



Table Tennis News

No. 163

JANUARY 1987

80p



"Sky's" the limit?

J A Q U E S

Will Skylet Andrew's next trick be to win the Nationals?

— ON JAQUES TABLES OF COURSE!



Stop the foul serving ...

LEGAL serving is becoming rare. Like many others over the past couple of years I have watched table tennis at all levels - inter-continental, continental, county, inter-town and local leagues. In the quest to outspeed the opponent, all sorts of foul services are being allowed by umpires and umpires of all classes. And it is getting worse all the time.

I would like to see a bumper number of letters on the subject over the next couple of months. We would like to hear from the players who think they serve fairly and their opponents who do not and from the umpires who we assume, would wish to defend themselves in some way.

The main argument, or one of them is sure to be "don't blame the players because it is up to the umpires to call a halt when serving gets out of hand". So what are the umpires up to? British umpires are as fair as any I have seen abroad and are stricter than most. Most foreign umpires, especially those operating in their own countries, just sit there. The only time they seem to impose discipline is when a player is being coached over the time-limit between games.

One reason in my view for the silent umpires is that no one wants tension, upsets or the stress that can result from a confrontation. But, surely something has to be done and soon. I recently watched a local event but county-wide where the winner appeared to throw-up and strike the ball all in one movement, instead of two as I understand the rules.

This is what I once called a "youth-club service" with no disrespect to such clubs but they are places where no one worries how the ball is put into play. I look with suspicion at all "ace" services and it is high time that the umpires everywhere did the same. At least in Britain we could lead the way and not say as I have heard at least twice "umpires abroad never bother to stop bad serving".

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

There are hopeful but positive signs that after the election battle dust has blown away, most members of the management committee of the ETTA will work together under their new chairman so that the upheaval forecast will subside and progress will be made. Hopes are lighter now that Keith Ponting has withdrawn his threat to resign.

The last thing that the sport can afford is any further expressions of intent to resign and the inevitable bad publicity that would happen. It is human nature that there will be disagreements and that mistakes will be made by all including the new chairman so let us all try and pull together for the future of the sport in this country.

JOHN WOODFORD



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Explanation: December cover: Laurie Neville of Essex was pictured receiving his Dunlop Masters award from ETTA Director of Coaching, David Fairholm

Picture Parade



STEELSTOCK, Wolverhampton, champions of the Schildkrot British League and current leaders this campaign, pose for the camera following their return from Nice in the European Cup. Left to right: Nicky Mason, Carl Morgan, Philip Bradbury and Desmond Douglas.



England squad — relaxation time after the Yugoslav Open in Novi Sad, left to right, Carl Prean, Don Parker, Fiona Elliot, Lisa Bellinger and Alan Cooke.

Photograph: Denis George



National junior singles champions Matthew Syed and Kerry Hall are congratulated by the Mayor of Macclesfield.



Smiths Motors managing director Harry Haines and joint chief executive George Wisniewski line up with the Smiths Motors Peterborough squad (l to r) Julian Tee, Paul Spittlehouse, Phil Helmshaw, Martin Gladders, Dave Needham and Kevin Gladders.

Minster Photographic 0733 6700



SIDE COURTSIDE

Compiled by
FIONA BROWN &
JOHN WOODFORD

Western Comment

ALF PEPPARD our Gloucestershire correspondent sent in enough material this month to fill half a page. In the cutting process we managed to extract further comment on the change of leadership:

"John Prean has by now every right to feel ecstatic, more so especially since his 69% triumph over Aubrey Drapkin in their fight to establish leadership of the ETTA bore him the fruits of victory.

Many TT people up and down the country will most likely view this election as nothing more than speculative window dressing, but every organisation requires a strong leader, and now that John has got the job he should have every opportunity to put into positive action that of which in the past he has only been able to advocate, but in so doing he will have to convince others that perhaps they should think like he does, and more so - "perhaps act his way as well".

£364,000 coming

We wonder how many people spotted in The Daily Telegraph on December 16, just above our weekly table tennis story, another piece of news from the Sports Council?

The main story concerned an application from the Council to

the Government for a further £4m for the 1978-88 period. All this concerns table tennis as we are very dependent indeed on the slice of the cake we receive from the Council.

In the final paragraph it announced that the ETTA are to receive £364,000 over the next two years "to increase participation and develop coaching."

This may sound like unexpected "pennies from heaven" but it is not the case. The sum involved is a bit above previous figures but it might include the salary for a new appointment, a chief executive for the ETTA.

This is an appointment that was agreed in principle sometime ago but it does fall into line with agreed strategy of making the ETTA more of a business - one of the planks of the successful election campaign run by the new chairman John Prean.

Our rival sports have chief executives, but the snags of employing someone with no table tennis background are obvious, unless there is a person now within the sport, an "insider", who could fill the post with distinction.

Webster move

That intrepid courtside photographer Brian Webster is on the move again. This time he is bound for Basle in Switzerland and will of course be back again

by the time this issue of the magazine is published.

Brian has been telephoning and writing to many people in the last six months in an effort to get accreditation as a press photographer and we believe he succeeded just before Christmas, as the constant phone calls ceased abruptly, but we are still hoping that he will be bringing back some good photographs of our top trio, Douglas, Prean and Bellinger.

My Scottish correspondents tell us however, there is no chance that Brian will be gracing the press centre at the Indira Gandhi Stadium, New Delhi for the world championships.

Dash for cover

There is a call for stronger brasses amongst lady players in Kent following a recent incident in a J.M. Rose Bowl match at Plumstead when the Woolwich No 1 Karen May, a most attractive young lady and a former Kent No 1 had to leave the table in between games and retire to the ladies powder room!

Happily she returned before the umpire got excited about the time lapse. The Woolwich team won the match against a certain south coast team and now will receive a zone-final visit from more coasters - Hastings, who just might have the England No 19 Teresa Moore in the side.

Aubrey for India

One man who is going to India for the big event is Aubrey Drapkin, the ETTA honorary treasurer, so this column is reliably informed.

So far, Aubrey has had few trips abroad to the big events. We are told that any trip to India is an eye-opener, the only snag before you go is those wretched inoculations!

Expansion for "Table Tennis News"

- The magazine working party have announced that for the rest of the season a free copy of the magazine will be despatched to all English leagues.

- From the February issue the size of "Table Tennis News" will be increased by four pages. All non-subscribers who pinch a look at other people's copies are urged to support the sport by buying it each month. That is the only way we shall get the first-class magazine we are now going for.

Deep Waters

A report from Terry Gadsby

FOLLOWING a meeting at Holmepierpoint (the National Water Sports Centre!) the East Midlands Regional Coordinating Committee is concentrating efforts on researching levels of demand prior to establishing targets which will be in line with the National Development Plan.

On the publicity front efforts are being made to identify every newspaper with a circulation covering the table tennis hotspots - hopefully they will already be publishing table tennis!

A particular drive to increase table tennis in Chesterfield, Derby and Buxton schools is now underway.

Leagues' power for top jobs

by John Woodford

THIS SEASON will be recorded as one of the most unusual in the history of the English Table Tennis Association not only because of John Prean stepping up to take the chair with a solid mandate but because it highlighted once again the unusual situation where a different body of people - the leagues and counties - hold the voting powers for the top posts, with the National Council having very little to do with appointing the three leading officers, chairman, deputy chairman and treasurer.

The top men do of course, have to justify the policies of the management committee to the National Council. But the councillors know that it is no good capsizing management policies left, right and centre as the only result of that would be chaos.

But surely, councillors must feel that they should have some sort of power in choosing leaders? It would be interesting to see how many national councillors had much to do with the way the leagues voted in the recent election. Not many, is the probable answer.

Is anyone prepared to stand against John Prean when the voting procedures start all over again in February? It seems unlikely in view of the Prean majority and the fact that he will have had so little time to implement his policies during the opening months of 1987.

The bigger problem could be - will Aubrey Drapkin remain to serve as treasurer? He is an excellent man in that post and if he drops out the Association are going to be extremely hard-pressed to find another man of that calibre.

The first days....

WHEN copy had to be submitted, I had only been in office for a few days. Next time I shall be able to submit a much fuller report. What have I done in this short time?

I received over a hundred letters, congratulations, messages of support, offers of help and for the first time in my life I fell behind in my correspondence, though Erica and I often typed till deep into the night. If I missed out somewhere, let me know.

I have had a good look at the Office. My friend and Chairman of Buckinghamshire Les Wooding has looked at the computer. In time I shall get to know the staff much better. I am very unhappy that the headquarters of our great sport should be in such an awful building. Yes, we pay a cheap rent or so it seemed until we got the estimates for the building work that has to be done at the end of the lease - a little matter of £15,000 and there is dry rot as well. As I walked up those stairs, I felt ashamed. The building is a squalid slum. How could this have been allowed? Inside our staff had done their best and things looked better. I hope we shall soon be out of this place and look back on it as a symbol of a past we have left behind. Where we shall move has yet to be debated. Rents in Hastings are high. If we move away, some of our valued staff, whose roots are in the town, will not come with us. The decision will have to be made soon.

Reforms required

Numerous rumours swept the country during the election campaign. One was that I would cut the Coaching Budget in half. It lost me a few votes and is totally untrue. It is, in fact, an area I regard as of great importance. I am a qualified coach, perhaps the first ETTA Chairman who is. I AM unhappy about the coaching scene and some of the things I have learned since being elected have horrified me. I put it as strongly as that. Urgent reforms are required. Action will be taken.

You will have read the headlines "Prean sacks Selection Committee" and of Peter Charters' resignation which I have accepted, thanking him for his past efforts. His successor and I share the view, as does former World Champion Johnny Leach, that Don Parker should be given full powers. We have confidence in him. It follows that a selection committee will not then be required. The interpretation of sackings is not mine.

All members of the selection committee have valuable parts to play in the future. The practice of a 7 man committee doing a job that one could do and do better cannot continue. Rankings, Juniors are separate issues. We hope to announce a better, more cohesive approach soon.

Sponsorship contacts

I made contact with two possible sources of sponsorship. The TV picture has hit rock-bottom. Last season we had the Triumph Adler 'English Open' which gave us a feature of some length. This season we shall have the Triumph Adler 'National' ('English Closed'), but rather less time on the screens. Next season cannot be *much* worse. We hope it will be very much better.

It is vital that we stage more events which TV will take and such initiatives are vital. More of this later.

Action on the following fronts will be recommended to our Management Committee: Women, Membership Crisis, Graded Tournaments, Special Events (Week-Day Evenings), Coaching Revival. I hope we shall soon have more impressive answers to the old members' question: "What do we get for our money?"

Door is open

There will be a change in style. I shall make mistakes and, if I do, I shall admit them. If one tries 10 new things and 7 or 8 go well, you need not be ashamed of the 2 or 3 that did not hit the big time. I stand for sound finance, greater member involvement and public accountability. When I was a professional manager in the manufacturing field, I never had a strike and my door was always open. Everybody could talk to me. That will remain my policy. I regard the members as my friends and when this is no longer so, I shall go. A gap has opened up between the members and the leadership over the years. This must be closed. We are all in this together, whether we play once a week or work for the sport seven days each week. A better sport will add meaning to all our efforts and to see something grow and flower is one of life's great pleasures.

JOHN

Lowestoft Juniors dominate Suffolk event

PLAYERS from the fishing port of Lowestoft weathered the storms to reach six finals out of nine at the Suffolk Junior Table Tennis Championships at Stowupland.

Star of the tournament was 12-year-old Mark Dawson who lifted three titles. There were 100 competitors, an excellent turnout for one of the smaller counties.

In the boys under-13 final he beat clubmate Adam Cole 24-22, 21-12. In the boys under-15 final Adam was again the victim (21-15, 19-21, 21-18).

In the under-15 boys doubles Mark and Adam joined forces to beat Richard Cole and Darren Mayall, also of Lowestoft 22-24, 21-16, 21-9. In the boys under-17

final Richard Cole beat Darren Mayall 21-13, 21-18.

In the girls under-17 final Joanne Corbett beat Clare Middleditch 21-11, 21-9. In the mixed doubles final Adam Cole and Emma Corbett lost to J. Scoulding and R. Ingle, of Bury St Edmunds, 13-21, 21-15, 21-18.

Match of the Day was the boys under-15 semi-final between two Lowestoft boys Mark Dawson and Richard Cole. Mark won 21-19, 18-21, 28-26.

Four other Lowestoft players reached the semi-finals, Martin Peek, Matthew Barnard, Richard Sheene and Stephen Howard.



Lowestoft's Suffolk County Junior table tennis championship starlets. Back row (l to r): Darren Mayall, Richard Cole. Front row: Joanne Corbett, Mark Dawson, Adam Cole, Emma Corbett.

Tournament Scene

Lambeth Building Society South of England 2-Star Junior Open

300 Juniors at South Croydon

by Michael Green

THE South of England 2 Star Junior Open, sponsored by Lambeth Building Society and F. Lankford the Builders, was held at Monks Hill Sports Centre in South Croydon over the weekend of 15th/16th November and attracted nearly three hundred young competitors.

This was the third time that the organisers have used Monks Hill. The Centre is just right for a Junior 2 Star and with the energy and enthusiasm of the Organising Committee and of the Centre Staff together with the excellent catering facilities laid on, the tournament must be regarded as amongst the very best on the circuit.

Having said this, it is therefore a pity that the very top juniors are unable to attend.

Interestingly enough, the winner of the U17 Boys' Singles hadn't actually entered the tournament at the start of the day.

Damian Holland owed a deal of thanks to the top seed, Andrew Ball, for not turning up. Damian took over the number one seed position and, in his usual manner with clenched fist and plenty of shouting, took the title.

Fought hard

Tom Cutler pushed Holland in the Q/F. Surrey's Matthew Pernet fought hard in the semi and should have taken Damian to a deciding game.

Damian's opponent in the final was the number two seeded Adrian Thorp (St) who just made it through his semi-final against third seed John Holland (Ng) 24-22 in the third game.

The final itself was not a classic with unforced errors galore. Thorp will no doubt be disappointed he didn't take the match to a decider when he considers the two set points he threw away in the second.

The U17 Girls' title went to the top seed and defending champion

Melonie Carey from Somerset. She had little trouble reaching the final, although Suffolk's Andrea Ambrose tried hard in her Semi-final clash with Melonie. Andrea, from Ipswich, is quite tiny and still with several years left as a junior. She has a flowing attacking game both forehand and backhand and, because she is so small, is always running about the court at speed retrieving apparent lost causes. She really is a name to watch.

Lisa Robins (Bd) seeded at four came through the other half making the most of the non-appearance of second seed Helen Lower (St). Neither Lisa or Melonie could be faulted for effort but, despite the narrowness of Melonie's win, the final seemed to be lacking something. The absence of a reasonable finals audience didn't help.

The Cadet Finals on the Saturday certainly had more zip and vitality. The Boys' was won by Michael Auchterlonie (Wi) who

with opponent Peter Bowler (Bd) produced some memorable rallies. Yorkshire's Joanna Roberts was a little too good for Alison Gower (E) in the Girls'.

There was only one minor problem over the weekend. The lights in the main hall went out on the Sunday and the Centre Staff then discovered they had run out of fuse wire. Terry "Nigel Mansell" Carpenter then did a round trip of ten miles in three minutes to collect some from home and save the day. Bravo...

FINALS:

Under 14 Boys' Singles: Michael Auchterlonie b Peter Bowler 17, -19, 14.

Under 14 Girls' Singles: Joanna Roberts b Alison Gower 19, -15.

Under 14 Boys' Doubles: Alan Cole/Paul Carter b Andrew Eden/Brian Milham 10, -19, 14.

Under 14 Girls' Doubles: Sarah Pengelly/Helen Wright b Joanna Roberts/Katherine Goodall -17, 18, 17.

Under 12 Boys' Singles: Martin Hewett b John Blasco 13, -13.

Under 12 Girls' Singles: Nicola Meddings b Katherine Goodall 20, -14, 22.

Under 17 Boys' Singles: Damian Holland b Adrain Thorp 19, 20

Under 17 Girls' Singles: Lisa Robins b Melonie Carey -17, 13, 19.

Under 17 Boys' Doubles: Adrian Thorp/Darren Smith b John Holland/Robert Fearn 11, -10, 18.

Under 17 Girls' Doubles: Kate Gower/Kristina Cox b Melonie Carey/Jane Wright 13, 16.

Huge entry for Midlands Vetts

by Mike Watts

THE popularity of veterans table tennis was very much in evidence at Coventry recently when the VETTS staged their Midland Masters at the West Midlands Sports Centre for the Disabled over the weekend of the 29th/30th November.

This was the 3rd Midland Open and the past two events have attracted around 90 entries. However on this occasion referee Geoff Taylor almost had to close the entry having received 134 forms by the closing date. Suffice to say all were accepted and despite some late finals on the Sunday over 700 matches were completed to the satisfaction of everyone present. To be fair to the referee it was not the scheduling that held everyone up but the form particularly of Connie Moran from Grimsby in Lincolnshire who had the time of her life as she raced to four finals and one semi-final in five events entered. The delight on the faces of the organising committee was there for everyone to see when Connie and her partner Bill Brookman (Middlesex) narrowly failed in the semi-final of the mixed doubles otherwise she would probably have still been there beating everyone in sight!

MS Over 40 - Semi-finals D Schofield (Ch) b C Warren (Sy) -19, 17, 15; B Adedayo (Mi) b R Gunnion (Wa) 17,

-12, 20. **Finals:** Adedayo b Schofield (Ch) 16, 13.

MS Over 50 - M Sheader (Li) b D Schofield (Ch) 17, -19, 15.

WS Over 40 - Semi-finals: C Moran (Li) b D Schofield (Ch) 13, 12; C Judson (Y) b M Neary (La) 13, 18. **Final:** Moran b Judson -14, 9, 11.

WS Over 50: C Moran (Li) b J Beadle (K) -18, 13, 17.

MS Over 60: L D'Arcy (Y) b R Etheridge (K) 13, -22, 19.

MS Over 70: R. Satchell (Sx) b T Jenkins (Bu) 20, 15.

WS Over 60: B Bonner (So) b D Harmer (Bd) 9, 11.

MD Over 40: R Gunnion/C Warren (Wa/Sy) b D Schofield/M Sheader (Ch/Li) 16, -18, 13.

WD Over 40: C. Moran/D Schofield (Li/Ch) b M Garlinge/P Butcher (K) 18, 16.

MD Over 50: D Schofield/M Sheader (Ch/Li) b F Lockwood/S Battrick (E) 16, 6.

WD Over 50: C Moran/P Butcher (Li/K) b P Wales/K Fisher (Sx/Li) 15, 13.

MD Over 60: R Etheridge/L D'Arcy (K/Y) b J Husbands/A Gould (Bu/Li) 12, 10.

Mixed doubles: R Gunnion/D Schofield (Wa/Ch) b F Earis/S Coombs (Bu) 12, -16, 14.

Mens restricted singles: T Donlon (Ch) b D Walmsley (L) 19, -17, 20.

Womens restricted singles: C Judson (Y) b P Steel (Sx) 14, 18.

Hastings Tigers One Star Open

Unseeded John Thorpe wins

by John Coleman

ONCE again the Tiger's Table Tennis Tournament, now in it's 29th year, attracted it's usual high standard of entry, climaxing in 2 excellent semi-final games; in the men's final between John Thorpe (Brighton) v. Paul Cox (Dagenham) and Martin Lowe (Croydon) v. Ray Tilling (Bromley), with John Thorpe the unseeded player winning over Martin Lowe in the final.

In the women's singles the unseeded Jane Cohen (Reading), who beat the No 1 seed Sheila King in the semi final, and Mrs Pauline Steel (Brighton) in the finals.

In the mens doubles the No 2 seeds Ray Tilling/Les Nicholls (Bromley) beat the No 1 seeds Martin Bullock/Andy Cunningham (Bromley).

The women's doubles proved to be a local final with Mrs Helen Mawby/Stephanie Haddrell (Eastbourne) triumphing over Mrs Sue Hayes/Ruth Hyland (Hastings).

Finals:

MS: J Thorpe (Brighton) b M Lowe (Croydon) 23, 17.

WS: J Cohen b P Steel 11, 8.

MD: R Tilling/L Nicholls b M Bullock/A Cunningham 21, 13.

WD: S Hadrell/H Mawby b S Hayes/R Hyland 17, 15.



Sheila King, No. 1 seed, beaten by Jane Cohen.

Tournament Scene

Stiga Middlesex 3-Star Open Championships

Full house at Picketts Lock

Iris Moss reports

THE Stiga Middlesex 3-Star Open Championships which took place at Picketts Lock Centre on 13th and 14th December, must be judged the most successful Middlesex Open from both the quantity and quality of entries. Having accepted 320 entries (our absolute maximum) 2 days before the closing date, we had to refuse a further 74 entries and still had people coming along in the hope of replacing players who had to scratch. On quality we had 24 of the 25 top-ranked England men players (the only missing one was Andrew Syed because of injury) and the top 15 women players, although unfortunately Lisa Bellinger had to withdraw at the last moment as she was in Japan. In addition we had the Canadian No 2 and 3 men and the top 3 women, and Scotland's No 1 man. So it is not surprising that many of the matches played were of the highest standard of table tennis in the country.

With 67 groups of 4 and the qualifying Men's Doubles to be played, the Saturday schedule "slipped" slightly at times, but with hard work from the umpires and the co-operation of the players, we caught up and finished at the respectable time of 9.15 p.m.

On Sunday the excitement built up quite early. In the Men's Doubles the Canadian players went out in the second round to John Burleton and David Dodd (Kent) and in an exciting "local Derby" Nigel Tyler and David Wells overcame John Souter and Colin Wilson in the quarter-final. But the top 2 seeded pairs succeeded in the end, and the final between Skylet Andrew and Nicky Mason against Philip Bradbury and Desmond Douglas resulted in a 2-straight win for the Essex and Surrey pairing. In the Women's Doubles, the depth of understanding between Fiona

Elliot and Jill Harris overcame what might be judged on paper to be the stronger pairing of Alison Gordon and Mandy Sainsbury and they retained the title for the third year running by beating the Canadians, Mariann Domonkos and Gloria Hsu, in the final.

With the absence of Lisa Bellinger, it was not surprising that Joy Grundy's progression to the final of the Women's Singles was comparatively easy although she did have a little trouble with Mandy Sainsbury before beating her in the quarter-final. In the other half Jill Harris managed to beat Alison Gordon in the quarter-final but then lost to Mariann Domonkos who had also eliminated her partner, Fiona Elliot. But Joy managed to despatch Mariann fairly easily in the final, so once again we have a new name on our role of honour.

In the Men's Singles there were

a few surprises with 3 out of the 16 seeded players going out in the first round to lesser-ranked players but the excitement really built up with the quarter-finals. Desmond Douglas (accompanied by his fan-club) and Skylet Andrew appeared to have little trouble in their progression to the semi-final, but Alan Cooke had to fight back after losing the first game to Stephen Scowcroft. Undoubtedly the most exciting match was between Carl Prean and John Souter. John fought with tigerish intensity but despite being five points down towards the end of the third game, Carl did not give in easily and John had to use every tactic he knew to take the game at 19. John could not summon quite the same determination in the semi-final and Alan Cooke won 2-straight. In the other semi-final Skylet Andrew made Desmond Douglas fight for every point but finally had to submit to Desmond's stronger counter-hitting. In my experience the final is often an anti-climax, but it was not the case this year. Alan's solid hard hitting and placing against Desmond's almost cat-like speed around the court and counter-hitting, made the match into an exhibition of fine table tennis. It was a shame there had to be a loser but it ended with Desmond's name going back on our role of honour after a gap of eight years — not I hasten to add because he had been beaten but because his absence from the

country made him unable to enter.

Finally the Middlesex committee would like to express their grateful thanks to Stiga and their UK agents, DSR Leisure, in the person of Simon Hobson, for their generous sponsorship; the ETTA for their part in the negotiations; the umpires who worked so hard to get the matches played; the management and staff of Picketts Lock for their help and co-operation; and last, but not least, the players who, literally, turned up in their hundreds and without whom there would be no event.

Results

Mens singles - Semi-final: Desmond Douglas (Wa) b Skylet Andrew (E) 17, 18; Alan Cooke (Dy) b John Souter (Mi) 10, 17. **Final:** Douglas b Cooke 24, 19.

Womens singles - Semi-final: Joy Grundy (La) b Than Mach (Canada) 14, 14; Mariann Domonkos (Canada) b Jill Harris (St) - 14, 16, 18. **Final:** Grundy b Domonkos 14, 10.

Mens doubles - Final: Andrew/Nicky Mason (E/Sy) b Philip Bradbury/Douglas (Bu/Wa) 15, 14.

Womens doubles - Final: Fiona Elliot/Jill Harris (St/St) b Mariann Domonkos/Gloria Hsu (Canada) - 16, 16, 14.

Veterans singles - Final: Henry Buist (K) b Babs Adedayo (Mi) 11, 12.



Desmond Douglas, extended by Alan Cooke, but champion at Middlesex again. Photos: Mike Loveder.

Cleveland Junior Open Table Tennis Championships

Syed dominating at Cleveland

ENGLAND Junior No 1 Matthew Syed of Berkshire dominated the boys event at Eston Leisure Centre retaining the singles in the Cleveland junior open championships and playing a leading role in England's victory in the Ladbroke Dragonara international team event.

To retain the boys singles title in the six nation Cleveland County Council supported event, Syed beat both the top Dutch boys, Danny Heister in the semi-final and Trinko Keen to take the title.

Syed seemed to improve his play as the weekend progressed annihilating Keen in the final by the convincing scoreline of 12, 10, after coming close to defeat by Keen in the junior international two days earlier.

Syed also excelled for England in

the Ladbroke team event, winning both his singles in the 3-1 final win against the Netherlands and combining with Chris Oldfield to win the all important doubles.

Dominant in the girls events was the Dutch No 1 Patricia De Groot. Patricia won the singles without dropping a single set including victories over Debbie Toole of Yorkshire in the semi-final and England No 1 Andrea Holt of Lancashire in the final.

However, Miss De Groot's domination did not quite match that of Syed. Although the Dutch girl won both of her singles in the Ladbroke team final the vital doubles eluded her as Miss Toole and Miss Holt proved too good for her and the title stayed with England, 3-2. Joanne Roberts combined with

Kay Goodall as, representing Pontefract, they won the Ladbroke Dragonara team event, beating both the English and Dutch national teams en route to the title.

The championship supported by Cleveland Leisure Services was enhanced by entries from national teams from Scotland, Wales, Ireland, Isle of Man, in addition to England and Holland.

Junior boys singles - Semi-finals: M Syed (England) b D Heister (Netherlands) 12, 10; T Keen (Netherlands) b C Oldfield (England) 15, 18. **Final:** M Syed b T Keen 12, 10. **Junior girls singles - Final:** P De Groot (Netherlands) b A Holt (England) 17, 18.

Junior boys doubles: T Keen/D Heister b A Ball/B Carse (Yorkshire) 19, 13. **Junior girls doubles:** A Holt/D Toole (England) b P De Groot/E Schers (Netherlands) 15, 17.

Cadet boys singles: N Bevan (England) b M Heeren (Netherlands) 12, 14. **Cadet girls singles:** J Roberts (Pontefract) b S Mahling (Hull) 20, 17.

Boys doubles: N Bevan/G Knights (England) b M Harland/G Cobes (Netherlands) 10, 18. **Girls doubles:** J Roberts/K Goodall (Pontefract) b E Meddings/C Buckley (England) 18, 19.

Under 11 boys singles: A Nicols (Yorkshire) b A Perry (Devon) 13, 13. **Under 11 girls singles:** S Mahling (Hull) b N Deaton (Derby) 10, 21.

Ladbroke Dragonara team events - Boys final: England (Syed/Oldfield) 3, Netherlands (Keen/Heister) 1. **Girls final:** England (Toole/Holt) 3, Netherlands (De Groot/Schers) 1. **Cadet boys final:** Netherlands (Cobes/Heeren) 3, Penwortham (Eden/Milam) 1. **Cadet girls final:** Pontefract (Roberts/Goodall) 3, Netherlands (Treebush/Muller) 1.



Schildkröt

British Table Tennis League

Promoted by the English Table Tennis Association

Douglas calls the tune

Fiona Brown reports

STEELSTOCK Wolverhampton are marching relentlessly to their second Premier division title in two years. Des Douglas and his team who regularly play before a capacity crowd at their Moreton Centre venue, have inflicted two more 8-0 thrashings to leave Omega Reading and MBS St Neots foundering at the bottom of the table.

If, as Steelstock's press officer Vernon Dodd suggested last month, the league is to be decided on sets average then the champions have little to fear, having dropped only 4 sets in their first six fixtures.

Sweet success

In the first division Trebor Dagenham FC have gained ground on leaders Express Sports Torbay who conceded their first point of the season at home to Birmingham team Chan Construction. Meanwhile the Trebor team are full of confidence having tucked another two wins under their belt with No 4 John Green enjoying a far more successful season in division one than he did with Erreys Print in the third division south!

Help line

Martin Kinsella, the former Irish international and now a Chesterfield based social worker, has been recruited by Bradford Investments to strengthen their second division north squad. Kinsella came straight into the fray on 7th December, covering for Michael O'Driscoll - who was in Macclesfield to contest the National Junior Championships - and helped Bradford to a vital 6-2 win over Ormesby.

At the opposite end of the table Oldham finally broke their duck sharing the points with fellow strugglers Kingbro Insurance.

Grove in the groove

Grove continue to dominate the third division north, having effec-

tively curbed the impetus of newcomers Leicester TTC in a 5-3 encounter. Leicester had previously found themselves under pressure against Ormesby but Karen Smith proved to be a capable substitute for flu victim Grahame Hall as she clinched the vital fifth set in that meeting.

Gordon in top gear

England No 2 Alison Gordon put an effective end to Mike

O'Leary's 100% record in the third division south match between Ashford and league leaders Rejects. Unfortunately, her 21-19, 21-17 win was amongst a minority for Ashford who finally succumbed 3-5. Despite Rejects devastating form, chief coach Michael Pantin has prepared against the risk of injury problems in the second half of the season by signing Clapham based Gary Spencer. Gary, now 23, was a leading junior and has enjoyed a national ranking in the senior top 50 in recent years. With this additional string to the Rejects bow, it seems unlikely that Team Ramlosa Essex will be able to displace them from the top spot.

Even better connections

Well Connected Wellingborough have extended their sponsorship support by agreeing an attractive deal which includes free use of the Borough Council's Glamis Hall

venue. Team manager Ken Marchant says "We have found the ideal venue for both players and spectators. The initial agreement is for our five remaining home matches of the season." In return the Well Connected squad, the third division East's only unbeaten outfit (no pun intended!), are to conduct exhibition matches for the Wellingborough Council and help with the coaching of players selected to represent Wellingborough in events against their twin town, Niort of France. "It is a real boost for the club and we are now very excited about the prospects for next season" says Mr Marchant. "This sort of connection can only help to popularise the Schildkröt British League."

Despite hard times, the Oldham side remain cheerful. l to r: Mike Owen, Tim Hutton, Amanda Goodwin, Howard Leigh, Nick Mooney and Peter Aspin (Manager).

Oldham Evening Chronicle 061 633 2121



Schildkröt distributed by Butterfly



Schildkrot British League 2

SCHILDKROT PLAYER OF THE MONTH OCTOBER

TREVOR CAMPBELL (Rejects)

For two fine wins against Richard Darnell and Alex Abbott of Team Ramlosa Essex firstly to level the match score at 2-2 and then to rescue a point at 4-4 and keep his team at the top of the league.



Trevor is pictured receiving his award from Mr Alan Ransome, Managing Director of Teesport, the UK distributor of Schildkrot products.

SCHILDKROT FIXTURES

January

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

February

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

Schildkrot British League Handbook £1.00 from the ETTA office

Results

Including matches played 14.12.86

Premier

MBS St Neots 0, Steelstock Wolverhampton 8; Ormesby 5, Butterfly Cardiff 3; Steelstock Wolverhampton 8, Omega Reading 0; MBS St Neots 0, Panoramic Bath 8; Butterfly Cardiff 8, MBS St Neots 0. Postponed: Omega Reading v Ormesby, Steelstock Wolverhampton v Rotherham, Grove v Panoramic Bath.

First

Trebor Dagenham FC 5, Byker Newcastle 3; TSP Larkhall 5, TCB Dolphins 3; Omega Claw 2, West Works/Birmingham 6; Express Torbay 4, Chan Construction 4; TCB Dolphins 1, Trebor Dagenham FC 7; TSP Larkhall 3, Express Torbay 5; West Works/Birmingham 1, Chan Construction 7. Postponed: Byker Newcastle v Omega Claw.

Second North

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

Second South

Jaques Fareham 2, Medway 6; Medway 7, TSP Larkhall 1; Gunnersbury Triangle 2, C & L Nittaku 6; Jaques Fareham 5, Fellows Cranleigh 3; Ashford 7, Global Plymouth 1; Medway 4, Gunnersbury Triangle 4; C & L Nittaku 4, Medway 4; Gunnersbury Triangle 2, Ashford 6; TSP Larkhall 5, Jaques Fareham 3; Fellows Cranleigh 6, Global Plymouth 2.

Third North

Ormesby 5, Crusaders Lincoln 3; Chan Construction 5, Leicester 3; Unity Leeds 7, Vickers Barrow 1; Byker Newcastle 2, Grove 6; Leicester 5, Ormesby 3; Chan Construction 7, Byker Newcastle 1; Crusaders Lincoln 0, Unity Leeds 8; Vickers Barrow 1, Grove 7; Leicester 3, Grove 5.

Third South

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

Third East

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

Third West

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

Schildkrot British League

(as at 8.12.86)

Premier division	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Steelstock Wolverhampton	6	5	1	0	44	4	11
Panoramic Bath	5	4	0	1	30	10	8
Grove Market Drayton	4	3	1	0	25	7	7
Butterfly Cardiff	6	2	1	3	21	27	5
Rotherham	3	2	1	0	17	7	5
Ormesby	4	2	0	2	12	20	4
Omega Reading	5	0	0	5	7	33	0
MBS St Neots	7	0	0	7	4	52	0
First							
Express Torbay	6	5	1	0	33	15	11
Trebor Dagenham FC	6	5	0	1	33	15	10
Chan Construction	6	3	1	2	29	27	7
TSP Larkhall	6	3	0	3	25	23	6
TCB Dolphins	6	3	0	3	25	23	6
Byker Newcastle	5	2	0	3	18	22	4
West Warwicks B'ham	6	1	0	5	16	32	2
Omega Claw	5	0	0	5	8	32	0
Second North							
Bradford Investments	7	6	0	1	35	21	12
EAE Waveney	6	4	1	1	34	14	9
Ormesby II	5	4	0	1	25	15	8
March	6	3	1	2	26	22	7
Steelstock Wolverhampton	6	2	2	2	25	23	6
Sincil Lincoln	5	2	0	3	20	20	4
Kingbro Insurance	6	0	1	5	13	35	1
Oldham	7	0	1	6	14	42	1
Second South							
Ashford	6	6	0	0	41	7	12
C and L Nittaku	6	3	2	1	26	22	7
Fellows Cranleigh	6	3	1	2	26	22	7
Medway	7	2	2	3	28	28	6
Global Sports Plymouth	6	3	0	3	23	25	6
Gunnersbury Triangle	7	2	1	4	22	34	5
Jaques Fareham	6	2	0	4	20	28	4
TSP Larkhall	6	1	0	5	14	34	2

1987 European Top 12 Champion Desmond Douglas

A full report of this event will feature in our February issue



European table tennis rankings

DECEMBER 1986 *(previous positions in brackets)*

Men

1.	Jorgen Persson	(1)	SWE
2.	Jan Ove Waldner	(2)	SWE
3.	Andrzej Grubba	(3)	POL
4.	Erik Lindh	(4)	SWE
5.	Leszek Kucharski	(5)	POL
6.	Mikael Appelgren	(7)	SWE
7.	DESMOND DOUGLAS	(6)	ENG
8.	Andrei Mazunov	(10)	URS
9.	Tibor Klampar	(9)	HUN
10.	Ulf Carlsson	(8)	SWE
11.	Zoran Kalinic	(11)	YUG
12.	CARL PREAN	(13)	ENG
47.	SKYLET ANDREW	(—)	ENG

Women

1.	Csilla Batorfi	(1)	HUN
2.	Fliura Bulatova	(2)	URS
3.	Olga Nemes	(3)	FRG
4.	Marie Hrachova	(4)	TCH
5.	Dana Guergueltcheva	(6)	BUL
6.	Bettine Vriesekoop	(5)	HOL
7.	Otilia Badescu	(8)	ROM
8.	Edit Urban	(11)	HUN
9.	Zsuzsa Olah	(7)	HUN
10.	LISA BELLINGER	(10)	ENG
11.	Branka Batinic	(9)	YUG
12.	Elena Kovtun	(12)	URS
23.	ALISON GORDON	(21)	ENG
32.	JOY GRUNDY	(25)	ENG

★ONE of the surprises in the new ranks is that even in the lower regions of the womens list there is no place so far for England's Fiona Elliot. The Wolverhampton girl has had a number of wins both in foreign opens and in the European League that should it is felt, have at least got her into the list.

Prean marches on

CARL PREAN making his first appearance in a foreign open this season grabbed the limelight with a superb run to the last 16 in the mens singles, losing over five stunning games to the Chinese champion Ma Weng. Earlier Prean's victims included Poland's Dryszel.

Prean, now settled happily in Bad Hamm, seems to be looking more like a top world-class player every week and the chances of him becoming a future European champion seem to be increasing. Carl was only defeated 21-17 in the fifth game by Ma Weng. The other eye-brow-raiser was the 3-0 defeat for China in the mens team event by Sweden!

Here is an interesting comment from Don Parker, the England captain, on the happenings in Novi Sad. Said Parker: "It was interesting to see the Yugoslavian team selected two squads and on seeing the team draw those 'horses for courses'. This is something we were not allowed to do at the English Open which I

hope will be rectified by 1988. I am not looking for an unfair advantage but just to compete over the two years on the same basis."

Reports in the Daily Telegraph that there was a crowd of 7,000 in Novi Sad were correct, but a lot of them were connected to watching a gymnastic event in the same stadium, running either fore or aft of the table tennis.

Results

Mens Team

ENG 3 URS 1

Alan Cooke lt Mazunov -18, -20; Carl Prean b Podnosov 16, 16; Prean/Cooke b Podnosov/Mazunov -23, 18, 21; Prean b Mazunov 19, 17.

ENG 3 JAP 1

Cooke lt Watanabe -22, 12, -18; Prean b Iwasaki 19, 16; Prean/Cooke b Watanabe/Iwasaki 18, 22; Prean b

Watanabe 11, 11.

ENG 2 YUG 3

Cooke lt Primorac 16, -16, -19; Prean b Lupulescu 20, -22, 15; Prean/Cooke lt Primorac/Lupulescu 17, -6, -10; Prean b Primorac 13, 23; Cooke lt Lupulescu -13, 15, -19.

Semi finals: CHN 3 YUG 0; PRK 0 SWE 3. Final: SWEDEN 3 CHINA 0.

Womens Team

ENG 3 YUG 0

Fiona Elliot b Perkucin 15, -8, 16; Lisa Bellinger b Ojstersek -18, 16, 23; Elliot/Bellinger b Perkucin/Frelth 13, 16.

ENG 0 HOL 3

Bellinger lt Vriesekoop -18, -11; Elliot lt Kloppenburg 19, -14, -15; Elliot/Bellinger lt Vriesekoop/Kloppenburg -18, -19.

Semi finals: CHN 3 URS 0; TCH 3 HOL 1. Final: CHINA 3 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 0.

Mens singles - Round 1: Carl Prean W/O, Alan Cooke lt Andrei Mazunov (URS) -15, -11, -18. **Round 2:** Prean b Mulabdic (YUG) 9, 13, 7. **Round 3:** Prean b Stefan Dryszel (POL) 8, 16, 17. **Round 4:** Prean lt Ma Wenge 20, -14, 17, -14, -17. **Semi final:** Lindh (SWE) b Appelgren (SWE) 18, 13, 8; Chen Zhibin (CHN) b Mazunov (URS) -17, 9, -18, 16, 14. **Final:** Chen Zhibin b Lindh 20, -20, 14, 17.

Womens singles - Round 1: Fiona Elliot b Cvelkovic (YUG) 13, 18, 17; Lisa Bellinger W/O. **Round 2:** Elliot lt He Qianhong (CHN) -17, -15, -12; Bellinger b Frelth -21, 11, 15, 18. **Round 3:** Bellinger lt Bang Chun Dok (PRK) -10, -11, -17. **Semi finals:** Geng Luan (CHN) b He Qianhong (CHN) 19, 7, 9; Chen Jing (CHN) b Urban (HUN) 19, 11, 11. **Final:** Chen Jing b Geng Luan -18, 19, 12, 11.

Mens doubles - Round 1: Prean/Cooke lt Mnich/Dryszel (POL) 9, -14, -18. **Semi finals:** Wang Hao/Chen Pingxi (CHN) b Grubba/Kucharski (POL) 10, 25; Primorac/Lupulescu (YUG) b Waldner/Lindh (SWE) -17, 22, 14. **Final:** Primorac/Lupulescu b Wang Hao/Chen Pingxi 16, 16.

Womens doubles - Round 1: Bellinger/Elliot W/O. **Round 2:** Bellinger/Elliot lt Wiktorsson/Svensson (SWE) -14, 12, -19. **Semi finals:** Geng Luan/Chen Jung (CHN) b Popova/Timoofejeva (URS) -20, 15, 12; Bulatova/Kovtun (URS) b Yao Jiayin/He Qiangong (CHN) 11, 11. **Final:** Geng Luan/Chen Jung b Bulatova Kovtun 13, 16.

Mixed doubles - Round 1: Prean/Bellinger W/O; Cooke/Elliot lt Kriston/Batorfi (HUN) 15, 15. **Round 2:** Prean/Bellinger lt Lupulescu/Perkucin (YUG) -25, -21. **Semi finals:** Ma Weng/Chen Jing (CHN) b Wang Hao/He Qiangong (CHN) 16, 9; Sun Jianwei/Geng Luan (CHN) b Lupulescu/Perkucin (YUG) 19, -16, 4. **Final:** Ma Weng/Chen Jing lt Sun Jianwei/Geng Luan -19, 16, -17.

Syed on song at Macclesfield

Albert Shipley reports

IN the excellent facilities of Macclesfield Leisure Centre on the weekend of December 6th/7th, the junior championships took place under their new name of English National Junior Championships. Referee Doug Young ensured that all matches were played at their scheduled times and organiser Roger Moss ensured that every facility was available to players and officials alike.

On the Saturday, the cadet singles and junior doubles were played and it was interesting to see who would come through in the cadets after the elevation to the junior ranks of Bradley Billington and Michael O'Driscoll. I particularly liked the fighting spirit shown by Neil Bevan of Cornwall, who had a tremendous quarter-final struggle against Michael Auchterlonie of Wiltshire to the final with a win over Mark Stephenson of Yorkshire in which the second game ended at 24-22. In the other half Leigh Jeffries of Warwickshire was steadily advancing to the final with a series of two straight wins and the final encounter with Bevan produced a very entertaining open game. Bevan won the first, lost a useful lead in the second and finally ran out of steam to the new cadet champion, Leigh Jeffries.

In the cadet girls, Helen Potts (Cheshire), the younger sister of Claire, reached the final without too much difficulty where she met the deceptive skills of Yorkshire's Joanna Roberts. Helen took the first game at 17 but thereafter Joanna employed her strong point of using her opponent's speed to block and counter-hit her way to victory.

The boys singles on Sunday contained few surprises with all four of the top seeds reaching their appointed places. The semi-finals were staged in the finals session and provided some good entertainment for our visitors, the mayor and chief executive of Macclesfield Borough Council.

Matthew Syed (Berkshire) broke the hearts of all his opponents with impressive retrieving, beating Michael O'Driscoll in the semi-final. The other semi-final saw a series of hard-hitting exchanges between Bradley Billington (Derbys) and Sean Gibson (Lancs) with the tall figure of Billington emerging the winner. For me, the main feature of the final was the way in which Syed wore down the attack of Billington, coming from behind in both games to emerge as champion thereby following in the footsteps of his elder brother, Andrew, who

was the junior boys champion in 1983.

Andrea Holt (Lancs) was firm favourite for the girls singles title but my impression was that she was not on top form as she struggled to beat Helen Lower (Staffs) in the quarter-final and Julie Norman (Berks) in the semi-final. Meanwhile Derbyshire's Kerry Hall was coming through the field quite steadily, rallying to beat Debbie Toole (Yorks) in the quarter-final after a first game loss by 21-11, and dealing comfortably with Claire Potts (Cheshire) in the semi-final. Kerry obviously approached the final with confidence and took full advantage of the inconsistency of Andrea Holt by becoming the champion, at the tender age of 14, in two straight games and denying the holder the chance of another title.

Because of the impending junior ranking trials there was a full complement of selection committee members in attendance looking for likely candidates to fill a few vacancies, so even some of the losers might have earned a reward for their participation.

Results

Junior boys singles - Quarter-finals: Matthew Syed (Bk) b Chris Oldfield (Y) 17,

8; Michael O'Driscoll (Y) b Neil Pickard (Nk) 11, 17; Sean Gibson (La) b John Holland (Ng) -12, 7, 9; Bradley Billington (Dy) b David Carse (La) 15, 22. **Semi-finals:** Syed b O'Driscoll 16, 17; Billington b Gibson -14, 17, 16. **Final:** Syed b Billington 14, 17.

Junior girls singles - Quarter-finals: Andrea Holt (La) b Helen Lower (St) -15, 11, 5; Julie Norman (Bk) b Kristina Cox (Bd) 13, 13; Kerry Hall (Dy) b Debbie Toole (Y) -11, 13, 17; Claire Potts (Ch) b Melonie Carey (So) 12, 12. **Semi-finals:** Holt b Norman 9, -17, 16; Hall b Potts 13, 15. **Final:** Hall b Holt 17, 11.

Junior boys doubles - Semi-finals: Mileham/Eden (K/La) b Bevan/Stephenson (Co/Y) -21, 11, 19; Billington/Gibson (Dy/La) b Carse/Ball (La/Y) 14, 13. **Final:** Billington/Gibson b Mileham/Eden 14, 11.

Junior girls doubles - Semi-finals: D Toole/E Meddings (Y/Y) b K Cox/J Norman (Bd/Bk) 12, 16; A Holt/M Carey (La/So) b C Potts/H Potts (Ch/Ch) 9, 12. **Final:** Holt/Carey b Toole/Meddings 7, -13, 14.

Junior mixed doubles - Semi-finals: M O'Driscoll/K Hall (Y/Dy) b M Syed/A Holt (Bk/La) 20, 16; B Billington/C Potts (Dy/Ch) b J Tendler/K Gower (E/E) 14, 17. **Final:** O'Driscoll/Hall b Billington/Potts 17, 19.

Cadet boys singles - Quarter-finals: Leigh Jeffries (Wa) b Grant Solder (E) 19, 18; Andrew Eden (La) b Brian Mileham (K) 16, 14; Mark Stephenson (Y) b Peter Bowler (Bd) 15, 13; Neil Bevan (Co) b Michael Auchterlonie (Wi) 21, -17, 23. **Semi-finals:** Jeffries b Eden 15, 18; Bevan b Stephenson 13, 22. **Final:** Jeffries b Bevan -16, 19, 16.

Cadet girls singles - Semi-finals: Helen Potts (Ch) b Ellen Meddings (Y) 17, 15; Joanna Roberts (Y) b Katherine Goodall (Y) 23, 18. **Final:** Roberts b Potts -17, 19, 19.

A young man with a will to win

John Woodford talks to Nicky Mason

NICKY MASON, 21, born in Wimbledon and living in Bexhill is a full-time professional. A young man who is determined to get to the very top branches of the English table tennis tree. There are only two men he has not beaten - Desmond Douglas and Carl Preat.

All the others have felt the weight of his speedy counter-hitting, especially the ultra-ambitious Alan Cooke, the England No 2 who lost for the second time to Mason at the county championships week-end on November 30.

The reason he has continued to play for Surrey although he has lived in Bexhill for the last three years is a simple one. "I was born in Surrey" he told me. Living in one county and not playing for it is not unusual these days, especially amongst the leading players on the England ratings.

In consequence, Mason the current England No 7 has not received the weight of publicity in Sussex that he would have had if he played for his county of residence. But he has the advantage of regular practice

with the Moore family of Bexhill, although more recently with Adrian and Teresa Moore away studying only Stephen Moore has been a regular practice partner.

But another strong player Steve Mills with the unorthodox style, has recently moved to Ashford, Kent, so the Bexhill-based men do not have to travel too much when they fancy a local knocking session.

However, no-one reaches the top end of the England rankings without regular first class practice, virtually day in and day out. Three days a week, Mason is in London, sometimes at the Ashford (Middlesex) TTC or St Brides TTC where his practice opponents are usually the Scottish ace David Hannah, Skylet Andrew and Steve Dorking.

Practice sessions last from three to five hours daily.

Mason played for a year in Holland and later this season may return there for a session of Dutch National League matches playing for Skylet's club Tempo.

Nicky Mason was once a wicket-keeper. "One day I was keeping behind a chap with one arm in a sling and batting with one hand" he said. "He hooked a shot and lost his hold on the bat which hit me in the eye, a painful experience" he said.

Operation

Another painful experience last year was a cartilage operation. But that was soon mended and no longer a problem. But Mason has now retired from both cricket and football, preferring the more gentle arts of table tennis, lawn tennis and snooker!

I asked about the opposite sex. "Don't want to get involved" he said as though he has seen what romance can do to a professional sporting career.



Nicky Mason.

His ambition was to get into the England team for the world championships in New Delhi. "I have not been playing well enough this season" he said, "The Top-12 at Soham was an example". But the example of up-ending popular "Cookey" is an example of what Mason can do.

MIDLAND LEAGUE

from John Barber

Men's section

In Division 1 of the men's section, Coventry gained their second win, this time against Chesterfield, whilst the A teams of Wolves and Notts were engaged in a closely fought draw. In Division 2 Dudley struck back from 1-3 down to Bath, to win 6-4. Lincoln won well against Leicester in Division 3, both being promoted teams. The set played between Steve Brophy and G. Hibbard also counted for the 1985/6 Individual Singles runners-up and it was won by Steve Brophy of Lincoln.

Results

Division 1 Coventry A 7 Chesterfield A 3; Wolves A 5 Notts A 5; Division 2 Dudley 6 Bath 4; Division 3 Lincoln 7 Leicester 3; Leicester 3 Glos. B 7; Division 4 Stroud 1 Banbury 9.

Junior section

In Division 1 Wolves continue their winning way with an 8-2 victory at Notts B, with Adrian Thorp unbeaten. Notts A and Coventry A also notched up good wins. In Division 2 Alan Weightmans three wins helped Eastwood to a good 7-3 success at Dudley. Walsall went 3 up against Stroud but could only manage one more. In Division 3 Leicester gave nothing away against Dudley, nor Leamington at Rugby. Worcester also got a maximum from Pontesbury.

Olympic Qualifying Event

AT a recent meeting of the ETTU Management Committee in Yugoslavia, a report was given on the Olympic Qualifying tournament.

Mr Sporrer presented a paper setting out some principles and a system of play for the tournament to find the 12 men and 6 women qualifiers from Europe. Three main principles were agreed:

(i) Due to the strength of the Swedish players who were virtually certain to have two players within the top 16 of the world classification, Sweden should conduct its own qualifying competition for one of the remaining places.

(ii) Each NOC from the rest of Europe should be invited to nominate three men players and two women players to take part in the ETTU qualifying competition.

(iii) That the system of play should give a winner (for publicity purposes) without disturbing the need to give every player a fair chance of qualifying, i.e. NOT a straight knock-out competition.

LENTEC COMPUTER MEN'S VETERANS RANKING LIST - NOVEMBER 1986

1. Derek Schofield (Stockport)	572
2. Ralph Gunnion (Solihull)	535
3. Matt Sheader (Grimsby)	441
5. Robin Stace (Brighton)	354
6. Babs Adedayo (Sydenham)	306
7. Cornelius Warren (Surrey)	283
8. Brian Edlington (Beckenham)	272
9. Keith Horton (Brighton)	262
10. Bill Brookman (Heston)	252
11. Maurice Billington (Chesterfield)	244
12. Brian Allison (Louth)	213
13. Ramish Bhalla (Guildford)	210
14. Les Wooding (Dunstable)	196
15. Peter Radford (Romford)	195
16. David Seaholme (Carpenters Pk)	192
17. Alan Timewell (Wirral)	191
18. Gordon Chapman (Worc. Park)	179
19. John Holland (Billericay)	178
20. Peter D'Arcy (Manchester)	174
21. Alec Watson (High Wycombe)	174
22. Stan Battrick (Dagenham)	172
23. Alf Sanders (Nottingham)	172
24. Frank Hams (Morden)	172
25. Ray Murray (Thurrock)	170
26. David Jones (Sonning Common)	163
27. Frank Earis (Taplow)	155
28. Roy Norton (Brierley Hill)	151
29. Andy Meads (Crawley)	149
30. Denis Neale (Redcar)	145
31. Terry Donlon (Stockport)	145
32. Clive Judson (Wakefield)	138
33. Mike Watts (Eastbourne)	137
34. Geoff Brook (Yorks)	135
35. Ian Walmsley (Harrogate)	128
36. Trevor Campbell (Hackney)	123
37. Eddie Griffiths (Macclesfield)	121
38. Brian Simmonds (V. Water)	118
39. Alan Rowden (Hailsham)	111
40. Basil Thompson (Swindon)	111
41. Sid Montgomery (Reading)	110
42. Keith Powell (Poynnton)	109
43. Terry Farlie (Kent)	105
44. Tom Adams (Kent)	101
45. Alan Lindsay (Fulham)	97
46. John Smith (Pinner)	94
47. Howard Davies (Dorset)	91
48. Norman Slifkin (Ashford)	89
49. Roy Frankland (Fleetwood)	88
50. Anthony Taylor (Ruislip)	87

Andrew Dennison remains undefeated

THE final of the mens singles at the Leinster open championships in Dublin was between 18-year-old Andrew Dennison (No 2 seed) and 16-year-old Sean Spelman (unseeded) reports Francis Kennedy.

From a field of over 100, this indicates that the future of Irish table tennis is in safe hands. Dennison, last season's No 1 junior, defeated Spelman, this season's No 1 junior. Spelman will be junior again next season.

New Irish senior rankings, issued 7 December 1986:

Men: 1 Colum Slevin (1), 2 Andrew Dennison (3), 3 Hilton Meneally (8), 4 Kevin Keane (7), 5 Mervyn Kelly (2), 6 Tom Heasley (6), 7 Jim Dill (5), 8 Aidan Walshe (4), 9 Anthony Redmonds (16), 10 Sean Spelman (—). **Ladies:** 1 Ann Leonard (1), 2 Jennifer Reid (5), 3 Caroline Leonard (7), 4 Nora McEvoy (3), 5 Siri Akal (—), 6 Caroline Anderson (—), 7 Lorraine Cullen (11), 8 Mary McMullen (8), 9 Geraldine Leonard (9), 10 Kirsteen Stafford (10).

SOUTER SUITS ENGLAND

Stokes and Grundy unlucky this time

By John Woodford

JOHN SOUTER chose his home ground, the Stiga Middlesex Open at Picketts Lock to make a successful eleventh hour bid to win a place in the eight-strong England squad for the 39th World Championships in New Delhi from February 19th to March 1st.

Last season the Neasden professional did the same thing when he defeated another close rival Skylet Andrew to win a place in the European championships team for Prague last April. This time, it was rather a bigger catch, the scalp of the high-flying Carl Prean in the quarter-finals late in the third game.

Prean's loss was the third he had suffered in recent weeks. He became a victim of Czechoslovakia's Jindrich Pansky and Ralph Wosik of Federal Germany at the French Open. The defeat by Souter cost him nothing of course, as his place in the team for India was assured.

Disappointed

Jimmy Stokes (Reading) and Blackpool's Joy Grundy were the two players who had some high hopes of making Delhi. Both were disappointed. Stokes has not had a brilliant season, just a handful of good wins but he has so much time on his side. Joy Grundy does not have so much time and she does have a long-standing back problem which really cost her the India trip, as she was absent from a number of events and finished fourth in the Top-12 at Soham.

Chance

The selectors, under chairman Paul Day, decided not to send four women players to Delhi, only three, so that meant that Miss Grundy was out, as with her England title, she would it seems have been certain to get fourth place had it been available.

After the selections had been announced Paul Day said: "This is the strongest mens team we have sent to a World or European championships for five years. We believe there is an outside chance of medals."

"The womens team is in a rebuilding situation. We are pleased Alison Gordon is showing increased commitment. New Delhi is a different venue. We do not regard it as the right environment for young and improving players

like Jimmy Stokes," he said.

Day added: "John Souter has beaten Carl Prean in the past, so the result was not entirely surprising. Souter is a superbly fit young man and we expect him to play an important role in the squad."

Hot Sooty

Souter, known in the England squad as "Sooty", said: "I felt my place depended on the match with Carl Prean. I have beaten him on three previous occasions but also lost twice more recently. It will be nice to play somewhere hot for a change."

As the ETTA are saving money by only sending eight players to India, it is now expected that a young squad will be sent to the Czechoslovakian open in March.

The inclusion of Fiona Elliot is another feather in the young player's cap. "She is an improving player" said the selectors chairman, "and has already had some impressive results against foreign players when playing abroad."

Footnote

Amongst those planning to accompany the England team to India are three team captains, honorary treasurer of the ETTA Aubrey Drapkin, Richard Eaton (Sunday Times) and John Woodford (The Daily Telegraph).

ENGLAND

DESMOND DOUGLAS

(Warwickshire)

ALAN COOKE

(Derbyshire)

CARL PREAN

(Isle of Wight)

SKYLET ANDREW

(Essex)

JOHN SOUTER

(Middlesex)

LISA BELLINGER

(Bedfordshire)

ALISON GORDON

(Berkshire)

FIONA ELLIOT

(Staffordshire)



An action shot of John Souter.

Cool temperatures are promised in Delhi

WILL it be delightful, delectable and delicious food in New Delhi? We are assured by the organisers that the temperature will be in the "cool 70's", the sun will be shining and that February and early March are the best times of the year in that part of the sub-continent.

If you were sitting as I was in the next seat in a Boeing 747 returning from behind the Iron Curtain next to Desmond Douglas you would have heard possibly a more realistic view of world championships table tennis in India. Desmond is as sharp a cynic as most journalists when it comes to evaluating conditions, living, eating and playing all round the globe.

Food is of course, one of the major problems in India. Tales have been told of England teams in the past living on chicken-burgers and coke in India, rather than chance the other fare on offer. Tales have also been told of players having long-standing stomach problems long after their return.

However, to return to the information we have on the plus side. The stadium to be used is the Indira Gandhi Stadium - it is the third largest indoor stadium in the world, the first of its kind in Asia and Europe. Its design is unique and has won the admiration of the

world for its architectural ingenuity.

The stadium seats 25,000. There is an amazing system incorporated - a soundproof collapsible partition which can divide the inside arena into two equal and distinct halves - how we could do with this system at the Brighton Centre!

Cool air?

There is full air-conditioning with separate administrative blocks for banks, post offices, press centre and an athletes block included practice hall and other facilities.

The events are mercifully, restricted to seven in all - the two team events the Swaythling and Corbillon Cups and the five usual events, mens and womens singles, mens and womens doubles and almost unusually, mixed doubles.

The holders

A reminder of the balance of power. At Gothenburg in April 1985, China took six of the seven titles at the 38th World Championships.

The defending MS champion in Delhi will be Jiang Jialiang. The womens champion is Cao Yanhua. China won both the Swaythling and Corbillon cups with Sweden losing 5-0 and the women from Korea losing 3-0.

Counties 1

AVON

Peter Sandford

WE have as a county been fortunate this year to have maintained our membership in our 3 member leagues, Bath, Bristol and Weston-Super-Mare, and in an attempt to beat the bad weather have held our closed championships in November, and we were fortunate to have "Badgerline" as our sponsor for the second year. By leaving the 8 tables at the venue from the Bristol Closed held two weeks earlier, obvious savings were made on table transport. A very good junior entry was received for both the Bristol and Avon closed, but on both the senior entry was a little disappointing, although the team events were most popular.

BRISTOL CLOSED

U13 Girls: Emma Stapleford b Tracey McCourt 15, 19; **U13 Boys:** Ewan Finlayson b Michael Jackson; **U15 Girls:** Kate Matthews b Michelle Birnfield 8, 5; **U15 Boys:** David Hadley b Steve Bettison 15, 15; **Junior Girls:** Melonie Carey b Kate Matthews 8, 10; **Junior Boys:** Paul Smith b Steve Bettison 18, -19, 11; **U15 Doubles:** Steve Bettison/Neil Finlayson b David Hadley/Tyler Moore 4, 14; **Junior Doubles:** David Hadley/Steve Bettison b Grant Whittaker/Melonie Carey 15, 17; **Junior team events:** Steve Bettison/David Hadley b Melonie Carey/Gant Whittaker 3-1; **Vets Singles:** Ray Sewell b Tony Brown 14, 8; **Vets Doubles:** Ray Sewell/Mike Kimber b Len Upward/Richard Bellamy 11, 11; **Divisional Handicap Singles:** Steve Voysey b John Rudeerhay -18, 21, 16; **Divisional Handicap Doubles:** Steve Bettison/Neil Finlayson b Matthew Bush/Guy Portlock 14, 20; **Womens Doubles:** Melonie Carey/Sarah Kettle b Mary Thomas/Debbie Gardner 14, 11; **Mens Doubles:** Lee Sadler/Ron Weatherby b Paul Hooper/Paul Lewis 16, 14; **Mixed Doubles:** Dina Sandford/Ron Weatherby b Melonie Carey/Paul Lewis 19, 19; **Womens Singles:** Melonie Carey b Dina Sandford 12, 8; **Mens Singles:** Ron Weatherby b Mark Bryant 16, 8.

AVON CLOSED

U12 Girls: Emma Stapleford b Tracey McCourt 17, 14; **U12 Boys:** Gareth Davies b Ewan Finlayson -13, 15, 19; **Cadet Girls:** Michelle Birnfield b Emma Stapleford 10, 16; **Cadet Boys:** Tyler Moore b Ewan Finlayson -19, 12, 8; **Junior Girls:** Sarah Kettle b Carey Webb -15, 20, 11; **Junior Boys:** Chris Bridges b Steve Bettison 19, 12; **Junior Doubles:** Chris Bridges/Hywel Green b Steve Bettison/Neil Finlayson 18, 19; **Junior Team:** Steve Bettison/Neil Finlayson b Sarah Kettle/David Hadley 3-1; **Vets Singles:** Ray Sewell b Richard Bellamy 10, 12; **Womens Doubles:** Helen Perrott/Dina Sandford b Debbie Gardner/Carey Webb 19, 13; **Mens Doubles:** Paul Lewis/Paul Hooper b Andy Creed/Bob Murray 16, -12, 15; **Mixed Doubles:** Helen Perrott/Paul Lewis b Dina Sandford/Andy Creed -12, 10, 20; **Womens Singles:** Helen Perrott b Dina Sandford 7, 15; **Mens Singles:** Andy Creed b Paul Lewis 11, 20; **Senior team event:** Chris Holley/Gary Baldwin b Paul Lewis/Paul Hooper 3-1.

Belsten Cup
Nailsea b Portishead 3-1.

BERKSHIRE

Bob Adams

WITH the season approaching the half way point press secretaries Tim Chatfield and Ian Langley of Bracknell and Newbury leagues respectively report keen rivalry in all their divisions with very few run-away leaders emerging. This is particularly true in Newbury with their '2 for a win' system where Woolton Hill in division 1 and John O'Gaunt in division 4 are the only teams to have opened up a two point lead. John O'Gaunt's team of Chris Allen (100 per cent record), Kevin Skeats and Mike Killoran are currently maintaining an average score of 8-2 per match. Woodley A, as predicted, are leading Bracknell's Premier Division but ICL A are still within shouting distance. Two top regal sounding teams of Royal Ascot A and B lead Divisions 2 and 3, and with patronage like that are all expecting their knighthoods if they manage to hold on to the end of the season.

Altwood School Maidenhead saw a near re-run of the County Junior Trial when three Berkshire schools contested for the honour of representing their county at under 19 level in the forthcoming National Schools Team final. This event was remarkable in that each team had at least two of their four players either holding, or having held positions in the top ten of the county rankings. Inevitably it was strength in depth which told, with the older and more experienced St Bartholomew's Newbury team of Darren Jones, Julian Jones, Peter Langley and Waseem Anees coming through triumphant over Altwood and Windsor Boys. Both of these latter teams decided that their best strategy was to play under 16 players in their under 19 squad, again demonstrating the strength in depth of St Bartholomew's, who were able to enter uncontested an under 16 team containing three county ranked players.

In the second round of the Carter Cup, the valiant youngsters of Bracknell went down 2-7 to the Maidenhead team of Justin Wraight, Mark Banks and Michael Herbert. Michael might now be regretting his voluntary absence from the county trials since his superbly taken maximum of three wins from three matches in this Carter Cup round gave him a superior average to that of the joint winners of the trials who were also taking part. In the Rose Bowl, Newbury managed a 5-3 win over a strong London Banks team and hope that their team of Mandy Sainsbury, Janet Parker and Julie Norman will make it to the final. Unfortunately their male counterparts of Dave Barr, Dave Reeves and Darren Jones will not. They came up against England No 4 Skylet Andrew and No 7 Nicky Mason in the Willmott Cup.

BEDFORDSHIRE

Dawn Campbell

Dunstable teams riding high ...

A TEAM of juniors representing Dunstable are playing in the St Neots Winter League. The Dunstable team led by England ranked Peter Bowler have recorded five consecutive wins against North Herts, Hunts Central, Daventry, Bedford and St Neots. This has brought them to second place in the league and only one point behind the leaders.

Peter Bowler who is unbeaten so far this season is being well supported by his team mates, Mark Wilkin and Mark Meral, who are both turning in solid performances, winning two out of three sets in every match. The team has strength in depth thanks to Colin Bowler and Kieran Mitchell. Both players have won 50% of their games — well done lads!

On the ladies scene Dunstable were drawn at home to Banbury in the second round of the Rose Bowl. Although being let down at the last minute with the third player dropping out, the team of Julie Dimmock and myself managed to win the match 6-3, and now go on to play North Herts.

The county senior tournament was held on 30th November, and what a disappointment it was — a total of 40 entrants, with only four ladies and eight of the top 20 men.

I find it very hard to understand why a local league (which I had the pleasure of taking part in) could have nearly 150 entrants and the county as a whole a mere 40!

Mens: M Verdon b M Hussain 19, -16, 20. **Ladies:** J Dimmock b L Robins 13, 22. **Vets:** L Jones b J Seckerson 19, 18. **Mens doubles:** M Verdon/M Lyons b L Jones/C Major 16, 10. **Ladies doubles:** L Robins/M Jarrett b J Dimmock/D Campbell 19, -17, 21. **Mixed doubles:** M Hussain/M Jarrett b N Jarvis/D Campbell 14, 14.

DURHAM

Harry Black

Sunderland league

THREE clubs are in the hunt for the first division title with Echo A, St Gabriels A and North Centre A only separated by one point. Burn Park Meths lead Silksworth B by one point in the second division. In division three Ryhope Road B are well ahead of Emplex A and B teams but the Emplex teams have matches in hand. St Gabs CC B lead MCFE by two points in division four.

South Shields league

Reyrolles A lead Brinkburn D by nine points after defeating their challengers by 9-1. Tyne Dock A who are in third place have three matches in hand over Reyrolles A and were held to a 5-5 draw by Brinkburn A. Leading positions:

	P	W	D	L	Pt
Reyrolles A	7	6	1	0	56
Brinkburn D	8	5	1	2	47
Tyne Dock A	5	4	1	2	45
YMCA A	7	4	1	2	40

Durham league

Civil Service the division B leaders lost their undefeated record when Mullards A beat them 7-3. John Snowball remained unbeaten for the victors. John Mawson and Tom Finemore both scored hat tricks for second placed Belmont when they won 9-1 against Land Registry.

Hetton Meths, division A title holders, overcame last year's runners-up Gilesgate 7-3. Brian Bateman (3) and Jimmy Laing and Geoff Fletcher a brace apiece scored for the Hetton side. Leading positions:

	P	W	D	L	Pt
Hetton Meths	6	6	0	0	49
Bishop Auckland	6	5	0	1	47
Auckland Park	5	2	0	3	23

DERBYSHIRE

Malcolm Allsop

DERBYSHIRE'S first venture into a senior premier weekend proved successful with two victories. Congratulations to all the team, players and officials, who took part — with special praise to Alan Cooke who continued his long-distance travels from Sweden to assist Derbyshire.

No praise can be enough for Alan's efforts, both on and off the table, which have boosted Derbyshire for a number of years and elevated the playing standard beyond the wildest dreams of many.

The Derbyshire Inter-Town League got under way with last season's division one champions Matlock 1st gaining a convincing 9-1 victory over Burton 1st. Burton are strengthened by the availability of Pat Hall, but only Stuart Brooks won a set: Geoff Gill and Tony Gregory winning maximums for Matlock.

A fine performance by Barry Taylor spearheaded Eastwood 1st to a 7-3 victory over Derby 1st, with Adrian Weightman getting an 11, 15 win over Robert Scott-Birchall.

In division two, Derby 2nd had three wins from Jon Bayliss to thank for their 6-4 win over Matlock 2nd. Simon Bentley, Roger Vernal and Andy Walker won two singles games each for Burton 2nd in a 7-3 victory over Chesterfield.

In the veterans division, maximums from Mick Thorley and Harvey Flint helped champions Matlock to an 8-2 win over Chesterfield. Buxton suffered a 0-10 defeat from Burton, who have been strengthened by the addition of Mick Fisher to their veteran squad. County chairman, Ernie Lough, made his veteran debut for Derby and his three victories enabled them to gain a 5-5 draw with Eastwood.

In the junior division the experience of Derby saw them gain a 10-0 victory over Chesterfield. David Staniforth won a maximum for Burton in a 6-4 victory.

DORSET

Martin Hughes

Schildkrot British League

JOLLIFFE Poole played a thrilling Schildkrot British League match on 7 December at home to Express Sports Gwent, and in a region not renowned for spectators attending matches, Jolliffe Poole persuaded almost 50 people to come and watch this top of the table clash.

Both teams were unbeaten coming into the match and each team had one player boasting a 100% record. The final result, a 4-4 draw, ensured that both teams remained undefeated, but one player lost his 100% average.

In the last game of the match, with the score at 4-3 to Jolliffe Poole, the two undefeated players met to do battle and it was Jason Creasey of Jolliffe Poole who lost out as he went down -17, -12 to the greater consistency of Warwick Armstrong.

County championships

Dorset seniors are struggling in their efforts to find a team capable of sustaining a challenge in division 2B and were therefore jubilant following the 6-4 home victory over Wiltshire.

John Robinson, promoted to the first team in place of the out of form Martin Abbott, clinched the victory for Dorset in a memorable final game against Kevin Edwards. With excellent attacking table tennis Robinson thoroughly demolished Edwards 10, 12 to prove himself worthy of his place in the team.

The score could have been 7-3 if Tony Clayton, the Dorset number one, had snatched a victory over England No 11 Kevin Satchell. Clayton went down at deuce in the third after a late fight back, although Satchell appeared to be in control throughout the majority of the match.

Dorset super league

The Dorset super league is played as two separate competitions during the season, one in each half, and the first is nearly complete at the time of writing. Tony Clayton is leading again after a narrow victory over Hakan Sigrell in their recent clash. Sigrell won the first end convincingly and was 20-18 ahead in the second before Clayton scrambled home at deuce, and then ran out the winner at 12 in the decider.

Latest positions

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Tony Clayton	14	14	0	28	3	14
John Robinson	15	11	4	23	12	11
Hakan Sigrell	11	10	1	21	3	10
Graham Toole	17	7	7	17	16	7
Jason Creasey	15	7	8	16	18	7
Mark Widdow	12	6	6	14	14	6
Terry Glennon	16	4	12	14	27	4
Martin Hughes	15	2	13	7	28	2
Mike Hughes	14	2	12	7	26	2

ESSEX

Laurie Darnell



Essex chairman Peter Roden sandwiched between leading cadet, Grant Solder and the county's top flight junior, Damian Holland. Laurie Darnell.

THE Fellows Cranleigh Club are riding high. Success came to them at the David Dellor organised tournament at the St Ives table tennis club. First place for the junior team of Jason Tendler, Gary Killington and Grant Solder. They finished in third place in the cadet event (Grant Solder, Tao Fasanga and Jon West) and gained third spot again in the under 12s with Richard Gilbert, Linda Radford, Trevor Blackhall and Chris Sladden. Well done!

Coach Micky Read said that he was very pleased with all his players and that Grant Solder was the outstanding player of the junior tournament! What an accolade for a lad who is still a cadet!

Emergency call

Calling all players of whatever standard or age. The Thursday evening session, during term time, at

Hylands School, Hylands Avenue, Hornchurch is open to everyone. Get in touch with coaching officer Phil Gower and register your interest.

The senior affairs committee of Barry Granger, Alan Shepherd, Stuart Gibbs, Terry Stephens and Peter Roden have issued the following ranking list:

Men: 1 Skylet Andrew, 2 Steve Dorking, 3 Des Charlery, 4 Dave Newman, 5 Kerry Jackson, 6 Tony Penny, 7 Kevin Caldon, 8 John Dennison, 9 Stuart Gibbs, 10 Paul Sayer, 11 Alex Abbott, 12 Peter Hayden, 13 Ian Attridge, 14 Richard Darnell, 15 Dave Bowles, 16 Paul Stephens, 17 David Window, 18 Mark Wicker, 19 Fasul Mauthoor, 20 Peter Norcott.

Women: 1 Kim Mudge, 2 Elaine Sayer, 3 Lisa Hayden, 4 Lesley Radford, 5 Kim Hayden, 6 Tanya Holland, 7 Sue Harness, 8 Gill Bowman, 9 Julie Askem, 10 Jenny Harrison, 11 Marjorie Dawson, 12 Kate Gower.

LINCOLNSHIRE

Kath Fisher

CONGRATULATIONS to Connie Moran on winning four events in the Midland Masters VETTS tournament held at Coventry. With some excellent play she won the 'over 40s' singles/doubles, the 'over 50s' singles/doubles, and also reached the semi-finals of the mixed.

Two of our members, Eric Jacklin and Albert Hackford from Grimsby, recently received ETTA merit awards for their services to the sport. Both have worked very hard for a number of years and thoroughly deserve this honour.

In the inter-town competitions Boston look in a commanding position in the Butcher Cup, winning their first four matches.

For the Haigh Cup the battle looks to be between Grantham and Boston.

The Butlin Cup for ladies is a close contest with Grimsby only one point clear of Grantham I and Louth.

Boston are also well in contention for the VETTS competition together with the 'holders' Lincoln, and Grimsby too.

Grimsby have started a league, on Sunday evenings, for juniors only, and this is very well attended by both girls and boys. Mrs Chapman, the organiser, is very pleased with the results and will continue again after Christmas.

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Alf Peppard

AS we approach early 1987 a cool and impartial view must clearly be taken of our sport, "Its administration and its players, everything in fact that goes to ensure that table tennis in our respective County is to be seen well in the forefront of sporting activities.

So, just where do we begin? I think perhaps with the County Closed Championships at Cheltenham admirably run by Mr Peter Cruwys as Hon: Referee, and well aided by Nigel Smith, Peter Collings and John Cooper the latter of whom - once again came out of retirement, the rest of this I devote entirely to the efforts of the players:-

The highlight of this event was the Mens Singles, out of 38 entries form ran true to seeding with the Counties No 1, 2, 3 & 4, respectively fighting it out for honours in the semi-finals, in which Darren Griffin beat Steve Moreman -22, 22, 18, while Will Dawe took Graham Slack -16, 15, 15, thus Griffin the defending champion and County No 1 opposed Dawe in the Final, Griffin won 18 in the first and 24-22 in the 2nd after being 20-14 up and allowing Dawe to gain another eight points, afterwards in a Radio inter-

view with the Champion, Griffin told me that William Dawe is still a very hard player to beat.

Making a welcome return to competitive T.T. Nina Tsakarisanos won the women's singles by beating Heather Colwill of Newent 10, 17, this was Nina's first appearance for at least a couple of years, and may I say it was nice to see her back again.

The current holder of the Veterans Singles for many years Peter Wood (C.E.G.B.) was convincingly beaten in straight sets by Cheltenham Optimists wily old stager - Roy Fowler, the latter's been out of the game for some time, his long lay-off seems to have payed dividends.

Lawrence Symonds and Dave Smith (CEGB) surprisingly beat Darren Griffin and Frank Jones the holders of the Open Doubles, 9, 17, but fell ultimately to the greater experience of Steve Moreman and Graham Slack who took the title in the Final -16, 18, 10.

Adrian Stalley of Cheltenham and Andrew Stratford of Stroud joined forces to beat Dale Saunders and Simon Excell in the final of the Junior (U17) Doubles.

The Girls U17 Singles outright winner was Wendy Nicholls (Stroud), R.U. was Penny Wyatt.

Dale Saunders retained his title in the U17 Junior Singles by beating Andrew Stratford 12, 15.

Martin Bell a 3rd Division Glos. City player played exceptionally well not only to reach the Final of the Minor Singles, but to actually win it by beating Andy Lerry a second division player, 19, -11, 18 in the final.

County teams

The Seniors in Division 2A were humbled by Leicestershire's massive show of power T.T. and we fell ultimate victims to a scoreline of 1-9, Nina Tsakarisanos made a very welcome return to active play after a long and somewhat painful absence of two years, County Captain - Steve Moreman won our sole game beating Phil Smith 18, 16.

The Juniors in Division 3C held Somerset to an honourable draw, thanks for this result should go to the Boys in the team - Dale Saunders was undefeated, Howard Williams and Andrew Stratford won one singles each.

Our Seniors in Division 2 entertained Cambs a couple of weeks prior to Christmas, the latter won 8-2, but I did detect that the home side were trying desperately to play as well as they could, Nina Tsakarisanos beat Joane Pettite 14, 14, in a fine display of counter hitting and accurate placing of the ball, our other success came from Darren Griffin who beat Mick Harper 20, 14, Steve Moreman as ever playing the Captains role was most unfortunate to lose to Tim Vine.

HAMPSHIRE

David Cosway

Main event of the month was the County Closed and much interest was generated by the disagreement of top players with the ranking lists. Unfortunately the players involved were proved right. Surely the place to prove their point, however, was on the table, as they have now done, rather than by criticism of the selectors and 'Strikes'.

In the mens singles, champion for the past seasons, Clive Young, did not enter. Number 1 seed, Terry Haley went out in the quarters to Mark Wilding, seeded number 7. The other top 3 seeds reached the semis. Number 2 Graham Toole, beat Pete Woodacre, number 3 Tony Duffield has a close set against Chris Shetler before winning in the third, while the number 4 seed, Ramish Bhalla narrowly beat Miki Sinanan. At the semi final stage, Graham beat Tony - 15, 12, 13, while Mark beat Ramish - 17, 18, 15. The final was a good see-saw encounter with Mark winning the first easier than the 21-19 score line suggests but Graham fighting back to take the second at 14. At 20-16 up in the decider, Mark looked all the way a winner. The point that followed kept Graham in the game with a return that hit the net and just crept over. This really was the crunch point and Mark folded to give Graham his third title at 23-21 and deny Mark his first Championship.

The womens singles had fewer upsets and the top four seeds came through their groups to enter the semi finals. At that stage however, number 1 seed, Sarah Hammond went out to Cheryl Buttery (number 3) - 19, 19, 13. Jill Green (number 2), although not fully recovered from her recent injury disposed of Kathy Ridgard (number 4) in the other semi, 15, 16. The final saw Cheryl retain her title in two close games 21, 18.

Mens doubles:

Tony Duffield/Tony Palacsy b Terry Haley/Miki Sinanan 17, 19.

Womens doubles:

Cheryl Buttery/Sarah Hammond b Barbara Clarke/Jill Green - 16, 11, 11.

Mixed doubles:

Graham Toole/Sarah Hammond b Terry Haley/Cheryl Buttery 20, - 12, 16.

Intermediate singles (Under 23):

Graham Toole b Mark Wilding 14, 16.

Veterans Singles (men):

Ramish Bhalla b Norman Stagg 7, 21.

Veterans Singles (women):

Di Winmill b Barbara Duffield 15, 17.

Hampshire seniors beat Bucks III 6-4 with Ramish Bhalla (2), Tony Duffield (1), Terry Hailey (1), Cheryl Buttery (1) successful in the singles and Cheryl and Sarah Hammond winning the doubles.

The juniors beat Dorset 6-4 and Cornwall II by 7-3. The boys won all the sets against Dorset with Greg Moore (2), Jason Hicks (2) and Bryant Gonsalves (1) and Gary and Jason winning the doubles. Against Cornwall the girls came into their own with Rachel Cheffey and Lisa Rice winning the singles and combining for the doubles.

HERTFORDSHIRE

John Wood

THE thirteenth annual invitation tournament to be arranged and hosted by the Warren Spring Laboratory Table Tennis Club, took place on the 23rd November at their Stevenage venue.

This year's tournament saw eighty competitors from Herts, Beds, Cambs, Middlesex and the London area, competing in a knockout singles, knockout doubles and a handicap event.

In addition to the many county players on display, the competition also attracted five players currently ranked in England's leading 150.

Top seeds were Mick Harper, Jon Profit and Richard Beckham the Civil Service triple champion.

The knockout singles event held a few surprises as first Jon Profit and then Keith Willet were beaten by the in-form Herts county player John Lennon, on his way to the final.

The other half of the draw saw Mick Harper and Richard Beckham come through relatively untroubled to a semi-final showdown, which produced the match of the day, with Beckham displaying some great power hitting, finally winning through, 14, -20, 15.

The final was a relatively one sided affair, as Beckham's powerful shots proved too strong for Lennon, who was unable to get in early with his strong forehand loop, succumbing 8,17.

Beckham once again triumphed in the doubles final, when with his Civil Service team-mate Peter Harry they defeated the Harper and Willet combination 22, 19.

The handicap competition was won by Ray Schlindwein, who beat Warren Spring's Chris Smith 13, 15.

At the time of going to press, the Alpa sponsored Herts and Beds league cup 1st round matches have nearly been completed.

Third favourites AHW Comets proved too strong for Leggarts II, with Comets' Les Wooding, Phil Aspinall and Robert Harman winning comfortably 6-0.

John McCance, Neil Stratton and Gary Morgan of Neald from Barnet, finally overpowered Warren Spring I 7-2, following a tight and exciting match, with Rob Worrell and Bill Price winning the two consolation games for Warren Spring.

New entrants from Hemel Hempstead, Hiretech-Adeyfield, started off their campaign with an impressive 5-3 win over Bedwell I, with Hiretech's Geoff Giles winning three and Rob Liqueorish two.

LEICESTERSHIRE

Terry Bown

THE Leicestershire Inter Towns competition took place on November 23rd and were held in two sections with Mike James taking care of the Senior section and Harry Ward the Junior.

Mike reports that the Senior event was held at the Humphrey Perkins School, Barrow-on-Soar. The hosts were Loughborough who entered two teams as did Hinckley and Leicester. The six teams were split into two divisions, the top teams of each division playing in the final. After the draw there was consternation in the Leicester camp as they had been drawn in the same division and were to play each other in the first match. The first team comprised of Steve Day, Mike James and Graham Hibberd with Alan Mould, Marcus Bellott and Steve Zanker making up the second. Leicester 1 won 4-2 with both Steve Day and Mike James losing in the third to Marcus Bellott and Alan Mould respectively. Leicester 2 then went on to play Loughborough 2 who included Neil Russell, Alan Watson and Dave Roche in their team. An exciting match ended at 3-3 with all three Leicester 2 players winning and losing one. The match was decided on the doubles with the Loughborough pair of Watson and Russell proving too strong for Mould and Zanker. It was then Leicester 1's turn to play Loughborough 2 to try and go one better than their second team but promptly found themselves 3-1 down. They showed their character by pulling back to 3-3 with the doubles again being the decider. In the end it proved an easy affair for Leicester 1 with Day and Hibberd proving too strong for Russell and Watson. With Leicester 1 in the final, who will they meet? Loughborough 1 is the answer whose team of Mike Meredith, Roger Bailey, Paul Bumpus and Dave Stills overcame Hinckley 1 and 2 for whom John Iliffe and David Grundy performed admirably. Leicester 2 played off for 5th & 6th place against Hinckley 2 with the former winning 4-2. The final is to be arranged as soon as possible as time was too short to complete this on the day.

The Junior event was staged at Knighton Park TTC and saw Hinckley 1 take on Loughborough in the first match winning comfortably 12-6. Not to be outdone Leicester 2 then played Hinckley 2 and won by the same margin with Jayne Freer and Keton Soni claiming maximums. Leicester 1 accounted for their second string 10-4 with Paul Jarratt and John Gayton doing most of the damage. Loughborough 1, smarting from their earlier defeat, made Hinckley 2 pay for it with an 11-7 defeat.

NORFOLK

Ray Hogg

OUR domestic championships started with the referee consulting the latest edition of the ITTF handbook regarding the colour of clothing as he — being rather old and traditional — thought there were only dark colours. Having been convinced that Alan Pickard was selling these pastel coloured things at the venue and they were legal tender now he put on his dark glasses and entered the arena. On the Saturday 80 plus juniors kept us busy with their nine events — Neil Pickard as expected winning the singles, B/D and X/D, with little trouble, but the champion collector on the day was Alison Taylor who won or had a share in two girls singles, G/D and X/D, at the other end of the scale we had 10-year-old Helen Woods in her first season of learning to play getting beaten game 3 and 1. Next season that will be 13 and 11 I am sure if she keeps up with the coaching.

It was very pleasant to see for the first time names like Gary Block and Theresa Hewitt among the medal places, these being two of the many Kings Lynn names now appearing. Also the Watts brothers from Diss made an impact as people were asking who are those two? Wymondham league had no less than 13 juniors present. Only Yarmouth were missing and that, I am sure, was not their fault.

Many more pastel colours were evident on the Sunday for the seniors and again young Neil Pickard won the singles and the M/D but not the X/D which went to the partnership of Mick Broughton/Ruth Hogg over Wendy Durrant/Andrew Parker, a true experience v youth encounter in which the winners were over twice as old as the losers!

Wendy Durrant won the L/S for the 10th time in a row but for the first time as a Durrant. Still some way to go to beat Betty Cassels record of 15 times.

I must put on record the support from Taverham Nursery Centre for the juniors and the Crown Restuarant, Horsford, for the seniors, without which there would be no championships. In general a most enjoyable time with new entries from Kings Lynn and the Diss leagues like the Cummins and the Wests who we will welcome next year.

Marion Harrison, a champion from the past, had a go after many years back stage and was impressed with the new breed of player. I would have liked to have seen Neil against Philip Logsdon and the Stevenson twins in the semi-finals, they would have been seeded too had Phillip not been at Nottingham and the twins disinterested.

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

Mike Tunningley

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE Juniors made their debut in the premier league following last season's promotion year and despite picking up only one point over the weekend there were some outstanding performances from our team members. Notts opened the season against a strong Derbyshire team who included Bradley Billington in their squad. Derbyshire won the match by an 8-2 scoreline with the Notts winners being John Holland who defeated Chris Glossop in straight sets, and Robert Fearn who gained a similar straight sets victory over Stephen Hanks. Holland battled hard against Billington before just going down 12, -16, 15.

Against the favourites, Yorkshire, Notts lost 10-0 but the most notable performance came from Robert Fearn who just lost in a thrilling match against Chris Oldfield - 9, 19, 21. John Holland had a three-setter once again against Michael O'Driscoll before going down - 18, 18, -15.

The fixture against Staffordshire brought Notts their first point of the weekend when they drew 5-5. John Holland, a most improved player, won both his singles matches against Gary Knights and Adrian Throp, while debut boy Adrian Elson will be well satisfied with his win over Robert Till.

Claire Oldman gave Notts their fourth success in the match when she overcame Jane Winter 15, -19, 18. With Staffordshire leading 5-4 it was left to Adrian Bolton to defeat Robert Till in the final match in order to earn Notts a well deserved draw. In a thrilling finish Bolton finally overcame his opponent - 16, 19, 19 to give Notts some satisfaction from the weekends fixtures. Another notable effort came from Kay Mayall and Claire Oldman in the girls doubles match when they just lost - 19 in the third deciding set. Victory in this match would have given Notts the pleasure of their very first win in the premier league. However Notts will eagerly look forward to the second weekend when their matches will include Kent, Glamorgan, Essex and Lancashire.

Many congratulations must go to Workshop's Paul Davison during his appearance in the East Midlands regional ranking trials which were held at Bingham Sports Centre recently. Twelve-year-old Paul realised his high hopes by winning the cadet section after only experiencing one defeat in nine matches. His remarkable progress gives rise to high optimism for his future within our sport and we look forward with interest to him gaining representative honours in future years.

Peter Furneaux finished third in the same section while Adrian Elson gained third place in the junior boys event.

NORTHANTS

Dennis Millman

WHEN Alan Ashberry agreed to have half his beard shaved off on behalf of a children's charity, little did he realise that the selected date clashed with the County Closed Tournament, sponsored for the first time by 'Fist Fast' Packaging of Northampton.

In the event his charitable act received maximum publicity, for on the Friday and Sunday he was involved in his unique method of table transportation, while on the Saturday in addition to finding some additional sponsors, he found time to take several notable scalps, including that of John Moloney's in the semi-final, before losing by a whisker to Mick Edwards in the restricted singles. Edwards too had a great day, proving himself the best unranked player in the county, for after beating Chris Handshaw in the mens singles, he accounted for John Tebbutt, Glen Robertson and Gerald Finney on his way to the final showdown with Ashberry.

As always however it was Graeme McKim who brought the tournament to an end, when he took the mens singles for the fifth successive time. On this occasion he met his closest rival Keith Nicoll, but for once Nicoll was out of touch, and a speedy, super-confident McKim raced to a convincing victory without being extended.

It was the semi-finals which held the drama, for at one stage McKim's usual flair deserted him, and it looked as if veteran Keith Jones would produce the shock of the day. But it was not to be and Jones saw his chance disappear for yet another year as McKim moved majestically onwards.

Nicoll was also in trouble in his semi-final and at one stage Andy Edmonds held what appeared to be a match-winning lead only to let it slip from his grasp as Nicoll fought back to win at deuce in the third. Earlier in the day the top performance had come from Richard Ambrose, who came within a hairsbreadth of unseating Edmonds before the No 3 seed finally asserted his authority.

The ladies singles was an indisputable triumph for Mandy Brown, who although she has never won the junior girls title, has now taken the senior event a record number of times. This was her sixth in the last nine years and it was well deserved, for she overcame Margaret Maltby's unorthodox game in superb style to win comfortably and unextended.

Again it was the semi-finals where the tension was to be found with Mandy Brown needing a deuce game to dispose of the 'young pretender' Caroline Perkins, and Margaret Maltby in all kinds of trouble against that dependable tactician Dorothy Marsh. But the favourites finally came through to a final in which Mandy excelled.

NORTHUMBERLAND

Pauline Long

THE county first team dropped their first point of the season when, without Clare Mouzon, they were held to a 5-5 draw away to Yorkshire II, but came back in their next match to crush Warwickshire II 9-1. Eddie Smith was unbeaten in both matches, while Peter McQueen and Ian Robertson each won a singles. Caron Guthrie, no doubt boosted by her appearances in the Byker Newcastle side, was unbeaten in both her singles, while Clare on her return to the side for the second match was also successful.

The juniors again had the boys to thank for their second successive victory, this time over Leicestershire. Michael Curry and Steven Penman each gained maximums with Stephen Coverdale winning one. Curry and Coverdale also took the doubles to make the final score 6-4.

It was a case of "Saturday afternoon and Sunday morning" for the veterans, who entertained Northamptonshire and Essex II in the same weekend. They pulled off a tremendous 5-4 victory over Northants in spite of being without Fred Short - Maurice Cheek, Larry Cartmell and Arnold Warents each won a singles, Cartmell and Warents the mens doubles, and Cheek and Pauline Long the mixed doubles. With Short returning to the side in place of Warents for the Essex match, they put up a tremendous fight only to lose by 3-6. Each of the men again won a singles, and two more were lost from likely winning positions.

The womens Rose Bowl team had a comfortable 5-1 victory over Sunderland in the first round, with Clare and Caron winning two each and Christine Burke one.

New appointment

Peter McQueen has been appointed Northern Regional Coaching Chairman, and is now fully employed in various areas. He is at present assisted by six part-time workers plus two from the youth training scheme, and a Centre of Excellence is being held at Eldon Square every Wednesday. Alan Cooke has also been invited to coach the boys once a month, and Maureen Robson is to coach the girls weekly.

The Northumberland League season is now approaching the halfway stage. North Shields YMCA A and Reyrolle A are battling it out for the premier division leadership, while Blaydon YC A already have a commanding lead in division 1. Other leaders in the various divisions are: **Div 2A:** North Shields East End. **Div 2B:** Blaydon YC B. **Div 3A:** Springwell CC. **Div 3B:** North Shields YMCA E. **Div 4:** Dunston B.

OXFORDSHIRE

Matthew O'Flynn

Regional ranking tournament

OXFORDSHIRE players enjoyed a successful day at the Southern regional ranking trials held at Redbridge, Southampton in October. Sally Hughes improved on her performance of last season in the cadet girls. She finished first out of the nine girls who played. Gavin Yates, in the cadet boys, also had a successful day taking second place behind Martin Adams of Berkshire. Both these players were nominated for the national trials.

Richard Giblin continues to improve in the junior boys category and was only just edged out of the national nominees. He finished in sixth spot and his victories included a win against the Oxfordshire junior number one Paul Poulter who finished eighth. The unluckiest Oxfordshire player was Dawn Barnett who competed in the cadet girls. For the second year in a row she missed the national trials by just one position, finishing a creditable fourth again.

The Oxfordshire committee are laying plans for a repeat of last year's very successful Top Ten event. It is likely that this will be held early in April at Morris Motors. It will include sections for both men and women and may be the first Oxfordshire event to experiment with the "11 up" scoring system. It is also proposed that each league will have a 'wild card entry' so each is represented.

Following the absence of some players who would possibly have finished amongst the top half a second ranking trial has been organised for early January. It is also hoped that enough girls can be found for a girls trial to be arranged.

As Christmas nears the lead at the top of the Oxford League division one is held by Kidlington Forum A. Presently they have a ten point lead and matches in hand over second placed Rutherford A. In the individual lists county number one Karl Bushell lost his 100% record when he played AERE's in-form top veteran Alf Davies. Davies registered a comfortable victory 8, 13.

Oxfordshire teams have had a good start to their Midland league campaigns. Oxford juniors in division 3 lost to West Brom but beat Nuneaton. Banbury in division 4 were beaten by the girls of Birmingham C but defeated Bromsgrove.

In the veterans Oxford A and B gained respective draws against Birmingham B and A. In the mens division 4 Banbury B began with a draw against Leamington C. The Banbury A team have recorded comprehensive wins in their first two matches beating Coventry B and Stroud.

SHROPSHIRE

John Morris

Table tennis enthusiasts within the county, having followed the election for Mr Blunn's successor as English Table Tennis Association chairman, now look forward expectantly to Mr Prean's term of office. Shropshire appears to be divided with two of its four leagues in Grove and Pontesbury, very much in favour of immediate change, and indeed already offering their members alternative ways of presenting table tennis, while Shrewsbury and Telford however seem at present to continue with the more traditional presentation of the game. It is my intention before my next notes to contact their chairmen of all the leagues and ask them for their personal views on what they would like to see happen.

Protect yourself

The Shropshire TTA now has a full compliment of representatives of the county's affiliated bodies. At the last meeting held on 8th December, and organised by Roy Williams at the Telford Raquet Centre, the question of unaffiliated leagues was discussed and while non-affiliated leagues can operate outside the auspices of the national body, the point was made that any affiliated players cannot under any circumstances, continue to play in an affiliated league if at the same time playing in a maverick one. With Oswestry League, acting outside the national body, any players playing there, from Grove, Shrewsbury, Telford and Pontesbury had better beware!

Standards sinking

Grove TTC continue to dominate most of their matches in both the premier and third division north of the Schildkrot British league. While all their home matches are presented in a most professional manner, with a considerable amount of advertising in both local press and radio, I am told that spectators are more noticeable by their absence, than their presence in most away games. Indeed some of the venues used in the third division are more in keeping with local league, and are never likely to attract a watching audience. This is very disappointing for a Grove side travelling 200 miles plus to play away games. I cannot help but wonder whether sponsors may find a better vehicle for their products by backing regional club leagues similar to the West Midlands, now in its first season. Time and expense is very much less, while the playing standard, particularly in the lower reaches of the British League need not be noticeably different.

WORCESTERSHIRE

Doug Moss

THE county junior championships have been played in Worcester with players from every part of the county. The most successful were the two top ranked players — Richard Pratley (Worcester) and Jane McLean (Evesham) winning their respective singles and doubles titles.

Richard Pratley won the junior boys singles title without dropping a single game. He defeated Andrew Hartland (Dudley) 15, 5 in the semi-final and Neil Betteridge (Evesham) 15, 14 in the final. Betteridge had played very well to beat both David Pendry (Worcester) and Marcus Bolton (Evesham), the No's 2 and 3 rankings. Pratley won the doubles championship in partnership with David Pendry (Worcester). In the final they beat the scratch pairing of Kevin Sefton (Evesham) and Andrew Hartland (Dudley) 13, 18.

Just Jane

Jane McLean (Evesham) won the girls singles championship after a final grouping of three players including Nicola Jones and Sarah Stone, both of Worcester. Jane and Nicola both beat Sarah leaving them to settle the issue in a final set. It was a hard fought match with Jane taking the first game 17 and Nicola retaliating with a 16 win. In the final game Jane led 9-3, Nicola came back to 13 all but Jane forged ahead to win 16. Jane and Nicola then teamed up to take the girls doubles title with a 14, -14, 14 win over Sarah Stone and Michelle McDornell.

The cadets (under 14) events first brought together Paula Hughes (Worcester) and Catherine Drage (Kidderminster). Paula played well, and kept the title in Worcester with a 12, 17 win.

The cadet boys final provided some of the most exciting play of the programme. It was contested by two Dudley boys — Jason Thompson (the holder) and Lee Horton. Lee took the first game 19 but Jason scraped home 23-21 in the second. It was hard fought and anyone's match at 10 all in the third game. A lucky point for Jason at this stage turned the game and he went on to deservedly retain the title with a 21-11 win.

The trophies were presented by Mr Ian Crickmer, the county association president. Two new trophies are donated this season by the county association for the annual junior and cadet teams competitions. The trophies are to commemorate two special colleagues, Molly Hughes (Worcester) and Brett Davis (Kidderminster) who both did so much for young players. Both passed away in 1986.

SUSSEX

by Paul Elphick

ANDY WALKER, 21, is the new West Sussex mens Champion. The Lancing left-hander defeated Crawley's Robin Williams 21-19, 21-10 in the final.

In a tournament littered with shocks Walker's controlled game was too much for the Crawley blocker and the result was never in doubt even after the Lancing player had sacrificed a big lead in the first game. He regained his composure in the 2nd and took the title with comfort.

In the semi-final Walker defeated the top seed from Haywards Heath, Paul Elphick in a thrilling three set-ter, 21-19, 16-21, 25-23. Williams had accounted for the Horsham looper Tony Murrell, 21-19, 21-14 in the other semi. It was the bottom half of the draw that provided all the shocks the biggest being the demise of number 2 seed Phil Richardson at the hands of top Sussex Junior, Scott Greenbrook, in his group. Murrell had upset County Veteran Andy Meads in his group and then went on to defeat the fourth seeded Peter Bartram in the quarter-final, before falling to Williams in the semi-final.

The Ladies Singles was an all Worthing affair with unseeded Karen Peters upsetting the top seed Barbara Bayford, 21-12, 21-16 in the final. Miss Peters had also upset the number 2 seed in her group, Pat Wales from South West Sussex.

New format

GRANT TAYLOR, almost a name from the past and the evergreen Sheila King were the two top names to emerge from the East Sussex Mixed Singles event held at Bexhill in November, replacing the normal East Sussex Championships.

The new idea, from Roger Gillett, was to give all players a minimum of six games during the day, instead of the usual moans from players who get knocked out swiftly, often by a fiendish draw against seeded players.



ROGER CHANDLER, twelve times the all-Sussex champion before he emerged as a veteran is intending to get involved in the veterans scene and has made an impressive debut in the Schildkrot British League for Erreys Print.

From that angle it worked perfectly, although for some there was a wait of six hours or more to get back into action when the knock-out stages started mid-evening.

Forty-four players certainly had their money's worth (£3 entry so the event was self-supporting) and did not need a sponsor. In the "finals" Taylor managed to subdue the rising star Paul Barry from Hastings 21-16, 12-21, 21-15 and Miss King also subdued a challenge from Bexhill's young Julie Lawrence 21-12, 13-21, 21-16. There was also a veterans event won by Colin Monson of Eastbourne who was given a walk-over in the final when Gerry Batt-Rawden limped out with a bad leg.

Roger Gillett said after the dust had settled, "Most people were happy with the format. It is a good idea and we shall go for it again next year. In addition, we hope to organise a mixed doubles event, because hardly any tournaments are playing mixed doubles these days" he said.

WILTSHIRE

Laurie Selby

THE king and queen of Wiltshire table tennis continue their long reigns as both Kevin Satchell and Claire Maisey again top the county rankings. Kevin, now a full time player, leads the men's list by no fewer than 176 points. Michael Aucherlonie who has been having some fine tournament results leads the junior rankings ahead of Jasvinder Singh. Michael makes it a double top in the cadet section where he is way ahead of the field. The Wiltshire top tens are:

Men: 1 K Satchell, 2 Kevin Edwards, 3 R Powell, 4 T Bruce, 5 J Chandler, 6 M Aucherlonie, 7 S Davies, 8 R Hughes, 9 J Singh, 10 W Moulding. **Women:** 1 C Maisey, 2 J Neale, 3 C Hunter, 4 B Lee, 5 L Cox, 6 T Watkins, 7 S Morse, 8 D Aldridge, 9 J Mills, 10 K Richards.

Veterans — Men: 1 B Powell, 2 B Thompson, 3 E Howell, 4 M Oxley, 5 J Bright, 6 A Duke, 7 B Freeman, 8 J Ford, 9 B Hey, 10 V Miles. **Women:** 1 S Morse, 2 G Hazell, 3 S Bruton, 4 S Hembury.

Junior — Boys: 1 M Aucherlonie, 2 J Singh, 3 M Edwards, 4 C Simms, 5 M Powell, 6 N Everden, 7 S Ely, 8 C Worgan, 9 R Penny, 10 M Nelson. **Girls:** 1 L Cox, 2 T Mills, 3 D Harmer, 4 S Devine, 5 N Murray, 6 A Mills, 7 S Rogers, 8 T Flippance, 9 E Young, 10 A Mills.

Cadet — Boys: 1 M Aucherlonie, 2 P Fry, 3 A Collar, 4 J Strutt, 5 S Fry, 6 N Pickett, 7 S White, 8 M Woodridge, 9 A Bellamy, 10 D. Ockwell. **Girls:** 1 S Devine, 2 E Young, 3 A Mills, 4 N Murray, 5 M Potter, 6 S Rogers, 7 A Mills, 8 T Flippance, 9 R Avenell, 10 H. Fry.

Counties 6/Olympic travel

WARWICKSHIRE

Jenny Heaton

CONGRATULATIONS to Leigh Jeffries who won the national cadet singles title at the English national junior championships in December. Leigh is the first Warwickshire name to go on the trophy. It was a close final against Neil Bevan from Cornwall but at 10-10 in the final game Leigh seemed to step up a gear to win 21-16.

It was a first for Nicola Meddings too when she won the U12 title at the South of England 2 star, defeating K. Goodhall in the final. Nicola also reached the last eight in the cadets at the English national junior event, this time losing to K. Goodhall (Yorks).

Reduced to four

The Warwickshire league has been reduced to only four teams: Coventry (the holders), Leamington, North Birmingham and South Birmingham. Rugby and Stratford-on-Avon found themselves unable to field teams this season and Nuneaton withdrew when their proposal to play the matches on a home and away system was defeated.

The Warwickshire club competition is underway with an entry of 25 teams, 21 of them are from Birmingham including last year's winners

Lucas (York Road). The competition is run on a sealed handicap basis — the matches are played without the handicap being known. This adds to the fun (at least some players think so!) and makes every point count!

The Warwickshire closed will be held on the 8th February at the centre for the disabled in Coventry.

YORKSHIRE

Rea Balmford

WITH the Stiga Yorkshire and Humber 3 Star setting the ball rolling in the final week of October, as reported in the last issue of the News, the past six weeks has been a hectic period for Yorkshire's tournament officials.

The county's senior and junior closed championships, each in a completely new format, have been played with the one day senior event staged on 15 tables at the Huddersfield Sports Centre including, for the first time, a 2-a-side team event, and the junior championships combining with the former cadet closed in a two-day tournament at Selby High School.

The team event proved popular, with 27 mens teams going into the draw, but it played havoc with the schedule and a finish just 19 minutes late at the end of the day speaks volumes for the ingenuity and man-

agement ability of referee Bevan Walker.

'The A Team' of Steve Mills and Kevin Beadsley, Yorkshire's top pair, dominated the team event and the tournament as a whole, but there was a shock in the MS where the former was dismissed by Sheffield's Clive Guest in a thrilling semi-final (-20, 12, 19).

Guest could not again find that 'something extra' in the final against second seeded Beadsley, however, and the Bradford man cruised home to a comfortable 8, 7 victory.

In view of later events it does seem surprising that three hours earlier Guest had been left on the bench when the A Team defeated Saint Albion (Sheffield) 3-0 in the final of the team event.

Mills and Beadsley completed the clean sweep of the mens events with a 19, 18 MD win over Harrogate pair Richard Whiteley/Mick Emmeron while Hull's Mick Farnill, the only player to retain a title, gave the selectors a nudge as he swept to the veterans singles past John Mitchell of Halifax 8, 4.

Kevin Rogerson (Hull) took the restricted mens -16, 16, 8 over Mark Ward (Sheffield), while in a disappointing womens' entry, results were — **Team event:** Wold 1 (Ruth and Kathryn Bray). **WS:** Josette Ryalls (Sheffield) b Ruth Bray (Hull) 18, 19. **WD:** Ruth/Kathryn Bray (Hull) b Catherine Johnson/Sandra Giddings (Leeds) 17, -12, 18. **RWS:** Samantha Marling (Hull) b Johnson 19, -18, 19.

At Selby the top two seeds Andy Ball (Wakefield) and Neil Simms (Doncaster) made their way through to the JBS final, Ball taking the title 12, 22, while the roles were reversed in the JBD with Simms, partnered by Mark Ward (Sheffield) getting the better of Ball and Richard Pike (Wakefield) 14, 15.

Hazel Kavanagh (Hull) finally got on top in a -19, 19, 14 cliffhanger to take the JGS crown at the expense of Joanna Roberts (Leeds), while the latter paired with Leeds team mate Katherine Goodall to take the JGD with a win over the South Yorkshire team of Claire Lundy and Lorraine Cooper 17, -12, 19.

In the previous day's cadet session the Leeds pair had also taken the CGD with a final win over the Marling sisters -15, 18, 7, with the Hull youngsters taking revenge in the singles, Samantha claiming the CGS -21, 21, 18 over Joanna and Sally the under 12 with Katherine on the losing end 14, -20, 17.

Doncaster's Peter France dominated the cadet boys events with a 12, 13 victory over Karl Horsfield (Selby) in the singles after previously collecting the doubles in tandem with Ian Starks (Castleford/Pontefract) 17, -22, 19 against Andy Nicholls/Craig Smith (Selby). Nicholls, however, ensured that one trophy remained in his home town when he got the verdict over Robert Oldale (Sheffield) 11, 7 in the final of the under 12s.

Olympic Games

SEPTEMBER 1988, Korea, may seem a long way off in time and distance but with an event of this importance arrangements have to be made long in advance.

The British Olympic Association has appointed Sportsworld Travel, 320 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 to be the official ticket and tour operator for the 1988 Summer Olympics based in Seoul, Korea and the Winter Olympics in Calgary, Alberta.

Table tennis, being part of the Olympics for the first time, will be part of the packages being offered but it could be that fans will also want to see the other Olympic sports as well as table tennis.

Announcing the appointment, the secretary of the BOA, Dick Palmer, said: "The BOA made its choice yesterday after careful scrutiny of a number of travel firms who had submitted applications for the appointment. Sportsworld Travel's experience in this field made them the perfect choice to be given the responsibility for getting the British public to Seoul and Calgary to support our teams. I'm confident they'll do a good job."

Michael Norris, chairman and marketing director of Sportsworld Travel Company, said: "We're delighted with the news. It's a great vote of confidence in us. Major international sporting events present a very different crop of opportunities to today's intending visitors compared to even eight years ago. The Los Angeles Olympics proved that even with the mind-blowing logistics of organising such an event, a commercial profit can be made and much more emphasis has been placed on spectator enjoyment.

"Korea has many intrinsic attractions little-known to the European traveller, couple these with the magic flavour of the Olympics themselves together with the chance to visit Japan, China, Hong Kong and Thailand, making a complete Far East adventure, and you've got a highly marketable programme.

Sportsworld Travel will offer a wide range of Olympic and Far East holidays, which will be on sale through the Travel Trade. Following an extended inspection trip to the area, the company will launch its programme early in 1987."

As with all major tournaments, tickets for certain events will be keenly competed for. Sportsworld Travel has opened a priority registration list for all parties interested in visiting Korea or Calgary who wish to receive details as soon as they are published. All enquiries, whether individual, corporate, incentive or association will be treated on a "first come, first served" basis and registration of interest should be made direct to: Olympics Department, Sportsworld Travel, 120 Old Brompton Road, London SW5 9JH. Telephone 01-370-4515.

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WINNERS OF CROSSWORD No. 1 November Issue

First prize, Stiga Holdall: Robin Harding, 11 Hordle Gardens, St Albans, Herts AL1 1JW.

Runners-up, Mini bats: 1, Martin Tickner, 24 Currock Park Avenue, Carlisle, Cumbria CA2 4DH; 2, Steve Moore, 32 Claremont Road, Sidley, Bexhill-on-Sea, Sussex; 3, John Hatfield, Mousehole Forge, Malin Bridge, Sheffield S6 5FF.

WELSH NEWS

from H. Roy Evans

The European League Division 2

A GREAT 4/3 win over Scotland saw Wales head the European Group Division Two matches in Guernsey over the weekend. With comfortable 7/0 victories over Greece and Guernsey, Wales now lies second in the Division, with success against Switzerland but defeat by Belgium earlier on in the season. Outstanding matches are against Luxembourg at Hawthorn in January, and away against Spain in April. Scotland also accounted for Guernsey and Greece 7/0 in each case.

The Wales/Scotland match opened the programme in Guernsey, and produced fine table tennis and tremendous tension. Scotland were at their strongest, with David Hannah, John Broe and Carol Dalrymple, whilst Wales fielded their strongest combination - Nigel Tyler, Nigel Thomas and Lesley Tyler.

The first match, between Tyler and Hannah, was the key to the eventual result. Nigel played brilliantly to beat Hannah in the third game, then Nigel Thomas only just failed against Broe. Wales went behind when Lesley Tyler failed to match Carol Dalrymple for control. Then the two Nigels combined magnificently to beat Hannah and Broe two straight, a fine result considering the Scottish pair had recently beaten Desmond Douglas and Alan Cooke of England in a three star tournament.

Doubles again provided Wales with the lead, when Nigel and his sister Lesley beat Hannah and Carole Dalrymple. With the score now 3/2 to Wales, it looked as if we would wrap it up in the next match, when Nigel Thomas started off in whirlwind fashion to take the first game against Hannah. But the latter fought back as he always does, took the second at 19, and then was in command to win in the third.

So it was left to Nigel Tyler to beat John Broe to save the day. It didn't look good when he lost the first at 18, but he won the second comfortably. The decider saw Broe lift his game, and Welsh hopes were almost dashed when he lead 19/16 in the third. But the Welsh No. 1 rose to the occasion magnificently, and, against all the odds, took the next five points to

register a fine Welsh win.

Wales beat Guernsey comfortably with a 7/0 "Whitewash", and faced a young Greek side in the last match. Another 7/0 win looked likely when first Nigel Tyler and then Nigel Thomas accounted very easily for the two Greek men. But lack of concentration meant only a narrow win for Lesley Tyler, and this was followed by men's doubles and mixed doubles wins in which the Welsh pair played as badly as they had played well against Scotland.

However, the score card was kept clean when the two Nigels both won their second singles.

Wales v Scotland

Tyler b Hannah, -19, 15, 19, b Broe -18, 11, 19.

Thomas lt to Broe -22, -18; lt Hannah 15, -19, -15.

Tyler lt to Dalrymple -15, -13. Tyler/Thomas b Hannah/Broe 19, 15.

Tyler/Tyler b Hannah/Dalrymple -20, 18, 17.

Wales v Guernsey

Tyler b Pipet 16, 12; b Rihoy 15, 7.

Thomas b Rihoy 8, 18; b Pipet 18, 15.

Tyler b Harquin 15, -15, 13. Tyler/Thomas b Pipet/Bailey 12, 15.

Tyler/Tyler b Pipet/Pipet 20, -13, 17.

Wales v Greece

Tyler b Kordulatis 14, 12; b Philipopoulos 19, 14.

Thomas b Philipopoulos 8, 13; b Kordulatis 14, 20.

Tyler b Dumeni 18, -20, 18.

Tyler/Thomas b Kordulatis/Philipopoulos 12, -18, 15.

Tyler/Tyler b Kordulatis/Zerdila 18, -15, 15.

North Wales Counties Table Tennis Association

by Charles Bayliss

Clwyd 4 Lancashire 2nds 6

Trevor Manning b Andrew Leigh 18, 11; Paul Griffiths b Philip Blake 13, 16; John Ellis b Brian Carney 7, 19; Evelyn Wright/Justine Thomas b Amanda Goodwin/Mabel Neary -11, 11, 15; John Ellis/Trevor Manning b Brian Carney/Philip Blake 18, 16; Trevor Manning b Philip Blake 19, -16, 18; Justine Thomas b Mabel Neary 16, 15, 13; John Ellis b Andrew Leigh 16, -18, 16; Evelyn Wright b Amanda Goodwin 15, 14; Paul Griffiths b Brian Carney 18, 16.

Heart of England Cadet TT League

THE second session of the league took place at Leamington, December 6th, at Automotive Products Ltd. Banbury A still retain the leadership over Leamington A by two points with three victories over Coventry, Rugby and Bromsgrove. The trio of Sally Hughes, Michael Rose and Dawn Barnett dropping only two games between them. Sally and Michael losing their 100% averages against Coventry's Matthew Jordan.

Leamington A hang onto second place with a one game margin over Kidderminster whom they defeated 7-3. Robert Hartshorn and Ewan Huc gaining maximums for Leamington. Coventry gained ground in the league with two wins over Evesham and Walsall and losing 8-2 to Banbury A.

Good day

Matthew Jordan had a good day winning eight out of nine singles. Leamington B gained their first win in the league over Evesham winning 6-4. Chris Haynes 2, Adrian Smith 2 and Scott Taylor 1. Jason Bolton won 2 for Evesham with Neil Green and Ian Stowe 1 each. A close doubles 22 and 17 was won by Chris and Adrian over Jason and Neil.

Credit to brothers David and Andrew Hassall from Walsall who were a player short but gamely fought all day.

The next session is on Saturday, February 7th at 9.30 am at the same venue.

League table

Banbury A	6	6	0	0	57	3	12
Leamington A	6	5	0	1	39	21	10
Kidderminster	6	5	0	1	38	22	10
Coventry	6	4	0	2	41	19	8
Banbury B	6	3	0	3	29	31	6
Walsall	6	2	1	3	30	30	5
Bromsgrove	6	2	1	3	23	37	5
Leamington B	6	1	1	4	16	44	3
Evesham	6	0	1	5	20	40	1
Rugby	6	0	0	6	7	53	0

Results

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

Top averages: Sally Hughes, Michael Rose, Dawn Barnett, 94% (Banbury A); Matthew Jordan 88% (Coventry).

1986/87

Universities Athletic Union Championships

THIS season's tournament took place at Swansea University's Sports Centre over the weekend 29/30 November and attracted 192 entries for the 5 events, an increase of 7 on last year. Despite several of the seeded players not arriving, the best were there to contest the men's singles in which No 1 seed Phil Logsdon of Nottingham went one better than last year, ending a comfortable run to the final by beating 2nd seeded Bath fresher Murray Jukes.

Gabi bounces back

Five years ago Gabi Munzor came runner-up as a Southampton student. This year the Munich-born blocker, taking a PGCE at Exeter, upset the seedings as Mrs Gabi Winter, to win the women's singles, beating Michelle Hams of Sheffield in a very entertaining final, emerging the best of a 50-strong entry.

Results:

Mens singles: Quarter-final:

P Logsdon (Nottm) b K Schomann (Cardiff) 8, 8; Koon Lung Wong (UMIST) b S Richards (Exeter) 15, 19; J Murdoch (Warwick) b M Tate (Exeter) 14, 19; M Jukes (Bath) b M Levene (Manch) 9, 16.

Semi-final:

Logsdon b Koon Lung Wong 13, 15; Jukes b Murdoch 15, 10.

Final:

Logsdon b Jukes 9, 18.

Womens singles: Semi-finals:

M Hams (Sheffield) b S Brame (Warwick) -18, 7, 18; G. Winter (Exeter) b L. Stanbridge (Bath) 13, 10.

Final:

G Winter b M Hams -19, 12, 13.

Mens doubles: Semi-finals:

C Holland/F Wiegand (Leeds) b Richards/Tate (Exeter) 15, 8; Jukes/R Gascoigne (Bath) b C Davis/C Forrest (Essex) 12, -16, 12.

Final:

Holland/Wiegand b Jukes/Gascoigne -17, 9, 17.

Womens doubles: Semi-finals:

Hams/J McEwen (Sheff) b Winter/B West (Exeter) 18, 17; L Thompson/C Chamberlain (Nottm) b J Woodcock/L Reasebeck (Leic) -15, 11, 14.

Final:

Hams/McEwen b Thompson/Chamberlain 11, 16.

Mixed doubles: Semi-final:

Logsdon/Thompson b Richards/West 19, 9; Murdoch/Brame b B Bennett/Hams 19, -18, 16.

Final:

Logsdon/Thompson b Murdoch/Brame 14, 17.

MIDDLESEX SET FOR SIXTH CROWN

by Doug Moss

IN THE Senior Premier Division the first matches, played at Birmingham Athletic Institute, again confirmed the superiority of Middlesex. They have won the championship for the past five seasons and this time won their three matches dropping only three games!

Derbyshire, making a debut in the premier ranks, was very well pleased to have the services of Alan Cooke (England No 2), who paid his own fare from Sweden to represent his county. Derbyshire's first match was against Surrey and in the first event Alan found Nicky Mason in fine form. After a hard fight Nicky had a superb 23, -19, 16 win. However, Alan Cooke won the remainder of his singles matches, without dropping a game, and with good support from Martin Kinsella and juniors Kerry Hall and Bradley Billington, Derby won two of their three matches. This was a very good start as promoted teams have so often found themselves on the way down at the end of the season.

The Premier weekend was quite a British event. David Hannah (Scottish No 1) who plays as a professional in France, represented Surrey. He had started with that county as a junior in the championships. He was in good form, winning five of his six singles events, losing only to Alan Cooke. And Lesley and Nigel Tyler, the respective Welsh No 1's, represented Middlesex. The Tyler's won their mixed doubles matches convincingly in straight games and lost only one singles event apiece.

In one of the first matches Sussex met Middlesex which proved to be somewhat of a families affair, with Middlesex having the Tylers and Sussex having Teresa, Adrian and Stephen Moore. This was not the easiest of starts for promotees Sussex! The team must have been encouraged when, in the first event, Adrian Moore played very well to beat Nigel Tyler 17 and 15. However this was the extent of their success against Middlesex.

It must be good that there were two juniors and one cadet competing most effectively at this level. The cadet player, Michael O'Driscoll, won four of his six singles matches. One of his losses was only at -19 in the third game against Andy Wellman, when he was in fact leading 19-16. Bradley Billington also won four of his six singles events. His losses were to Steve Scowcroft and David Han-

nah against whom he played very well before losing -11, 19, -17. Kerry Hall ended the series with a 50% record winning one singles, against Jane Barella, and two of the mixed doubles events with Alan Cooke.

Of the men the best performances came from John Souter (Mi) and Nicky Mason (Sy), unbeaten in singles and doubles events. Jean Parker (La) was the best of the ladies, winning all her singles matches and combining with John Hilton to be unbeaten in mixed doubles events. It was good to see John Hilton playing again in the county championships.

Results

Middlesex 8, Sussex 1; Yorkshire 5, Berkshire 4; Lancashire 8, Staffs 1; Derbyshire 5, Surrey 4; Sussex 2, Derbyshire 7; Surrey 5, Lancs 4; Berkshire 2, Middlesex 7; Staffs 2, Yorkshire 7; Lancs 6, Derbyshire 3; Middlesex 9, Staffs 0; Yorkshire 4, Surrey 5; Sussex 2, Berkshire 7.

League Table

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Middlesex	3	3	0	27	3	6
Lancashire	3	2	1	18	9	4
Yorkshire	3	2	1	16	11	4
Derbyshire	3	2	1	15	12	4
Surrey	3	2	1	14	13	4
Berkshire	3	1	2	13	14	2
Sussex	3	0	3	5	22	0
Staffordshire	3	0	3	3	24	0

Junior premier division

St Neots TTC again provided the good facilities for the junior premier matches.

Yorkshire, the current champions, having the services of European "Gold" winners, Michael O'Driscoll and Chris Oldfield, completely dominated the weekend. Yorkshire won their three matches dropping only one event! The Staffs team put up the best fight with Adrian Thorpe losing to O'Driscoll -20, -20, and he also had a deuce game with Oldfield, the scores being -11, -20. It was Gary Knights who took the one event beating Andrew Ball 12, -11, 13. It highlights the strength of the Yorkshire players that being taken to deuce is a matter for comment!

Lancashire also come away

with a clean sheet. They had a good 6-4 win over Derbyshire. A vital factor in this win was taking the two doubles events. Sean Gibson/David Carse beat Bradley Billington/Chris Glossop at 19 in the third game and Nicola McGrath/Julie Clegg beat Kerry Hall/Julie Forster at 17 in the deciding game. Sean Gibson also won a singles at 17 in the third but lost 18 and 18 to Bradley Billington.

Notts, one of the promoted teams, were involved in two interesting matches. The only drawn match was their clash with Staffs. John Holland (Ng No 1) had two good wins including the defeat of Adrian Thorp 12 and 17. Staffs were leading 5-4 but in the final event Adrian Bolton (Ng) beat Robert Till -16, 19 and 19 to gain a point for Notts! In their match with neighbours Derbyshire the Notts team actually led 2-0 but that was the sum total of their success. John Holland played well to take Bradley Billington to 15 in the third game.

Glamorgan found it tough at premier division level. Richard Harry and Chris Kelly got a singles win apiece - both achieved by a narrow margin. Denise Elward won her singles against Kent in which five events went to a deciding game.

Results

Derbys 9, Glamorgan 1; Essex 4, Staffs 6; Kent 1, Lancs 9; Lancs 6, Essex 4; Notts 2, Derbys 8; Yorks 10, Notts 0; Glamorgan 2, Kent 8; Staffs 1, Yorks 9; Notts 5, Staffs 5; Glamorgan 0, Yorks 10; Lancs 6, Derbys 4; Kent 4, Essex 6.

League table

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Yorkshire	3	3	0	0	29	1	6
Lancashire	3	3	0	0	21	9	6
Derbyshire	3	2	0	1	21	9	4
Staffs	3	1	1	1	12	18	3
Essex	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Kent	3	1	0	2	13	17	2
Notts	3	1	0	2	7	23	1
Glamorgan	3	0	0	3	3	27	0

Match results - 22 November

Senior - 2A: Warwick 4, Worcs 6; Glos 1, Leics 9; Yorks II 5, North'land 5; Cambs 5, Cheshire 5. 2B: Middlesex II 6, Devon 4; Essex 5, Avon 5; Dorset 6, Wilts 4; Surrey II 3, Kent 7. 3A: Clwyd 4, Lancs II 6; Cheshire II 3, Warwick II 7; Lincs 4, Notts 6. 3B: Avon II 9, Dorset II 1; Worcs II 0, Somerset 10. 3C: Essex II 6, Cambs II 4; Suffolk 10, N'thants 0. 3D: Hants 6, Bucks 4; Sussex II 10, Berks II 0. 4A: Leics II 6, Essex III 4; Kent II 9, Suffolk II 1; N'thants II 4, Hunts

6. 4B: Cornwall II 3, Hereford 7; Somerset II 3, Glamorgan 7.

Junior - 2A: Yorks II 4, Warwick 6; Gwent 6, Suffolk 4; Staffs II 8, Derby II 2; Cheshire 4, Beds 6. 2B: Devon 9, Sussex 1; Middlesex 7, Essex II 3; Berks 4, Herts 6; Essex II 6, Surrey 4. 3A: Leics 2, Lancs II 8; North'land 6, Leics 4; Lancs II 8, Clwyd 2; Durham 2, Cumbria 8; Lincs 7, Cheshire III 3. 3B: Hunts 8, Oxford 2; N'thants 5, Cambs 5; Cambs II 2, Norfolk 8; Norfolk II 0, Hunts II 10. 3C: Warwick II 3, Avon 7; Dorset 5, Cornwall II 5; Dorset 4, Hants 6; Hants 7, Cornwall II 3; Somerset 5, Glos 5; Wilts 5; Worcs 5. 3D: Kent II 2, Herts II 2; Essex III 5, Surrey II 5; Bucks 2, Middlesex II 8.

Veterans - Premier: Worcs 2, Lincs 7; Cheshire 9, Essex 0; Hants 3, Middlesex 6; Sussex 5, Kent 4. 2A: Notts 2, Cheshire II 7; Yorks 4, Essex II 5; North'land 5, N'thants 4; North'land 3, Essex II 6. 2B: Wilts 6, Dorset 3; Kent II 3, Bucks 6; Middlesex II 5, Berks 4; Surrey 9, Hants II 0. 3A: Cheshire III 5, Hunts 4; Yorks II 6, Norfolk 3. 3B: Hunts II 5, Herts III 4; Berks IV 1, Warwick 8; Herefords 2, Beds 7. 3C: Essex III 3, Sussex 6; Herts II 6, Berks III 3. 3D: Dorset II 1, Sussex III 8; Herts IV 3, Avon 6.

Senior Div 2A certainly had some interesting matches. There were 2 drawn games and a 6-4 contest. Northumberland fought back from 3-5 down to Yorkshire II to gain a draw - and what sets they were! Karen Buglass beat Cathryn Johnson at 23-21 in third and then Eddie Smith beat Mick Stead 19, -18, 19. The Cambs/Cheshire clash went two all, three all, four all to the ultimate draw. Brian Johns took the final event for Cheshire with a win over Julian Wheel -19, 17, 11. Warwick seemed to be coasting with a 3-0 lead over Worcestershire, who then won the two doubles. Murray Jukes and Trevor Washington beat Barry Johnson and Phil Gunn -17, 20, 21! From 3-2 Worcs then won two more events at 19 in the third. In the final event Trevor Washington was 10-15 down to Michael Browne but won 21-19 to give Worcs the win.

Match secretaries please note (to avoid events being disallowed) that additional registrations and changes in ranking order must be notified to Les Smith in writing and will not take effect until 12 days after date of postmark on the written notice.

Eastern region moves up

Ken Marchant explains

THE Eastern Coaching Region held their first Junior Training Camp of the 1986/87 season on the week-end of 7/9th November in what can only be termed, real up market style.

Having finalised arrangements for this first Training Camp to take place at the Eurosport Village in Shotley, Ipswich, an unexpected setback occurred two weeks later when they were informed that the venue was being closed down.

Fortunately the Eastern Sports Council's Regional Officer Mike Grafton came to their aid when he was able to give a personal contact to seek help.

From small acorns ...

From that point on everything flowed and they were put in touch with the Wyboston Lakes Motel at Eaton Socon just off the A1.

Regional Coaching Chairman Ken Marchant and National Coach

Nicky Jarvis visited the Motel to discuss a deal which was finally confirmed the next day.

The second part of the back up to this deal was completed when they were able to have the use of the best table tennis centre in the country, just ten minutes journey from the Motel, namely St. Neots Centre with the use of nine tables.

The scene was set for what was a fantastic Training Camp week-end under the guidance of Nicky Jarvis, Les Rayment and Ken Marchant with help in transporting by St. Neots Club Committee Members.

The residential accommodation at the Motel was as follows:-

Three members per room with colour T.V., coffee/tea making facili-

ty, bath and shower. Breakfast with personal waiter service.

Evening Meal was at the Lakeside Restaurant approximately two hundred yards down the drive where the conservatory part which overlooks the lake was allocated for our use, and again with personal waiter service.

Lunch was at the table tennis centre and provided by the St. Neots Ladies Committee who also did the

morning/afternoon breaks.

The co-operation and excellent service provided at the Motel by Chris Conlan the Manageress (pictured with the group) was very much appreciated as was the service given by the St. Neots Club Members.

Everyone voted it the best Training Camp they had ever been on and we are all looking forward to the next one in April next year.



Nicky Jarvis (r) and Ken Marchant (l) masterminded the upmarket training experience for juniors in the Eastern Region.

Ken Marchant Coaching Chairman

THE English Table Tennis Association has appointed Ken Marchant the Eastern Regional Coaching Chairman as Chairman of the National Coaching Committee. He will be responsible to the National Council and to the Vice Chairman Selection/Coaching for the administration of the National Coaching Committee which includes all the country's Regional Coaching Panels.

His role will also be to provide support to the professional staff in all areas of coaching activity which will be of great assistance to the Director of Coaching who he will be liaising closely with, the principle being that he will lead the voluntary sector in support of the professional staff.

Table Tennis at Hayes

THERE is news of more table tennis facilities at the Judge Heath Sports Centre, Judge Heath Lane, Hayes, Middlesex. Table Tennis day is Mondays, 5-8 p.m., mainly 8 to 15-year-olds but older people welcome. Costs are children £5 per term and 50p a night.

There are other sporting activities going on through the week. The table tennis coach is Roger Nicholls. The centre is also available for week-end bookings for tournaments and some sessional time is available during the week at "very cheap rates". Further information telephone 01-573-3431.

INTERNATIONAL COURSE COMING IN LONDONDERRY

AN International Coaches Course will be held at the University of Ulster at Coleraine, County Londonderry, N. Ireland, 11-13 April, 1987. The course is sponsored by the Irish TTA (Ulster Branch) in conjunction with the Sports Council for Northern Ireland and a commercial sponsor.

Zoltan Berczik

The coaches will be Zoltan Berczik (Hungary), Donald Parker & Jill Hammersley-Parker (England) and possibly Anders Thunstrom (Sweden).

The cost is expected to be no more than £50 sterling per delegate and this will include full accommodation, hospitality and an official reception.

Full details can be obtained from Mrs P. Todd c/o The Sports Council for N. Ireland, House of Sports, Upper Malone Road, Belfast BT9 5LA.

Merrett Swan Song

by David Holland

BRIAN MERRETT visited Waveney Sports Centre on 14th, 15th, 16th of November. A mixture of different levels of player were eagerly awaiting this highly respected national coach. The weekend course was tailored for beginners on the Saturday and advanced players on the Friday evening and Sunday. Brian's step by step programme of ball control and match situations showed vast improvements to everyone who came on the course. And at the end of the day when tiring limbs were taking people home to a well earned rest, I was being asked, 'when will there be another course of this type at the centre'.

After the response of this coaching weekend, I would say to anyone who is thinking about getting a course of this kind underway, go ahead and do it. Because with the wealth of experience that is amongst our national coaches, it can only benefit those people who they visit.



Bryan dispenses a little of the 'Merrett magic' at Lowestoft.

Let's twist again

by Tony Russe

A COACH sees many faults in players' techniques, some which can be rectified and some which can not. Much depends on how the player has developed and how open to change he or she is. But the most common fault that I see is what I call 'the one-armed bandit'. Many players use only their playing arm and shoulder with the resultant loss of body flow and power.

Now every student coach will tell you about the use of the free arm — balance, tracking and rotation. But what does it really mean? Yes, the free arm is used in balance but each player has an individual centre of gravity, so the positioning of the free arm will vary. And yes, the free arm can be used to orientate with the ball and the direction of play, but again each individual will have his or her own in-built mechanism for spotting a ball and despatching it again. Yes, the free arm's use in balance and tracking is very useful, but in rotation it is all important.

If a player is to maximise on power then rotation at the waist is essential. The free arm assists this rotation and what is more it brings the free shoulder into play. It is the use of **both** shoulders in the forehand attack that assists in the maximum of power. Similar-

ly if the player is looking for power from the backhand, and many players seem to settle for only speed and spin from wrist action, the free shoulder can follow through with the shoulder of the bat arm to provide the punch necessary to produce a winning ball. Rotation is vital.

We tend in this country to teach the finer points of technique, which is a good thing, but I sometimes feel that the object of the end result is missed. We tend to think of teaching a player to win by good techniques and are disappointed when they do not. We must also teach them to fire for effect. Once the basics are taught, the introduction of power into a player's **thinking** and game is essential, and it starts and finishes with rotation and all that goes with it. So brothers and sisters, let's twist again!

DUTCH VICTORY

DESPITE an impressive display by England No 1 Matthew Syed, the Netherlands Juniors beat England overall by two matches to one with one match drawn at Gateshead on November 28th.

The Junior International, sponsored by Gateshead Metropolitan Borough Council and Signal Toothpaste, was played on a new format of four separate matches; junior boys, junior girls, cadet boys and cadet girls, so giving experience to ten new youngsters and new caps to Ellen Meddings, Caroline Buckley, Neil Bevan and Gary Knights.

Impressive

The only match that England won was the junior girls and this was despite Patricia De Groot beating both Debbie Toole and Andrea Holt. Andrea won the first set of the night against Emily Schers, the England pair won the doubles and then with a score of 2-2 Debbie impressively beat Schers with a score of 6, 13.

The star of the evening was Matthew Syed who won both of his singles. Syed opened the match by beating Trinko Keen at 19 in the third and put England 3-1 ahead with a straight games victory over Danny Heister.

England's two defeats came in the Cadet International where the girls were beaten 3-2 after recovering from a 3-0 deficit.

The boys lost 5-1 with only Lee Jeffries beating Marlo Heerson.

SCORES FORMAT

VALUABLE time could be saved if all correspondents could submit scores according to how they appear in this magazine. Otherwise the re-writing of the figures can easily lead to errors.

The format is:

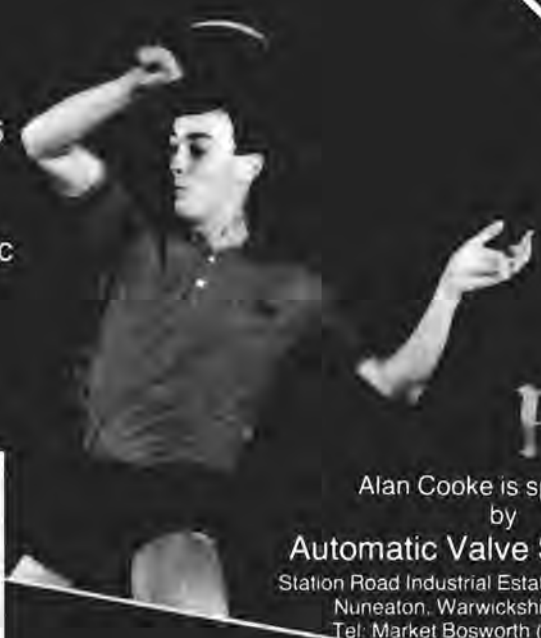
A Smith b B Brown 17, - 15, 19.

Most tournament press officers already use this style but it is the rest that can help lighten one of the laborious tasks and save some mid-night oil.

FLUID MOVEMENT



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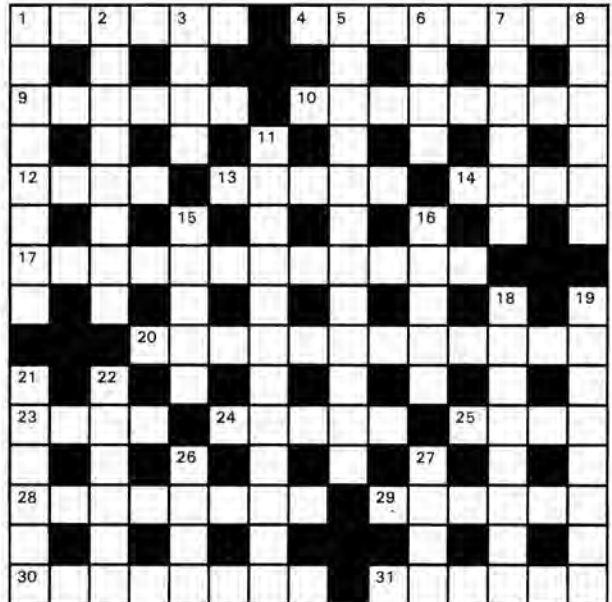
CLUES

ACROSS

1. & 27 (down). Female defender Darth alone upset in deepest Lancashire! (6,4)
4. Chairman of Selectors' method of doing things, and how he reacts to drink? (5,3)
9. American range rover with power over steer? (6)
10. Angle Pam revised in preparing for her match (4,4)
12. Girl who comes from the valley (4)
13. In which one has tearing hurry (5)
14. TT twin featured in narrow escape (4)
17. He who gets the best from odd Karl Prean (6,6)
20. Surrey Vet was once a winner with first-rate organisation (6,6)
23. Kind of rope found in the British Empire (4)
24. Points us and her in the right direction (5)
25. Target of Olympians, or the French say ... (4)
28. 20 involved in TT set-up of real pity! (8)
29. Judge signals failure with weights, and has to use the stairs! (2,4)
30. Disturbed Cyril is German composer of words for songs (8)
31. Theatrically presented tournament finals? (6)

DOWN

1. Great honour for account company gets over broken deal (8)
2. Out waddling along rather slowly (8)
3. A rose by any other name — in Piccadilly Circus! (4)
5. Kind of Reactor with short period of gestation? (1,4,7)
6. Dishonest golfer tells them about how his ball was sitting (4)
7. Could one's father be on the carpet? (6)
8. Way down in New Orleans? (6)
11. Spots for those under canvas, and what is spotted there? (7,5)
15. Can be taken by Flo, or anyone else for dancing (5)
16. Neil turns up to tournaments in the Tribe van! (5)
18. Characteristic of hens, and beaten semi-finalists? (8)
19. Unexpurgated result of Woodford getting involved with Robson & Co. (8)
21. Fellow the Spanish follow to Church? (6)
22. Have harmful effect on odd number? (6)
26. Yours truly in this puzzler I compiled (4)
27. See 1 across.



Name

Address

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: FEBRUARY 12th. Answers published: MARCH 1987

For the answers and the winners of the November Crossword No. 1 see page 22.

Kent players in Ruhr

FRANKFURT Station, 6.18 a.m. on a Monday morning in September, still almost dark, and the nine members of our table tennis party all aboard the train to take us back down the beautiful Rhine Valley, to Ostend, and thence to England. "Wiedersehn" "Dietmar", "Gunter", "Christophe", "Emil" and "Beate" as the train pulled out from the platform, strangers on Friday as we had arrived, now after a tremendous and hectic weekend we all felt a little sad to be leaving them, along with Heinz, Hans, Karl, Rudi and the rest back twelve kilometres away in the small town of Heusenstamm.

Two months earlier a girl in Tonbridge called Hanni had told us "it will be a carnival weekend with table tennis and other sports included".

We all liked the "carnival" bit, what we hadn't then realised was that the table tennis would be against professional players from the German Bundesliga. Still, "I'll go anyway" Andrew had said, and go we did! One slight hitch, Juliet was not due at Gatwick until 4.06 p.m. on the day we were departing, en route back from a fortnight's training session in Hungary. Father Ted took his four wheels to the airport, Juliet was whisked home and was on time with the rest of us for the 9.13 p.m. train out of Tonbridge for Dover Marine.

Our hosts provided us throughout with superb hospitality, staying at their homes and visiting around for large slices of apple and fruit strudel cakes. Shopping in Frankfurt, walking through the woods to watch Ein-

tracht Frankfurt draw 2-2 with visiting Kaiserslauter, a Grand Ball, a disco at a nightclub with three floors, and Sunday morning jazz in the large courtyard of a nearby hotel. Seeing our Rugby footballers triumph, albeit with torn ligaments, and finally a magnificent display of indoor sport, dancing and gymnastics at the Sportszentrum "Grand Sportshow", highlighted with a spectacular "Chinese" style display of table tennis by Juliet and Mark. Then supper with our hosts, a little more trombone, speeches, and a lively 'singalong' to end our last night.

And what of the matches, which took place in a large school sports hall the evening after we arrived? We divided into two teams, our "A" team against Heusenstamm's Bundesliga Division 2 side and our "B" team against their Division 4 side. The first team game was most exciting, mark in superb form winning all four singles, and An-

drew and Juliet winning two each including wins against their number two. Greg fought hard, but victory eluded him, as it did Michael, Ted, and the two Johns throughout the "B" team match, although all games were (I assure you) closely contested. Our appointed manager, Cyril, watched closely, perhaps he was just too lenient on the older members of our team.

Our happy expedition was part of the Tonbridge/Heusenstamm twin town celebrations to mark the German town's 775th anniversary. Now we hope to entertain both junior and senior parties from Heusenstamm next year and to return there in 1988.

Scores — Heusenstamm "A" 8, Tonbridge/Tunbridge Wells "A" 8. (Mark Romano 4, Juliet Houghton 2, Andrew Houghton 2, Greg Barden 0). Heusenstamm "B" 16, Tonbridge/Tunbridge Wells "B" 0. (Michael Roberts, John Neal, Ted Houghton, John Knock).

Survival kit

MUCH as I applaud Johnny Leach's enthusiasm with his article "How can we win back the crowds?" his proposal must be regarded with some scepticism over costing, and as a possible one-off proposition.

Johnny himself remembers the days when our sport sparked great interest from the leagues to inter-leagues, to counties, to area representative matches, to internationals and open championships, to national and world championships. These links have been badly frayed, or in some cases completely broken. Club secretaries are despondent and dejected, seeing no light at the end of the tunnel. County associations readily accept only a handful of spectators will watch their county matches, and they may have trouble putting a team together.

Many pundits blame the equipment we use, the speed we play at, the popularity of darts and snooker, the lack of TV coverage, but we have to accept these factors are here to stay and should not provide excuses for poor results.

As season by season our situation deteriorates, I'm convinced there are motivators among us, players and officials, who, given a lead, are quite prepared to motivate, manipulate, cajole, and stimulate our leagues, counties and all concerned into concerted action. There has been some debate about an international team supremo, but first and foremost we need a national motivation supremo — someone, or a body of people, prepared to be totally involved with our leagues, counties and all levels of table tennis.

"Easier said than done," you may say, but we're already doing it at Panoramic Bath, and may I say rather successfully too. Since meeting Panoramic's Dave Warren a few months ago, we now have two British League teams, six of our players ranked in the top 40, one of the best supported teams in the British League Premier Division, a club sporting 10 tables, coaching for young and old, including video recordings for viewing on club and match days, and successful buffet disco social evenings. Of course, we're blessed with our own supremos within a committee of 21 dedicated players and administrators, which includes five ladies (hence our after match refreshments are second to none).

Panoramic Bath are very proud of their achievements, and the progress being made. Repeated on a national basis and run on business lines, the results could well have the turnstiles clicking again, sooner than we think.

JIMMY LOWE (Former English international and now marketing manager — Panoramic Bath TTC) 74 Barn Glebe, Trowbridge, Wilts BA14 7JZ

Ed: Don't tie the ladies to the kitchen sink Jimmy, they have much to offer your overall plan.

Golden Quill

A new video idea

BEING a player and an official at local and county level for some 15 years, I would like to put forward a proposal that I feel could change completely the attitude and prominence of the game we love. I have stated this proposal to many officials and ranked players and have yet to receive a negative response.

My proposal is as follows: At all levels of the game, local league, county league, national league and the tournaments, the organisers know roughly which matches will create exciting table tennis before they start. A professional video firm should be employed to record say a complete British league match, pre-selected by the organisers. This would give us approximately a 3-hour video.

Intelligent

This should then be edited and an intelligent, informative, colourful commentary added to create a 45 minute package to offer independent channels, initially local to the area of the match, and later the larger coverage of ITV and Channel 4. Not only would this show individual matches but the added bonus of a nine or ten set match situation.

Attention

Expertly edited one could get 45 minutes of exciting table tennis far removed from most peoples view of "ping pong", a church hall/youth club pastime.

Initially the commentary is as important as the table tennis. Comments like "looping as if his life depended on it" or "there's more chop from that stroke than a lumberjack's axe" or "there was enough power in that shot to put the ball in orbit," etc. should be used to grab attention. Let's not be straight laced in our attitude to the media. Let's bring the excitement,

humour, quick-fire reparté needle and aggro that goes on from week to week to the fore.

We have the players domestically that produce the table tennis we love without changing rules and regulations. We have the characters to do for table tennis what Eric Bristow did for darts and what Alex Higgins did for snooker and what David Bryant has done for bowls. Sport is no longer televising an event. It is about bringing every aspect of a game to the people who don't play, in an entertaining way.

A package

We must create a package for not just the table tennis fan, but the massive ranks of armchair players that ultimately dictate to the media its sporting priorities.

If we create the right package we can take our rightful place alongside darts, bowls and snooker in media coverage.

The opportunity is there, can we not at least give this idea a try before we get into a situation of changing rules and regulations to suit the media and not necessarily the players.

I look forward to your comments.

P.C. KNIGHT
Vice-chairman Stafford TTA
8 Inglemere Drive
Wildwood Estate
Stafford ST17 4QX

Editor's note: All ideas are welcome. This one is worth an examination. Like everything else it comes down to cost. A professional video of the quality necessary to sell to major or even local TV networks would cost money, but it is possible that a sponsor could be found. I am in total agreement with Mr Knight when he suggests that personalities like Eric Bristow, Alex Higgins and David Bryant have done wonders for their respective sports. But who is the emerging table tennis personality — could it be Skylet Andrew?

National Rankings

MAY I first congratulate John Preaton on his successful bid for the chairmanship of the ETTA. I hope he manages to bring some much needed interest back into the game. The second and main point I would like to make is in support of Ron Etheridge's (TTN November) proposal that we start a national ranking system similar to the ones used in North America. I played for 3 years in Canada, which has a ratings system similar to the one in the States and it was very successful. The system was computerized and all leagues and tournaments were included in the data for updating the system. Having worked on the Alberta ratings system it could take some time if results were not communicated promptly so the system could be updated regularly but done on a regular basis it was useful in tournament seeding and promoting interest in the game. I can see that in this country where there are vastly more players the problems would be larger in getting the system off the ground in the first place, but is that not a case for getting it started sooner rather than later. The ratings events in tournaments were also extremely popular particularly the lower rated events as it got players who would not normally play in a tournament interested because they had a chance of winning something. Since it is, in general, the grass roots players that we are losing perhaps this kind of thing could start to bring them back.

OWEN BRAZELL
25, Sandford Road,
Bromley, Kent BR2 9LW

Sorry, says Bradley

I WAS sorry to read Carl Preaton's reply to my letter in October's issue. I can only think that Carl saw something that was not there. It was never my intention to put down top players, as I have great admiration for any sportsman/woman who has reached high levels in their sport. But I was merely trying to introduce younger players to have a say in the sport, which I feel can only benefit table tennis, for as you are aware, there are so many sports each competing for attention of the young.

Are we only to be seen and not heard?

BRADLEY CLUTTON
Age 15.

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On the ball

with Neil T. Houghton,
ATTP Press and Public
Relations Officer

THIS first column puts the ball in play! The ATTP is the players' professional body, the ear and the voice of English table tennis players. Your voice and a strengthening voice in table tennis. If you haven't joined us yet, keep reading this column and then join. To the many people who are already with us, men and women, league players, county players and England players — good luck for the rest of the season and stay ON THE BALL!



Derek Baddeley, Colin Wilson and Barry Johnson hope you will join them and stay on the ball with the ATTP.

Best wishes also to English table tennis, the ETTA and the new chairman Mr John Prean. Let's move together towards the best possible future for OUR SPORT!

In this first rally I'd like to introduce the rest of the team — chairman is Barry Johnson, coordinator is Derek Baddeley and Hon. Sec. is Colin Wilson. We're here to keep foremost the interests of the players but even more important to give as much support and status to THE SPORT as possible!

What have we done? Like to have a say? You have the serve. Watch this column for updates on progress as well as news and views. Any suggestions or queries about table tennis then write to the letters page and let everyone know. (If you don't know the address then ask Sid, he'll have been told — or John Prean might know). If it's a question or view for this column, me, or the ATTP then send it to Neil T. Houghton, 'ON THE BALL'. I'm a diploma coach, county umpire, and I try to keep in touch with the tournament circuit as well, so I should be able to help. If it needs other opinions then we have the above team plus much of the playing and coaching talent in England, so fire away!

Entry Error

Derby Junior Select 1987

Please note that the organiser is Mike Payne
534 Duffield Road
Allestree
Derby

and not as printed on the entry form.

Success Story

If you have any interesting stories of success within your team, club, league or county, then we want to hear from you.

Write to the Editor
Table Tennis News
21 Claremont
Hastings
East Sussex
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FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

January

- 14 EUROPEAN LEAGUE: England v Finland (Norwich)
17 County Championships (4)
17/18 ESTTA Team Area Finals
18 SCHILDKROT BRITISH LEAGUE (9)
24 Pontefract 1 Star (Pontefract)
24/25 TRIUMPH ADLER ENGLISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Crawley)
31 Yorkshire 2 Star (Leeds)
Cotswold Junior Select (Gloucester)

February

- 1 SCHILDKROT BRITISH LEAGUE (10)
North Bournemouth 1 Star (Bournemouth)
Cotswold Junior Select
7 EUROPEAN LEAGUE: Denmark v England
County Championships (5)
7/8 Junior Premier Weekend (St Neots)
8 Exeter Junior 1 Star (Exeter)
14/15 Essex Junior Select (Harlow)
ETTA Coaching Course (Crystal Palace)
15 SCHILDKROT BRITISH LEAGUE (11)

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

NEXT ISSUE:

★ EUROPEAN TOP 12

John Woodford reporting from Basle.

★ RICHARD EATON'S SECOND ARTICLE

★ ENGLISH NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

Fiona Brown and John Woodford at Crawley.

★ STIGA SOUTH OF ENGLAND 3 STAR

A Grand Prix update after Crawley.

★ THE WAY BACK

Workshop Chairman Norman Davison with a success story from the East Midlands.

OBITUARY — ALEC BROOK

A SWAYTHLING CUP player for England in 1933, Alec Brook of Purley represented England at the World Championships that year in Baden, Austria. In the 1940's he made a big contribution to the promotion of table tennis on a worldwide stage tour with Richard Bergmann and Victor Barna.

He was an active person of 75 up to the time of his death on November 6th. He had his roots in the classical era of pimped rubber bats. At a regular practice session just before his death he noticed first the signs of an impending heart attack.

But his business dealings were his life. He was the chairman of a very successful sports company and had worldwide business connections.

He recently took over as the Chairman of the Croydon Area of the Institute of Directors, at an age when most people had retired a decade earlier.

According to a report in a Surrey newspaper he appeared some 500 times at the London

Palladium with Victor Barna.

He was chairman of Motif tie manufacturers (ADB London Ltd.), and established the company in 1946. They specialised in the manufacture of company and club inscribed ties, trophies and other promotional schemes. One of his customers was Mrs Margaret Thatcher the Prime Minister.

He leaves a widow Christel and two daughters. The funeral took place at Golders Green Crematorium.

Team tonic

David Lomas

AS these notes were being prepared the entries for the Dunlop national school team championships were being finalised. Competition secretary, Geoff Gardiner, tells me that he is hoping that the total number of teams involved in the area finals on January 17/18 will show a slight increase on last season's total.

Butterfly to sponsor Welsh Open

BUTTERFLY, the world's leading supplier of table tennis equipment, is to sponsor the United Kingdom's top table tennis championship in 1987 the Butterfly Welsh Open, which is to be played at the National Sports Centre in Cardiff from the 1st-4th April.

The sponsorship valued at \$30,000 (U.S.) enables the Welsh Association to invite all the world's top national teams to participate.

Already confirmed are Poland, whose team will include the holder of the men's singles title — Andrzej Grubba, France with the very experienced champion Jacques Secretin, and England whose squad is likely to include both Desmond Douglas and Carl Prean.

Other definites are European champions Sweden, and the former world champions Hungary, plus West Germany, Belgium, Netherlands, Norway, Canada, Scotland, Ireland and of course the home country Wales.

Also likely to play are some of the major Asian countries. The Welsh and ITTF president H. Roy Evans, OBE, says: 'I have been in the Far East recently and my discussions have led me to

believe that entries from China and Japan will be forthcoming and I expect final confirmation of this at the world championships in New Delhi in February.'

High point

Butterfly see their sponsorship of the Welsh Open as being the high point of a complete support package for table tennis in the United Kingdom which includes a number of key player endorsements including Desmond Douglas, the clothing adoption by the national teams of Wales, England and Scotland, linkage with several leading club sides including the Schildkrot British League champions Steelstock Wolverhampton, the equipment support for over 100 domestic tournaments and sponsorship of several of this country's leadin youngsters.