are £213 less than last season! There are 71 fewer teams, the present number being 949. This represents a 7% reduction on last season and a massive 21.5% contraction since 1981. Brian has given the bald facts. What about the future?

A report "Table Tennis in Essex" was written and presented in September 1985. It contains ideas to stop the trend of falling numbers playing our sport. The Management Committee of the ECTTA have reorganised their structure. Only three leagues have increased their strength this season: Braintree + 1, Clacton + 2 and Silvertown + 4. They realize the situation. It is now time for other league committees to act!

MAJESTIC

Alan Shepherd, Junior Match Secretary, says that the Premier Division squad of Damian Holland, Jason Clark, Jason Tendler, Grant Solder, Tanya Holland and Kate Gower performed very creditably at the first weekend. Narrow defeats at the hands of Lancashire and Staffordshire was amply compensated by a fine victory over Kent. A calculated risk of putting in Grant Solder (Essex No 7) against Kent immediately paid off! He pulled off a tremendous win over Brian Mileham by -18, 15, 22. Damian Holland was in majestic form, quite making up for his previous frailties. Kate Gower won her third consecutive singles of the weekend and as she and Tanya Holland were both successful, combining well in the doubles, her final record was five wins out of six.

PERSONAL REASONS

The Chairman, Peter Roden, has decided for personal reasons not to seek re-election at the end of the current season. He said "It is probable that my only involvement in Table Tennis from then on will be as a player".

Peter started his administrative career in 1958 when he was selected to the Basildon League Committee. During the 1970's he also served the Brentwood League in various posts. His versatility was recognised by Essex in 1975 and he has rung the changes ever since. Filling posts as the need arose. He won the Corti-Woodcock Award in 1980 and became a Life Member in 1984. He resigned the chairmanship of the Basildon League when he became the ECTTA Chairman in 1985.

Since 1980 Peter has played his part on the ETTA Tournaments Committee. He is currently Vice-Chairman.

RADIO BRAIN

Peter Roden became a County Umpire in 1964 and was elevated to International standard by 1980. A year later and he was a National Referee and started the first of his four consecutive Essex 3-star Senior Opens. He was appointed to Referee the English Junior Closed in 1983 and has been in charge of two International matches - against Russia in 1981 and France in 1984.

It may not be generally known that Peter has an encyclopaedic knowledge of Athletics. He once took part in an "eliminator" in the first year of radio's Brain of Sport!

HAMPSHIRE

David Cosway

CONSIDERING we are in the middle of the season, I have little to report. The promised half way stage information from the County's National League teams and from the various Towns has failed to materialise.

In the Inter Town Leagues, Secretary, Di Winnill, tells me a number of matches have been postponed and the league tables are not yet relevant. In the mixed division Aldershot are top having won both their matches to date, but only three teams have entered this division. Portsmouth lead the mens division with two wins but Andover have yet to play a match. The Veteran A division is headed by Bournemouth A who have won all three matches but have yet to play Southampton or Portsmouth. Southampton B have won three and drawn one of their four matches in the Veteran B division. After the first set of block matches in the Junior division One, Bournemouth lead but have played three matches compared with other towns one. They had a win against Southampton B, a draw against Southampton A and a loss against Aldershot. The chaos was caused by the calling off on the day of the Basingstoke Team's matches because they were unable to raise a team. Very unfortunate as this defeats the whole object of block matches and leaves Basingstoke to rearrange the two matches they should have played. In the B division Portsmouth won their three matches.

The Senior ranking list has been revised for the men after the Hampshire closed and now reads:-

1. Graham Toole; 2. Terry Haley;
3. Rhamish Bhalla; 4. Mark Wilding;
5. Tony Duffield; 6. Miki Sinanan.

I await with interest the comments on these re-rankings after the teams are selected for the next County matches.

From Harold Pearce's '21 Up' magazine, I see that in the Bournemouth premier division Mer-

ton are the leaders winning their first seven matches with the loss of only 13 sets, but have yet to play Winton A who have drawn one but are also unbeaten. The North Club in Bournemouth celebrated their 50th Anniversary with a dinner last November. Elsie Carrington who organised the evening made a presentation to the Secretary for the whole of the Clubs life Cecil 'Cash' Cashell - I wonder if anyone can match that record!

In the Southampton premier Division Snobs still dominate with the Club having the top two teams at the half way stage and eight of the top twelve in the leading averages.

Now for what should have been the top event to report this month, the Southampton Closed. Of the 500 plus registered players in the City, no less than 32 entered! Twenty Five in the mens singles, three in the womens singles and four in the Juniors. This situation can only be described as pathetic. The absence of Senior players is to the regretted but the absence of three of the top County Juniors is alarming for the future of the game. If players do not put more effort into their own Associations Annual Tournament it will not be run in the future. A substantial loss on this event and its subsidy from players and the Association's reserves just cannot be justified if this is the extent of interest shown. In the mens Singles the early rounds were played on a group basis with the eight seeds coming through from the groups to the quarter finals. At that stage Terry Bruce beat John Roberts, Chris Shetler beat Gary Longland, Andy Ely a close winner against Jeff Mitchell and Bill Moulding beat Graham Pointer. In the semi's, Andy Ely beat Bill Moulding 11, -18, 7 and Terry Bruce beat Chris Shetler 17, -16, 21. The final was a close affair but Terry Bruce's relentless attacking game failed to beat Andy Ely who retained his title with a 17, -12, 17 win. A good result this for Andy who has not been at his best this season in the Premier division and lost seven of his twenty seven sets in the first half.

COMPETITIVE

In the Womens Singles no real competition for Sarah Hammond who won both of her sets in the Round Robin event, while Sarah Turner beat Rachel Cheffey to take second place. In the Juniors County No 5 Jeff Giles had little difficulty in winning the group event beating Rachel Cheffey into second place. The Veterans Singles was a much more competitive event with two deuce in the third semi finals before Ken Giles beat Des Ely and George Philpott got the better of former winner Maurice Shave. In the final George Philpott beat Ken Giles, -16, 14, 14. In the Mens Doubles, Tony Catt and Alan Charles beat No 2 seeds Chris Shetler and Gary Londland in the semi final but were

outplayed in the final by Terry Bruce and Bill Moulding and lost 8 and 16. In the Womens Doubles Sarah Turner and Rachel Cheffey had a good win over Tina Caws and Sarah Hammond, 21, -20, 17. A close final in the mixed before Tony Catt and Sarah Hammond got the better of Mark Adams and Rachel Cheffey -11, 15, 17. In the Handicap event Terry Bruce despite a Handicap of -2 beat Mark Adams (+8), -17, 15 and 14. In view of the very low entry no problems for the two main organisers, Brian Lamerton and the Country Secretary, Harold Albery.

LINCOLNSHIRE

Kath Fisher

GRANTHAM, top of the league in the Haigh Cup, were pushed hard by Boston in their recent match.

Although Chris Bryan had an excellent win over Brian Hill 19-21: 21-14: and 20-22: to keep up his unbeaten run. With one game left to play Boston were leading 5-4; and Simon Pullen had to play Jim Brewster in the deciding game. Jim took the first set 21-10 but Simon fought back to take the next two games 12-21 and 18-21 to give his team a 5-5 draw.

Grantham: Chris Bryan 3; Simon Pullen 2; S Brown 0.

Boston: Brian Hill 2; Jim Brewster 1; Mike East 1.

Doubles: Boston

Congratulations to Mablethorpe Ladies winning their first match in the Butlin Cup against Gainsborough.

Beryl Voss is another player still unbeaten, and as expected, won her 3 and Maureen Potts won her first singles in the competition against Clare Pilkington, and together they won the doubles. Maggie Mitchell, playing for the very first time in a town match, also won a game to give them a win 6-4.

Mablethorpe: Beryl Voss 3; Maureen Potts 1; Maggie Mitchell 1.
Gainsborough: Claire Oldham 2; Rose Oldman 1; Claire Pilkington 0.
Doubles: Mablethorpe.

FIRST POINT

Gainsborough gained their first point in their next match, when they unexpectedly held Louth to a 5-5 draw, knocking them down from second into third place.

Claire Oldman has improved her game enormously since last season, and she won 2 singles. The vital game in this match was the doubles which Gainsborough won 10-21: 21-15: and 21-19. Clare Pilkington was another player to win her first singles.

Gainsborough: Claire Oldman 2; Rose Oldman 1; Clare Pilkington 1.
Louth: Kath Fisher 3; Sue Allison 2; Kerry Allison 0.

County Notes 3

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

by Alf Pepper

COUNTY Officials have been dashing around Helder-Skelter of late to ensure that the "Cotswold Junior Select Tournament" which is being held at the Gloucester Leisure Centre on 31st January and 1st February will, as it has in the past - prove a great success. Hopefully (unless anyone else wants the job) I shall be reporting upon this National Junior event in the March edition of T.T.N.

Just a few days prior to Christmas day and quite early in the morning, the Liberal M.P. for Truro - Mr David Penhaligon was tragically killed in an horrendous car accident, Mr Penhaligon was a man of many activities in life as well as being an M.P. and one of them was that he was the President of the Cornish T.T.A. We tender our sincere sympathies to his family - and indeed The Cornish Table Tennis Association.

The Gloucestershire County Council in co-operation with the S.W. Region of the Sports Council are I understand organising four solid days of sport on 13th-16th April 1987 at the College of St Paul and St Mary in Cheltenham, it is classified as "The first Gloucestershire School of Sport", and table tennis is included in the curriculum for 16 boys and girls - age range 11-16 years old.

Information on this project is at the time of writing sadly lacking, but I can outline the general format briefly.

It is intended that "The School of Sport" will make significant inroads to the general development of sport in the County.

Hopefully it will further provide intense high level coaching for young people between the ages of 9 and 19, (9 to 16 in T.T. Courses), and enable Students with ability and commitment to develop their potential talent.

It is expected that those selected to attend courses will be of, or near County Standard.

Coaches who are appointed by the appropriate governing bodies of sport, are of the highest possible calibre.

Gloucestershire's youngsters and especially T.T. enthusiasts should if interested in this project, contact their Club or League Secretaries for further information.

And finally on this subject, I can disclose that - clothing, equipment, timetables and further details will be forwarded to all entrants that are accepted for the "School of Sport" by mid-February 1987.

By the time this report makes the press - The Providence Capitol County Premier League will have recommenced (in early February) their second round of matches. Rudford well established at the top of the

table and current holders look already much "To the Manor Born", but one must not count matches before they are played, and with six more as yet to go, well who knows?

It is indeed pleasing to see that our Juniors in Division 3C are doing much better this season, and to their credit - their last encounter which as with Val Clacks Lads and Lassies from neighbouring Wiltshire our youngsters upheld their unbeaten record by beating Wilts 6-4. Much credit for this win must go to Howard Williams who was the only player to remain unbeaten.

We have three registered players from the Gloucester City League, all playing for - I.M.I. Opella, Leominster in the third Division of the Schildkrot British League. They are County No 1 Darren Griffin, Steve Moreman the Gloucestershire County Captain both of whom play for Rudford in the 1st Division of the City League, another member of this team is really a Herefordshire player - Mark Owen, but as Mark is registered for one of the City's top clubs "The Gordon League" and furthermore plays for Gloucester City, then indeed he must be included. The rest of the team comprises of Andrew Castle and Ray Cooke.

At the time of writing Opella Leominster are lying in 3rd position from the top of the table with 9 pts. Heading the table are Doleq Carpets with 11 pts and Jollife Poole with 10 pts.

COMMUNICATIONS

Gill Smith Cheltenham's hard working Chairperson continues to dispatch all the Cheltenham news - and more - in her newsletter Net & Edge. Likewise despite difficulties in obtaining news from the T.T. media - Editor/Chairman of the Stroud League John Bunn serves up cracking news in the "Stroud Point-maker". Well done both of you, communications and news in any sport are of vital importance.

HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

IAN BLACK, who lives in St. Albans and plays for Hemel Hempstead, was the star of the Hertfordshire Junior Closed Championships, held at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre on Sunday 14th December, proving his pedigree by winning both the Boys Under 14 and Under 17 trophies, plus the mixed Doubles in his own swashbuckling style.

In the Under 14 final he beat his old rival James Patterson from Hatfield 22, - 15, 14.

But in the Under 17 Final Black was at his brilliant best, beating Barnet's Maurice Greenberg +12, +15, to take the coveted trophy.



Ian Black, the Junior County Champion.

Black tasted glory once again when in partnership with Barnet's Maria Williams they won the Mixed Doubles Final, defeating Patterson and Watford's Caroline Seaholme 11, - 19, - 17.

The Girls Under 17 Final between Hemel Hempstead's Emma Hurling and Caroline Seaholme was a real cracker, with the quality of play so scintillating that it had the audience on the edge of their seats, with Hurling emerging the eventual winner 13, - 20, - 13.

But Seaholme came out on top of Hurling in the Girls Doubles Final, when in partnership with Maria Williams she beat Hurling and Lynn Flewers from Hertford +16, +12.

Caroline Seaholme's younger sister Sarah and St. Albans Helen Rose played each other twice and won a winner's trophy each, when young Seaholme came out on top of Rose in the Girls Under 14 Final, whilst Rose reversed the score to take the Under 12 Girls trophy.

Patterson and Hertford's Richard Grethe won the Boys Doubles Final beating the Black brothers Ian and Stephen, whilst young Jonathan Humphrey from Hemel Hempstead won the Boys Under 12 trophy beating Kevin Flowerday from Barnet.

Two of Hertfordshire's promising junior's tasted success in the Stan Teasdale Junior Invitation Tournament, held at the Barnet Table Tennis Centre on the 27 and 28 December.

St. Alban's Andrew Rose in partnership with Salisbury's Michael Auchterlonie won the Boys Doubles, whilst Barnet's Maria Williams reached the Girls Singles Final, where she was beaten by Allison Gower from Ingotstone.

The Boys Singles was won by Grant Solder from Barking, when he defeated Dunstable's Peter Bowler in a memorable final.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Pauline Long

THE last County matches before the Christmas and New Year break both resulted in defeats. The veterans' team put up a strong fight against Nottinghamshire but went down 3-6, the sets being shared equally between Fred Short, Maurice Cheek and Larry Cartmell. The juniors travelled to Clwyd without any girls, one being ill and the other unavailable. We were unable to find replacements and can only be thankful that at least we were able to save the Clwyd girls from a wasted journey across Wales. Michael Curry, Stephen Penman and Steven Coverdale were unbeaten in singles and doubles to make the final match score 7-3, but the lack of strength in depth of junior girls must give serious concern for the team's future.

The Northumberland league just lost a thrilling Carter Cup match to the Sunderland league by 4-5, with Curry's excellent maximum just not being quite enough. Penman won the other set, and Michael Karczewski, on debut, tried hard and was unlucky not to win any sets.

North Shields YMCA 'A' (Ian Robertson, Ronnie Scott, Malcolm Lusk) are currently leading the Northumberland League Premier Division table, and Clegwell C.A. (Don McIver, Larry Cartmell, Gordon Bissett) are equal on points, but have played one game more. Byker C.C. 'A' (Eddie Smith, Maurice Cheek, Jeremy Musselwhite) have also come back into contention with big wins against two of the lower teams, and both Clegwell and Byker have the advantage of being able to call on Peter McQueen and Neil McMaster respectively when necessary.

Three successive 10-0 victories by the Post Office have swept them to the top of Division 3B, but North Shields Y.M.C.A. 'E', although three points behind, have a game in hand. Dunston 'B' and Ouston C.C. 'D' appear to be the outstanding teams in Division 4 at the moment, with the former being unbeaten and the latter having lost only one match.

IN THE BAG

Dave Watson, Peter Curry and Alan Mathewson appear to have the Division 1 title in the bag already for Blydon Y.C. 'A', as they are currently six points clear of the second-placed team, Ouston C.C. 'A'. The top of the table clash between B.M.T. 'A' and Northumbria Centre in Division 2A ended in a draw, with Steven Riggins being unbeaten for the Centre, who are still three points clear at the top of the table. Division 2B, however, is a much closer affair, with only one point separating the top four teams, and Blydon Y.C. 'B' are the team currently holding that slender lead.

County Notes 4

NORTHANTS

Dennis Millman

CONGRATULATIONS are due to our National Councillor, Ken Marchant who has recently been appointed Chairman of the National Coaching Committee. This is a well deserved honour for Ken, who has at times been solely instrumental in maintaining a flourishing county organisation.

Following the re-formation of the County Association, he became the county's first qualified coach, and his early efforts in this area helped to put Northants table tennis on the map.

From 1972-76 he held the position of Panel Chairman of Area 3 of the ETTA Coaching Scheme, being responsible for coaching in the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk, Cambridgeshire, Hunts and Northants.

In 1976 he was appointed Regional Coaching Adviser for the East/South East Region which became the largest in the country when Kent, Surrey, Sussex, Middlesex, Essex, Hertfordshire and Bedfordshire were added to those above.

In 1977, and to conform with the Sports Council Regions he was appointed Regional Coaching Chairman of the East/East Midlands, when Notts, Lincs, Leicestershire and Derbyshire came under his wing. He also held the position of Regional Co-ordinating Chairman until the end of last season. Although he still holds the office of Eastern Region Coaching Chairman, his new appointment, recently ratified by the ETTA has taken him to the top in his field, while in July he was further honoured by being made a Vice-President of the ETTA.

RAPID PROGRESS

Meanwhile Dave Marsh, his most recent successor as county coach, is having early successes in his new role, with the county junior side having a good season, and many of the young players currently representing the new Westfield Club in the Northampton, Wellingtonborough and Kettering Leagues making rapid progress.

Another newly formed club - Well Connected Menswear, not only hold a challenging position in the Schildkrot British League, but presently hold pole position in all three major county leagues. This is a monopoly that not only gives a true indication of the club's strength in depth, but also pays tribute to the enthusiasm and management expertise of club captain, Chris Handshaw. However monopolies on the local scene need to be terminated at an early stage if leagues are to flourish, and hopefully, some of our fast improving youngsters will eventually bring this about.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Mike Tunningley

DESPITE the current downward trend of table tennis nationally it is nice to report an upsurge of interest in our area. Nottingham are very proud of the fact that they are able to operate no less than twelve divisions while Worksop Table Tennis League boast a further five clubs entering this season's Winter League. A number of very dedicated people on the management committee of both leagues are to be thanked for their untiring efforts along with the players who play every week without disputes, moans or delays.

STERLING JOB

The Nottingham League issue their own magazine called "Table Talk" each quarter and various correspondents from the league are able to forward their views to Dave Pearson, who has done a sterling job editing this highly interesting magazine. The players look forward to each published issue as it keeps them up to date with local news from which valuable information is derived.

The Nottingham Premier League is now stronger than ever with many teams taking time out during the summer to improve their personal game. This trend is typified by Sycamore Raquet Sense who include in their squad of seven players such talents as Martin Kinsella and Alan Cooke as well as home grown stars John Holland and Terry Bull. John Holland's progress continues as he's currently enjoying an unbeaten run of twelve matches for his club who top the league table.

Nottingham's Phil Logsdon, Trevor Kerry and Richard Tilford played their first match in this season's Wilmott Cup and ended up convincing 7-2 winners over Grimsby.

Tilford produced some fine table tennis to win all his matches in two straight, beating England veteran Matt Shearer along the way.

Logsdon also took the maximum despite not being 100% fit while Kerry lost one to Brian Allison 22-20 in the third.

A nice opening fixture out of the way and the conduct of the Nottingham 'A' team was exemplary.

Back in the Worksop League the current leaders in Division One are two teams from the same club. Genefax B and Genefax A are currently contesting the top spot with the same number of points. The 'B' team consisting of Paul Davison, Stephen Harrison and Ian Richardson won promotion from Division Two last season and are certainly not overawed in the higher league while the more experienced squad of Mick Bartrop, Gloria Stocks, Steve Parkinson, Anne Wass and Keith Bloomfield make up the A team.

OXFORDSHIRE

Matthew O'Flynn

BESIDES the usual weekly League matches little seems to have been happening in Oxfordshire table tennis spheres over the Christmas period. However, preparations are now beginning for the forthcoming busy period.

Just before Christmas the County Junior team collected their first point of the season from an exciting drawn match with Norfolk. The visitors number one, Neil Pickard, was the outstanding player of the match. Both teams had results against them which could easily have been reversed. Sally Hughes and Dawn Barnett were successful in the girls singles and doubles. Paul Poulter and Gavin Yates both won a singles. Yates and Richard Giblin both squandered deciding set leads which should have been converted. It is hoped that this line up will grow in confidence and start the New Year in good form.

The Senior team have had a disappointing start. Number one and Team Captain, Karl Bushell, reports that the team are now hoping to avoid finishing bottom. He believes the problem to be the lack of a strong number one although the team has a squad of good players who could all fill the number three spot successfully. He is also hoping to be able to strengthen the ladies department.

It has been decided that another Boys Ranking Trial is necessary and this may be held early in January. However, it's purpose is not totally clear since those in the County team have proved they deserve their places.

UNDECIDED

The Top Ten event has now been arranged for Sunday 5th April at Morris Motors. The selection system is as yet undecided but is likely to include the top six men with the top four juniors. A Top Six Ladies event will take place on the same day with the two promising cadets, Sally Hughes and Dawn Barnett, likely to take part.

The most important event of the County's calendar is now almost upon us. The date for the County Closed Tournament has been brought forward this season. The Senior and Junior events will be held on the same day, Sunday 8th February, at Redefield Sports Centre. There has been recent criticism at the number of games a player can have and the length of time waiting for events. It is hoped that these will be met by playing groups of four and finishing each event as opposed to keeping back the later rounds.

The County is looking forward with anticipation to the proposed Cadet team competition. Besides the three cadets already appearing regularly for the county there are a number more eager for an opportunity to compete at this level.

STAFFORDSHIRE

Jack Chalkley

ALTHOUGH trounced by Yorkshire in their opening match, our juniors came back well in the first Premier Weekend to finish with three points from their first three matches. With a possible four points likely to come from the second weekend, we should retain our place in the top division for a further season.

Our close tussle with Yorkshire for last season's honours was not repeated this year and there is every indication that Yorkshire will run away with the division this season. In our 9-1 defeat, only Gary Knights managed a win, and throughout the weekend, in winning 50% of his singles, he often showed the maturity of an old head on his young shoulders. Adrian Thorp excelled against Essex, winning both his singles to give Staffs. a 6-4 victory, with the other wins coming from Gary Knights, Robert Till, Helen Lower and the girl's doubles. Both in this win, and in the draw which followed against Notts., the whole team contributed, the team spirit being particularly noticeable in the two doubles victories which were so important to us in the match against Notts. Adrian Thorp, Gary Knights and Helen Lower added singles wins in the last match. Jane Winter was the fifth member of the team.

Just a short word on one aspect which marred our splendid performance. I gather that temper and bad language occasionally took over. If only players would realise that this helps no one, particularly the offending player, and I would hope that officials would take what action is necessary to eliminate it from our sport.

The junior B side had a good win over Derbyshire in their second match and raised hopes that we would retain our position in Division 2. Kirk Roberts (2) Ian Hodgett (2), Mark Stretton and Natalie Riley had singles wins and the partnerships of Roberts and Stretton, and Natalie Riley and Louise Sherratt, won both the doubles to give Staffs. a 8-2 victory. Many thanks to Arthur Thomas for staging the match at Wolverhampton.

Entry forms for the County Closed will shortly be distributed. The date is March 29th, the venue Lilleshall, giving players throughout the County a chance of visiting and playing at the National Sports Centre.

A date for the diary - Wolverhampton Closed on 22nd February. This is the only news from around the County, so will local press secretaries please note that I would like to hear from them.

And finally, a plea for more players, of all standards, to come forward and become umpires. In trying to upgrade the sport and bring it more prominently before the public we must have more umpires.

County Notes 5

SURREY

Frank Hams

THE match between Surrey II and Kent I was interrupted when Kent's non-playing captain Cliff Carder asked one of his own supporters to leave the arena because he was under the influence of alcohol. The match was won by Kent 7-3 but what was this supporter celebrating? Was it because Mike Hammond had played splendidly to beat D. Dodd and J. Kennedy or Debbie Simmonds great win over H. Gore? Perhaps he had watched Surrey I Vets beat Hants II 9-0, at the same venue, maybe he realised that Gordon Chapman's two victories were the first time he had won 2 in a County match! Had he bought the drink during the "happy hour"? This was the alleged period of time it took Gordon to beat Hants No 1! Did he use it for medicinal purposes to recover from the effects of cigar smoke which is in abundance when a certain Surrey Veteran plays? Perhaps we'll never know but he would have been pleased with his team's efforts against the rest of the Surrey team:- Dave Harding, Steve Holloway and Linda Clement. The other veterans were Brian Simmonds, Dave Crowley and Jennie Vass.

In the County Premier w/e Nicky Mason played brilliantly according to N/P captain M Kercher. He was unbeaten winning 6 including a thrilling victory over A Cooke. Dave Hannah also played well losing only one and was unbeaten in the 3 M/D games he played with Nicky. These victories meant Surrey beat Yorks and Lancs 5-4 but lost to Derbyshire 4-5. Max Crimmins, Mike Hammond and Jane Barella couldn't muster a win between them in singles or doubles. If Nicky or David are unable to play in the 2nd w/e our problems would really be highlighted. So Mike Kercher will be hoping that both will be available and in the same form.

For Rue Bole in the Stiga Middlesex 3 star tournament, Father Christmas came early. By winning his group he gained a stocking full of computer points. By beating D. Gannon in the 1st round he accumulated enough additional points to fill a hamper! But then he met that other Christmas character Ebenezer Scrooge who gave him nothing at all - Scrooge was Des Douglas.

Finally one or two predictions for 1987 ... Nicky Mason wins 3 star event ... Mike Kercher grows more whiskers ... Brian Simmonds wins slimmer of the year ... Mike Hammond continues to rise up ranking list and gets gold tracksuit ... Vourne Simmonds - supporter of the year ... Ron Laugheim buys T.T. shorts ... Ranking list published ... Surrey closed tournament May 9/10th ... Entry forms sent out early ... Connie Warren beats H. Buist to win major Vets tournament...

SUSSEX

John Woodford

THE DAYS when the Sussex championships attracted 250 or more players to the Brighton Corn Exchange and 16 tables were in action for up to 15 hours have now it would seem, gone forever. For many years the Brighton Corporation charged a friendly fee for the hire of the hall although it naturally increased year by year until it became no longer viable.

The tournament was run for many years by a group of veteran enthusiasts from the Brighton League and was also associated with the hire of the same hall and the Brighton Dome for the English Open, which prospered there for a number of years.

Brighton is of course, admirably central for a county as wide as Sussex. The Worthing Leisure Centre and then the Lancing centre have been tried with reasonable success but now there is another complete change with an expected entry of about 150 - the Southwick Sports Centre, where a number of smaller Sussex events are held including the Junior Closed and the Brighton championships.

This time there will be 12 tables and for the second year the sponsors will be the Trustee Savings Bank. March 8th is the date and incredibly there do not seem to be any major clashes with other events, especially the Schildkrot British League, a competition that is clearly of extreme annoyance to organisers of most tournaments, because, although the British League dates are supposed to be fixed, a number of clubs are making their own arrangements for date changes, almost invariably clashing with tournaments.

On this Sussex occasion however, it does seem that the Moore family are likely to be all present and their principal challengers like Phil Smith and Ritchie Venner. Adrian and Stephen Moore and Smith and Venner seem certain to be the top four seeds. The worrying factor is that there is now a great shortage of talented youngsters who should by now be coming through to challenge these four top men.

The only name that springs to mind currently is the Sussex Junior



Adrian Moore -
The Sussex Champion.

Champion from Crawley Scott Greenbrook, an easy name to remember and one that will be recalled for some time by Phil Richardson who plays for Erreys Print in the British League. Scott knocked out the Crawley footballer in the West Sussex championships, the sort of shock that senior selectors dream of.

In the young lasses department we have Julie Lawrence of Bexhill. She has recently shot up the Sussex rankings to No 6 following a win over the former Sussex champion Carole Hewitt.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Doug. Moss

THE County teams have had mixed fortunes in the County Championships. The 1st team has certainly fared better this season having drawn with Yorkshire 2nd and beaten Warwickshire. The Veterans are playing in the Premier Division and had a close and exciting match in their 5-4 win over Sussex. The Juniors are unbeaten so far with one win and two draws. The 2nd team are struggling but will hopefully improve as the season goes on. Murray Jukes, the County No 1, is at Bath University but is getting some good practice in the area and has played well in the County Championships and in the British League.

The Worcester League has 42 teams involved in knock-out competitions based on matches with best of 5 games up to 11 points. There are separate competitions for Division 1 and 2 teams and those from Divisions 3 and 4. It will be interesting to see the reaction of players.

A Tournament was held in Worcester soon after Christmas which gave incentive to lower division players. Firstly there was a singles event for all divisions played on a handicap basis. It was won by 1st Division player Dean Kloos (rec.3) and the runner-up from the Schools League was David Pendry (rec.11). A singles event for players from Division 3 and below was on a straight knock-out basis and won by Terry Round (Kidderminster Harriers) with finalist John Badger (Old Elizabethans). The other event was a doubles championship with the stronger players teamed with those from the lower divisions. This brought Nicola Jones (15) and Michelle McDornell (14) in opposition in the final. Nicola and Nicky Mytton (Evesham Rowing Club) beat Terry Round and Michelle in straight games.

The County Closed Senior Championships will be held in February in Dudley. Simon Claxton will be defending his Mens Singles title and it is hoped Murray Jukes will be able to compete. Louise Davis was a triple champion last season but will have strong opposition from Sandra Roden.

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

NEWS this month comes from the North Yorkshire Spa town of Harrogate where yet another long service official has been presented with the E.T.T.A.'s Certificate of Merit.

Man doing the honours was League Chairman and popular International Umpire Lewis Ward who, by the time these notes appear in print, will have made his international debut in the blue blazer at the European Top Ten in Basle, Switzerland.

Recipient was former County Chairman and present Harrogate League General Secretary Geoff Scruton who, like Lewis, has always had a particular interest in umpires and umpiring organization.

Yet Geoff, an International Umpire and National Referee, would be considered very much a 'utility man' in professional soccer or rugby circles - Chairman, General Secretary, Inter League Secretary, Tournament Secretary - he has done them all and more besides and is thoroughly deserving of the honour bestowed upon him.

Now retired from his work in local government, Geoff runs a business in the town, but still finds time to turn out for Knaresborough Social Club, while it is good to see wife Nancy back in the game after a break, also with Knaresborough.

Incidentally, away from T.T. Mrs Scruton, J.P. sits as a Magistrate on the local Claro bench - perhaps a sobering thought for those one or two players who tend to live on something of a short fuse!

At the half way stage of the League competition little has changed from last season with 1985/6 champions Wanderers A again in the lead in Division 1, followed by St Georges A and Y.R.H.A. A, who finished last term in second and third places.

Wanderers is, of course, the club where Denis Neals played in his International days, and the gritty Teessider, who served Yorkshire so well, is still making the journey from Middlesbrough for his weekly League match.

Harrogate are keeping up with modern thinking in their Divisional Singles competition, having adopted the 'best of 7, 11 up' format which has already been tried at national level. Comments will no doubt be awaited with interest.

The Yorkshire Club Championship is now down to the Quarter Final stages in the Mens Section and Semi Finals in both Ladies and Junior competitions, but the sides still in the fight span the length and breadth of the Broad Acres.

With the Ladies Wold (Hull) meet Castle (Sheffield) and Clayton Heights Trimda (Bradford) take on Barnsley North End, while the Junior draw pairs Unity (Bradford) with Harrogate Wanderers and Wellesley Park (Halifax) with Wadsley Bridge (Sheffield).

Midland League - Euro-Asia team results

Midland League

by John Barber

Men's Section.

Division 1. Derby struck top form to surprise Wolverhampton 9-1, and Notts A recorded their first win, 8-2 at Birmingham. In Division 2 leaders Notts B fell 9-1 to Bath who must fancy their chances for further promotion, but they were held to a draw by second placed Nuneaton. Dudley are unbeaten and recorded useful results against Stafford and Loughborough. In Division 3 a very close match developed between Lincoln and Notts C, where eight sets went to the third and each player had at least one win. P Muir clinched it for Notts with the last point of the match! Glos B lead the section with three wins. Leamington B just edged home against Stroud, Bob Bennett taking his three.

Junior's Section

Wolverhampton lead Division 1 after three fine victories. In Division 3 Leamington A look set for the title following three wins with a maximum 30-0 in sets. West Bromwich have also won their first three but were given a close call by Nuneaton who were in with a chance until the final set. Leamingtons second string also led the way in Division 4.

Women's Section

Leicester, the only side unbeaten, lead the way. Birmingham lost to Kidderminster but with a stronger team surprised Derby.

Veteran's Section

Notts A continue their winning way and look favourites to retain the championship of Division 1.

In Division 2 Tony Reeves was in superb form for Walsall with 3 wins against Coventry for whom Allan Stockham suffered an unusual loss of form. Coventry's defeat was their first since 1984/5 season.

Men's Section Division 1 - B'ham A 2 Notts A 8; Derby A 9 Wolves A 1.

Division 2 - Stafford 5 Dudley 5; Dudley 6 Loughborough 4; Nuneaton 5 Bath 5; Bath 9 Notts B 1; Nuneaton 3 Notts B 7; Notts B 9 Stratford 1.

Division 3 - Lincoln 4 Notts C 6; Glos B 8 Leamington A 2.

Division 4 - Leamington B 6 Stroud 4; Banbury A 10 Leamington C 0; Coventry B 7 Leamington B 3.

Junior 1 - Notts A 9 Notts B 1; Wolves 10 B'ham B 0.

Junior 3 - Oxford 10 Rugby 0; W. Brom 9 Rugby 1; W. Brom 6 Nuneaton 4; Leam Spa A 10 Worcester 0.

Junior 4 - B'ham C 3 Coventry C 7; Glos 6 Nuneaton B 4.

Intermediates - Bromsgrove 6 Rugby 4; Dudley 7 Worcs 3; Walsall 9 Rugby 1; Walsall 7 Bromsgrove 3.

Women's section - Kidderminster 7 B'ham 3; B'ham 6 Derby 4.

Veterans 1 - Leics 2 Leamington 8; Notts A 8 Oxford A 2.

Veterans 2 - Stroud 7 Stratford 3; Coventry 3 Walsall 7; Coventry 10 W. Brom B 0.

Veterans 3 - Stratford B 5 Banbury 5.

Euro/Asia results

(continued from page 5)

TEAM EVENTS

Men

Dec 10 (Hohfu) Asia II 5, Europe I 2: Kim Song Hui lt J-O Waldner -19, 19, -16; Teng Yi b A Grubba 16, 19; Yang Jianhua b J Persson 14, 19; Teng Yi lt Waldner 18, -13, -11; Kim Song Hui b Persson 21, 16; Yang Jianhua b Grubba -14, 15, 11; Teng Yi b Persson 11, 14.

Asia I 4, Europe II 5 (Kurume): Jiang Jialiang b L Kucharski 14, -14, 9; Chu Jong Chol lt M Appelgren -18, 18, -13; Chen Longcan lt to E Lindh -12, -19; Jiang Jialiang b Appelgren 17, 11; Chen Longcan b Kucharski 14, 12; Chu Jong Chol lt Lindh -11, 14, -12; Chen Longcan b Appelgren 7, 19; Jiang Jialiang lt Lindh -17, -19; Chu Jong Chol lt Kucharski -18, -22.

Asia III 1, Europe III 5 (Saga): Ahn Jae Hyung lt to A Mazunov -17, 19, -16; Y Miyazaki lt T Klampar 16, -8, -19; Yoo Nam Kyu lt Z Kalinic 17, -16; Ahn Jae Hyung lt Klampar 13, -13, -15; Yoo Nam Kyu b Mazunov 18, -21, 16; Miyazaki lt Kalinic -14, 17, -16.

Asia IV 5, Europe IV 2 (Akita): Wu Wen Chia b J Pansky -12, 20, 19; K Matsushita b Z Kriston -13, 18, 19; Kim Ki Taek lt J Secretin -14, -13; Wu Wen Chia b Kriston 10, 20; Kim Ki Taek b Pansky -17, 16, 7; Matsushita lt Secretin -17, -16; Kim Ki Taek b Kriston 11, 15.

Dec 12 (Nishinomiya) Asia II 5, Europe II 1: Yang Nianhua lt Kucharski -16, -10; Kim Song Hui b Lindh -16, 19, 9; Teng Yi bt Appelgren -14, 16, 16; Yang Jianhua b Lindh 11-4 (Lindh retired hurt); Ten Yi b Kucharski -19, 19, 19; Kim Song Hui b Appelgren -17, 12, 19.

Asia III 4, Europe I 5 (Miyazu): Miyazaki lt Waldner -17, -14; Ahn Jae Hyung lt Grubba -17, -14; Yoo Nam Kyu b Persson 17, -14, 18; Miyazaki b Grubba -11, 17, 15; Yoo Nam Kyu lt Waldner -11, -20; Ahn Jae Hyung lt to Persson -12, -17; Yoo Nam Kyu b Grubba 11, 17; Miyazaki b Persson 18, 15; Ahn Jae Hyung lt Waldner -22, 16, -11.

Asia I 5, Europe III 4 (Tokushima): Chen Longcan lt Mazunov -19, -14; Jiang Jialiang b Kalinic 17, -19, 17; Chu Jong Chol lt Klampar -14, 14, -16; Jiang Jialiang b Mazunov -20, 13, 15; Chen Longcan b Klampar 20, 15; Chu Jong Chol lt Kalinic -16, 15, -14; Jiang Jialiang lt Klampar -12, -18; Chu Jong Chol b Mazunov 17, -15, 18; Chen Longcan b Kalinic 15, 14.

Asia IV 5, Europe IV 3 (Morioka): Matsushita lt Secretin -15, -14; Kim Ki Taek lt Kriston -20, 13, -19; Wu Wen Chia b Pansky 12, -18, 18; Kim Ki Taek lt Secretin 15, -18, -16; Matsushita b Pansky 14, 12; Wu Wen Chia b Kriston 17, 13; Kim Ki Taek b Pansky 16, -17, 15; Wu Wen Chia b Secretin 17, 18.

Dec 13 (Iwaki) Asia IV 5, Europe III 4: Kim Ki Taek lt Mazunov -16, -20; Matsushita lt to Klampar -11, 15, -12; Wu Wen Chia b Kalinic 20, 20; Kim Ki Taek lt Klampar 17, -11, -15; Wu Wen Chia b Mazunov 23, 16; Matsushita b Kalinic -19, 19, 10; Wu Wen Chia lt Klampar -15, -15; Kim Ki Taek b Kalinic 12, 7; Matsushita b Mazunov -18, 16, 15.

Dec 14 (Chiba) Asia I 4, Europe I 5: Jiang Jialiang lt Persson -19, -7; Chu Jong Chol lt Waldner -14, -21; Chen Longcan b Grubba 20, 19; Jiang Jialiang b Waldner 18, -17, 21; Chen Longcan b Persson -12, 17, 16; Chu Jong Chol lt Grubba -11, 15, -14; Chen Longcan b Waldner 19, 20; Jiang Jialiang lt Grubba -20, 18, -15; Chu Jong Chol lt to Persson -19, -15.

Asia III 5, Europe IV 4 (Kohfu): Ahn Jae Hyung lt Pansky -10, -19; Y Miyazaki lt Secretin -12, -16; Yoo Nam Kyu b Kriston 16, 23; Ahn Jae Hyung lt Secretin -18, -22; Yoo Nam Kyu b Pansky 22, 19; Miyazaki b Kriston 13, -17, 18; Yoo Nam Kyu lt Secretin -16, -15; Ahn Jae Hyung b Kriston -19, 19, 13; Miyazaki b Pansky 16, 16.

Asia II 5, Europe II 4 (Utsunomiya): Kim Song Hui b Kucharski 18, 18; Teng Yi b Lindh 16, 17; Yang Jianhua b Appelgren -18, 18, 18; Teng Yi lt Kucharski -17, -15; Kim Song Hui lt Appelgren -16, 16, -17; Yang Jianhua b Lindh -19, 11, 12; Teng Yi lt Appelgren -19, 21, -22; Yang Jianhua lt Kucharski -17, -13; Kim Song Hui b Lindh 10, 13.

Total: Asia 53, Europe 44.

TEAM EVENTS

Women

Dec 10 (Hohfu) Asia I 5, Europe II 0: Li Bun Hui b B Batinic 14, 12; Jiao Zhimin b D Guergueltcheva 22, -19, 4; Dai Lili b L Bellinger 13, 6; Li Bun Hui b Guergueltcheva 19, 12; Dai Lili b Batinic 17, -20, 12.

Asia II 5, Europe I 0 (Saga): M Hoshino b F Bulatova 22, -15, 13; Lee Kye Sun b M Hrachova 11, -20, 8; Hyun Jung Hwa b S Grefberg -12, 9, 15; Hoshino b Hrachova 11, 15; Hyun Jung Hwa b Bulatova 9, 13.

Asia III 5, Europe III 0 (Kurume): Cho Jong Hui b M Kloppenburg 15, 18; Li Huifeng b B Wiktorsson 5, 13; K Ishida b B Thierit 14, 12; Li Huifeng b Kloppenburg 14, 19; Cho Jong Hui b Thierit 14, 17.

Dec 12 (Nishinomiya) Asia I 5, Europe III 1: Dai Lili b Thierit 11, 5; Jiao Zhimin b Wiktorsson 10, 19; Li Bun Hui b Kloppenburg -13, 19, 7; Jiao Zhimin b Thierit 19, 6; Dai Lili lt Kloppenburg -20, -22; Li Bun Hui b Wiktorsson 16, 14.

Asia II 5, Europe II 2 (Tokushima): Hoshino b Bellinger 12, -17, 7; Lee Kye Sun lt Guergueltcheva -15, -17; Hyun Jung Hwa b Batinic -18, 17, 19; Hoshino b Guergueltcheva 12, -14, 14; Hyun Jung Hwa b Bellinger 8, 13; Lee Kye Sun lt Batinic -13, -14; Hyun Jung Hwa b Guergueltcheva -10, 20, 10.

Asia III 4, Europe I 5 (Miyazu): Cho Jong Hui lt Bulatova 17, -23, -15; Li Huifeng b Grefberg 14, -17, 12; Ishida lt Hrachova -17, -19; Li Huifeng b Bulatova 7, 10; Cho Jong Hui b Hrachova 19, -9, 11; Ishida b Grefberg 9, 16; Li Huifeng lt Hrachova 11, -13, -15; Ishida lt Bulatova -17, -17; Cho Jong Hui lt Grefberg 13, -17, -14.

Dec 13 (Iwaki) Asia II 5, Europe III 2: Hoshino lt Wiktorsson -19, 14, -18; Hyun Jung Hwa b Thierit 15, 12; Lee Kye Sun lt Kloppenburg -12, 18, -25; Hyun Jung Hwa b Wiktorsson 18, 15; Hoshino b Kloppenburg 14, 16; Lee Kye Sun b Thierit 20, 13; Hyun Jung Hwa b Kloppenburg 27, 19.

Dec 14 (Chiba) Asia I 5, Europe I 1: Jiao Zhimin b Hrachova 17, 15; Dai Lili lt Grefberg -21, 9, -19; Li Bun Hui b Bulatova 15, 10; Dai Lili b Hrachova 18, 14; Jiao Zhimin b Bulatova -19, 16, 14; Li Bun Hui b Grefberg 20, 19.

Asia III 5, Europe II 1 (Utsunomiya): K Uchiyama b Batinic -13, 11, 8; Cho Jong Hui lt Guergueltcheva -15, 17, -15; Li Huifeng b Bellinger 7, 10; Uchiyama b Guergueltcheva 9, 18; Li Huifeng b Batinic 17, 21; Cho Jong Hui b Bellinger 13, 13.

Total: Asia 44, Europe 12.



Join the England Supporters Club
for
THE MATCH OF THE SEASON
European Table Tennis League

WEST GERMANY
v
ENGLAND

in WÜRZBURG on
Thursday 9th April 1987

£125 includes

- ★ 3 day coach holiday ★
- ★ 2 nights accommodation & breakfast ★
- ★ Cologne city tour ★
- ★ Rhine valley drive ★
- ★ MATCH TICKET ★

Promoted by the

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

from whom a full itinerary is now available

21 CLAREMONT, HASTINGS, EAST SUSSEX TN34 1HF.
Telephone (0424) 433121



DES OPENS THE DOOR

by Tony Russe

AT last Desmond Douglas has reaped the reward for all the hard work that he has put in over the years. As winner of the European Top Twelve he has achieved a coveted title that he has deserved for some time now. He is a splendid advertisement for our game and is a gentleman. Strangely enough that very fact will probably work against him with the popular press. No matter, I for one would not wish to change him in any way.

The very fact, however, that Des has won has opened the door for our other men. "If Des can do it then so can I" should be the thought for the day. Carl Preat has already made his presence felt in the event and will, in time, I am certain go on to greater glories. **Alan Cooke** has had his moments with Des but is still learning and with his commitment this season to more positive play and receipt of service, he must go on to better things as lessons fall into place and are augmented by experience. There are other men too in our top ten with further improvement in them and some sparkling juniors to keep the conveyor belt

going for the future. Things are looking up!

His way

To achieve his title, Des has done it his way. I am not advocating any particular point but merely stating how Des differs from many others. First, Des does not use bicycle glue to enhance his stroke play. He considers it a "cheat" and will have nothing to do with it. He has proved that he is good enough to do without. Secondly, Des is not a big server in the accepted sense, again for basically the same reason. However, thus Batorfi doth make mincemeat of us all! Anyway, although limiting himself for his

own reasons Des has done it and is an inspiration to everyone else.

I have watched Des over a long time now and probably the most marked improvement in him is his "inner man". I have never asked whether he has worked on it but he has certainly achieved that great sense of self-worthiness that comes with honed talent, honest assessment and hard experience. I have seen him progress from a jerky, connable young man to the present shrewd professional that he is. To watch him in the Training Camp situation is a joy. He takes great pleasure in his own skills. In practice occasionally he allows a certain impish humour to peek through, and it is all done with skill and no malice.

Without glue

So coaches and players, hear this, Des has won his title without glue, without big serves but with an awful lot of skill. By all means keep serving, use glue if you must

(for goodness sake keep it off your skin) but work, work, work on the skill factor in your play. Get your technique right, and I mean right for you, and work on it. One more thing. To be one of the best you must also be fit and flexible. Des is always the last man to finish in warm-ups at England Training Camp. Others take note. It's got to make sense. The door is open, work for the right to pass through it.

THE DUNLOP AWARDS

THE Dunlop Skills Awards are now being processed at the ETTA Office at Hastings, Grades 1, 2 and 3. They are on stiff card and as a new feature for 15p each can be signed in italics. Assessors can contact the office.

South East England
Table Tennis Equipment



TOURNAMENT ORGANISERS

The following equipment is available for your Tournament

From The Butterfly Range

INTERNATIONAL EUROPA TABLES

WORLDS NET AND POST SETS
SURROUNDS — SCORING MACHINES
in addition

LIGHTING SETS — PLAYERS NUMBERS
UMPIRES TABLES — P.A. SYSTEM
ARENA DISPLAY FLOWERS
TWO-WAY RADIOS ETC.

FREE 3 Star Balls with each Booking

Ex-Tournament Europa Tables for sale
FROM £200.00

(Other used equipment available at very competitive prices)

Write or Phone

FOR BROCHURE OR QUOTATION

CLIVE OAKMAN: Unit 2A, Bentalls Complex,
Heybridge, Maldon, Essex CM9 7NW

0621-50550 or 0621-869761 (evenings)

SUMMER COACHING AT CRYSTAL PALACE

by David Fairholm

Director of Coaching, ETTA

CRYSTAL PALACE is the venue for the ETTA Summer Coaching Course taking place from July 12th to 17th.

Director of Coaching David Fairholm said "The ETTA Summer School is a genuine opportunity for all table tennis players, young, old, weak, strong to receive an intensive week's coaching and training at the National Sports Centre under the guidance of some of England's most senior coaches plus myself."

Senior coaches

"I thoroughly enjoyed the week and wouldn't miss it for the world and the same goes for our senior coaches" said the Director.

All enquiries should be made to David Fairholm, at the Hastings headquarters of the English Table Tennis Association.

Batorfi's high-toss service

by Nobuhiko Hasegawa (1967 World Men's Singles Champion)

Reproduced by kind permission of Table Tennis Report

"THE SERVICE" for this month will introduce the back-spin high-toss service of Batorfi (Hungary, 17 years old).

The services of European female players some time ago consisted mainly of simple forehand and backhand back-spin ones. Recently, however, the trend of their service techniques has changed drastically. The numerous variations of their services are compared to those of Japanese female players. One of the causes of Batorfi becoming the European champion was that she had used powerful high-toss services against choppers. It is difficult to control the ball accurately and produce a short service after tossing the ball high. Therefore, until some time ago, their high-toss services had been limited only to long services with side spins or those produced for embarrassing the rhythm of the receiver. However, the Europeans were not satisfied with such services and have started recently to study short services. The techniques of killing the force of the falling ball so as to produce short spin-services is very difficult, and therefore, sufficient practice is required in mastering this technique. It will not be very difficult, however, after acquiring the correct racket angle and the skillful use of the wrist, to produce good short services constantly, because, the speed of the ball's fall is always the same. That is why Batorfi is able to make beautiful short services all the time even with her thick 'Srifer' rubber racket.

No matter what kind of rubber you may use, you will surely be able



Photos: Jose Ransome

to produce good short services even if you toss the ball high.

Photograph (1) shows Batorfi's special form of tossing the ball, in which she swings both arms up together. The charming movement of her arms give us the illusion that she is dancing. Her backswing is shown in (2), in which she positions her racket behind her right shoulder while adjusting the timing. In (3), she is striking the ball. Her special "service grip" for producing the flexible use of the wrist, the full twist of her wrist at the time of the impact and the point where she strikes the ball (she catches the ball at a high impact point) are worth studying. In this particular case



shown in the sequence of photographs, she is making a service with a low spin, maintaining a wide swing and utilising an almost vertical racket.

Players' Representative

from Barry Johnson

OWING to business commitments and the needs of a young family, both requiring more of my time, I have reluctantly decided not to seek re-election as Players' Representative next season.

I will be restricting my tournament appearances to National Championships and 3-Stars only, and I feel that the Players' Representative must attend as many events as possible.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my five years in the post and would like to take this opportunity to thank all players for their help and support. In particular, I would like to thank Colin Wilson, who has acted as my Deputy this season.

Continued dialogue between players and officials is essential to the development of our sport and, to this end, I will maintain an interest in the A.T.T.P.

My best wishes go to my successor. The post is sometimes difficult, but always rewarding.

BARRY K. JOHNSON
64 Willow Drive,
Cheswick Green,
Shirley,
Solihull B90 4HW

BOOK REVIEW

Table Tennis - The Skills of the Game

Crossword Press £7.95
Gordon Steggall

GORDON STEGGALL brings together an excellent blend of instruction and experience in 'The Skills of the Game'. He has obviously drawn from his many years as Chairman of the National Coaching Scheme and lately National Coaching Scheme Advisor.

The 121 pages include sections on the history, the basic framework, early stroke play, development of style and match play. Coaching and training practice, competitive play, Doubles play, equipment, The Dunlop skills awards and Laws of the game. This is backed by an abundance of quality photographs and diagrams.

My favourite chapter is the one on psychology titled 'Setting Goals'.

The book has a touch of former National Coach Peter Hirst in its clarity and simplistic approach. This is hardly surprising as 'Hirsty' helped Gordon compile this production.

The 'Skills of the Game' is really compulsive reading for players and coaches alike and compliments our own coaching manual superbly.

This book receives my highest recommendation.

DAVID FAIRHOLM
ETTA Director of Coaching

39th World Championships

The new three-stage system

ENGLAND men's team have been drawn against Belgium, Greece and Macao in Stage 1 of the new format for the Swaythling Cup in New Delhi starting on February 18th. England's women will play Australia and Scotland.

The principal object of the changes that have created three stages instead of two are we are told, so that the smaller countries can have a chance against the "giants". Scotland have been drawn in Group A against China, Switzerland, Peru and Iraq. Wales have been grouped with Japan, Canada and Jordan. 65 teams have been accepted for the Swaythling Cup and 55 womens teams for the Corbillon Cup.

Four hundred words are needed to explain the new system. It is to be hoped that the host Association have reached a full understanding of the new rules. This quote is from the official directive:

Basis of play: Following the decision of the 1985 BGM to abolish the category system a new procedure has been devised. The competition will be in three stages, which will determine progressively the positions of the teams. In the first stage the teams will be allocated to groups in which all play all. In the later stages there will be a play-off system for groups up to eight teams with the winners and losers continuing to play until their relative positions are decided.

"The West's Awake!"

The growth of Table Tennis in the West of Ireland

"TO hell or to Connacht" was the war-cry attributed to Oliver Cromwell in the 17th century and up to as recently as three years ago, you could almost believe that he was talking about table tennis!

Table Tennis in Ireland, which is an All-Ireland sport, (Eire and Northern Ireland) is divided into four provincial areas, Ulster, Leinster, Munster and Connacht, and it's no coincidence that Connacht is last on the list. Up until November 1981, only one player from Connacht had ever appeared in the Irish Rankings, that was **Terry Dolan**, a member of Galway's St. Augustines club, who ploughed a very lonely furrow being No 2 Junior to **Colum Slevin** for a couple of seasons and representing Ireland at three European Youth Championships in the seventies. Terry's big problem of course was lack of match practice and good practice partners. Even though he appeared for a short time in the Mens Rankings at No 9, it was no surprise that at the early age of 21, Terry Dolan slipped out of the rankings and gave up the game for two seasons.

But a renaissance was about to happen. A teacher who had just been appointed to a Galway City school in the old quarter of Galway, Claddagh (Cladach - Gaelic for "pier") who had a great love for the sport, having played in college in Dublin, decided that he was going to have a go and introduced table tennis to the sports-mad youngsters. It was by no means an overnight success, but he saw enough interest and talent among the players to justify setting up a new club, investing in a couple of tables and so St Dominic's T.T.C. was born.

At the time, sad to say, it was no great achievement to be selected for the Connacht inter-provincial team, but in 1982, three members of the new club made their debut for Connacht. A major talking point that day was the defeat of the then Irish No 1 Cadet, **Ursula Masterson** from Ulster, by an unknown Connacht player, **Caroline Anderson**. Left hander Caroline was the first of the 'new' Connacht players to represent Ireland at the Stiga Schools International in Gloucester in 1982.

Dolan returns

Another happy offshoot of this activity was the return of Connacht No 1 **Terry Dolan** to the sport. Now there were players in Connacht who could at least give him a game and he didn't have to travel the 240 mile round trip to Dublin for a match.

The Galway and District Leagues, which up to now had been a strictly social league, where players would enjoy a leisurely game, a chat and a cup of tea began to take itself seriously. A new division was added, which was called the Premier Division, and teams from St Dominic's, and St Augustines were joined by a team from University College Galway. Meanwhile in Athlone, about 45 miles from Galway, **Kieran Burke** found himself in the same position that Terry Dolan had been in five years previously, and so applied for an Athlone teams inclusion in the Premier Division, offering to travel to Galway for all matches. The Connacht Closed Championships was

revived and the first one in Athlone attracted a reasonable entry. Since then, this tournament has gone from strength to strength, having been held in Galway ever since.

By now, followers of the game all over Ireland were beginning to sit up and take notice. Players from Connacht were not alone travelling to ranking tournaments, but were actually winning! In 1984 two of the finest Cadets in the country were from Galway's St Dominic's club, **Martin O'Flaherty** and **Sean Spelman**. No 1 Cadet for all of the 1983-84 season, O'Flaherty was an automatic selection for the European Youth Championships in Austria. Caroline Anderson joined him on the Junior Girls team.

Sean Spelman burst on to the Irish scene in the 1984-85 season. The 13 year old dominated all the cadet championships and was very disappointed when the E.T.T.A. decided not to send a team to the Europeans in Netherlands. However, Sean put this disappointment behind him and in his first season out of cadets, he was selected for the 1986 Europeans in Belgium, where he gained invaluable experience.

Horizons broadened

Later that season, a club was formed in Sligo, which is 60 miles north of Galway. Under the guidance of **Mark Gorman**, Sligo entered a team in the 1st division of the Galway League and gained promotion to the Premier Division in their first season. They also staged the inaugural Sligo Open Championships.

This season, the Premier Division has broadened its horizons and become the Connacht Senior League. It includes two teams from St Dominic's, two from the Corrib club which Terry Dolan has joined, and teams from Athlone, U.C.G. and Sligo.

Irish twenty

This season, three Connacht players are ranked in the Irish top twenty. **Sean Spelman**, now 16, is at No 10 in the Mens list, and **Terry Dolan** has re-entered at No 15. **Caroline Anderson**, now 18, is at No 6 in the Ladies list. Spelman is No 1 Junior and Martin O'Flaherty is No 4. **Michael Kelly** is No 6 Cadet and **Robert Gavin** is No 2 Under 12.

Home player

This year, for the first time ever, a home player won a Connacht Open title when Sean Spelman won the boys singles. On the same day, Terry Dolan won the Mixed Doubles with Jennifer Reid (Ulster). They were sweet victories.

The Big Change!

This season, Connacht will field a strong team in the Senior Inter Provincial Championships and the Junior Boys team are favourites for the Junior title. A big change from 1980. As the old song says "The West's Awake!"

FRANCIS KENNEDY
(Galway)

North Wales Counties Table Tennis Association English Counties Championships Junior Division 3A

Clwyd Juniors 3 v. Northumberland Juniors 7: Kristian Mouldsdale 11 Michael Curry - 12, - 17; Nigel Roberts 11 Stephen Coverdale - 13, - 10; Spencer Harris 11 Stephen Penman - 13, - 14.

Boys doubles: K Mouldsdale/S Harris 11 S Penman/N Curry - 18, - 15.

M Mouldsdale 11 S Coverdale - 14, 19, - 21; S Harris 11 M Curry - 17, - 18; N Roberts 11 S Penman - 14, - 17.

Clwyd Girls had walkovers due to Northumberland not having any girls available to play. 3 sets for Clwyd by default. Clwyd Girls: Natasha Williams and Nicola Harris.

Clwyd even with a three set lead were unable to take advantage and lost by 7 sets to 3 sets. For Clwyd Spencer Harris, Kristian Mouldsdale and Nigel Roberts all tried hard to no avail. For the visitors their three boys all played well.

A disappointing day for Clwyds girls duo of Natasha Williams and

Nicola Harris who could only sit and watch their team lose.

Wrexham and D.T.T.L. News

With the Christmas/New Year break there has been no league matches played since before Christmas. Fixtures resume Jan 5th in Division One and Jan 12th in the rest of the Divisions.

The New Year sees the leaders of Division One Caergwrle B.B./A with the Boys Brigade first team a close second followed in third place by McAlpine Quarries/A.

The Second Division leaders Wrexham Old Boys/A are now leading by 16 points with McAlpine Quarries/B in second position, third are Old Boys/B.

Buckle wins

During the Christmas break at domestic level the Wrexham Old Boys Table Tennis Club held its Christmas Round Robin Tournament with the eventual winner being Malcolm Buckle who won his five games, the six leading players were the following:

Malcolm Buckle 1st with 5 wins; Terry Jones 2nd with 4 wins X.24; Arthur Walker 3rd with 4 wins X.22; Charlie Bayliss 4th with 3 wins X.16; Arthur Farmer 5th with 3 wins X.15; Trygan Roberts 6th with 3 wins - 2.

SLEVIN RETURNS TO WIN

THE Musgrave Ulster Open was held in Loughside Recreation Centre, Shore Road, Belfast, on the 19th and 20th December and proved to be a super pre-Christmas present for lots of players, especially the local stars. The introduction of a Team Event on Friday proved to be the opportunity for local players to sharpen their skills against the Scottish and Northumberland parties and gave them the extra edge to produce some good results in the individual championships.

The Northumberland side led by ETTA Coach Peter McQueen overcame a late arrival by pushing all opposition aside to win the team event defeating a strong Scottish team of David McIlroy, Ian Stokes and Valerie Thompson by a score line of 4-0. McQueen was ably supported by Eddie Smith, the left-handed star, and Claire Mouzon using her combination bat to considerable benefit.

The Northumberland stars fell by the wayside in the individual Musgrave Ulster Open Championships on Saturday when Colum Slevin, home from professional duty in West Germany, stuttered through the event to take the Men's Title. His quarter-final encounter with Eddie Smith proved to be an exciting one with Smith leading 19-17 in the second and leading by 1 game to nil but Slevin turned the tables to win 21-13 in the third. Slevin then accounted for Ulster No 1 Hilton Meneely in the semi-final and

defeated David McIlroy by 21-18 in the third in the final.

Claire Mouzon's domination continued on Saturday when she won the Ladies Singles with easy victories in the semi's over local girl Louise Taggart and Jennifer Reid, Ulster No 1, in the final.

The cross-channel players did not have it all their own way with notable results from local players: Mervyn Kelly (Ulster No 2) defeating McQueen in the last 16, Tom Heasley accounting for Ian Stokes (Scotland) in the same round, and Jimmy Robinson (Ulster No 6) defeating Brian Wright (Scotland) at the same stage.

Eddie Limberg, Irish President, in presenting the trophies paid tribute to the Northumberland and Scottish parties who had travelled to the event and clearly enjoyed the local friendly atmosphere.

Men's singles - Semi-final - Colum Slevin b Hilton Meneely 18, 6; David McIlroy b Jimmy Robinson 8, 15.

Final - Slevin b McIlroy - 18, 14, 18.

Women's singles - Final - C Mouzon b J Reid 6, 11.

Under 21 Men's singles - Final - Brian Wright (Scotland) b M Kelly 20, 15.

Under 21 Women's singles - Final - C Mouzon b N McAvoy (Ulster) 20, 20.

Veteran singles - Final - B Varnham b I Barton - 18, 17, 17.

Men's doubles - Final - P McQueen/E Smith b T Heasley/D Weir 19, 19.

Women's doubles - Final - J Reid/V Thompson b M McMullan/N McEvoy - 19, 21, 18.

Mixed doubles - Final - P McQueen/C Mouzon b D McIlroy/V Thompson 13, 6.

FROM TASHKENT TO MOSCOW

Spotlight on the Russian defender

HER acquaintance with table tennis began just like in the case of most youngsters. It happened in Tashkent, a town with a warm climate where children never seem to want to go home. Fliura was ten when her mother took notice of the table tennis fever contaminating all children in the nearby school. Source of this fever was a part-time coach giving attractive lessons in the gym. It was him whom Mrs Bulatova wanted to teach her smallest daughter in table tennis.

When Fliura first took a racket in her hand, the campaign against defensive play in the Soviet Union was long over. Defensive players were merely a nuisance, "branded" as athletes without prospect. The young were instructed to avoid encounters with defensive players. Instead, the officials ought to have let them fight defensive players, too so that the young could prove their superiority, if any, over rivals of this style. And suddenly, little Fliura emerged only to copy the doomed defensive style. But why did she opt for that?

"I can remember the time when I first saw little boys and girls playing table tennis, doing their best to smash the small white ball with all their power over the net. And then I simply had the idea to show them that I am able to hit back the ball, even after their strongest smashes."

Professional

During the first three years, there was no difference between Bulatova and her playmates. At best, she proved more diligent in the workouts. But when she wrapped up the cadets championships of Uzbekistan in 1976, her coach Anatoly Laptew was sure: Fliura was to hand over to a professional coach, simply because he as part-timer did not have enough time for her, and because she needed more training than her team-mates.

And so, 13 year-old Fliura ended up at the Children's Sport School "Spartak" in Tashkent to become pupil of Michail Schmuckler, a merited coach. It happened in the same year, 1976, that she entered her first all-union tournament: the youth championships of Spartak. One year on she took part in the youth champion-

ships of the USSR.

She remembers the first major tournament like this: "I lost many matches only because I was too nervous. But I scored a victory I will never forget: over Valentina Popova, whom experts considered as early as then an athlete with bright prospects. Well, they were right, indeed."

Felt sad

In 1978, after becoming Soviet champion of the girls for the first time, Fliura was an entry to the European Youth Championships in Barcelona. "We, Kovalenko and I, won the team event of the cadets. Unfortunately, in the singles I was dispatched by Urban of Hungary in the quarter-finals. I felt rather sad — and then our team leader Stanislav Gomozkov came to console me, saying we had wone, after all, the most important event, and that I had bright prospects for the future..."

Well, no one knows it definitely but it was perhaps this encounter in Barcelona that made Gomozkov think about taking over as Bulatova's coach. The idea, however, proved more simple than realizing it. One problem was the large distance between her and him: Fliura lived in Tashkent, and Gomozkov in Moscow. It seemed sheer impossible to combine learning with tiresome travelling from tournament to tournament, and with basic and condition-boosting trainings. But Fliura tried hard to cope with this challenge, at least during several months.

Cinderella

In 1979, at the age of 16, Fliura could take part in her first World Championships, in Pyongyang. With team-mates like Valentina Popova and Narine Antonjan, she appeared rather like a kind of Cinderella. Yet, Gomozkov had a good foresight, thinking of the prospects of young players' development. He knew well that the time of active playing comes and goes fast, and that the day would also come for Fliura to stand in the spotlight. For that moment, however, she had to be prepared well.



Defence, combined with a precise and powerful smash that takes the adversary by surprise — that is the athlete's credo of Fliura Bulatova. Photos: Jose Ransome.

At the European Youth Championships of 1979 in Rome, she could not make it to the quarter-finals again: this time she bowed out at the hands of Perkucin of Yugoslavia. One year later Fliura collected two medals at the continental youth tournament in Poznan: gold in the girls' team event, and silver in the doubles. There were two reasons why she could not win more:

"Some weeks prior to the European Championships I had changed the rubbers on my racket, so I was not left enough time to get used to the new ones. The other reason was that I disregarded the orders of my coach and resorted to new tactical figures in matches without having full command of them in the workouts."

And so, Fliura's ambitious dreams went on unfulfilled; it took them one more year to come true finally. In July 1981 she turned 18 — and she bade an impressive farewell to youth tournaments by capturing gold in the girls' singles at the European Youth Championships in Topolcany.

Her next task was to prove the whole world that the row of success among the juniors was not the end of her abilities. Another challenge was the question of fruitful co-operation between coach and athlete. She made an important decision, too: in 1981 she moved to Moscow and became a student at the Institute for Physical Education. Her

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

This story first appeared in a longer form in the *Deutscher Tischtennis Sport* the official magazine of the FRG and in a shortened form in the *ETTUAIPS* (Association International Press Sportique) magazine. It is translated from German, so the English cannot be up to usual standards. The author is EDUARD FRIMERMAN.

preparation for an athlete's exam got underway.

And how does the coach see his pupil? "Unfortunately, Fliura does not always believe my advice during matches" — says Stanislav Gomozkov — "Not that she would ignore the instruction. It is rooted rather in the poor confidence in herself if she can really make what I ask her to. Another problem is that she often refuses to change tactics although she knows one cannot defeat a first-class adversary with one and the same method."

Like all young girls, she listens to pop music in the scarce hours-off after trainings and matches. She reads a lot, especially short stories, and goes in for skiing (cross country). And of course, like most players, she has a dream of taking part in the inaugural Olympic table tennis tournament in 1988 at Seoul.

WORKSOP POINTS THE WAY

The drive for Membership - Let's all help

by Norman Davison

WE HAVE all heard so much recently about the loss of members to our sport that I thought it would make a change to report on the subject in a positive rather than negative way. This is just the way we have tackled the problem, and I hope will generate enough enthusiasm in other Leagues to start thinking in the same way. This could be just the first step that would start us on the road to increasing our membership to new levels, and give our Sport the recognition that it deserves.

The Worksop & District League operates in North Nottinghamshire, and always had an active involvement in all aspects of Table Tennis, but in 1984 we realised that the number of playing members had fallen. This was the first good point on the road to recovery; the second being to decide to do something about it.

At this time we had 19 teams playing League Table Tennis, and whilst the better players were involved with events outside the town, it was the competition between the real grass roots players that was suffering. We decided that our first move must be to put on REGULAR coaching courses at the local Sports Centre, at a very low cost, and to allow beginners and more advanced players to attend. The first ran from September to December 1984 and at 35p per player (for 2 hours), gave good value for money. However the support for these Sunday afternoon sessions was still mainly from current League members, but we resolved to continue undaunted.

Personal contacts

Next game visits to three new or re-opened Youth Clubs in the area, and with the personal contacts came support from the Youth Leaders. We took our Coaches to the Clubs, helped them to organise Club Tournaments (using our age categories), and persuaded them to enter our Summer Handicap League and come to our Coaching Courses. A vital point here was to identify a member or helper in the Clubs who was both able to and prepared to act as organiser/secretary for them. Our promotional work continued in this vein up to the point where we are Affiliated to the local Sports Centre (only £5 a year), which gives us the facility to book regular times up to 18 months in advance, so that now our Coaching Programme is printed in the League Handbook.

An increase

The next area to tackle was obviously Schools, and to make sure that any work that we did would not clash with the County Schools TTA, we asked the Secretary of that body if they had any objections to our proposals - they were only too glad to find somebody else who was prepared to try to promote Table Tennis in Schools. This was only in September 1986, at which time our earlier efforts had resulted in the registration of 5 new teams in the 1986/87 Winter League, and an increase in the attendances at Sunday Coaching.

Our first attempts to get into the Schools was to be a piece in our weekly column, but here luck came to those who deserve it - we were contacted by the Headmaster of a local Junior School who wanted to offer his pupils something other than football or netball, and Table Tennis was one of his suggestions. Investigation of the proposed scheme proved the worth of another idea that we had introduced about a year earlier, that of printing the

League Secretary's name and address at the end of the weekly newspaper reports, for that was how they found out who to contact.

Phone call

We immediately arranged a meeting with the Headmaster which revealed that although they wanted to include Table Tennis they did not even have a Table! A quick phone call to one of the established Clubs in the area produced a table (complete with net) on loan until Christmas, and we were suddenly promoting Table Tennis in a Friday afternoon games lesson! This was the time to really appreciate the offer of one of our Coaches who is currently unemployed - he would attend each week to ensure continuity, and was backed up by offers of help from other senior League players when shift work permitted.

The success of this venture was evident in a few short weeks when the local press covered the event with a half page report (including photographs). We also invested in a roll of film to produce photographs of our Sunday Coaching Sessions, and displaying these at the School with a large poster and handbills with the dates and times, has produced the most astounding results in attendances. We offered 2 free

weeks to all newcomers, and a charge of only 50p thereafter (25p for under 12's). We are sure that this has helped the youngsters come along and try, but are equally sure that the introduction at School had already shown them what a great time they could have playing Table Tennis. By popular demand the School session now operates on Wednesday evening as well as Fridays, and we have helped the School to buy two second hand tables from League Clubs which were paid for by funds raised by the children themselves (along with their parents), for this specific purpose, and just shows can be achieved if the right sort of enthusiasm can be generated.

More activity

We have now made contact with a second School and the local Boys Club, so 1987 will see even more activity than ever before. The biggest problem that we can see is that of providing coaching during School hours, but we shall do everything possible to overcome it. Ultimately, of course, we hope that this work will result in an increase in the number of teams registered in our League in 1987/88 and the years to follow.

Of course, we do realise that our efforts are insignificant when viewed in national terms, but prefer to be optimistic and think that if all Leagues could make a similar effort it can only benefit our Sport in the future.



Sir Edmund Hilary School pupils receive regular expert coaching. Photo: Worksop Guardian

Picture parade



DON PARKER and Carl Prean sample the champagne on the English table at the Basle Hilton on farewell party night. Carl is looking surprised, possibly at winning only one game, but he certainly deserved more than that.



DESMOND DOUGLAS and journalist Richard Eaton at the last night party at the Basle Hilton. So many photographs are taken of Desmond, this is one of the best seen recently.



JOHN WOODFORD, Editor of Table Tennis News is now burning the midnight oil with the aid of this silver candlestick presented to him in Eastbourne just recently. The award marked his retirement after 30 years as publicity officer of the Eastbourne Table Tennis League. The president Mr Ted Dobell (left) made the presentation at the Fairlands Hotel, Eastbourne, venue for a number of table tennis meetings in East Sussex. Photograph - Eastbourne Gazette.



ALTHOUGH Switzerland is a lucky country for English table tennis — John Hilton's skill and equipment won at Berne - Switzerland is also very expensive. Paul Day, Lisa Bellinger and Nicky Jarvis are pictured here at the farewell party at the Basle Hilton Hotel. Journalists, 100-strong, were asked to pay £35 for tickets to the party - three paid up. Some of the others went to McDonald's!

Pictures in Basle by John Woodford.



Tom Johansen is in the Norwegian squad to play England at Braintree on March 31st.

Crossword

1st Prize — 2 sheets of rubber (of your choice) from the **TIGA** range
 Supplied by DSR Leisure, distributor of the complete Stiga range of table tennis equipment

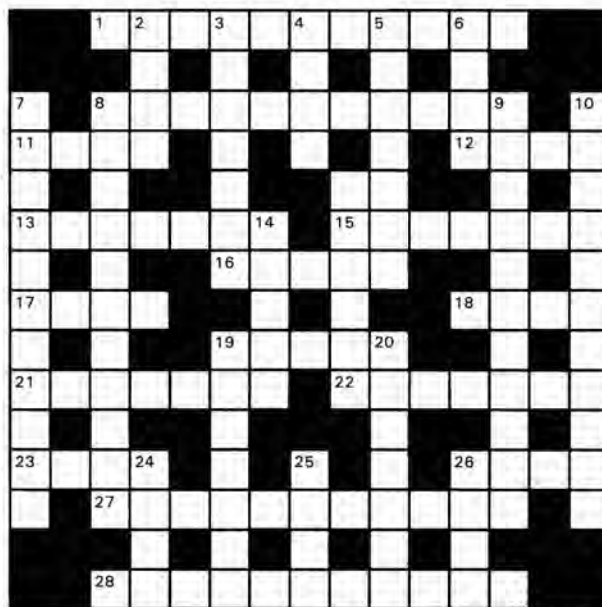
CLUES

ACROSS

1. Helen Williams initially met steady kind of young defender (7,4)
8. Distraught lady nails an ex-Middlesex star! (4,7)
11. Feel slippery fish! (4)
12. Girl found in no rational state (4)
13. Art Glyn disposed of for Jersey Lily (7)
15. They do not possess safe harbour before Old Testament (4,3)
16. Ideas on a resounding detection system? (5)
17. Lend! the Terrible (4)
18. Net result out of game-show? (4)
19. Sounds like criminal fell on hard times (5)
21. Bird of prey destroys part of Helter-Skelter (7)
22. Tin, a street, a card-game (7)
23. When in Rome, call it what the Romans do! (4)
26. Princess takes a North-North-East direction (4)
27. She casts a spell and gives hens trances! (11)
28. Eager? Yes! Got him to the top in table-tennis circles (6,5)

DOWN

2. Ilsa is upset, in fact rather poorly (4)
3. Offers for fire-trucks? (7)
4. Dine out with a girl? (4)
5. Team vehicle attached to motor-bike? (7)
6. Cuts a lean dash (4)
7. Lack in pride? Not this Norfolk lad! (4,7)
8. Are loans arranged with man at Zetland Place? (4,7)
9. Northern beer on Sunday drunk by boys wearing hand-me-downs? (7,4)
10. He dreams a TT mixture of Veteran skills (4,7)
14. Pair of oxen left for country bumpkin? (5)
15. Chaos described in A-Ha vocals (5)
19. Dad takes point and gets soft to the touch (7)
20. Drive a Rolls-Royce and a van backwards to part of Northern Spain! (7)
24. Stake put up by mother's sister? (4)
25. Single occasion on Church of England (4)
26. Arthur's black burned coal! (4)



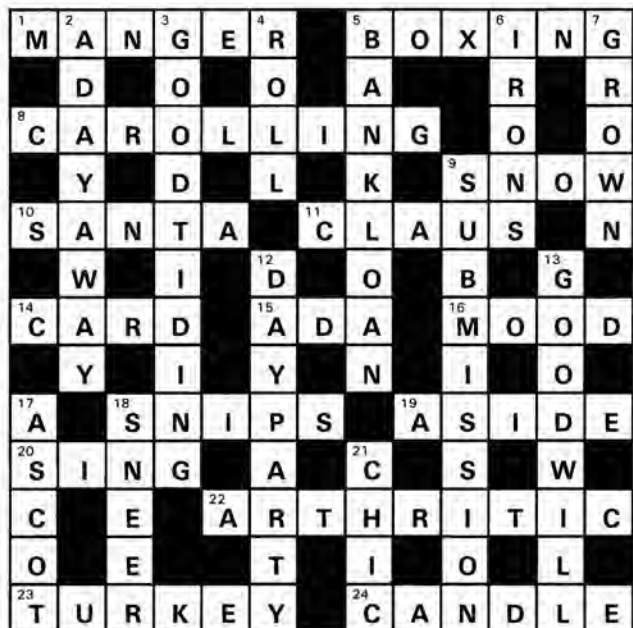
Name

Address

WINNERS OF CROSSWORD No. 2 December

First prize, Stiga Tracksuit: Claire Potts, 126 Queens Road, Vicars Cross, Chester, Cheshire.

Runners-up: Clive Oakman mini-bat 1, Ron Etheridge, 163A, Eden Park Avenue, Beckenham, Kent BR3 3JW; 2, Dolly Harmer, 162 Steppingstone Place, Leighton Buzzard, Bedfordshire LU7 8PT; 3, Stuart Sherlock, 20 Ullswater, Macclesfield, Cheshire SK11 7YN.



plus three consolation prizes of professional mini bats supplied by

CLIVE OAKMAN Table Tennis

Entries should be sent to Mr Eric Hall, 38 Littlemoor Crescent, Newbold, Chesterfield, Derbyshire S41 8QJ.
 Closing date: MARCH 12th. Answers published: APRIL 1987

SCHILDKROT FIXTURES

March

- 5 P Butterfly Cardiff v Ormesby
- P Panoramic Bath v MBS St Neots
- P Grove v Rotherham
- 1 Byker Newcastle v Trebor Dagenham FC
- 1 TCB Dolphins v TSP Larkhall
- 1 West Warwicks/Birmingham v Omega Claw
- 1 Chan Construction v Express Torbay
- 8 P Omega Reading v Steelstock Wolverhampton
- 15 P Ormesby v Omega Reading
- P Rotherham v Steelstock Wolverhampton
- P MBS St Neots v Butterfly Cardiff
- P Panoramic Bath v Grove
- 1 Trebor Dagenham FC v TCB Dolphins
- 1 Express Torbay v TSP Larkhall
- 1 Omega Claw v Byker Newcastle
- 1 Chan Construction v West Warwicks/Birmingham

TAKING UP WHERE DES BEGAN

DESMOND DOUGLAS and Jahangir Khan have at least one thing in common - long virtually unblemished records. In world terms Khan is unique; in English terms Douglas is even more so. In this country Des must often wander when and how he's going to get a decent game. Such a complete monopoly over almost 10 years is an indictment of English Table Tennis. It's pointless waiting until Des is in a wheelchair before proclaiming new pretenders; we need to act now, as the prevailing situation could see Des still dominating in 6 or 7 years time - even he wouldn't really want that.

I've only been back in the game a relatively short time, but when I hear our better players telling each other how good they are, or remarks like "Can't play today - no car", "I'm playing snooker" or "Having a few days rest", it makes me cringe. Let's face it, in world terms we've only 3 or 4 players capable of reasonable performances; the others are pygmies. In 10 years the establishment have produced only minor successes (Des taught himself and certainly nobody taught Carl Prean how to play); even those who began to blossom can't get overseas fast enough, claiming the money, the practice, the standard of the life is better.

What a state of affairs; years of apathy, decay and pessimism. Let's now get rid of all the dead wood, re-appraise and reincarnate the game - get it jumping again. We need live wires to create a revolution, backed by sound financial planning, with business providing the cash flow via sponsorships. Throughout the country, there are many undoubted stalwarts prepared to play their part, and remember, when televised, snooker, darts and now bowls, can show all the world's best players in action - as yet we fall very short of this mark.

A world class player in this country could pocket about £25,000 p.a. or approximately £70 per day; peanuts perhaps by other standards, but still very acceptable to any player with the ability to reach this level. We badly need such players, and in going forward we must not procrastinate, but sweep away the cobwebs and stimulate our youngsters to perform great

Golden Quill

An amazing postponement

I READ with amazement that in this allegedly professional Competition a Premier Division Match was actually postponed at short notice because one player was unavailable. Unbelievably the rules permitted this. How there can ever be any credibility in an outfit which permits such an action defies comprehension. The mind boggles at the thought of England getting the Third Test against Australia postponed because Ian Botham was unfit or Man-

chester United declining to visit Arsenal because Bryan Robson was injured (again).

I do wonder how our new Chairman views these events?

ALAN SHEPHERD
Flat 6,
32 Green Road, Southgate,
London N14 4AU

Editor's Note: Delighted to hear from my old adversary Alan Shepherd. Perhaps supporters of the British League who allow the rule would care to explain the logic of one-man postponements?

Winner of a £5 TEES SPORT voucher

deeds. With 4 or 5 players approaching world class and playing our circuit, the Europeans will want to play here for a change, and perhaps then, and only then, will we get our desperately needed media coverage.

JIMMY LOWE
(Marketing Manager -
Panoramic Bath T.T.C.)
74 Barn Glebe
Trowbridge, Wilts BA14 7JZ

Editor's Note: Some useful thoughts from Jimmy Lowe, but Jahangir Khan and Desmond Douglas cannot surely be compared. The squash man almost dominates the squash world at this moment. Des has always threatened to dominate Europe and only recently in Switzerland did he do it at the age of 31, so that comparison is just not on in terms of results.

SLOW SETTLERS ...

I HAVE seen many matches lost because players took too long to settle down. This may happen because they take time to settle down to full concentration, they are oversure of themselves, feel they have no chance, or do not read the game well.

To offset this, a token prize for the first player to reach 12 (or 11 or 13 as might be decided) could be helpful.

Perhaps a coupon of minimal value that could be collected until of sufficient value to be exchanged for equipment.

DOLLY HARMER
162 Steppingstone Place
LEIGHTON BUZZARD

Ranking lists

WITH eager anticipation I opened my December issue of Table Tennis News and flipped over the pages looking for the National rankings, but to no avail as yet again they had not been published.

One of the problems with our game today is lack of publicity and to improve the effect of what is available the rank and file players of the leagues who all pay E.T.T.A. affiliation fees need to be able to relate to this as football supporters do to their teams stars. One method of doing this in my opinion would be to publish in each edition after a 3 Star tournament the new ranking list.

The ranking list published in the October 1986 edition was with effect from 1st September 1986 yet the Yorks & Humberside 3 Star and Midland 3 Star took place in October and November respectively.

Fortunate

I am in a fortunate position through my links with Panoramic Bath Table Tennis Club to have access to the ranking lists, but how many people do not. I would have thought that the inclusion of this information could initially help to increase the circulation of Table Tennis News.

Schildkrot British League

Although I could be deemed as being slightly biased, I would like to suggest that Table Tennis News

could itself promote the fixtures by mentioning the exciting clashes that are to come.

One match for instance could be to discuss the probable outcome of the Steelstock Wolverhampton v. Grove return match which ended in a draw after the initial encounter.

Other areas of comment could be how the women and juniors are joining in this league at the various levels.

MERVYN GEORGE
14 Frayne Road
Ashton Gate
Bristol BS3 1RU

Editor's Note - Ranking lists see pages 16 and 36

Commonwealth Championships

AS YOU have so far apparently not received any response to your invitation for members to give their views on whether ETTA should 'pick up the gauntlet' thrown down by Horace Mallett, I am putting forward what I would have thought was the obvious reason why ETTA ought not, in the foreseeable future, to agree to host the Commonwealth Championships. It is, of course, the unpleasant intrusion of politics into international sporting occasions and all the problems that this causes for the innocent and unfortunate organisers. Surely the disastrous financial results of last summer's Commonwealth Games for the City of Edinburgh should be sufficient warning.

I recall the deep concern expressed by Tom Blunn, then ETTA Treasurer, at the possibility of reprisals against us in the forthcoming World Championships of 1987 if any action had been taken following the ban on players entering India. However much prestige and publicity the Commonwealth Championships might bring, ETTA cannot risk the sort of financial calamity that Edinburgh had. I have not forgotten that I had to propose the unpopular levy on members for the 1977 World Championships and would not wish to have another one.

With great respect to Horace Mallett I doubt whether Guernsey or most other Associations would be such likely targets for political action as would England.

KEITH WATTS
6 Windsor Road
St. Leonards-On-Sea
East Sussex

Weeds warning from the Grass Roots...

HAS anyone told Sid? Now we can Prean ourselves! Congratulations are probably more in order for us than for John, our new Chairman, given our record low membership and the long battle ahead if our sport is to achieve the recognition deserved by our top players and all the support they represent.

Speaking from the grass roots as secretary for two T.T. clubs with a combined membership of 38, and as a club coach, there is no doubt in my mind that the formulae:-

GOOD, T.V. COVERAGE = SPONSORSHIP + SUCCESS.

NO T.V. COVERAGE = DECLINE AND FALL.

must represent the position of any sport in today's world of mass-media domination.

For me, it is more than flesh and blood can stand, having endless horse racing, boring darts, bowls, snooker, etc., with virtually NO media coverage of table tennis. Let's face it, the majority of kids consider table tennis to be a minor youth club distraction of NO importance BECAUSE it does not appear on TV.

"O.K., so much for the beef, what about the ideas?" Well, John, it seems to me that virtually all the ETTA's efforts in the past have gone into coaching, with virtually none into publicity.

We must be single-minded in our approach. Talk to the media moguls. Find out what they want. Point out to them that we have some very marketable, attractive young players - sorry, John, I don't think I could include Carl in that list; however, tradition demands a villain, so how about a bat twiddling MacEnroe Prean!?

Tired image

I am sure our pros don't care whether they play 21 or 11 points on blue tables with red bats or brown tables with green nets, so long as they can see the ball. If the tired old image needs changing, change it! I would suspect that seedy looking halls with the usual 2/3 Star, 24 (??) table organised chaos is the last thing that would interest television. Super-League, or inter-County team matches, held in plush venues, courtesy of ETTA., is more likely to succeed with the media.

Arguments that table tennis is not a good television sport do not stand up when a straight comparison is made with other sports, viz:-

- (a) Few long rallies - what about Tennis, American Football, etc.
- (b) Few world class home players - what about Tennis, Rugby etc.,?
- (c) Apparently unforced errors from top players - what about Snooker?

If the television cameras can follow a ball not much bigger than a T.T. ball from the tee, where it is accelerated to 200+ (??) mph, all the way to the green, up to a ¼ mile away, then it should be possible to demonstrate the nuances of the modern game of table tennis, given the will to do so.

What I would like to do is to borrow Peter Alliss from the world of golf, get him up on all matters T.T. and let him loose on a weekly coaching series, with spotty balls to demonstrate spin, a famous sportsperson being taught the game (not as easy as it looks!), guest players demonstrating specialist skills, etc., etc. This would all take place in the studios, with good lighting, at least two cameras to detect ball swerve from side/end/plan views; also slow motion, playback etc.

We could all help by lobbying the media - write to "Points of View", etc., complaining about the lack of coverage of our sport and pointing out what an asset it is to society, what with its well organised league structures, wide participation, ranging from aging executives, exercising their under used hearts, through paraplegics, demonstrating their lightning reflexes and restoring their pride and including yobs, kept off the streets and out of trouble, at least for an evening a week. Better still, Leagues and Clubs could organise such a lobby so as to maximise its impact with a flood of letters possibly linked to an important event such as the English Closed. If we don't make it by the next Olympics, we might as well concede a walk-over!

Best of luck, John, the grass roots are right behind you, but watch out for the weeds!

BILL SALTER
5 Green Park Drive
Maghull
Merseyside L31 8EN

YELLOW OR WHITE?

OR should I have said white or yellow! I refer of course to the colour of table tennis balls. Why do we play with white balls when it is so much easier to see yellow or orange balls especially in poor lighting situations as are found in some halls and leisure centres. Is it tradition? So often we hear players and officials say, I remember! there seems to be in table tennis a constant yearning for the past! Why look back? Why not look forward? Why not also play with yellow nets topped by the usual white band.

Have you ever looked at the road signs as you drive around Northern Ireland? NOTEZ BIEN! (some form of Greek meaning - TAKE NOTE!). These signs often have a dark green background - the same colour as table tennis tables, but is the writing on the sign white? No Sir, Madam, Ms. it is YELLOW - why is this. The answer lies in the fact that in all weathers and in all the variations of light from bright sunshine to poor lighting on dull grey days yellow showed up better than white. Have I convinced you - some will say YES - some will say NO.

OK - fair enough; to the No's I would like to explain a personal experience which totally convinced me of the advantage of the yellow or orange ball. Being a poor player and striving to improve, on many occasions I have bounced the ball into the air from my bat for say 500 bounces without making a mistake. I then do the same for 200 bounces striking the ball with alternate sides of the bat and using my left hand (I am naturally right handed). I did this using a yellow ball for 1 year and found it quite easy. Then one Christmas I was at home in my lounge and though I would do the same thing with a white ball. Suddenly I realised that I was missing the ball quite a lot. I couldn't understand it! Then I discovered that as the wallpaper on the room was almost white that I could hardly see the white ball against the white background. So I thus proved that for myself the yellow or orange ball was more suitable. Ah yes! I hear you say but your wear glasses and are half blind anyway! Perhaps! - Perhaps! Who am I to argue?

CYRIL S. MORRISON
(Chairman, Limarady & District
Table Tennis League)
Northern Ireland

A plea for standardisation

I WRITE this letter in the hope that common sense can sometimes prevail, and that someone somewhere in the freshly painted corridors of power will at least consider what I write below.

I address my remarks to the administrators of the County Championships and to Junior tournament organisers, both within the ETTA and outside. This is a plea for, in a word, standardisation.

County matters first. I am well aware that this situation has been discussed before, and that changes have to go through predetermined channels. I find it totally illogical that a County team can battle through the Junior ranks to the Premier division, and then proceed through the various divisions at Senior level to finally reach the pinnacle - the Senior premier, only to find that the format has changed, and the strengths which may have taken them there are no longer usable. There are other well-worn arguments, such as discrimination against the women, but the simple point is that the system is not standardised. There may of course be a perfectly valid reason for the status-quo - if so I should like to hear it. I suspect that it is so for no other reason than it has always been so. And so to Junior tournaments, I find it equally illogical that Cadet doubles is an accepted and hard-fought event in Open tournaments, but does not exist in the English Junior Closed. This is particularly nonsensical since I believe the event is included in the programme at the European Youth. On the other hand, the two premier Junior English tournaments, the Closed and the Open, include a Mixed Doubles, but this enjoyable event cannot be found in the main Junior tournaments.

In addition to all of this, the Select opens have developed on the basis of Cadets on Saturdays and Juniors on Sundays, and this is to be applauded. However, Juniors who wish to play Mixed Doubles at the Closed have to be on the table at 9.00 a.m. on Saturday morning. Cannot the organisers follow the lead of the Select? I realise it is a problem of scheduling, but it is only common sense after all. A little thought could save a lot of people a lot of money in overnight stays.

E.B. HALL
38 Littlemoor Cres., Newbold
Chesterfield S41 8QJ.

FOUR MAJOR FAULTS

I CONSIDER there to be four major faults with the present junior county championships system. I will list them and then try to justify my complaints.

1. It is unfair to girl competitors.
2. There should be separate boy and girl teams.
3. It should be more strictly zoned.
4. Premier weekends should be played at the end of the season to incorporate zone winners.

1. The girls at present play one singles and one doubles. (As a County Secretary for Juniors I find it increasingly difficult to persuade girls to give up Saturday employment in order to play for their county as total playing time can be in the region of twenty minutes).

I quote the case of Rosemary Stainton Sussex No 1 girl. She left home in Hastings early one Friday evening in order to spend the night in Crawley with the Coles (Alan and Tracey) as an early start was required on Saturday morning for travel to Devon. She eventually played her first game at about 4 p.m. on the Saturday and returned

home to Hastings at midnight having played twenty minutes table tennis in thirty hours.

2. Bearing the previous point in mind, it would therefore seem reasonable to have separate boy and girl teams (three in each team). Each player would have three singles and there would be one doubles match played.

All the county venues I have been to have playing room for an extra table and an additional match could have taken place on the same day.

3. I consider the travel in some county games to be excessive. I have already mentioned our journey to Devon. We are to play host to Cornwall shortly. (I also note that Essex II travelled to Cornwall on the Saturday before Christmas).

It would seem logical to re-structure the system.

4. It seems unfair to me that the team winning its regional championship should have to wait until the following season to compete for a national title.

I quote again, Sussex who two years ago won the regional title. Those players then became over age for the following season. Sussex sent a very inexperienced side to the Premier weekends and won only four games in the two weekends.

Had each zone winner played off at a premier weekend in March of the same year I am sure that better competition would have ensued.

GEORGE STEDMAN
(Organiser for Sussex Junior teams)

2 High Ridge Close
Arundel, West Sussex BN18 9ES

BETTY BIRD IN AUSSIE ...

AS AN ex England International player now residing in South Australia I should like to contact a few of the players of my time, (I'm sure there must be some still playing). At 52 years young I am still playing and am still ranked in Australia No 7 Senior Womens, No 2 Over 40 Veterans and No 1 Over 50 veterans.

Could you possibly, via the TT Magazine, appeal to any player who was around during the time that I played for England, (or Surrey, Kent, Essex, Cambridgeshire) to contact me?

BETTY BIRD
2 Dover Street
ROYAL PARK 5014
South Australia

A bouquet from Gloucester

I FEEL that somebody ought to congratulate you and Fiona for the marvellous work that you are both doing in a much improved new - look magazine.

I am fully aware that you are a professional journalist, and that is basically just what T.T.N. requires.

Our sport I feel at the moment is very much at the crossroads, with the sad passing of Tom Blunn bringing in a new Chairman (with new ideas). I know John has his problems, I'm sure that those now around him with sufficient interest will rally to the ultimate - that is to give our sport all that they possibly can, and hopefully if at all possible make most table tennis dreams a reality.

ALF PEPPARD
Gloucester

Editor's Note: In this profession we are accustomed to taking flak so it is indeed pleasant to receive some encouragement. The improvements in TTN are mainly because two people's efforts are being moulded together. We have lost Fiona Brown to Canada, so I can only hope for a new face that will continue the upward trend we need so badly.

NOW AVAILABLE DIRECT



Official Drink for the England Team

Orange or Lemon Flavour

2 SIZES

225g makes 3 litres *£2.75

450g makes 6 litres *£4.99

***(includes P&P)**

Send Cheque or Postal Order to:-

MASONLINE LIMITED, Myrtle House,
Goose Rye Road, Worplesdon, Surrey GU3 3RJ.

FOR PLAYERS WITH TASTE

The remainder of the Lentec Computer Men's Rankings from 155 to 200 (cont. from page 16)

155.	Neil McMaster	(Newcastle)	161
156.	Malcolm Corking	(Stockton)	161
157.	Tony Spain	(Bromley)	161
158.	P. Cax	(Kent)	160
159.	C. Holley	(Bath)	160
160.	Steven Brunskill	(Middlesbrough)	159
161.	Mark Simon	(Ormesby)	159
162.	Stephen Bertie	(Birmingham)	157
163.	Keith Willett	(St Neots)	157
164.	Martin Pickles	(Leicester)	157
165.	M. Broughton	(Lowestoft)	154
166.	Philip Payne	(Bridgewater)	153
167.	S. Dunning	(Wolverhampton)	152
168.	John Robinson	(Poole)	152
169.	Ray Tilling	(London SE19)	152
170.	Terry Kerry	(Nottingham)	147
171.	Ralph Gunnion	(Birmingham)	147
172.	Michael Palmer	(Brandon)	146
173.	Derek Schofield	(Stockport)	146
174.	J. Brewster	(Lincs.)	146
175.	Richard Darnell	(Brentwood)	145
176.	Derek Hollman	(London SW7)	144
177.	M. Stevenson	(Norwich)	139
178.	Jerome Jonah	(Wandsworth)	138
179.	I. James	(Hayle)	138
180.	Richard Jermyn	(Letchworth)	137
181.	Jeffrey Chapman	(Orpington)	135
182.	M. Evans	(Stoke)	133
183.	P. Rowden	(Eastbourne)	133
184.	Diera Parma	(Birmingham)	131
185.	Tony West	(Wickford)	131
186.	Mark Wilding	(Denmead)	131
187.	Anthony Isaac	(Wolverhampton)	129
188.	J. Chan	(Cleveland)	129
189.	Stark		129
190.	David Sharpe	(Luton)	129
191.	Brian Garroway	(London SW7)	128
192.	E. Brown	(Middx)	128
193.	M. Brown	(Kent)	127
194.	Stanley Deakin	(Stoke)	126
195.	Nicky Standen	(St. Leonards)	126
196.	Timothy Malkin	(Cheshire)	125
197.	A. Castle	(Hereford)	125
198.	Ian Gunn	(Birmingham)	124
199.	Graham Slack	(Cheltenham)	123
200.	J. Healy	(Ormesby)	123

Future, more men's rankings

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

February

- 14/15 Essex Junior Select (Harlow)
ETTA Coaching Course (Crystal Palace)
- 15 **SCHILDKROT BRITISH LEAGUE (11)**
- 18-1.3 **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS (New Delhi)**
- 21/22 Kent 2 Star (Gillingham)
- 22 ESTTA Regional Team Finals
- 28 **County Championships (6)**
North Yorkshire Cadet 2 Star
- 28/29 VETTS Southern Masters (Brighton)
- 29 **SCHILDKROT BRITISH LEAGUE (12)**

March

- 7/8 Derby Junior Select (Derby)
- 8 East of England 2 Star (Grimsby)

The full season's fixtures are available in the ETTA diary which is priced at £2.50

NEXT ISSUE:

- ★ **DENMARK v. ENGLAND**
European League
- ★ **WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS -**
England and John Woodford in New Delhi
- ★ **SCHILDKROT BRITISH LEAGUE**
Fascinating thoughts by Rea Balmford
- ★ **FIONA ELLIOT -**
The new England champion
- ★ **TABLE TENNIS MAGAZINE IN 1902**
- ★ **PAGES OF COUNTY NOTES**

CANCELLED

HARRY BLACK reports from Sunderland that yet another 2-star event is off - the Durham County 2-star Open that was going to be on March 21st. Lack of sponsorship is the reason.

CANCELLED

NORTHUMBERLAND senior 2-star Open due on May 2nd at Cramlington is out due to lack of sponsorship.

STOP PRESS:

ENGLAND were captained for the first time by a lady at their away match against Denmark. The lady is of course, Jill Hammersley-Parker who is now taking a bigger role in table tennis but not as a player!

CANCELLED

LANCASHIRE Junior 2-star Open, due at Oldham on April 12th is off due to clashing events.

CANCELLED

THE East of England 2-Star Open due to take place at Grimsby on March 8th has been abandoned due to a lack of sponsorship.

JACKMATE

for

PRICE, QUALITY,
QUICK SERVICE VALUE
CUP MEDALS etc

QUALITY ENGRAVING
very low cost

CLUB BADGES

ALL UNBEATABLE PRICES

01-546 5616 or write for catalogue:
56 Staunton Road,
Kingston upon Thames,
Surrey KT2 5TL.

Ties...

Bannerettes
Badges of all types
Trophies
T-shirts & sweatshirts
All Club Insignia



Special commemorative medal struck for the World championships in Birmingham. In presentation box. Ideal for a trophy. £12.00 reduced to £2.50 each. Twelve only left.

Telephone or write for your edition of the Alec Brook catalogue illustrated in full colour.

ADB (LONDON) LTD. (DEPT. T T)
49-57 HARROW ROAD
LONDON W2 1JH
Tel. 01-402 5671
Telex 24652 Tieman G

 Alec Brook