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ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING AT TOP LEVEL



This month's Star Feature

THE CHINESE TOUR OF THE UNITED KINGDOM

FULLY ILLUSTRATED

TABLE TENNIS NEWS

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The 'Red' Carpet

Once in a decade there comes an event which provides a talking point for table tennis fans throughout the length and breadth of the United Kingdom for many ensuing months.

Just such an event was the December visit of the representative table tennis team of the People's Republic of China which stirred not only the table tennis fraternity of these isles but the general public at large from the Prime Minister downwards!

Following full 'houses' at Manchester and Birmingham, not to mention unparalleled attendances in Cardiff, Edinburgh and Dublin, the very acme of culmination was achieved at Crystal Palace when two 'houses', each in excess of 3,000 people, jostled for admittance into the National Sports Centre.

Sponsorship for the tour reached previously unscaled heights in the annals of the English Table Tennis Association, and the Hawker Siddeley 748 aircraft which was placed at the disposal of the tourists, together with the considerable financial assistance afforded by Mothercare, provided but two examples of the substantial backing given.

Met by Dr. Roger Bannister, Chairman of the Sports Council, at Hawker Siddeley's Hatfield establishment on arrival; further welcomed by Mr. Eldon Griffiths, Minister with responsibility for sport; and, finally, invited to No. 10 Downing Street, to take tea with the Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Heath, were but three further examples of the hospitality afforded our Chinese friends at the topmost level.

Without doubt, the hospitality afforded ETTA Chairman, Charles M. Wyles, and the English party who made the historic crossing into China from Hong Kong last April, was matched, step by step, by the British people.

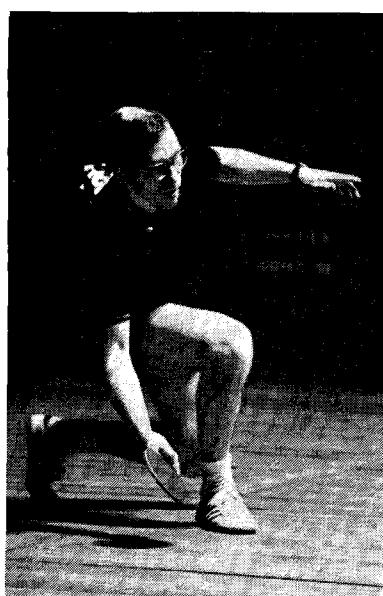
And it must go on record, notwithstanding the not inconsiderable part played by Roy Evans, President of the International Table Tennis Federation, in putting his foot in the Far Eastern door, it was the ETTA's Chairman, Charles Wyles, who really succeeded in opening the door wide enough to establish an East-West relationship which should stand the United Kingdom in every conceivable sphere.

GEORGE R. YATES

reports on . . .

The International Front

'Ebby' still the King



"Ebby" Schöler, Federal Germany's ace defender.

Federal Germany's ace defender, Eberhard Schöler, proved that he is, by no means, a spent force when, in a European League, Premier Division match at Falkoping, on Dec. 16, he opened the visitors' account by beating Sweden's world champion, Stellan Bengtsson 21, 17, 18 and then, with the match score poised at 3-all, wore down the Scandinavian Open winner, Kjell Johansson, with wins of 13 and 10 to secure a German success.

Match details were:

S. Bengtsson lost to E. Schöler 21, -17, -18;
K. Johansson bt B. Jansen 10, 10;
Lena Andersson lost to Diane Schöler -12, -18;
Bengtsson/Johansson bt Jansen/W. Lieck 8, 14;
Johansson/Marita Neidert lost to Schöler/Schöler -21, 19, -19;
Bengtsson bt Jansen 10, 12;
Johansson lost to Schöler -13, -10.

Prior to, in Kalmar on Nov. 24, Sweden had inflicted a 4-3 reverse on England whose Denis Neale also had cause to rejoice when accounting for Bengtsson 9 and 19. England's No. 2 also partnered Trevor Taylor to a men's doubles success over Bengtsson and Bo Persson and, in the mixed with Karenza Mathews, got the better of the world champion a third time when paired with Lena Andersson.

This, however, was the sum total of England's successes for, after leading 3-2, the next two vital sets went to Sweden with Kjell Johansson beating Neale and Bengtsson untroubled in the final set against Taylor.

Scores:

K. Johansson bt T. Taylor 17, 13;

S. Bengtsson lost to Neale -9, -19; Birgitta Radberg bt Karenza Mathews 13, 15;

Bengtsson/B. Persson lost to Neale/Taylor -17, -16;

Bengtsson/Lena Anderson lost to Neale/Mrs. Mathews -18, 20, -18; Johansson bt Neale 12, -20, 10; Bengtsson bt Taylor 11, 13.

Now having lost, by 4-3, to both Federal Germany and Sweden, together with the prospects of playing fellow strugglers France in Troyes on Feb. 22, foreshadow a difficult bid for survival by England in the company of Europe's elite. With only one country to be demoted, it goes without saying that a win over the Soviet Union (in Bolton on Jan. 14) would ease the pressure considerably.

Scores in respect of Czechoslovakia's 4-3 win over Sweden were:

S. Kollarovits lost to B. Persson -16, -17;

J. Turai lost to S. Bengtsson -12, -16;

I. Vostova bt B. Radberg -16, 14, 19;

M. Orlowski/Turai bt Bengtsson/Persson 16, 19;

Orlowski/Vostova bt Bengtsson/L.

Andersson 12, 19;

Kollarovits lost to Bengtsson -12, -13;

Turai bt Persson 16, 10.

Present positions:

Premier Division

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Hungary	3	3	0	16	5	3
Fed. Germany	3	2	1	9	12	2
Czechoslovakia	1	1	0	4	3	1
Soviet Union	2	1	1	7	7	1
Sweden	3	1	2	10	11	1
England	2	0	2	6	8	0
France	2	0	2	4	10	0

Fixtures for the second half of the season are:

Jan. 14—England v. Soviet Union (Bolton).

“ 23—Fed. Germany v. Czechoslovakia (Remscheid).

“ 27—Czechoslovakia v. Hungary

Undated—Soviet Union v. Sweden.

Feb. 2—Czechoslovakia v. France (Prague).

“ 15—Sweden v. France (Halmstad).

“ 22—France v. England (Troyes).

“ 29—Fed. Germany v. Soviet Union (Frankfurt).

Mar. 9—England v. Czechoslovakia (Cheltenham).

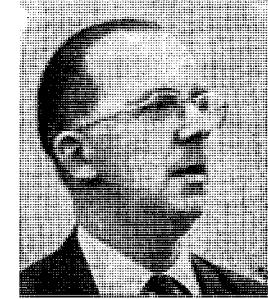
“ 15—Hungary v. Sweden (Budapest).

Apr. 10—France v. Fed. Germany (Croix).

“ 24—England v. Hungary (Southend).

Undated—Soviet Union v. Czechoslovakia.

In Division 2 of the European League, Netherlands figure in the role of pacemakers their latest win being by 6-1 over Scotland in Dundee in December. The result, according to Scotland's International Secretary, Mrs. Helen Hamilton, was a fair one, the Scots being outplayed by a Dutch



team with superior skills and determination.

Malcolm Sugden saved the "white-wash" with a straight-games success over Bert Schoofs and Elaine Smith put up a bonny fight before losing, in the deciding game, to Veronique van der Laan. Individual scores:— M. Sugden lost to B. v. d. Helm -19, -13; R. Yule lost B. Schoofs -13, -9; Elaine Smith lost to V. v. d. Laan -15, 19, -17; Sugden/Yule lost to v. d. Helm/Schoofs -14, 13, -9; Sugden/Elaine Smith lost to v. d. Helm/V. v. d. Laan -17, 19, -19; Sugden bt Schoofs 10, 17; Yule lost to v. d. Helm -14, -17. Other results in this Division are:— Switzerland 2, Denmark 5 Netherlands 4, Greece 3 Denmark 5, Ireland 2 Austria 6, Switzerland 1

Current league positions:

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Netherlands	3	3	0	16	5	3
Denmark	2	2	0	10	4	2
Scotland	3	2	1	11	10	2
Austria	1	1	0	6	1	1
Switzerland	3	1	2	9	12	1
Greece	2	0	2	6	8	0
Belgium	1	0	1	1	6	0
Ireland	3	0	3	4	17	0

Fixtures for the second half of the season are:—

Jan. 8—Belgium v. Scotland

“ 15—Netherlands v. Switzerland (Enschede).

Greece v. Denmark (Athens).

Feb. 3—Ireland v. Austria (Limerick).

“ 7—Scotland v. Austria (Edinburgh).

“ 12—Denmark v. Scotland (Odense).

Austria v. Greece (Vienna).

“ 18—Switzerland v. Ireland (Geneva).

“ 19—Netherlands v. Belgium (Amsterdam).

Mar. 23—Austria v. Netherlands (Vienna).

“ 25—Switzerland v. Scotland (Romont).



Kjell Johansson (Sweden) winner of the Scandinavian Open.

Undated—Ireland v Greece
 Apr. 13—Belgium v Austria
 Netherlands v Denmark (Velp).
 „ 24—Denmark v Austria (Copenhagen).
 „ 29—Greece v Switzerland (Athens).
 Ireland v Belgium
 May 1—Belgium v Denmark

RANKINGS

Latest ranking lists released by Scotland and Sweden are:—

Scotland Men

(1) Malcolm Sugden, (2) Richard Yule, (3) Eric Sutherland, (4) Patrick Forker, (5) Brian Kean, (6) Robert Kerr, (7) Ram Bhalla and (8) John Wilson.

Women

(1) Elaine Smith, (2) Helen Hamilton, (3) Lesley Montague and (4) Charlotte McBeath.

Boys

(1) J. McNee, (2) A. McCulloch, (3) N. Smith, (4) A. Taylor and (5) M. Thomson.

Girls

(1) Elaine Smith and (2) Patrice Fleming.

Sweden

Men

(1) Stellan Bengtsson, (2) Kjell Johansson, (3) Hans Alser, (4) Bo Persson, (5) Carl-Johan Bernhardt, (6) Rolf Andersson, (7) Bengt Levin, (8) Bjorn Neidert, (9) Mikael Svensson and (10) Anders Johansson.

Women

(1) Birgitta Radberg, (2) Lena Andersson, (3) Marita Neidert, (4) Ann-Christine Hellman, (5) Ulla-Marta Gustavsson, (6) Eva Johansson, (7) Birgitta Olsson, (8) Lena Guntzsch, (9) Birgitta Tegner-Larsson and (10) Ann-Christin Johansson.

Boys

(1) Kjell Hellstrom, (2) Bjorn Danielsson, (3) Bo Isacsson, (4) Ulf Thorsell, (5) Tomas Karlsson and (6) Tomas Pettersson.

Girls

(1) Ann-Christine Hellman, (2) Ann Christin Johansson, (3) Eva-Maj Persson, (4) Gunilla Lindstrom, (5) Helen Jonsson and (6) Ingrid Mattsson.

INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT RESULTS

Scandinavian Open (Gothenburg)

Men's Team:

1. Sweden, 2. China, 3/4. Yugoslavia/Hungary.

Women's Team:

1. China, 2. Hungary, 3/4. Federal Germany/Sweden.

Men's Singles: Semi-finals:

Tiao Wen-yuan (China) bt D. Neale (England) -17, 13, 13, 14; K. Johansson (Sweden) bt E. Schöler (Fed. Germany) -17, -12, 20, 18, 17.

Final:

Johansson bt Tiao Wen-yuan -14, -12, 17, 19, 21.

Women's Singles: semi-finals:

Cheng Huai-ying (China) bt A. Simon (Fed. Germany) 16, 13, 14; B. Radberg (Sweden) bt J. Magos (Hungary) -18, -16, 11, 16, 17.

Final:

Radberg bt Cheng Huai-ying 9, 17, 19.

Men's Doubles: Final:

S. Bengtsson/B. Persson (Sweden) bt A. Stipancic/D. Surbek (Yugoslavia) -21, 18, -19, 12, 16.

Women's Doubles: Final:

Cheng Huai-ying/Li Li (China) bt L. Andersson/Radberg (Sweden) 17, 10, -13, 20.

Mixed Doubles: Final:

Yu Chang-chun (China)/Cheng Huai-ying bt J. Turai/I. Vostova (Czechoslovakia) 18, 16, 12.

Youth's Singles: semi-finals:

P. Taylor (England) bt K. Hellstrom (Sweden) -19, 18, 11; B. Isaksson (Sweden) bt P. Guttormsen (Norway) 12, 20.

Final:

Taylor bt Isaksson -18, 18, 17.

Yugoslavian Open (Novi-Sad)

Men's Team:

1. Sweden, 2. Hungary, 3/4. Yugoslavia/France.

Women's Team:

1. U.S.S.R., 2. China, 3/4. Czechoslovakia/Rumania.

Men's Singles: Final:

Bengtsson bt J. Secretin (France) 9, 16, -22, 19.

Women's Singles: Final:

M. Alexandru (Rumania) bt B. Kishazi (Hungary) -9, 23, -16, 11, 14.

Men's Doubles: Final:

Bengtsson/Persson bt T. Klampar/P. Rozsas (Hungary) 24, 19, 20.

Women's Doubles: Final:

S. Federova/A. Gedraitite (U.S.S.R.) bt Alexandru/C. Crisan (Rumania) 18, -17, -15, 20, 20.

Mixed Doubles: Final:

Stipancic/Alexandru bt Surbek/M. Resler (Yugoslavia) 3-1.

Hungarian Open (Miskolc)

Men's Singles: Final:

Klampar bt I. Jonyer (Hungary) -16, -6, 18, 14, 19.

Women's Singles: Final:

Simon bt Z. Rudnova (U.S.S.R.) 10, 19, -17, 14.

Men's Doubles: Final:

D. Dhondt (France)/Secretin bt J. Leiss/W. Leick (Fed. Germany) 14, 17, 14.

Women's Doubles: Final:

E. Jurikna (Hungary)/Kishazi bt H. Lotaller (Hungary)/Magos 19, -16, 12, 17.

Mixed Doubles: Final:

S. Gomozkov (U.S.S.R.)/Rudnova bt Bengtsson/Andersson 19, -16, 12, 17.

French Open (Paris)

Men's Singles: Final:

Bengtsson bt Secretin 13, 14, 7.

Women's Singles: Final:

Zhou Pao-kin (China) bt Tchang Li (China) -12, 19, 19, -14, 12.

Men's Doubles: Final:

Gomozkov/A. Strokatov (U.S.S.R.) bt Bengtsson/Persson 14, -17, 13, 14.

Women's Doubles: Final:

M. Hejma/W. Hendriksen (Fed. Germany) bt Tchang Li/Zhou Pao-kin -14, -19, 17, 16, 12.

Mixed Doubles: Final:

K. Schmittinger (Fed. Germany)/Hejma bt Persson/Radberg 12, 6, 16.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS

Mrs. Joan Robinson, Hon. Secretary of the Lincolnshire T.T.A., is now resident at Lincot, 2 Highfield Road, Donington, Spalding, Lincs. Joan is the tournament organiser in respect of the East of England Open being played at Scunthorpe on Mar. 18/72.

COVER PICTURE

Princess Anne listens attentively to China's Tour Leader, Mr. Chi Yu-hua, with interpreter Lou Ta-peng absorbing the words ready for his translation. A smiling E.T.T.A. Chairman, Charles M. Wyles, looks to be taking it all in whilst looking on (far right) is E.T.T.A. Secretary Derek R. Tremayne in studious mood.

ASCOT SPORTS OFFER

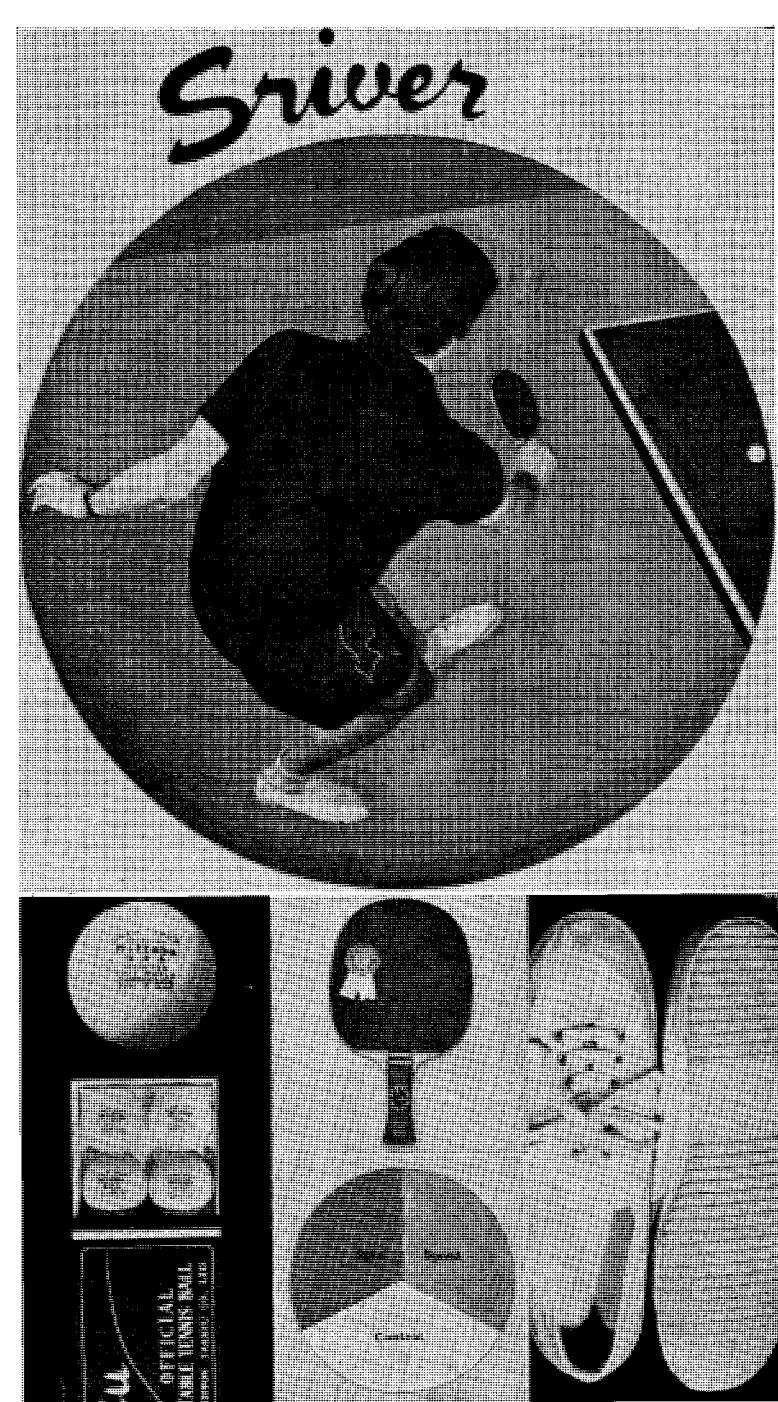
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BALEARIC GATHERING

Friday, Dec. 3, saw 65 members, friends and guests of the E.T.T.A.'s '100 Club' board B.E.A. Airtours Comet 4B Jet Flight, Tango 670, bound for a long weekend on the Mediterranean isle of Majorca.

Having exited through Gate 13, been delayed for a minor fault in the aircraft and landed on a glistening Majorcan runway in pouring rain, the party were justified in feeling a little apprehensive about the whole trip but once having settled in the hotel all seemed set fair for an enjoyable weekend.

By early contact with the tour operator, it had been possible to arrange a number of special excursions and the first of these came on Saturday morning with a coach trip to Palma, including a sight-seeing round of the Cathedral and visiting a model Spanish village. As was to happen throughout the weekend, the comedians in the party kept the tone of this excursion in a light-hearted vein, much to the consternation of our Spanish guide who was seriously trying to fulfil her part of the contract. The morning ended with a visit to the Flea Market in Palma and the nearby banks did a roaring trade in selling us pesetas.

Saturday afternoon was spent in siesta and preparing for the '100 Club' Dinner in the evening. Our guest speaker was a reporter from the Majorca Daily Bulletin, Mr. Harold Greenberg, who gave an interesting discourse on the history of tourism on the island.

Tom Blunn and Arthur Upton were also in sparkling form, aided no doubt by the fact that every table of four persons was provided with a bottle of red wine, a bottle of white wine and a bottle of champagne on top of the cocktails before dinner! The lucky winners in the first '100 Club' draw on foreign soil were Mr. K. Woodward—£100, Mr. R. E. Ransome—£50 and Mr. G. Campbell—£10, none of them, unfortunately, present. The

by ALBERT W. SHIPLEY

evening ended with a joke-telling session which went on into the early hours with Gordon Steggall the star performer.

On Sunday morning, a mixed doubles tournament was held with 16 entries all given handicaps suitable to their ability. This hilarious event was won by Gordon Steggall and Jean Crayden, who had to beat such eminent players as Mary Wright using a saucer as a bat, Ron Crayden playing with a balloon between his knees, and others using miniature bats whilst wearing sunglasses.

The hotel staff seemed somewhat puzzled by it all as they had been led to believe that they would see a talented display of championship table tennis. Sunday evening was spent indulging in a barbecue at "Son Amar" followed by a night club where, once again, the free flowing wine released song and humour on all sides.

On Monday, a few people went on a coach tour of the island, whilst the remainder caught up on their sleep and shopping before preparing for the evening flight home.

The weekend provided enough incidents to fill many pages of this magazine, but all were agreed that the trip was a roaring success and one which will, undoubtedly, be repeated. Our luck on the outward journey certainly changed for the return for we landed at Gatwick clear of fog, to discover that on the previous evening nothing had been able to land. (It transpired that on the Tuesday evening Gatwick was again closed).

The last memory of the weekend was the sight of Fred Inch explaining to a Customs Officer why he had an excess amount of brandy in his suitcase after having chosen to exit through the green channel. We cannot all have honest faces!



Pictured in the lounge of the Hotel Riutort at Arenal (not for the table tennis tournament) are (l. to r.): Mrs. Edna Blunn, Mrs. Lil Upton, Mrs. Doreen Yates, Mrs. Albert Shipley, Mrs. Ivy Evans and Mrs. Gladys Goldstein.

LANCASHIRE AND CHESHIRE AFFAIRS

by George R. Yates

Manchester's hopes of recapturing the First Division title of the Lancashire and Cheshire League took a tumble when beaten 6-4 by Liverpool, a result that enhanced the prospects of retention by Bolton who had a similar result in their favour against the Liverpudlians.

In the inter-city match, Tony Clayton obtained a treble at the expense of Tony Boasman, Kevin Forshaw and Philip Bowen, the latter losing also to Wally Allanson and Peter D'Arcy. A doubles win for Clayton/D'Arcy over Boasman/Forshaw secured both points.

Represented by the same team against Bolton, Clayton beat Mike Johns (19, -19, 21) and Colin Lang, but lost to Bolton's treble winner Derek Schofield. Johns accounted for Allanson and D'Arcy and, with Schofield took the doubles.

Leading positions:

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolton	4	3	1	0	24	16	7
Liverpool	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Preston	2	1	1	0	13	7	3
Manchester	3	1	1	1	17	13	3
Blackpool	3	1	1	1	16	14	3

In Div. 2 (North), Farnworth look set for elevation following their 6-4 home success against Manchester "A" whose Nigel Eckersley failed to show up and three sets having to be conceded. Bowen recorded a treble for the losers to which Derek Cartwright could add one set at the expense of Bryn Farnworth. Positions:

Farnworth	4	4	0	0	27	13	8
Blackburn "A"	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Burnley	3	2	0	1	16	14	4

No team can boast a clean sheet in Div. 2 (South) with Chester and Preston "B" vying for top position as seen by the following leading positions:

Chester	4	3	1	0	29	11	7
Preston "B"	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Stockport "A"	4	1	3	0	22	18	5

In the Ladies' Div. 1 three teams can boast 100% records viz:

Stockport	3	3	0	0	30	0	6
Manchester	2	2	0	0	17	3	4
Blackpool	2	2	0	0	13	7	4

On the Junior front, Lancaster and Morecambe are the surprise leaders in the North division with but one point dropped in three matches, and that to Blackpool. A weakened Bolton team were beaten 7-3 and deservedly so by D. Lambert, B. Towell and R. Wilson. Positions at the top:

Lancaster & M	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Bolton	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Preston	3	1	2	0	19	11	4
Barrow	3	1	1	1	13	17	3

Stockport are the pace makers in the South division and the only team with a clean record. Leaders:

Stockport	4	4	0	0	37	3	8
Wirral	5	4	0	1	35	15	8
Manchester	5	3	1	1	36	14	7
Stockport "A"	4	3	0	1	24	16	6

In an under-sized Youth Division, comprising only five teams this season, Liverpool are having much the better of the exchanges thus far.

Liverpool	4	3	1	0	32	8	7
Liverpool "A"	3	1	2	0	19	11	4
Bury	4	1	2	1	22	18	4
Crewe	2	0	1	1	6	14	1
Nelson	2	0	0	2	0	20	0

Results of the Preliminary round of the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy handicapped competition:—
Manchester 4, Horwich 5
Lancaster & Morecambe 7, Wirral 2
Warrington 2, Burnley 7
Chester 4, Manchester Banks 5

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

THE NORFOLK CLOSED, after two seasons at King's Lynn, returned this season to Norwich. The venue was the fine modern Sports Hall of the University of East Anglia. The main hall, some 120 ft. x 60 ft. and 40 ft. high, with cement block masoned walls and a ceiling of illuminated frosted glass, easily took eight Nissen metalled undercarriage tables in line, and the green composition non-slip floor marked out for various games and a gallery at first floor level along the length of the hall completed the picture.

John Fuller of Yarmouth, who last season, on the eve of his 15th birthday, became Norfolk's youngest ever Closed Champion, went out in the first round to Ron Butler of Norwich Y.M.C.A., who went on to beat Steve Barrett, Philip Graver, Chris Bensley, before falling in the Semi-finals to Phillip Tye, Yarmouth's Cambridge University player. Tye, greatly improved, just lost an excellent final to David Blanch of Norwich Lads' Club.

Les Holdom won the veterans for the third year, and Edna Fletcher and Joan Rodwell also retained their doubles title. In her marathon with Betty Cassell, Edna Fletcher turned the tables, and was also awarded the Victor Ludorum.

RESULTS:

MS: D. Blanch (N) bt P. Tye (Y) -16, 20, 18.

WS: Mrs. E. Fletcher (Y) bt Mrs. B. Cassell (KL) -22, 19, 14.

VS: L. Holdom (N) bt V. Bennett (N) -14, 18, 5.

MD: D. Blanch/R. Mitcham (N) bt D. Skedge/S. Francis (N) 17, -14, 15.

WD: Mrs. E. Fletcher/Mrs. J. Rodwell (Y) bt Miss L. Kowalski/Mrs. J. Moore (W) -19, 13, 12.

XD: R. Mitcham/Mrs. B. Cassell bt J. Fuller/Mrs. E. Fletcher (Y) 11, 12.

WYMONDHAM LEAGUE also held their Championships at U.E.A., but in the Practice Room (4 tables) adjoining the Hall.

RESULTS:

MS: Les Rayment (Thetford R.B.L.) bt Steve Bassett (East Harling) 17, -9, 19, 14.

WS: Mrs. Janet Moore (O. Buckenham) bt Mrs. Sandra Meadows 9, 8.

JS: Peter Maybury (Gt. Moulton) overall winner.

Divisional Singles:

2. David Appleby bt Roy Shipley 18, 10.

3. Steven Rowles bt Chris Moore -29, 16, 8.

4. Colin Cooper bt Andrew Gaze -16, 13, 19.

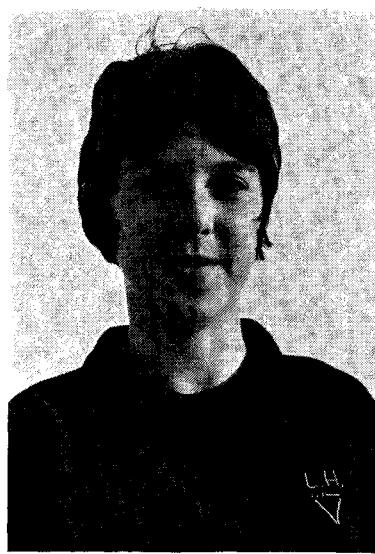
Norfolk Juniors found Cambridgeshire too strong and lost 2-8.

For Norfolk, Andrew Beard beat Chris Fuller, and Peter Burton and Peter Maybury won their doubles.

OPEN TOURNAMENT SURVEY

contributed by RON ANSON and LAURIE LANDRY and collated by the Editor

TOP SCALPS FOR LINDA



Linda Howard (Surrey) winner of the women's and girls' singles titles at Southend.

Outstanding performance at the SOUTHERND 2-STAR OPEN, played over the weekend of Nov. 20-21, was that of Linda Howard in winning the Women's and Girl's singles titles as a follow-up to her deeds in the Humberside 3-Star at Hull.

England's No. 1 Junior girl showed her ability to loop and hit in the conventional way as well as restraining her 'winner' until a real chance came and then she struck with devastating effect. Her wins over Jill Hammersley and Judy Williams were entirely on merit.

Trevor Taylor was at last how we know him. He was far too steady for Chester Barnes, in the final of the Men's singles, the England No. 1 really gave up in the third game decider. Earlier, Roger Chandler had shown us some improved form with his win over Tony Clayton.

Stuart Gibbs had a good run for his money on this occasion beating Derek Johnson (17, -17, 17) and, in the quarters, Eric Coster who had previously beaten Paul Beck and Laurie Landry. Malcolm Sugden and "Connie" Warren were two notable scratchings.

Essex veteran, Ken Beamin — he lost to Bobby Stevens in the men's singles — had a rare success in the mixed when, partnered by Shelagh Hession, the pair disposed of Trevor Taylor and Jill Hammersley in the semis, before accounting for Clayton and Di Simpson in the final.

On the following Saturday at Speke, Liverpool in the MERSEYSIDE 2-STAR OPEN, Nicky Jarvis came into his own by winning the men's singles title without the loss of a game, his fitness and speed being the deciding factors.

Demoted from 3-Star status, this tournament overcame all the faults which, 12 months earlier, had incurred the displeasure of the Open Tourn-

ments Committee, and really ran well to a most successful and early conclusion.

Fifth-ranked England No. 5 junior boy, Donald Parker, had a rare old day of it to the consternation of the Welsh contingent whose Fraser Anderson and Alan Griffiths fell to the Prestonian in the men's singles as did Michael Owen in the final of the junior boys' event.

Another Welsh defeat by a Red Rose competitor was accomplished by Susan Lisle who, in the final of the women's singles, had an easy victory over Merthyr Tydfil's Linda Jones, the Welsh lass having lost to Yorkshire's Judith Walker in an early round of the girls' singles won by Susanne Manning.

Winners of the men's doubles event were Tony Clayton and Laurie Landry whose final victims were the two men's singles finalists Jarvis and Jimmy Walker! There was no mixed event which had caused so much trouble in the previous tournament at Speke.

Nicky Jarvis also provided the highlights at the 43rd HALEX MIDLAND COUNTIES 3-STAR OPEN, played at the Harry Mitchell Recreation Centre, Warley on Saturday, Dec. 11.

After an exciting duel with a slightly below par Denis Neale, in the semis, Jarvis cruised through the final over his fellow Tyke Tony Clayton to complete another great run without the loss of a single game. His victims up to the quarters were Brian Mitchell (14, 18), Ian Johns (12, 14) and Derek Munt (17, 8).

Judith Heaps made a welcome return to the victory rostrum but not without difficulty having been at pains to ward off Linda Howard who had earlier continued her giant-killing ways with wins over Di Simpson and Judy Williams. Miss Heaps was surprisingly consistent after her long lay-off and took Karenza Mathews in straight games after an exciting 3-game battle with Nilasari, Indonesia's No. 1.

Tony Clayton and Laurie Landry reached their sixth men's doubles final of the season and their third win, this time at the expense of Neale and Paul Beck. There is no denying, they do combine well.

Pleasing for Birmingham was the form of Stephen Taylor and Jeff Nix in reaching the men's doubles semis disposing of no less a pairing than singles hero Jarvis and his highly rated tutor Alan Ransome.

Birmingham officials admitted to having erred on the side of caution with a restricted entry further emphasised by late scratchings, notably Brian Burns and Jill Hammersley. However, a successful tournament in every way and many thanks to the small army of willing volunteers who helped make it so.

There were many surprises at the MIDDLESEX 2-STAR OPEN, played at Swiss Cottage over the weekend of Dec. 18/19, the main ones being the elimination of "Les" Haslam and

Malcolm Sugden by David Bowles and Henry Buist respectively. Buist went on to contest the semi-final stage of the men's singles.

Following the exhausting Chinese tour matches, both Nicky Jarvis and Tony Clayton had no life in them at all and were outhit by David Brown and "Connie" Warren respectively.

In the women's singles, Karenza Mathews was eliminated by Shelagh Hession, after the Middlesex international had avenged her defeat of the previous week by Judy Heaps.

Otherwise Chester Barnes, with Trevor Taylor, were well beaten by Haslam and Mike Johns in the men's doubles (19, 17) and Barnes with Mrs. Mathews went down to Laurie Landry and Susan Lisle (17, 21).

Barnes and Taylor, however, had no difficulty in reaching the men's singles final with Chester easily reversing the decision which went in Taylor's favour at Southend. It was the first men's singles success recorded by Barnes this season following three final defeats in the Sussex, Woolwich and Southend Opens.

Final:
JARVIS bt Walker 13, 18.
Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:
S. M. Lisle (Lancs.) bt S. Hamilton (Middx.) 14, -10;
S. Manning (Lancs.) bt A. Stevenson (Leics.) 17, 19;
J. Walker (Yorks.) bt J. Green (Ches.) 10, 16;
L. Jones (Wales) bt L. Sutton (Yorks.) 20, 16.
Semi-finals:

LISLE bt Manning 14, 16; JONES bt Walker 18, 16.
Final:
LISLE bt Jones 13, 11.
Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
CLAYTON/L. F. LANDRY (Middx.) bt R. Brown (Warwks.)/A. Isaac (Staffs.) 17, 17.
JARVIS/WALKER bt Burn/Munt 15, 18.
Final:
CLAYTON/LANDRY bt Jarvis/Walker 20, 15.
Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
GREEN/LISLE bt Hamilton/A. Painter (Middx.) 19, 20;
S. BROADBENT (Yorks.)/WALKER bt Manning/B. Williams (Lancs.) 14, 19, 16.
Final:

CLAYTON/LANDRY bt Jarvis/Walker 20, 15.
Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:
GREEN/LISLE bt Hamilton/A. Painter (Middx.) 19, 20;
S. BROADBENT (Yorks.)/WALKER bt Manning/B. Williams (Lancs.) 14, 19, 16.
Final:

CLAYTON/LANDRY bt Jarvis/Walker 20, 15.
Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:
GREEN/LISLE bt Hamilton/A. Painter (Middx.) 19, 20;
S. BROADBENT (Yorks.)/WALKER bt Manning/B. Williams (Lancs.) 14, 19, 16.
Final:

CLAYTON/LANDRY bt Jarvis/Walker 20, 15.
Boys' Singles: Quarter-finals:
Parker bt A. Barden (Middx.) 15, 7;
J. McNee (Ches.) bt S. Rowe (Staffs.) 15, 21;
J. S. Nix (Warwks.) bt R. Jackson (Lancs.) 9, 18;
M. Owen (Wales) bt B. Johns (Ches.) 19, -19, 13.
Semi-finals:

PARKER bt McNee 12, 16; OWEN bt Nix 13, 12, 18.
Final:

PARKER bt Owen 15, 11.
Girls' Singles: Semi-finals:
WALKER bt Williams 16, 15; MANNING bt B. Kirkman (Lancs.) 12, 13.
Final:

MANNING bt Walker 19, 18.
Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:
L. J. BROWNING (Yorks.) bt E. Mandaluff (Lancs.) 14, 18, 13;
R. JONES (Lancs.) bt A. Summerfield (Ches.) 14, 15.
Final:

BROWNING bt Jones 21, 25, 17.



Nicky Jarvis (Yorkshire) winner of the Merseyside 2-Star and Halex Midland Counties 3-Star Open men's singles titles.

Merseyside

2-Star

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

J. Walker (Yorks.) bt L. A. Clayton (Yorks.) 19, -15, 21;

M. Johns (Ches.) bt G. Davies (Wales) 13, 16, 17;

N. Jarvis (Yorks.) bt D. R. Munt (Warwks.) 12, 16;

B. Burn (Warwks.) bt D. Parker (Lancs.) 15, -13, 12.

Semi-finals:

WALKER bt Johns 16, 18; JARVIS bt Burn 17, 14.

Halex Midland

Counties 3-Star

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

D. Neale (Yorks.) bt R. Chandler (Sussex) 19, 14;

N. Jarvis (Yorks.) bt M. Johns (Ches.) 13, 17;

B. Meisel (Kent) bt C. Morris (Kent) 18, -13, 15;

A. Clayton (Yorks.) bt P. Beck (Surrey) 10, 8.

Open Tournament Survey (cont.)

Halex Midland Counties

Semi-finals:

JARVIS bt Neale 21, 19; CLAYTON bt Meisel 20, 10.

Final:

JARVIS bt Clayton 17, 15.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:

K. Mathews (Middx.) bt L. Bashford (Yorks.) 16, 17;

J. Heaps (Ches.) bt Nilasari (Indonesia) 19, -18, 14;

L. Howard (Surrey) bt D. Simpson (Essex) 18, 15;

J. Williams (Sussex) bt J. Siswood (Indonesia) 13, 10.

Semi-finals:

HEAPS bt Mathews 18, 16; HOWARD bt Williams 12, 18.

Final:

HEAPS bt Howard 18, -19, 18.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

CLAYTON/L. LANDRY (Middx.) bt J. Nix/S. Taylor (Warwks.) 14, 8;

BECK/NEALE bt R. Cooper (Warwks.)/A. Fletcher (Yorks.) 18, 12.

Final:

CLAYTON/LANDRY bt Beck/Neale 18, 8, 17.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

MATHEWS/SIMPSON bt L. Howard/S. Howard (Surrey) 17, 12;

D. JOHNSON (Lancs.)/WILLIAMS bt Heaps/S. Lisle (Lancs.) 23, -18, 11.

Final:

MATHEWS/SIMPSON bt Johnson/Williams 16, -17, 15.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

JARVIS/MATHEWS bt E. Coster (Middx.)/Simpson 14, 16;

NEALE/S. HOWARD bt Clayton/L. Sutton (Yorks.) 13, 14.

Final:

JARVIS/MATHEWS bt Neale/Howard 13, 16.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:

D. SCHOFIELD (Ches.) bt L. Browning (Yorks.) 12, 10;

T. DONLON (Ches.) bt G. Tsow (Northants) 18, 12.

Final:

SCHOFIELD bt Donlon 16, 14.

Middlesex 2-Star

Men's Singles: Quarter-finals:

C. Barnes (Essex) bt D. Brown (Essex) 17, 13;

C. Warren (Surrey) bt A. Clayton (Yorks.) -6, 18, 10;

H. Buist (Kent) bt D. Bowles (Essex) 16, 15;

T. Taylor (Essex) bt M. Johns (Ches.) 9, 13.

Semi-finals:

BARNES bt Warren 11, 19; TAYLOR bt Buist 17, 15.

Final:

BARNES bt Taylor 13, 15.

Women's Singles: Quarter-finals:

K. Mathews (Middx.) bt J. Heaps (Ches.) 8, 11;

S. Hession (Essex) bt D. Simpson (Essex) 15, 18;

L. Howard (Surrey) bt L. Radford (Essex) 14, 23;

S. Howard (Surrey) bt J. Williams (Sussex) 19, 12.

Semi-finals:

HESSION bt Mathews 14, 15; L. HOWARD bt S. Howard 19, -11, 21.

Final:

HESSION bt L. Howard 9, -10, 13.

Men's Doubles: Semi-finals:

CLAYTON/L. LANDRY (Middx.) bt K. Beamish (Essex)/S. Ogundipe (Sussex) 16,

17; O. HASLAM (Middx.)/OHINS bt Barnes/T. Taylor 19, 16.

Final:

CLAYTON/LANDRY bt Haslam/Johns 21, 18.

Women's Doubles: Semi-finals:

HESSION/WILLIAMS bt Mathews/K. Perry (Warwks.) -20, 15, 16;

HOWARD/HOWARD bt Radford/Simpson -19, 15, 19.

Final:

HESSION/WILLIAMS bt Howard/Hosford 16, 17.

Mixed Doubles: Semi-finals:

P. RADFORD (Essex)/RADFORD bt Landry/S. Lisle (Lancs.) 19, -20, 12;

HASLAM/S. HOWARD bt Beamish/Hession 9, -16, 12.

Final:

HASLAM/S. HOWARD bt Radford/Radford -20, 19, 15.

Veteran Singles: Semi-finals:

J. BAXTER (Herts.) bt D. Schofield (Ches.) -17, 11, 5;

BEAMISH bt T. Donlon (Ches.) 8, 10.

Final:

BAXTER bt Beamish 12, 16.

BERKSHIRE NOTES

by ROBIN LOCKWOOD

The Royal County of Berkshire has started this season's senior campaign with convincing wins of 10-0 over Oxfordshire and 6-4 over Hertfordshire II. Having spent far too long in the 'doldrums' of the Southern division, the time appears to be ripe for a 'great leap forward' into Division 2 South. Recently strengthened by the acquisition of Arthur Chilvers (late of Northumberland) and with three young representatives in the side—Gary Harding (17), Joyce Taylor (18) and Caroline Reeves (14)—the County looks set for it's best season in years, with (one hopes) even better things to come!

On the junior front the first match of the season resulted in a 2-8 loss to Sussex. Unfortunately we had been unable to field our strongest team, and we felt that a better result could be obtained in the second match against Hampshire. Our confidence was not misplaced as the team of Gary Harding, Chris Webb, Brian Sweetzer, Caroline Reeves and Karen Mashford won the match by the comfortable score of 8-2. This team can expect more victories before the end of the season.

Congratulations are due to Gary Harding and Caroline Reeves on being listed in Group 'A' of the Juniors. This is almost certainly the first time ever that the Royal County has been represented in both boys and girls listings at the same time!

The latest ranking lists approved by the Berkshire Committee are:

Men

(1) R. Thornton, (2) A. Chilvers, (3) G. Harding, (4) D. Campbell, (5) N. Byng, (6) L. Wise and (7) D. Jacobs.

Women

(1) J. Taylor, (2) C. Reeves, (3) K. Mashford, (4) C. Houghton, (5) A. Waters and (6) H. Masters.

Boys

(1) G. Harding, (2) C. Webb, (3) B. Sweetzer, (4) T. Faffinski, (5) C. Taylor, (6) A. Hicks and (7) D. Reeves.

Girls

(1) C. Reeves, (2) K. Mashford, (3) C. Whittingham, (4) R. Gilbert, (5) J. Stroud, (6) S. Masters and (7) M. Johnson.

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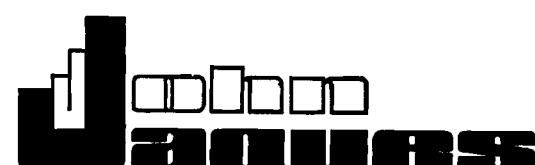
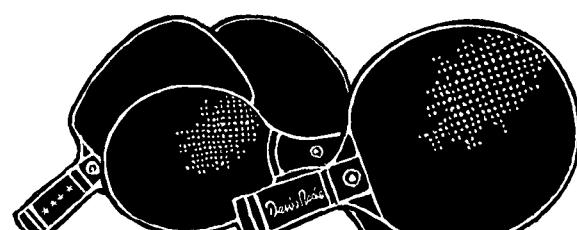
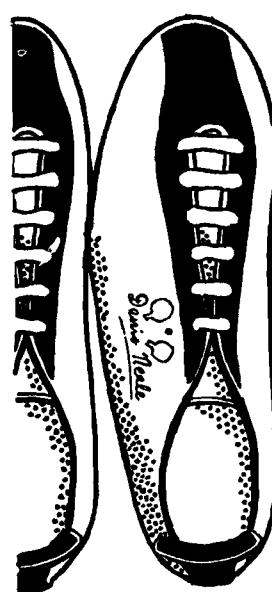
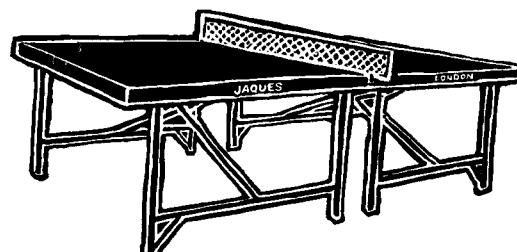
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The Coca-Cola National Team Trophy Competitions

by Keith Ponting

MANCHESTER FALL BUT ORMESBY MARCH ON

Represented by Nicky Jarvis, Alan Ransome and Jimmy Walker, Wilmott Cup holders, North Yorkshire, strode on to the Zone finals with an 8-1 win over Leeds. And, in step, the junior representative side had an equally convincing win over the same opposition in the Carter Cup.

Surprisingly, Manchester, at home to Bolton, went down 3-5 the visitors introducing yet another Cheshire man in Nigel Eckersley. It looks like being a real gathering of the clans when Bolton meet Stockport in the Zone final.

Scottish No. 2, Richard Yule, turned out for Willesden in the company of Laurie Landry and Eric Coster.

Stockport, in the Rose Bowl competition, have the assistance of Lancashire's top women, Diane Johnson and Susan Lisle teaming up with Doreen Schofield and this was the team that rocked the tower at Blackpool.

WILMOTT CUP

North Yorkshire 8, Leeds 1

Little trouble for the holders, with Nicky Jarvis and Alan Ransome being unbeaten. A good win for Alan Jones for Leeds over Jimmy Walker.

Stockton 2, Northumberland 5

This match seemed to be an even contest when the scores stood at 2-2, but then the Geordies pulled away to win the next three.

Boston 6, Doncaster 3

A good maximum from Brian Hill saw Boston through.

Stockport 5, Sheffield 1

Roger Hampson, Philip Mayman and Brian Kean in top form for the home team. David Rayner was the lone winner for Sheffield.

Leamington 0, Leicester 6

Two wins each from Randell, Hughes and Jacques crushed Leamington.

Wymondham 7, Lowestoft 2

Stan Honor was the star player in this match with a fine maximum. He

was well supported by Les Rayment and Stephen Basset who won two each. Mick Broughton played well for the visitors to record two wins.

Bedford 5, Welwyn Garden City 4

As the score suggests, a very close match. Brian Copperwheat, with a maximum and Roy Whiffin with two wins won the day for Bedford.

Oxford 2, North Herts 5

A good win for the young team from Hertfordshire over the experienced Oxford side. Peter Taylor was in fine form to record a maximum, whilst Mike Harper won two.

North Middlesex 4, Barking 5

The visitors were slow to start, and found themselves 1-3 down in no time. Hellaby's 2-straight win over Aldrich turned the tide and brought Barking back into the match. Robertson put Barking into a 4-3 lead and it was left to Robert Hellaby to beat veteran Lou Hoffman to clinch it for Barking. Full praise to Michael Waldman who was unbeaten for N.M.

London Banks 3, Wembley 6

The 'banks' won the first two sets but then Wembley came back to win the next three. The home team pulled back to 3-3, but then the visitors clinched it by winning the last three sets. M. Close was their hero with three great wins.

East Grinstead 1, Tunbridge Wells 8

A comfortable victory for the visitors. Malcolm Hickey and Raymond Bumstead won three each and Anthony Law two.

Southampton 6, Bournemouth 3

These old rivals had another close match, only a fine maximum by Keith Summerfield won the day for the 'saints'.

Slough 3, S.W. Middlesex 6

Paul Shirley and Steve White were in top form against a brave Slough team to win three sets each.

Basingstoke 6, Maidenhead 2

This match was all over when the home team took the first five sets, with Robert Thornton leading the way by winning all his sets. George Stewart played very well for the losers, winning two.

Plymouth 1, Bristol 8

Brothers Dave and Keith James, together with Bob Parkins, represented Plymouth against their visitors from Gloucs. Johnny Wise and Brian Reeves, however, were in top form for Bristol and won all their sets. Colin Feltham was beaten by Dave James to give Plymouth their only success.

Hinckley 3, Birmingham 5

A surprisingly close win for Birmingham but two wins each from Dick Cooper and Derek Munt, plus one from Ralph Gunnion, saw them through.

London Bus. Houses 0, Willesden 6

Last season's losing finalists, Willesden, started this campaign in fine style with two wins each from Eric Coster, Laurie Landry and Bob Yule.

Newbury 1, Portsmouth 8

Ray Lush and Cliff Jackson were unbeaten for the visitors but a word of praise for Junior Steven Marley who did well to win two in this higher company. Duncan Campbell was the lone winner for Newbury.

Exeter 9, Stroud 0

Surrey No. 7, Chris Strathearn, who is studying at Exeter University, made his debut for Exeter in this match and along with the two Mikes,

Rattue and Putland scored this easy win.

Preston 5, Huddersfield 4

A very close match between two well balanced teams. The outcome all depended on the last set between Tony Rigby, for Preston, and D. Hirst, for the visitors. Rigby, who had not won previously got home 18 in the third. Parker was the star for Preston with a fine maximum.

Manchester 3, Bolton 5

Once again, reliable Mike Johns was unbeaten and along with two from Nigel Eckersley overcame the threat from the Mancunians. An unusual 'duck' by Derek Schofield. Tony Boasman and Kevin Forshaw scored wins for Manchester.

ROSE BOWL

Stockport 8, Blackpool 1

Diane Johnson has transferred to Stockport this season and along with Susan Lisle and Doreen Schofield will be a hard team to beat if this result is anything to go by. They had little difficulty in overcoming Blackpool. Diane and Susan won three each and Doreen weighed in with two, being beaten by Mrs. D. Burnett.

Liverpool 5, Manchester 4

A very close match with the result depending on the last set. Two very even teams provided some first class table tennis with fortunes swaying one way and then the other. The visitors fought back to 4-4 after being 2-4 down. Susanne Manning was the hero for Liverpool when she beat Mrs. M. Dolby to win the tie. Full marks to Miss Mary Leigh who won three for the losers.

Wisbech 3, Grimsby 6

A fine maximum by Betty Cassell was to no avail as Miss P. Hale, Mrs. C. Moran and Mrs. C. Willmore all won two sets each for the visitors.

Spalding 6, Hull 3

Another fine maximum from Jean White gave Spalding this fine win against a very strong Hull team.

West Bromwich 5, Birmingham 2

The visitors from Birmingham started this 'derby' match in fine style by winning the first two sets. Their success was short lived, however, when West Bromwich won the next five. Dorothy Deeley was their inspiration being unbeaten.

Leicester 5, Derby 1

A well fought match played in a sporting spirit. Leicester were too steady for Derby but some good hitting by Miss Deakin to beat Anita Stevenson. Mother and daughter, Jose and Karen Rogers won two each for Leicester.

Stowmarket 5, Ely 4

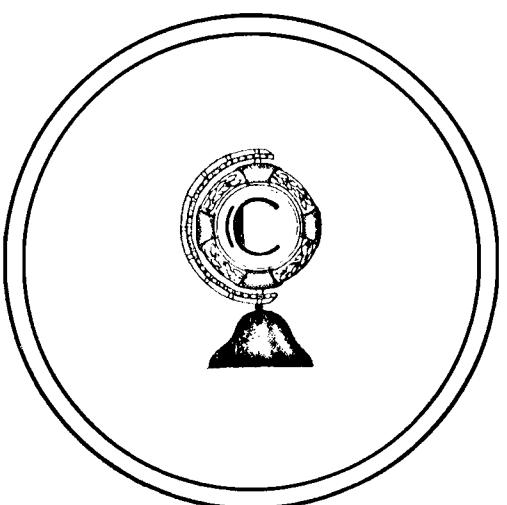
Maude List and her two daughters, Janet and Doreen who represent Stowmarket had a good win against a brave Ely team. Janet was the star player with three wins. I wonder when a family last represented a league in our competitions? Perhaps some reader will know and would be kind enough to let me know.

Barnet 0, North Herts 9

Mrs. G. Calver, Mrs. D. Baines and Mrs. S. Felstead were far too strong for Barnet.

Dunstable 1, High Wycombe 5

The home team who won 9-0 in the last round met their match against High Wycombe, for whom Maureen Allchurch and Inge Lewis won two each. Pat Willcocks won one being beaten by Dunstable's Audrey Robinson.



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London Civil Service 5, Acton 4

A real cliff-hanger this between two very well matched teams. Acton pulled back to 4-4 after being 2-4 down. Marie Know won the tie for the home team by beating Miss Lane 21-11 21-9 in the final set. Miss Sheila Hamilton, however, was the star player of the match and was unbeaten for Acton.

Gravesend 0, Maidstone 9

Another convincing win for Maidstone, with Kath LeMilliere, Joyce Reeves and Betty Bird all in top form.

Eastbourne 6, Bexhill 0

Linda Woodcock, Diane Gard and Angela Mock, with two wins each, were far too strong for the visitors.

Portsmouth 6, S.W. Sussex 0

With only two players, the visitors had no chance against this strong Portsmouth team. Sheila Foster, Daphne Gray and Thelma Clay were all unbeaten.

S.W. Middlesex 1, Guildford 8

Sisters Linda and Susan Howard along with Ruth Miles had things pretty well their own way.

Newbury 7, Maidenhead 2

Comfortable win for Newbury with Joyce Taylor playing very well. Mary Stafford won the two sets for the visitors.

Devizes 5, Bristol 4

Newcomers this season, Devizes started their campaign in fine style against a strong Bristol team. Alison Boyce, Marguerite Alexander and Helen Rusby all played well but Joan Collier won all her sets for Bristol.

Taunton 4, Exeter 5

Another close match and the young team from Taunton fought hard against the more experienced Exeter team. It needed a maximum from former England International Pam Mortimer to pull Exeter through.

CARTER CUP**North Yorkshire 6, Leeds 0**

Another convincing win for the holders, with Brian Alderson, Tony Martin and David Alderson in little trouble.

Stockton 9, Halifax 0

John Alsop, Peter Edon and Martyn Day were far too strong for Halifax, every set being decided in straight games.

Stowmarket 4, Wisbech 5

As the score suggests, a very close match. Randall Bell and John Lovelady won two each for the visitors and Dennis Wells won one. Stephen Potter played well to win two for Stowmarket.

Hunts Central 6, St. Neots 3

Tim Speller spearheaded the home team in this fairly close match by winning all his sets.

Southend 9, East London 0

Once again brothers Martin and Andrew Bawden were unbeaten for the home team, together with J. Wilson.

Romford 6, Colchester 3

Romford, being unable to field their strongest team, called upon reserve Jeff Black, who, not being ranked in the top Essex 15, turned out the surprise of the evening, being unbeaten.

Cheshunt 6, Willesden 3

The home team were without their No. 1, Martin Harris, away playing for Herts Juniors in Yorkshire. Mark Mitchell, however, was in fine form to win three and help his team to this close win.

Dagenham 1, Barking 8

Maximums from Peter Hunt and David Boulter plus two from Bruce Kettle were too much for the home team, Leslie Williams winning their only set.

Crawley 9, Brighton 0

Only two sets needed a decider as A. Terry, G. Pugh and A. Allars ran riot.

Southampton 5, S.W. Sussex 3

This was another very close match but Gary Longland, Steve Bessant and Jefferey Brixton just pulled through.

Bournemouth 7, Maidenhead 2

Steve Wilson was the hero for the home team with three fine wins.

Basingstoke 5, Aldershot 4

With two sets to go Basingstoke were trailing 3-4 but Michael Caudrey and Stephen Kinge won them to deny the Aldershot boys victory.

Exeter 2, Bristol 7

Somerset No. 1, Michael Williams, along with Chris Sewell and Alan Hussey were too strong for the inexperienced Exeter boys. Martin Ashcroft played well, however, to win his sides only two sets.

Sittingbourne 6, Canterbury 3

David Weller led the way for the home team by winning all his sets.

Bolton 3, Preston 5

Well played Donald Parker, whose maximum gave the visitors this close

win.

Westmorland 9, Carlisle 0

Brian Towell, Ronald Wilson and David Lambert were far too strong for the game Carlisle lads.

BROMFIELD TROPHY**Willesden 3, Thames Valley 6**

Despite a fine maximum from Cathy Deem, Willesden found the overall strength of Thames Valley a little too much for them.

North Herts 8, Leighton Buzzard 1

Janet Kingman won the first set for the visitors but then N.H. won in convincing style the remaining sets. Karan Morton and Sandra Harding were unbeaten and Diana Roseberry won two.

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SURREY NOTES

by Geoff Ryan

The 25th Anniversary dinner and dance at the Greyhound in Croydon proved something of a reunion when some of the games top names were in attendance.

Former world singles champion Johnny Leach proposed the toast. Charles Bourne, our President, traced the association's history from 1946 and singled out a few of the stalwarts including Percy Lawes who is in his last year as Chairman, Fred Joyce, Treasurer for twenty-four years and first team secretary for twenty-one and Ron Crayden who played in Surrey's first county match and is now county captain.

Ron made an amusing speech to welcome the guests most of whom were included in a verse that took some memorising. During the course of the evening ten players received silver salvers from Charles Bourne to mark the feat of having represented the county on over fifty occasions. The recipients were Gordon Chapman, Ron Crayden, Jackie Head, Connie Warren, Tony Miller, Harry Venner, Ken Craigie, Peggy Piper, Jean Head and Mary Wright.

Dulwich are at the top of group 'A' of the Percy Johnson Cup being undefeated after three games. They have accounted for Guildford 1 5-4, Thames Valley 6-3 and Wandsworth 1 8-1. In the match against Guildford the game stood at 4-all when Clive Morris faced David Welsman, Morris won the first 15, lost the second 17 but triumphed in the third 17 to give Dulwich the match. Andrew Schooler had a good win over Trevor Campbell, 17 in the third, whilst Laurie Etheridge scored a brace for Dulwich.

Guildford also featured in a thriller with Croydon winning 5-4, Schooler making certain of victory when he beat Keith Horton 19 in the third.

Some close scores in this match also, Schooler edging out Emil Emecz 19 in the third and David Phelps pipping Andy Meads 25 in the third.

Thames Valley ladies appear to have the Arthur Williams' Rose Bowl already in their trophy cupboard being unbeaten after four matches accounting for Leatherhead 8-1, Sutton 6-3, Byfleet 5-4 and Guildford 5-4, Jean Ingerfield, Angela Crisp and Diane Celsey forming a formidable trio.

Thames Valley also head the Harding Cup mixed competition being unbeaten after four games with victories over Sutton, Guildford and Leatherhead by 7-1 and Byfleet 5-3. Jimmy Moore, Mike Fisher, Kathy Nunn and Jean Ingerfield playing in the majority of the matches.

In the Sutton Trophy junior competition, Thames Valley I have eight points from four games defeating Byfleet and Guildford II 8-0, Thames Valley II 7-1 and Leatherhead 5-3, their team of David Bangerter, David Bishop, Gary Stenning and Angela Crisp will take some beating.

Surrey seems to have acquired a magnetic quality recently for on Dec. 17th further senior trials were held at Stockwell following applications from David Welsman and Firoze Nilam (Middx) and Stuart Lennie (Northumberland) to join the county.

In the second round of the Wilmott Cup, Croydon battled memorably against Worthing before losing 4-5, Peter Brennan Surrey's No. 8 won two including a good win over Robin Stace Sussex No. 4, whilst Emil Emecz also won two including a win over Mike McLaren.

Good performance by the Surrey 2nd team in beating Middlesex 8-2 at Finchley. Two wins each for Chris Strathearn, including a win over Laurie Landry, at 15 in the third, and Paul Beck, including victory over Brian Petch two straight.

DEVON NOTES

by David Bazell

Following Devon's very successful entry of a team for the first time last season in the national junior league—when Devon won Junior West—the county association decided to try a Devon junior closed tournament.

And it was such a success (at Plymouth)—more than 200 entries for 10 events—that it is almost certain to be a two-day event next year. "With interest running at this level, we must think in terms of a whole weekend affair next time. We only just squeezed in the games this time," said a delighted county secretary Mike Edmunds (Ilfracombe).

The tournament was a triple success for county player Keith James (Plymouth), who took the U-15, U-17 and boys' doubles (with county colleague Kenny Reeve). Irene Cooney (Ilfracombe) also won three titles: the U-17 girls', mixed doubles (with P. Coates, also Ilfracombe), and the girls' doubles (with Primula Weatherill, of Exeter).

Boys' U-11 winner was R. Mattingley (Exeter); girls' U-11 M. Langman (Tavistock); boys U-13 S. Morris (South Devon); girls' U-13 S. Tilley (Exeter); girls' U-15, K. Rowe (Tavistock).

Devon has decided to ban the yellow ball for at least this season—for county matches, tournaments and Devon League fixtures. Individual leagues have been left to make up their own minds.

The county has also decided to change the shirt colour for the senior team from black to red for next season—the same as the juniors.

Devon closed championships has been fixed for February 27, at Exeter Y.M.C.A., and the first leg of the county team knock-out, again at Exeter, on January 23, the day before the Exeter Junior Open will be played.

LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Philip Reid

Leicester will be very satisfied with their Midland League performances so far. After being relegated two seasons ago, Leicester now find themselves in 2nd place in the 1st Division only sets average keeping Birmingham ahead. The 2nd team, too, are doing all that is expected of them. A win and two draws and some consistent play by Melvin Matts are the outstanding features of their play so far.

Four wins out of four and identical sets average with Cheltenham is the record of the third team who look good promotion prospects at the moment. Both Alan Philpott and Bob Phillips have shown great consistency and Stephen Cloke improves with each outing. The Juniors (Division One) look capable of finishing in the first three where Chris Rogers is, as yet, unbeaten.

The Junior 2nd team too are amongst the promotion candidates with Stephen Penny and Kevin Hall both unbeaten. The Veterans, of whom much was expected, have not been so successful. Oxford came, saw and conquered, beating both the 1st and 2nd teams 8-2. Bryan Hall's 10 wins out of 12 sets make him the most successful player so far.

The Ladies could only collect two sets from West Bromwich who played some inspiring table tennis.

Hinckley's first team have so far only managed one win but they still have the weaker teams to play. Their 2nd team, who have only managed three sets from three matches will be hard-pressed to move away from the foot of the chart. This team was put in the league for experience and if they are getting it the hard way it should, none-the-less, prove beneficial in the long run.

Lady Fortune has certainly not smiled on Loughborough this season. The Men's team, in Division 3, have lost three of their four matches by six sets to four, losing the doubles on each occasion. In Mohammed Sheban and Paul Sanchez, the carillon town have two real 'characters' who are sure to be popular wherever they play. The Intermediate side have done better losing only to Birmingham and they are certainly a team with strength in depth. Terry Hall is their star, having lost only one of his nine sets this season. The Juniors have drawn their only match played but that in itself was a fine performance for the opposition was provided by Nottingham. The Ladies have had a match against Wolverhampton awarded them by default but have collected only one set from their other two encounters. It is, however, a youthful team which could easily get better.

Leicester have three teams still in the 'Coca-Cola National Team Championships'—only the boys (beaten at Birmingham) are so far out.

An excellent Leicestershire Restricted Tournament, held at Loughborough, brought forth Alan North as the winner, whilst Derek Butt won the Consolation Singles.

DUNLOP SPORTS COMPANY APPOINTS NEW DIRECTOR

The Dunlop Sports Company announce the appointment of Mr. A. J. Allam as export director with effect from 1st January, 1972.

Bert Allam, who is 50, first joined the Sports Division of Dunlop in 1937. Following service in both the Army and R.A.F. during the war, he rejoined the Company's sales department, later specialising in export sales.

Since 1959, as manager, export department, he has travelled widely and seen export turnover, in the last 10 years, increase by over 100 per cent.

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Married with three children, Bert Allam lives in Old Coulsdon, Surrey.

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NEALE TAKES OVER AS No. 1

Following a meeting of the E.T.T.A.'s selection committee at Crystal Palace on January 8 new ranking lists were formulated as follows, (previous positions in brackets):—

Men

1. D. Neale (Yorks.) (2)
2. T. Taylor (Essex) (3)
3. C. Barnes (Essex) (1)
4. N. Jarvis (Yorks.) (8)
5. O. Haslam (Middx.) (6)
6. A. Clayton (Yorks.) (5)
7. C. Warren (Surrey) (9)
8. A. Hydes (Yorks.) (4)
9. B. Burn (Warwks.) (7)
10. M. Johns (Ches.) (11)
11. R. Chandler (Sussex) (A)
12. D. Alderson (Yorks.) (—)
13. P. Taylor (Beds.) (12)
14. D. Brown (Essex) (10)
15. A. Ransome (Yorks.) (A)
16. D. Munt (Warwks.) (A)

Women

1. K. Mathews (Middx.) (2)
2. J. Hammersley (Bucks.) (1)
3. L. Radford (Essex) (5)
4. L. Howard (Surrey) (A)
5. S. Hession (Essex) (4)
6. J. Williams (Sussex) (3)
7. J. Heaps (Ches.) (10)
8. D. Simpson (Essex) (6)
9. S. Howard (Surrey) (9)
10. B. Bird (Kent) (A)
11. S. Lisle (Lancs.) (8)
12. D. Johnson (Lancs.) (7)

TABLE DRAW

Stone St. Michael's, Staffordshire were the winners of the private lottery, confined to members Clubs of the E.T.T.A., for a brand-new table tennis table generously donated by the Dunlop Sports Co. Ltd.

English Closed

Undefended by Chester Barnes, who withdrew on doctor's orders, the English Closed men's singles title was won by **Trevor Taylor** (Essex), at Crystal Palace on Jan. 8, the defeated finalist being 14-years-old David Alderson (Yorkshire) shock conqueror of "Connie" Warren and Alan Ransome.

Karenza Mathews (Middlesex) retained her women's singles title with final victory over Lesley Radford (Essex) who knocked out top seed Jill Hammersley.

In the English Junior Closed, **Simon Heaps** (Cheshire) beat Peter Taylor (Bedfordshire) in the final of the boys' singles. Janet Hellaby (Essex) beat 14-years-old Mandy Mellor (Derbyshire) in the girls' singles final after the Chesterfield girl had ousted the title holder, Linda Howard!

Full coverage of both events will be featured in the February issue.

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NORTHANTS NOTES

by **Gwyn Powell**

Dec. 4 turned out to be a most disappointing day for Northants when all three County teams were defeated. The juniors, after beating Warwickshire 11's by 6-4 in their opening fixture, went down by a similar margin after a very close tussle with Staffordshire. The turning point came in the vital seventh event when Paul Blincow led Steve Rowe 19-14 in the first only to lose it by 21-23 which unsettled him sufficiently to cause him to lose the second by 11-21. It was a similar story in the mixed doubles when, partnered by Ann Wallis, he was beaten 20-18 to put Staffs ahead by 5-3 after which S. Dunning made certain of victory and Kevin Alden pulled one back for Northants.

The seniors had a fruitless journey to Ipswich where they found the Suffolk players in good form and only Connie Bane and John Moloney managed to salvage some points for Northants in an 8-2 defeat, an unexpected but deserved victory for Suffolk. Meanwhile, at Northampton, the veterans were being given the once over by Kent who completely dominated the proceedings winning all the events in straight games. This is certainly proving to be a tough time for the veterans in their inaugural season in the veterans division.

A special fund to help the County's increased expenditure on county matches, organisation, coaching etc. set up by Cyril Lakeland on behalf of the

match organising committee has already borne fruit and several donations of £10 and £5 have been received to date as well as some interesting offers of help and advice in planning for the future.

On the South-East Midlands League scene, Northants are doing particularly well in the men's division having won all their matches so far this season including two fine victories over last year's champions, Cambridge, and a North Herts team which included Mick Harper.

Swedish Interchange

Writing as a representative of "Solna BTK", a table tennis club in Solna (suburb of Stockholm, Sweden), Kjell Yngerskog enquires into the possibilities of arranging a trip to the London area between March 26th—April 3rd.

A party of 20-30 players could be assembled who would travel by bus to Gothenburg and thence by boat to England. Inexpensive lodgings-house type accommodation would be required for the bulk of the party with the leaders and married players wishing for hotel accommodation in the near vicinity.

What is really wanted is a tournament involving the whole of the Swedish party with, perhaps, a couple of matches or so between a host organisation and the best members (male and female) of "Solna BTK" who play in the second highest series in Sweden on a competitive interchange basis.

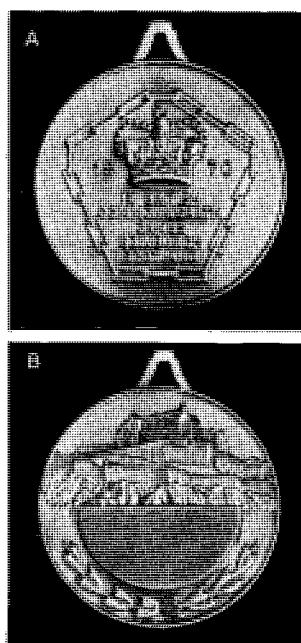
Interested parties are asked to write direct to Kjell Yngerskog, Solna BTK, Box 408, S-171 04, Solna 4, Sweden.

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Bobby Charlton, O.B.E., receiving Sportsman of the Month Trophy. Picture, Thames Television.

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YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

Yorkshire's four teams have so far decisively trampled on all opposition offered to them, collectively winning 12 matches out of 12, but sterner tasks await all of the teams. With the return of Alan Hydes from Japan, the selectors face the daunting problem of filling the first 3 team's men's places from 4 current senior internationals, with Jimmy Walker, who has yet to overcome inconsistencies, a strong fifth candidate. Luxembourg champion John Krier, studying at Hull University, made a successful debut for Yorkshire II against Northumberland.

Bradford I lead Division 1 of the Yorkshire League, but Middlesbrough I at the time of compilation of the tables had only played one, beating Leeds I. The clash between Bradford and Doncaster saw Bradford's 5-1 lead whittled back to 5-4 before Bob Shutt clinched it for Bradford. Doncaster's John Yeats registered wins over both Jim Yeats and John Davies, the latter also going down to Ray Swain. Middlesbrough II surprisingly prop up Division 1, having lost 4-6 to Leeds I. For Leeds, veteran Len Browning still poses problems and his two successes included a win over county No. 2 junior Tony Martin. Malcolm Corking was unbeaten for the Teessiders. His team's loss at Huddersfield, who included John Kedge, a county first team player last season, was not so surprising, but Trevor Stevenson's 21, 17, defeat of David Hirst was.

Division 2 is headed by Bradford II and III, with Richard Priestley spearheading the third team's 7-3 win over a strong Hull III side. Sheffield II, led by ex-first teamers Brian Broadhurst and Roy Brothwell, top Division 3. Possibly the only defender at Ormesby, junior Ian Noble's anti-loop rubber has set problems for Middlesbrough III's opposition in this Division, but in losing 2-8 at Wakefield, no-one else did in the Middlesbrough team, which included county junior Robert Wiley. Harrogate II and Castleford & Pontefract lead Divisions 4A and 4B respectively.

Women's Division leaders Barnsley were still unbeaten in mid-December, but possible title contenders Sheffield drew with Hull, with Judith Walker chalking up two wins for Sheffield, including one over Lynda Sutton. Judith was also successful in her encounter with another county colleague, Sylvia Broadbent, in Sheffield's 8-2 win over Bradford, but Sylvia herself reversed the form book versus Huddersfield by beating Pat Bassano.

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In the Junior Division, 5 teams, Leeds, Hull II, Middlesbrough, Bradford and Barnsley, were unbeaten, with favourites Middlesbrough not having lost a set. Hull II surprised their first team, who were without county junior Mike Wright, and won 5-4, with Richard Lawson taking two singles to clinch it for the second team.

County Executive Committee Minute Secretary Lilian Hamlett has resigned after over 10 years' efficient service, not only in secretarial work, but also in social and fund-raising activities. Lilian has 72 Yorkshire League appearances for Leeds or Bradford to her credit. She and her husband Peter are moving to Stoke-on-Trent. We wish them well in their new surroundings.

Hampshire Closed

by David Cosway

The title of this tournament would appear somewhat of a misnomer, for three of the four semi-finalists in the men's singles play in the County Championships for other countries. Only No. 1 seed, Chris Pickard, carried the county's flag through to the last hurdle and he was very hard pushed in the quarters before edging out Keith Summerfield 19 in the third. Shocks occurred early in this event with Ray Lush being hit off by Stuart Tannahill and No. 2 ranked Jeff Spencer losing to the Sussex No. 7 Steven Marley. Marley went on to extend Chris Pickard 17, -12, -17 in one semi-final. Bob Thornton, the Berkshire No. 1 did well to beat an on-form Bill Moulding, the Wiltshire No. 1, -13, 11, 10. Chris Pickard, the holder, won the first against Bob Thornton from Basingstoke at 17, lost the second -13 and led 21-20 in the third only to lose the next three points and the title.

One cannot cease to wonder at the consistency of Sheila Foster in the women's singles. Her attacking game has changed little over the years but she is still capable of beating the best in the county. Her wins in this competition now total eleven, the first in 1952/3. This season her final opponent was Daphne Gray, her Portsmouth compatriate, and her 19, 15 win reversed last year's result. Mrs. Foster beat Angleine Gilbert in the semi, while Mrs. Gray beat Julie Hudson. Daphne Gray and Sheila Foster then combined to retain their women's doubles title against Julie Hudson and Celia Hutchings from Bournemouth. In the men's doubles, Southampton gained their only major success when Chris Shetler combined with Summerfield to beat Lush and Moulding. The winners had beaten the Pickard brothers in the semi while Lush and Moulding had beaten Terry Bruce and Derek Holman.

The mixed resulted in a very comfortable win for the holders, Lush and Daphne Gray whose final opponents were Phil Crane and Celia Hutchings. In the junior events the boys' was dominated by Marley, although Hampshire No. 1, Gary Langland, did well to take him to a third in losing -17, 21, -12. Shock result of the girls' event was the defeat of the County No. 1, Lesley King, by Susan Harding. Susan subsequently lost to Beverly Davis who went on to win the event by beating Paula Clemmett 14, 16 in the final.

Most meritorious win was reserved

for one of the lesser events the veterans, which was won by Daphne Gray despite a very strong male entry. A bit of a let down this for some of the top men players to lose to a mere woman! Daphne gained her third title by beating Harry Spraggs in the final 12, -16, 17.

I have left until last the Intermediate Singles (under 23) event although it attracted a very large entry. To me this event is pointless. It is always won by a top player and this year the last four were all first team members. It is really a second men's singles event with the same players in at the kill as in the main event. So why bother? It just increases the problems of the organisers and means a midnight finish by which time most of the spectators are home in bed. After that bleat I will just say that Summerfield beat Chris Pickard in one semi and Shelter beat Moulding in the other. Chris Shelter won the final -18, 21, 13.

A vote of thanks to the excellent organisation by the members of the Portsmouth Association under Eddy Gray.

HUNTINGDON & PETERBRO' NOTES

by David Obee

Things seem a little less hectic than usual at present on the County front, with only one junior match on which to report. This was an away fixture against Suffolk and the home side proved too strong, running out 8-2 winners.

For Hunts, Sue Richards won the girls' singles and teamed up with Jean Allinson to take the girls' doubles. The boys were outplayed by the strong home trio headed by England-ranked John Kitchener.

In the Rose Bowl, St. Neots made an exit at the hands of Reading whilst Peterborough too went down 2-5 at Great Yarmouth.

St. Neots' girls were crushed 9-0 by a very strong Leicester team in a second round Bromfield Trophy match to complete a disappointing month.

STAFFORDSHIRE NOTES

by John Pike

With all four county teams winning their December matches, it is not often that happens these days, the Christmas pudding in Staffordshire tasted just that little bit better. One hopes this form will continue in the second half of the season.

With the men's singles going to Birmingham and the women's singles to Worcester, the 31st Woodfield tournament turned out to be a disappointing day for the home players. Brian Mitchell and Joyce Lloyd took the two major honours, with Staffs only success coming in the women's doubles through Dot Deeley and Rita Beebee, and in the boys' singles, which went to Steve Rowe. The proceeds from the tournament, £30, went to the Wightwick School for Handicapped Children.

Still on tournaments, we stay in Wolverhampton. First the Chubbs event which was scheduled for this month has had to be cancelled because of a big building programme

going on at the firm. Wolverhampton's own tournament will be held at the Woodfield club on February 6th and 13th.

The Highfield Centre was the venue for the Staffs Schools tournament in which honours in the boys went to the Potteries, U-19, Tettenhall College, U-15, and Joseph Leckie, Walsall, U-13. Highfield and Joseph Leckie came out on top in the girls' events, and to all winners, we wish them well when they go to Blackburn next month. On the 25th of this month, Bryan Merrett will be paying another visit to Highfield.

WORCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Ian R. Crickmer

An accurate comment on the problem currently facing Worcestershire's officials and coaches was made by junior No. 1 Ian Schofield after his defeat by Somerset's Michael Williams: "We've nothing like this in Worcestershire!"

It is indeed too much to expect any player to switch from the mundane standard of a weekly League match to the variety of spin, length and direction found in County fixtures. The routine coaching normal in most centres is concerned with control, as exemplified by the E.T.T.A. Proficiency Awards, and the need at the moment is to help youngsters to acquire that flair and adaptability needed for higher representative fixtures.

The ways of the County juniors and of the local exponents of the modern style, John Heathcote, Nick Bottomley and Colin Hammond, rarely cross, so it is to be hoped that plans for practice sessions involving these players will come to fruition.

Also on the junior front, a welcome back to Worcestershire to Philip Knights. Philip has been at Chichester for the past two years, and became a candidate for a place in the strong Sussex junior side, the present leaders of Junior Division South. His return to the area should strengthen the Worcestershire juniors, and it is also to be hoped that Ian Knights will find time from his new appointment to resume some of his table tennis activities with local youngsters.

The concentration of the best new Sport's centre facilities in the Redditch New Town development means that County activities are now centred on the area: this season's County Closed tournament has been arranged for Sunday, March 12th, but a final decision has yet to be made whether this will be at Redditch Youth Centre or at the newly-opened Leys Sports Hall.

It is a sad commentary that the Closed has not been held in Worcester since 1956, and that the county town has no venue even approaching the size now required for a major tournament.

NEW ADDRESS

Mr. and Mrs. Peter Hirst, who were married last month at Holy Trinity Church, Bottisham—the bride being the former Sally Browning of Cambs County fame—have taken up residence at 29 Cherry Close, Milton, Cambs.

Around the Clubs

THE "84" CLUB, LEIGHTON BUZZARD

by Dolly Harmer, Hon. Sec.

Now in its tenth season, the "84" Club first conceived as a family venue to save the expense of a baby sitter, has now extended to include friends of all six playing members of the family, playing in nine teams and having an age range of nigh on forty years.

Play takes place in an extended double garage with changing facilities and canteen in the house. A local school uses it on their games afternoon and, in the holidays, there is open-house for members of the Primary School which serves as our nursery.

We currently hold the League Veterans, Women's Singles, Girls' Singles, and Lower Division Doubles Championships. Our Junior Girls are ranked in the County 2, 3 and 4; the Boys 3 and 8. We have players representing Leighton Buzzard and Dunstable in the S.E. Midlands League.

The "Baby", no longer in need of a sitter, has this season achieved success in three U-11 Open Tournament events. We have three County Umpires and a Club Coach. And we are proud that our Veteran Champion, Ron Jinks, whose team stands high in Division 1, is also President of the League in which he first played in the 1930's.

GROSVENOR SOCIAL CLUB, STAINES

by Chris J. Penycate, Hon. Sec.

Grosvenor was formed in late 1968 as a three-man single team playing in Division 5 of the seven-division Staines and District League, one of the stronger leagues around London with a record of success in national competitions.

If early success was the criteria for club development, Grosvenor would be defunct already as the original three, Chris Penycate, Tony Ring and Roger Cooke lost their first dozen or so matches. But, as enthusiasm and club spirit was engendered right from the start this has been the most significant hallmark of the club as a whole.

1969-70 saw two teams in the Staines League: 1970-71 four in the Staines League, one in the South-West Middlesex League and the current season, the club's fourth, sees six in the former and two in the latter league.

The expansion of the club has obviously strengthened it but not to the detriment of the spirit of the club. The club takes pride in the fact that many of its members have been coaxed back to the game from premature retirement and they have never regretted it, although their wives may have done so at times!

Tangible successes include a runners-up position and the first team's championship success in Division 3 last season, suitably celebrated by close on 40 members at the Staines Presentation Dance last May.

Due to the efforts of Roy Wallis and Rudi Schwecke, twelve people from Erichshof, near Bremen in West Germany were entertained by the club to a full social programme. Such was the success of the weekend, that a return trip to Germany is being planned by Grosvenor for next May.

Forthcoming events, otherwise, include a party after Christmas, entertaining a group of under-privileged children, the Christmas handicap competition and a possible swimming gala. It is hoped that success on the table continues to achieve first division status next season.

In Div. 2, Derby III lost unexpectedly to Alfreton II with the usually reliable Ken Guy losing all his sets. Miss Marilyn Deakin won two, and Arnold Vinay one. Alfreton's A. Rusinowski was unbeaten.

Derby I and Chesterfield lead the way in the Junior Division with Chesterfield having the edge being represented by the Taylors, N. G. and P, plus Mandy Mellor. For Derby, Ivor Warner and David Yallop are both unbeaten.

Derby's fortunes in the Coca-Cola competitions have been mixed with the men losing to Hinckley and the ladies to Nottingham.

In the Carter Cup, the Junior boys' team rounded off a busy period which took in the Kent Junior Open prior to travelling to Cheltenham where they won 5-1. Birmingham provide the next opposition as they do for Derby's girls in the Bromfield Trophy competition.

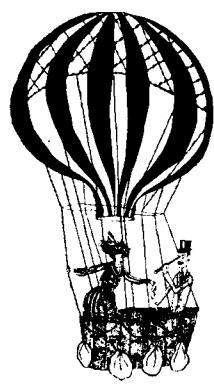
In common with other County Press Officers, I receive few, if any, details from within the county, so if your league fails to get a mention, the remedy is obvious.

Leading positions:—

County League, Division 2.

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derby II	4	3	0	1	28	12	6
Burton II ...	4	2	1	1	21	19	5
Alfreton II ...	3	2	0	1	16	14	4
Junior Division							
Chesterfield ...	3	3	0	0	29	1	6
Derby I	3	3	0	0	27	3	6
Alfreton	3	1	0	2	6	24	2

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IN THIS MONTH'S
CONTROVERSY
John Woodford
turns his back on doubles

Table tennis is basically a singles game—national associations seriously interested in their players reaching and maintaining world class should see that less time is wasted in **doubles** matches, especially in tournaments...

Notice how the Chinese team on this tour just ended have preferred to play singles and leave the doubles for an exhibition fun-piece at the end of the day. I am not basically against doubles—I am sure most of us have enjoyed many games of doubles in our clubs over the years, but when it comes to producing super-stars, their progress can be hampered by the fact that at all major tournaments, two-thirds of the time and energy is spent playing doubles.

Observe carefully the almost impeccable behaviour on the table of the Chinese. Very rarely a word or a gesture or a stamping foot, just pure, solid concentration on the job in hand, these seem to be the hallmarks of world champions. However, I believe the discipline by our top players in the heat of battle is steadily improv-

ing; bad habits seldom worry me but the one that I find intensely annoying is a player looking at their coach/wife/husband/friend with a dismayed expression when they lose points. Ambitious players who cannot be cured quickly of this ailment should seek another sport. As reflex action becomes more important only complete concentration will win through.

There is of course a strong minority school of thought who we could say, represent "the cloth-cap-image" (acknowledgement to Bob Donne, Daily Mail), who are only interested in their weekly game at club level. They oppose the majority who seek to raise the standard of play in this country at all levels and to return England to the top of the international tree instead of sitting in the middle branches as we have done for so long.

So, for those who seek to become the Chester Barnes or Denis Neale of 1975—and my word, Nicky Jarvis is currently showing himself as the most likely candidate — two thoughts —

spend less time and energy on doubles and take heed of the superb concentration and discipline of the Chinese who are still on top of the world despite their generous gestures of Christmas goodwill at the final match against England at Crystal Palace.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by **Leslie Constable**

Cambs had a fine win over Gloucestershire at Bristol. All the Cambs team of Tony Littlechild, Alan Ponder and John Carroll were in fine form and Carol Payne continued her amazing winning sequence. 6-4 was a good victory and makes Cambs more comfortable in the division.

In a match against Staffordshire, Cambs came unstuck 3-7 but most of the games were close. Carol Payne was beaten for the first time since 1969.

Cambs Juniors are doing well and beat Hunts and Norfolk in successive matches by wide margins. Paul Day and John Willis are in fine form and Emma Swan and "Debby" Clarke form a good girls' pair.

Cambridge City beat Romford 5-4 in the Wilmott Cup after a hard struggle Ken Muhr winning the vital set in a deciding third game duel. Tony Littlechild and Alan Ponder also contributed to the victory and Ken Beamish won all his sets for Romford. In the next round, City meet East London at home.

University Press lead the Cambridge League from New Chesterton Institute. Leading positions:—

Division 1	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Press I	7	7	0	0	62	8	14
NCI I	9	6	2	1	52	38	14
University I	6	5	0	1	44	16	10
Soham II	6	5	0	1	38	22	10
Wilburton I ...	8	2	3	3	34	46	7

Division 2	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Press II	8	7	1	0	61	19	15
Telephones I	9	7	0	2	59	31	14
University II	10	6	2	2	57	43	14
St. George's ...	9	6	0	3	54	36	12
Cambs News	9	6	0	3	52	38	12

SOUTH-EAST MIDLANDS LEAGUE

In the S-E Midlands League, Northampton head the Men's Division with both Ely and Cambridge in challenging positions.

In the Junior Division, Bletchley are at the helm with Cambridge City and North Herts both unbeaten. Hunts Central head the Women's Division but, here again, North Herts are unbeaten and look dangerous.

Cambridge City and Bedford are at the top of the Veterans Division with Northampton. All are unbeaten.

Barnes to rest on doctors orders

Chester Barnes, England's top-ranked player, has been advised to rest for a month and on his doctor's advice withdrew from the English closed championships.

The Essex international won three titles in the closed championships last year when held at Canterbury.

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Hikari rubber and Silver Sponge. All new. And all exclusive to the Dunlop Maxply Fort Bat.

The Barna Super Ball is another Dunlop

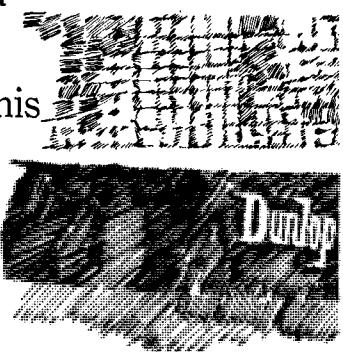
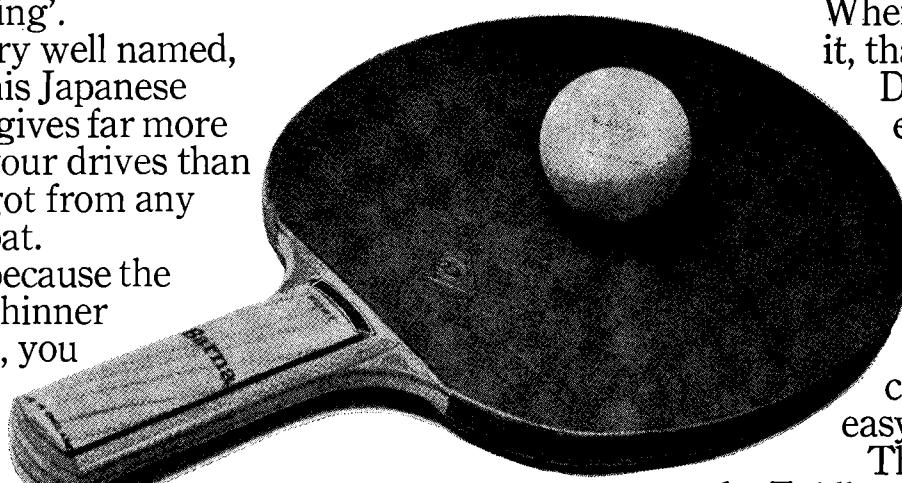
exclusive. With its improved sphericity, the ball now has a better, more consistent bounce. And every single one plays with the same feel. Plays better, and lasts longer.

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Bat covers, nets, posts and, of course the Dunlop Barna Clothing range.



SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Alan J. Cavell

Harry Brannick of Oswestry has organised the Shropshire Schools' T.T.A. and in its first year 17 schools have joined; he is now preparing for the first ever schools' tournament that will be held on ten tables at the Wrekin Youth Centre on Feb. 19. It is known that other schools are now equipping themselves with tables.

P. Robinson organised an intensive table tennis course, taken by Ron Harvey, at the Oswestry Youth Centre and this was so successful that another has been arranged for Feb. 20.

J. Riley has organised coaching sessions, taken by Peter Simpson, at the Belmont Youth Centre, Shrewsbury and the first ever one day intensive coaching course on 10 tables was organised by K. Fell, and run on the day by Jim Hayward assisted by other Staffordshire coaches, at the Wrekin Youth Centre. This was oversubscribed and a similar course will be held in March.

Telford won the County League for the second successive year and issued a League handbook (20 pages) for the first time.

County Secretary, Bert Ricketts, has added to his duties by taking over the running of the County League competition.

The County closed tournament was held at the Wrekin Youth Centre on 10 tables and was very ably run by John Thorpe, assisted by Trevor

Felton (County vice-chairman), Bert Ricketts, Neville Birch (Secretary, Shrewsbury T.T.A.) and many others. Final results were:—

M.S.: A. Hiscock bt Mike Jones 10, 13.
W.S.: Mrs. G. Gee bt Mrs. S. Rogers 17, 13.
M.D.: Hiscock/G. Samuel bt B. Beale/K. Morris 4, 11.
W.D.: Miss R. Higgins/Mrs. Rogers bt Miss P. Allen/Mrs. J. Jones 16, 17, 16.
X.D.: J. Bowden/Miss Higgins bt Beale/Mrs. J. Heath 15, 7.
I.S.: K. McGuire bt C. Neal 21, 14.
J.S.: A. Lloyd bt P. Bunting 17, 11.

KENT NOTES

by Brian Jordan

The Kent selectors have many problems to solve if the county side is to retain its Premier Division status at the end of this season. Two 7-2 defeats and no wins for Tony Piddock was not a happy start to the season and the match against Yorkshire was so one sided that there was little for the 200 spectators to enthuse about. Only bright feature was the form of Betty Bird who crushed Linda Bashford even more easily than the Yorkshire men beat the Kent men.

In the County League, Bromley 'A' took a decisive step towards retaining the First Division title by beating Beckenham 'A' their most dangerous rivals 7-3. Last year Canterbury 'A' finished third place but hopes that they might make a challenge to take

the title to East Kent were shattered when their star player Maurice Billington moved to Yorkshire. Canterbury are now struggling to avoid relegation but a 7-3 win over their East Kent rivals Folkestone 'A' should help.

In the second division no clear picture has emerged all nine sides having been beaten at least once. The third division looks to be a straight battle between Canterbury 'B' and Ashford both of whom are unbeaten. Canterbury look the stronger side and will be expected to take the title.

The newly formed Fourth Division was expected to prove an easy affair for Maidstone obliged to start again at the bottom after withdrawing from the Kent League a year or so back. Two early wins suggest the prophets will be right.

The Ladies' Kent League has been full of surprises. North West Kent were beaten 6-4 by Medway, their first defeat for several seasons, and they are clearly not going to retain the title they have held since 1967-68. They have lost the services of Mrs. J. Ellis who has moved to Medway, one of the two sides at present unbeaten. The other is Sittingbourne who can call upon Linda Chesson and Barbara McGrory, formerly number one juniors in England and Ireland. Kent player Mrs. Bird is with Maidstone but lacked support in the county town's first match which was lost 4-6.

Competition remains as keen as ever in the three division of the Kent

Junior League. The First Division has been won by Bromley 'A' every season since 1963-64 in which time they have been unbeaten. Full credit therefore to Canterbury 'A' who ended the Metropolitan side's run of success with a 6-4 win at Canterbury. The City side now have eight points from eight and are setting a hot pace in a bid to take the title so narrowly missed last year. Folkestone 'A', who have drawn at Bromley 5-5, and Sittingbourne, who eliminated Canterbury from the Carter Cup 6-3, also look well equipped to win this division. Thanet 'A', and Canterbury 'C' lead the way in Division Two whilst in Division Three, Tunbridge Wells have crushed all opposition winning 10-0 three times.

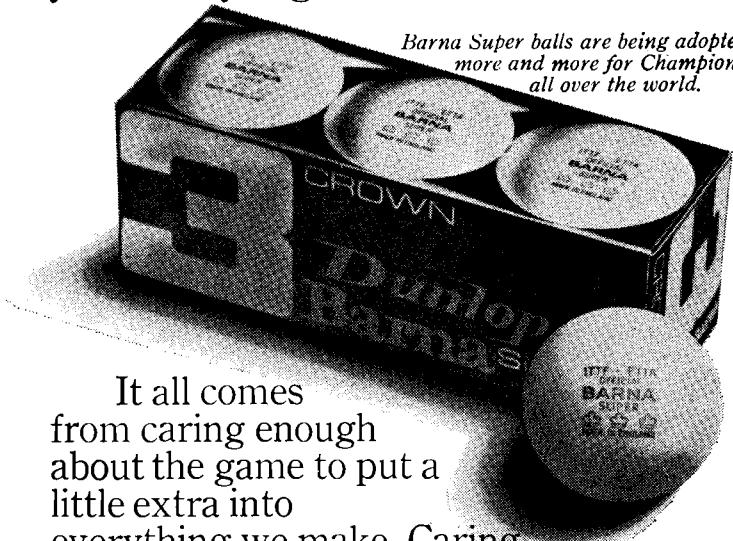
At club level, Whitstable Natives have made their long awaited return visit to the Atlantic Club of Antwerp. Twenty four players spent a most enjoyable week-end in the Belgian City and despite the top team losing only 9-11 the match overall was lost 37-83. Plans are now well advanced for a further match in England in the summer thus continuing what must be a unique series of matches at club level.

ESSEX OPEN

Originally scheduled for January 22/23, the Essex 2-Star Open has been re-dated to take place over the weekend of April 15/16 at Brays Grove School, Tracys Road, Harlow. Organising Secretary is Mr. J. A. Gammon of 258 Limes Avenue, Chigwell, Essex. The closing date is March 29/72.



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THE CHINESE TOUR

Friendship First; Competition Second

by George R. Yates



Lou Ta-peng assembles the Chinese party around the Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Heath, for a group photograph in the drawing room at No. 10.

Photo by Press Association Ltd., London.

Notwithstanding the results obtained between United Kingdom sides and the People's Republic of China—and none but the purist would quibble at the bill of fare served up in six major cities—the goodwill that was established can only lead to a heightening of interest and popularity in this sport of ours which, prior to the World Championships in Japan, had reached a low ebb from a public spectacle point of view.

Hard sells for international matches, lack of sponsorship and those lamented empty seats had long been the unpalatable diet of match organisers until, at the Kings Hall, Belle Vue, Manchester on Tuesday, Dec. 7, a new era dawned with the advent to these shores of a 15-strong party of Chinese players and officials intent on furthering friendly relations between the People's Republic of China and the United Kingdom.

That they succeeded in this avowed intent is beyond doubt for, truly, they endeared themselves to the British public as no other touring team had done by their spirit and conduct which was truly ambassadorial.

Having witnessed the power and zeal that tore Japan to ribbons in the Swaythling Cup final in Nagoya, I would not pretend a naivety commensurate with the closeness of the results obtained. To do so would occasion me having to write up each

and every match with tongue in cheek which is not my intention. Suffice it for me to conclude with the individual results for the record.

Table tennis there was in abundance with evidence of skill to appease all but the most discerning of connoisseurs and the 'mixed' doubles wind-up to each match, involving Chester Barnes and Denis Neale paired off with two Chinese players, provided a spectacle that will long be remembered, not only by the converted, but by those who it is our wish to bring over. This, indeed, was the very essence of the tour and if, as a result of it, the public's appetite has been whetted, then achievement can be measured in the future support of international spectaculars.

ARDUOUS

Undoubtedly, the tour was an arduous one for our Chinese visitors following on the Scandinavian Open Championships in which they had participated, and to be followed by further tours of Denmark, Federal Germany and Rumania!

So far as the United Kingdom was concerned it commenced by uplift from Malmo, Sweden by HS 748 at 09.00 on Monday, Dec. 6 with arrival at Hatfield at 11.00 to be met by Dr. Roger Bannister, Chairman of the Sports Council, A. K. 'Bill' Vint, E.T.T.A. President, and representatives of Hawker Siddeley Aviation Limited, E.T.T.A. Chairman,

Charles Wyles, had travelled out to Malmo to be with our visitors throughout their entire tour and which, finally, saw him shaking hands with Mr. Chi and his party on the tarmac of Copenhagen's international

airport, before handing over his charges to the Danish T.T. officials.

After checking in at the Belgravia Royal Hotel, London, the next port of call was the Department of Environment to receive a welcome from Rt. Hon. Eldon Griffiths, M.P., Minister for Sport, then back to Belgravia for an early night.

Leaving the hotel at 08.00 on Tuesday, Dec. 7, arrival at Hawker Siddeley's Woodford was at 10.50 and conveyance to Manchester's Piccadilly Plaza Hotel was regally accomplished by coach (as used by Manchester City A.F.C.) and limousines for officials.

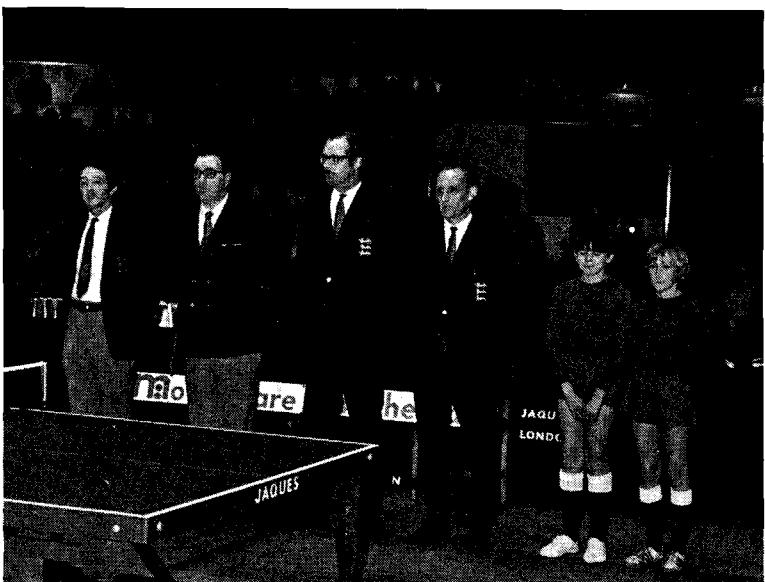
By the kindness of Mr. K. M. Yuan and the North West Chinese Society, the entire feeding arrangements was taken out of official hands during the stay in Manchester, and it was to the Ruby Restaurant in Princess Street that a well worn path was trod even to the extent of an after-match reception which went on into the small hours. A pre-match reception had taken place at Belle Vue sponsored by Walmsleys (Bury) Ltd., Paper Makers and Engineers.

On the morrow of the match an informal reception was given by Lloyds Bank, King Street, during which a plaque portraying the bank's coat of arms was given to Mr. Chi. Departure from Manchester was at 15.00 hrs. with arrival at Cardiff some 50 minutes later.

IN WALES

Prompt at 15.50 on Dec. 8, the HS 748 touched down at Rhoose Airport. There to meet the Chinese party were County Alderman Philip Squire, Chairman of Glamorgan County Council, whose airport it was, Mr. George Edwards, M.A., Chairman of the Development Committee of the Sports Council of Wales, Mr. Roy Evans, President of the Welsh T.T.A. and, to provide a cordon of honour, a deputation from the Overseas Chinese resident in Wales.

After a short journey into Cardiff, tea was provided at the Angel Hotel and the party settled in. In the evening there was a banquet at the County Hall.



Northern match officials at Belle Vue are (l. to r.) Referee Alan Porter (Bolton), umpires Joe Fitzpatrick (Manchester), Brian Leeson (Liverpool) and Gordon Campbell (Bolton) with ball boys supplied by St. Michael's Primary School, Bolton.

Photo by Frank Davies, Bolton.

The next day there was a visit to the University Hospital of Wales, recently opened by H.M. the Queen, and the party were treated to demonstrations of some very advanced medicine.

Now joined by the players, who had been resting, the party next went to the Lord Mayor's parlour to sign his book and to be told something of the treasures in the City Hall. There followed a short walk, via the famous Cardiff Arms Park, the home of Welsh Rugby, thence to the Ming Hong Restaurant, where the Overseas Chinese treated the party to a splendid meal.

After lunch, to the Sports Centre for practice and then the match. Although, like Crystal Palace, the Centre is not a stadium, there was tiered seating for about 1,300 and these, together with the balconies were fully occupied for the opening ceremony.

Three National Anthems were played, after which the Lord Mayor was introduced to the players and officials. Then came the presentations of Commemorative Plates of the Investiture of Prince Charles as the Prince of Wales, Welsh ties and Welsh dolls.

MISTAKEN IDENTITY

Whilst the Lady Mayoress of Cardiff was presenting commemorative plates to the Chinese, the two small grand-daughters of Roy and Nancy Evans, dressed in National costume, were presenting dolls and ties to the English and Welsh players. Jane was told to give ties to the four males—she gave one each to Trevor Taylor, Graham Davies and Alan Griffiths, by-passed Chester Barnes, who was next in line to Jill Hammersley and Karena Mathews, and gave the other to Bryan Merrett. Now we know who really wants a haircut!

The day's proceedings were brought to a successful conclusion with a reception at Cardiff Castle, complete with Welsh harpist, and a volatile Lord Mayor, Alderman Ferguson Jones, who went out of his way to make all the Chinese visitors feel at home.

Departure on Friday was at 15.00 with arrival at Edinburgh some 1 hour 50 minutes later and conveyance

to the Barnton Hotel on Queensferry Road. A reception that night was given by Edinburgh Corporation at the Meadowbank Sports Stadium and to the skirl of the bagpipes it was the Gay Gordons for one and all.

Dublin was no less hectic with arrival at 16.00 on Sunday, Dec. 12 and coach to the Tara Towers Hotel in Merrion Road. A visit to the Guinness Factory, including lunch, started off proceedings on Monday, the 13th, with the match followed by a Dinner given by the Irish Congress of Trades Unions at Liberty Hall.

It was back to Hatfield on Tuesday, Dec. 14 and a visit to Gestetner's factory at Tottenham embracing lunch before return to the Belgravia Royal.

No. 10

With best bibs and tuckers, both the Chinese and English players, together with officials, were later conveyed to No. 10 Downing Street to take tea with the Prime Minister, Mr. Edward Heath who happily entertained his guests, mixing freely with one and all. Winding up a pleasant hour the P.M. delivered a short speech in which he asked that his good wishes be conveyed to his opposite number Mr. Chou En-lai.

An official E.T.T.A. reception at the Sportsman Club in Tottenham Court Road rounded off yet another eventful day.

Thursday, Dec. 16 was the turn of Birmingham with arrival at 10.30 and a welcome by civic dignitaries at the municipal airport. A coach then conveyed the party to the factory of Joseph Lucas for a conducted tour of the works followed by lunch.

Accommodation was at the Albany Hotel, Smallbrook Ringway and the after-match reception was in the Council Chambers and, subsequently, at the Heavenly Bridge Chinese Restaurant for noodles!

Airborne again at 10.00 on the following day, the first port of call on leaving Hatfield was London Zoo (Regents Park) where awaited us the Hon. Ivor Montagu to assist in the conducted tour which took in Chi-Chi who seemed more at ease with the battery of photographers than did the human throng.



Nothing surprises the London bobby as these two custodians of the peace watch the arrival of English and Chinese officials at No. 10 Downing Street.

The Reptile House provided the bigger thrills with friendly keepers holding for our inspection species of snakes and lizards there for the stroking—but there were no takers!

Lunch was afforded the party at the Zoo and subsequently, in the late afternoon, a small reception was given by Members of the Society of Anglo Chinese Understanding. The

evening was given over to a Reception given by the Charge d'Affaires of the People's Republic of China at the Chinese Legation.

Dr. Bannister and Mrs. Bannister requested the pleasure of our company at a Reception and buffet lunch at the Crystal Palace National Sports Centre prior to the two matches there both of which received the



China's Deputy Tour Leader, Kuan Huei-kuang, leads the dancers for the Gay Gordons in Edinburgh.

Photo by courtesy of the Sunday Telegraph.

A tour of the Gestetner Factory proved to be of considerable interest to the Chinese visitors.



Arrival at Birmingham's municipal airport from the Hawker Siddeley HS 748 twin turbo-prop airliner.

Photo' by John H. Lines, Birmingham.

support deserving of the lay-out of seating never before seen at Crystal Palace for an indoor sporting contest.

A mighty job of work had been done in connection with the two matches at Crystal Palace, the two principals being Jack and Elsie Carrington, whose piece-de-resistance, were two trumpeters of the Household Cavalry resplendent in magnificent uniform.

Doubtless also, Charles Wyles apart, one or two other people would be in need of a respite after the tour, not least Charles' daughter, Evelyn, who also accompanied the tour throughout in the role of nurse/chaperon, Ken Mathews whose job it was to present the matches at the various centres and, finally, Derek Tremayne, who should now have acquired more knowledge on tour management than enough, not to mention his role of M.C.!

* * *

FINAL MENU

Following the two matches at Crystal Palace, the farewell banquet took place at the Li Ho Fook Chinese Restaurant in Wardour Street, London when the following menu was served:

1. Red Coated Cool Dish
2. (i) Quail eggs with Green
(ii) Mini Sweet Corn with Chicken and Prawn Balls
3. Shark's Fin, Crab meat soup
4. Crispy Fried Chicken
5. Kon Chin King prawns
6. Awabi with seasonal green
7. Roasted Duck Cantonese
8. Steamed Fish
9. Yueng Chow Fried Rice
10. Soup Noodle and Fruits



Jill Hammersley uses sign language to talk with Lin Mei-chun on the coach from Hatfield to London.

Photo' by Central Press Photos Ltd., London.

Match Results

At Manchester

England 2 China 1 (Women)

Jill Hammersley lost to Li Li -20, -14; bt Cheng Huai-ying 20, -8, 15. Karenza Mathews bt Huang Hshiping 17, 21.

England 2 China 3 (Men)

Tony Clayton lost to Yu Chang-chun -15, 18, -10; Nicky Jarvis lost to Tiao Wen-yuan -18, -16; Trevor Taylor lost to Hsi En-ting 19, -15, -19; Denis Neale bt Liang Ko-liang 8, 14; Chester Barnes bt Li Ching-kuang 11, 15.

At Cardiff

Great Britain 2 China 6

T. Taylor lost to Li Ching-kuang -15, -12; Alan Griffiths lost to Yu Chang-chun -16, -14;

Mrs. K. Mathews lost to Cheng Huai-ying 20, -9, -16;

Graham Davies bt Liang Ko-liang -18, 22, 20;

C. Barnes lost to Hsi En-ting -17, -17; Mrs. J. Hammersley lost to Hu Yulan -17, -14;

Taylor lost to Liang Ko-liang -10, -16; Barnes bt Tiao Wen-yuan -24, 10, 18.

At Edinburgh

Scotland 3 China 5

Malcolm Sugden lost to Li Ching-kuang -13, -16; Miss Elaine Smith lost to Huang Hshiping -16, -12;

Richard Yule bt Hsi En-ting -18, 20, 15; Eric Sutherland lost to Tiao Wen-yuan 17, -12, -10;

Miss Kathleen Angus lost to Cheng Huai-ying -12, -9;

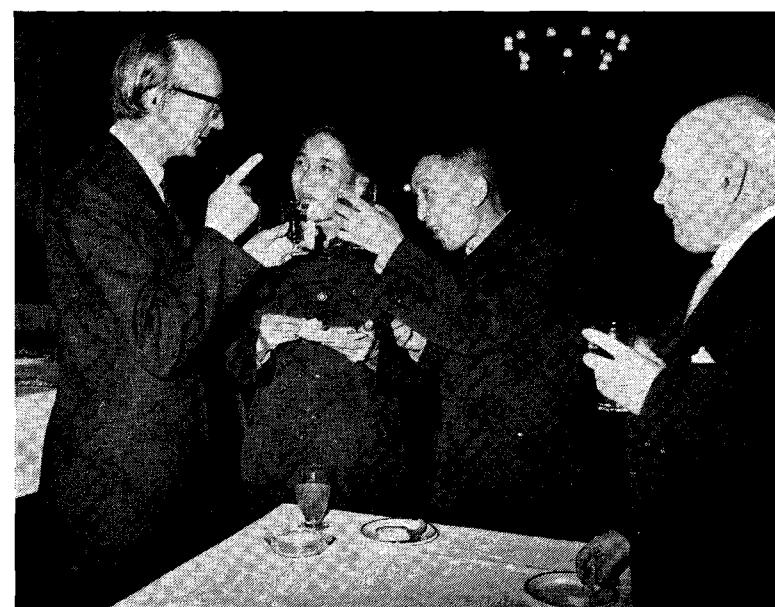
Sugden bt Yu Chang-chun -17, 16, 12; Miss Smith bt Lin Mei-chun -12, 14, 15;

Yule lost to Liang Ko-liang -19, -15.



Not so sure about making the acquaintance of these two Australian Carpet Pythons inside the Reptile House at London Zoo is Huang Hshiping watched over by a smiling Derek Tremayne—from a safe distance.

Photo' by Central Press Photos Ltd., London.



"By 'eck, we've supped some stuff tonight" says E.T.T.A Treasurer Tom Blunn to an unbelieving Chi Yu-hua and Lou Ta-peng with E.T.T.A. Chairman, Charles Wyles, gazing apprehensively across.

Photo' by John H. Lines, Birmingham.



The HS 748, in service for Fiji Airways.

At Dublin

Ireland Select 3 China 4
 C. Barnes lost to Tiao Wen-yuan 17, -12, -15;
 Jim Langan bt Hsi En-ting 19, 17;
 Tommy Caffrey lost to Liang Ko-liang -16, -13;
 C. Barnes bt Li Chiang-kuang 16, -19, 21;
 Cliff Thompson lost to Yu Chang-chun -14, -14;
 Miss Kyra Stewart bt Huang Hsing-ping -20, 17, 12;
 Miss Karen Senior lost to Li Li -9, -12.

At Birmingham

England 3 China 4
 A. Clayton lost to Hsi En-ting -21, -18;
 N. Jarvis lost to Yu Chang-chun 19, -6, -12;
 Mrs. Mathews lost to Li Li -13, 14, -17;
 D. Neale bt Li Ching-kuang 18, 25;
 Mrs. Hammersley bt Lin Mei-chun 19, 14;
 C. Barnes lost to Liang Ko-liang -18, -12;
 T. Taylor bt Tiao Wen-yuan 24, -19, 6.

At Crystal Palace

Match 1: England 3 China 4
 D. Neale lost to Li Ching-kuang -19, 15, -12;
 C. Barnes lost to Liang Ko-liang -19, -16;
 Mrs. Hammersley lost to Cheng Huai-ying -12, -13;
 T. Taylor lost to Tiao Wen-yuan -17, -22;
 C. Barnes bt Li Ching-kuang -16, 19, 16;
 Mrs. Mathews bt Lin Mei-chun 18, -14, 18;
 D. Neale bt Tiao Wen-yuan -16, 15, 18.
 Match 2: England 4 China 3
 D. Neale lost to Hsi En-ting -17, 15, -11;
 C. Barnes lost to Li Ching-kuang 18, -10, -16;
 Mrs. Hammersley bt Huang Hsing-ping -13, 16, 18;
 N. Jarvis lost to Liang Ko-liang 19, -18, -17.

Mrs. Mathews bt Li Li -11, 16, 16;
 D. Neale bt Liang Ko-liang -14, 17, 21;
 C. Barnes bt Yu Chang-chun -20, 15, 14.

* * * * *

Acknowledgments

The E.T.T.A. gratefully acknowledge the support given by the following companies and other bodies. Their assistance has been given in many various ways and no tour of this magnitude could be successful without such help.

Mothercare Ltd.
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Hsi En-ting makes his point to Chester Barnes watched over by Dr. Roger Bannister, Chairman of the Sports Council, at a Reception given by the Department of the Environment.

Photo by Central Press Photos Ltd., London.



"How about me taking this little fellow back to Peking?" might be the question posed by Cheng Huai-ying to Miss Evelyn Wyles, the team's chaperon, in Mothercare's Oxford Street, London store.

Photo by Focus 4, London.



In the same store, blanket inspection is carried out by Kuan Huei-kuang watched by Leader Chi Yu-hua and interpreter Lou Ta-peng. Both teams and officials were given vouchers to spend in the store.

From the Editor's Postbag

CASE FOR RE-STRUCTURING

Whilst appreciative of the autonomy of the County Championships, I hope nevertheless that space may be found in the columns of the Association's magazine for me to put forward certain thoughts, which I stress are entirely personal. The operation of County teams looms large in the activities of most County Associations, and in many cases is the largest item of expenditure from the annual budget.

Twenty-eight counties now enjoy Division Two status in the four regional Divisions; twenty-one of these counties are represented by their first teams, and the other seven Division Two sides are second teams of Premier Division counties. Of the 37 English counties in the Championships, 29 thus have Premier or Second Division status—a percentage of 78%.

This seems to give an imbalance to the Championships structure, which has grown up over the years within the rules framework. The gulf between the strongest and the weakest of the Second Division counties is such that a *prima facie* argument seems to exist for a

re-structuring, with the introduction of an additional tier to reduce the disproportionate number of counties in the Second Divisions. The implementation of the rule which classes all Second Divisions as one Division and allows only one team per county would not then have the present effects of allowing weak counties to retain their exaggerated high status and of preventing stronger counties from occupying a realistic status within the Championships.

In 1970-71, Warwickshire second team were champions of Division Two Midlands and, on a fair estimate, were stronger than seventeen counties holding Division Two status through their first teams. Having come within one set of earning a Premier Division place in the Promotion Challenge, Warwickshire seconds are this season forced by rule to play at the lowest level in a Regional Division. This is the most extreme example, but it does appear that the present framework unwittingly stifles those counties which have the greatest potential; the rules which are intended to aid the weaker counties are by the same token heavily weighted against the counties having strength in depth.

It would be interesting, therefore, to learn if these ideas are supported by other county officials who have looked enquiringly at the present County Championships structure, and who may feel the re-organisation of the membership into four playing levels

rather than the existing three to be a progressive step.

IAN R. CRICKMER

12, Cypress Street,
Barbourne,
Worcester. WR3 8AU.

RIGHT TO KNOW

For some time now, I have been trying to find out if anybody in this country has any knowledge of the characteristics of bat rubbers, commonly used by players these days.

I have written to one of the largest importers of bat rubbers, and the reply I received showed that they have no knowledge of the subject at all.

We are asked to pay fantastic prices for these items and I feel we have a right to know what we are getting for our money.

If any of your subscribers have any facts or opinions, I am sure the readers of Table Tennis News will be interested to hear them, as I will.

JOHN FENTON

2, Bibury Close,
Woodley,
Nr. Reading, Berks.

TABLE TENNIS TRAINING AND YOGA

In reply to the article in the December issue of Table Tennis News entitled: 'In Favour of Yoga' by 'Individualist', I would like to present the following facts:

(a) I practice Yoga myself and am thus also in favour of it, especially for the Asiatic Yogis.

(b) I am also an 'individualist', whatever that may mean, but my name will be found attached to this letter nonetheless.

(c) Yoga is a way of life and not a sole training medium for any sport.

(d) Yoga is mainly practised, and with great benefit, in the Asiatic countries, especially India, which countries also practice other forms of meditation including Zen.

(e) Yoga stems from the same part of the world as the countries which successfully utilise rigorous training methods that 'Individualist' strongly ridicules on geographical grounds.

(f) Yoga is not new, in fact it is positively ancient.

(g) Intensive physical training is practised in this country in many sports but it is still not directly associated with table tennis by all coaches in this country.

I would also like to present some questions for the thought of 'Individualist':

(a) After a serious operation, rigorous training is obviously a means to a further operation. Thus a gentle means of recuperation is required. Yoga, being gentle but effective, is a good recuperative medium, but why draw comparisons between your personal circumstances, causing an obviously biased opinion, and table tennis training of an advanced nature?

(b) What is meant by the term 'fully fit'? Fit enough to undergo the World Table Tennis Championships and win in the final?

(c) Is an early morning run, being a slow trot designed to awaken the body and mind (not a marathon or hard sprinting bouts), really classified as violent exercise?

(d) If European and Asian training methods are so akin to our 'physical build and inborn national traits', why should Yoga be the magical wand of the English Champion when it originates in India? Perhaps because it is mild and gentle?

Conclusion:

Yoga is a useful supplement to the training programme of any sportsman but to suggest that it should replace all other forms of training illustrates a lack of insight required for the training of World Class players.

DAVE W. SMITH

22, Sedge Crescent,
Walderslade, Chatham, Kent.

IS IT ANY WONDER?

In his article in Table Tennis News of December, 'Individualist' has shown himself unqualified to write on such matters as physical training for table tennis. He obviously has little knowledge of modern techniques to be able to use phrases such as "running round aimlessly wearing themselves out" and "violent exercise methods" etc.

I am a young player eager to see the English coaches (in whose hands the future of England's table tennis lies) allow table tennis to lose its parlour game image and to be treated as the athletic game played by athletes which the Continental champions have shown it to be.

Is it any wonder that England has not produced a world champion for twenty years when self confessed "Old time" players, with old time ideas, such as 'Individualist', are the qualified coaches of this country!

HAMMER & SICKLE
Sevenoaks, (name and address
Kent. supplied)

COMETH THE HOUR

So it still happens then, league club match teams turning up short of players or even not at all.

In most cases reserves are available and it is not "playing the game" to deliberately disappoint the opposing side. Most players, of all ages, have had a hard day's work, rushed home, bolted down food and maybe travelled miles to play.

Surely, rather than play short handed in the top strata, the opportunity is there to give a chance to a lower ranked player and many of them, IF ASKED, would welcome the chance to prove their worth.

After all, not all reserves are as "lambs to the slaughter" as many a class player has discovered.

VALDER HUDSON, O.A.P.
24 Enys Road,
Eastbourne,
Sussex.

TEAM SELECTIONS

The National Selection Committee announce the following team to participate in the Rumanian Open, in Cluj, from Jan 23-25 and in the Czechoslovakian Open, in Ceske Budejovice, from Jan 29-31/72.

Nicky Jarvis (Yorks), Peter Taylor (Beds), Karenza Mathews (Middx), and Linda Howard (Surrey). Bryan Merrett has been named as captain and ETTA Chairman, Charles Wyles will accompany the team.

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SCANDINAVIAN OPEN

TIME FOR CELEBRATIONS

by ALAN RANSOME

Denis Neale celebrated his return to the European tournament scene with the best performance of his 10-year international career at the 14th Scandinavian Open Championships held in Gothenburg, Sweden from Nov. 25-28.

In fact, it was celebrations all round as the township of Gothenburg itself was celebrating its 350th anniversary and, furthermore, Scandinavian Airlines System (S.A.S.) joined in by sponsoring the tournament and acting as co-organisers along with the Swedish T.T.A. and the Gothenburg T.T.A.

The Press and Swedish fans alike celebrated the success of Kjell Johansson in winning the men's singles event, in great style, and shock winner of the counterpart women's event, Birgitta Radberg. And, to cap it all, in the same stadium and timed to coincide with the championships, the world cup handball final between Yugoslavia and Rumania and the celebrations of the Yugoslavian supporters had to be seen to be believed!

Neale followed up his victory over world champion, Stellan Bengtsson, in the European League match, by reaching the semis of both the men's

singles and, with Trevor Taylor, the men's doubles in a championship which may well be of the highest playing standard achieved in the world this season.

Sweden's Björn Mellstrom played a great set against Neale in the opening round defending gallantly and coming in with the occasional quick hit in spectacular fashion. The Yorkshireman took a decisive 10-4 lead in the fifth game but the Swede fought back to 17-all before going under.

Neale's second round opponent was world No. 6, Hsi En-ting, the Chinese player who reached the world semis in Nagoya and in this encounter Neale was at his brilliant best completely outclassing his illustrious opponent 16, 17, 19, 15.

Another pengrip player was Neale's victim in Round 3, world-ranked No. 19, Milivoj Karakasevic of Yugoslavia. The set was a touch-and-go affair to the fifth game when Neale rocketed into a big lead and kept it to 20-14. But, never beaten the Yugoslav took the next six points to level before Neale finished him off.

UNBALANCED

The non-arrival of Hungary's Tibor Klapar and the French anti-loop specialist, Jean Paul Weber, caused the

draw to become slightly unbalanced at the quarter-final stage but, nonetheless, it was Czechoslovakia's world ranked No. 17 Jaroslav Kunz who barred Neale's path to the semis. In winning 3-1 Neale had his easiest set of the tournament.

World champion, Bengtsson, seeded No. 1, surprisingly lost to the Hungarian No. 6, Gergely who, in turn, lost to China's Tiao Wen-yuan.

It was Tiao Wen-yuan who ousted Neale, for after the Yorkshireman had nudged home 19 in the first, he really had no answer to a complete range of attacking strokes, brilliant serves, a great loop drive and strong hits on either wings which carried the Chinese player to subsequent scores of 14, 13 and 12.

The other half of the men's singles draw was equally fascinating and Trevor Taylor, after accounting for Neils Ramberg in Round 1, was next matched against Kjell Johansson and what a set-to this was!

Johansson won, 19 in the fifth, after 45 minutes play. But it was a different Taylor on this occasion. Not the player with the defensive hit, but a new player employing loop and kills, combined with counter-hitting, which truly stretched the dynamic Swede to the full distance.

After further wins over Dragutin Surbek (Yugoslavia) and Hungary's anti-loop man, Janos Borzei, Johansson then faced up to Eberhard Schöler in the semis.

The Federal German ace defender led by 2 games and 20-18 only for the Swede to hit his way out of trouble to equate the games score at 2-all. It was Schöler who set the pace again in the decider to lead 15-10 before Johansson, with tremendous style, again looped and killed for victory taking 11 of the last 13 points to win a final place.

Again in the final, against Tiao Wen-yuan, it was the Chinese player who went into a 2-0 lead but then, for some inexplicable reason changed his tactics to allow Johansson back in to level the set at 2 games all. The decider went from 7-all to 20-all and in a grandstand finish it was the Swede who brought the house down.

With tremendous points the score reached 22-21 to Johansson at which stage the Swede brought off a match winner to beat all match winners. Tiao hit the ball into the foreground corner of the arena, Johansson dived to reach it in goalkeeper style and killed it back whilst landing stretched out on the floor. But before he 'hit the deck', the ball had gone on—unquestionably the winner.

The crowd rose to him and the Press gave him front page leads next morning, publicity unequalled in Britain.

BEST PERFORMANCE

Neale and Taylor performed well in the men's doubles and accounted for the Yugoslavs, Istvan Korpa and Karakasevic in the quarters before losing, over 5 games, to Bengtsson and Bo Persson of Sweden.

Best English performance in the women's singles came from Jill Hammersley who reached the quarters with wins over Britta Andersson (Denmark) and Sweden's Marita Neidert before falling, over 4 games, to China's Cheng Huai-ying.

Birgitta Radberg, Sweden's top woman player beat Karenza Mathews

in straight games in Round 1 and went on to win the event.

Jill and Karenza reached the quarters in the women's doubles only to lose to China's Cheng Huai-ying and Li Li -16, 17, -12, -13.

"PETER THE GREAT"

Peter Taylor excelled himself beyond all expectations on the English Junior visit to Sweden and emulated the deeds of Eddie Hodson, back in 1954, when he won the youth singles event in the Scandinavian Open.

Using his "chop" backhand counterhits to full advantage, Peter accounted for the Swede, Kjell Hellström in the semis (-19, 18, 11) and Bo Isaksson (-17, 18, 10) in the final. Indeed, Taylor beat all that Sweden could throw at him in Gothenburg to win his biggest championship so far. Prior to the penultimate round he had disposed of Thomas Borg, Björn Danielsson and Daniel Pettersson all in straight games.

Taylor also won 11 out of 12 sets against Sweden in a 4-match series of international matches, his only loss being to Pettersson (20, -18, -19) in the last match.

Simon Heaps was also impressive in the series winning 6 sets against 4 losses but, impeded by injury in the Scandinavian Open, Ian Horsham was unable to produce the same form as at Ostend, in the European Youth Championships, his return being 3 out of 10.

International match results:—

At Trolhon on Nov. 17.

Sweden 3 England 5.

P. Taylor bt Isaksson 15, 13; bt Danielsson -16, 8, 21; bt Hellström -19, 14, 17.

S. Heaps lost to Hellström -18, -17; lost to Isaksson -12, 17, -15; bt Danielsson 16, 10.

I. Horsham bt Danielsson 16, 19; lost to Hellström -14, 19, -16.

At Boras on Nov. 22.

Sweden 2 England 5.

Taylor bt Pettersson 18, -19, 15; bt Sundberg -19, 17, 13; bt Thorsell 19, 19.

Heaps bt Thorsell 20, 25; bt Pettersson 20, 20.

Horsham lost to Sundberg -15, -12; lost to Thorsell -13, -23.

At Ed on Nov. 23.

Sweden 4 England 5.

Taylor bt Gustavsson 20, 21; bt Karlsson 17, -20, 12; bt Danielsson 18, 16.

Heaps lost to Danielsson -10, 18, -14; bt Gustavsson 18, -18, 17; lost to Karlsson 18, -20, -12.

Horsham lost to Karlsson -15, -12; lost to Danielsson -12, -15; bt Gustavsson 20, 21.

At Baden on Nov. 24.

Sweden 3 England 5.

Taylor lost to D. Pettersson 20, -18, -19; bt B. Pettersson 20, 20; bt Karlsson 9, -18, 19.

Heaps bt B. Pettersson 17, 18; bt Karlsson -19, 17, 19.

Horsham bt Karlsson 14, 15; lost to D. Pettersson -14, -20.

NEW ADDRESS

Ann and Don Mitchell's new address is 222 Chislehurst Road, Petts Wood, Orpington, Kent BR5 1NR. (Phone: 66 33901).

HALEX SUPER LEAGUE

by Lou Hoffman

CHESTER STILL 100% WITH TREVOR

Bobby Stevens was the choice of Chester Barnes, captain of the Scotia Team, as replacement for Peter Williams whose employment has taken him to the far distant shores of Bermuda. Unfortunately for Chester, after five matches, Scotia, at the bottom of the table, hold up the other five teams.

Winning his three sets against the Halex team of Haslam, Johns and Horsham, Chester maintained his 100% record. Stevens had a good win over Ian Horsham, but Robert Aldrich lost all three. Halex came out the winners by five sets to four. 6-3 would have made them joint leaders with London School of Flying.

The wisdom of having 1 point per set was clearly shown in the match between London School of Flying and Jaques. At the score of 5-2 in favour of Jaques, it looked certain that L.S. of F. were going to lose their position at the top of the table when, lo and behold, Robert Hellaby, who had lost his first two sets, against Brown and Peter Taylor, won his first game against Brian Burn, 18 and a glimmer of hope crept back into the L.S. of F. 21-13 to Burn, 10-4 to Hellaby at the change and 21-14 to make it 5-3. Roger Chandler to play Jaques Captain, David Brown. Roger took the first at 19, lost the second 15 and, to the cheers and jubilation of his team mates, won the third 16.

Before going on for that last game Roger had seen that Halex were finished and their total points were 25. Roger had to win to keep his team in the lead. He fought twice as hard and won well.

Peter Taylor for Jaques, who as the junior in the side must try and win one set to give his team a chance, won all three. His win over Denis Neale was one of the Super League's great sets. Denis has now lost twice, to Peter and to Trevor.

At the time of the opening ceremony, Tony Piddock of the BXL Team and Simon Heaps of Reddings, had not arrived so according to the rules reserves had to be chosen. Malcolm Sugden, Captain of BXL, chose Nilam, and Trevor Taylor, Captain of Reddings, chose junior reserve Graham Blomfield. Before this match started Reddings were 3rd. in the table and BXL 4th.

On paper this should have been a comfortable 5-4 win for Reddings. This is what happened. Mike Harper (BXL) won the first set against Blomfield (Reddings). Then Nilam (BXL) had a great win over Ron Penfold (Reddings) 15, 10, 20. Trevor Taylor beat Sugden 9 and 19 to bring Reddings back into the match when BANG, Harper poured cold water over Reddings' hopes and beat Penfold, 15, 10, 13. Sugden beat Blomfield to give BXL a 4-1 lead. Trevor gained one back beating Nilam and then it was Sugden's turn to beat luckless Ron 18 and 14. So, for the 2nd. time in the Super League, Ron had dropped all three sets. Trevor won all his three, keeping up with Chester Barnes as the only two with 100% records. BXL won the match 6-3 and take over third position in the table, which now reads:—

	P.	W.	Pts.
L.S. of F.	5	2	26
Halex	5	4	25
BXL	5	3	23
Reddings	5	2	21
Jaques	5	2	21
Scotia	5	2	19

During the course of the evening, which was attended by a larger crowd than at any of the previous matches, Reddings Tea donated 10 lbs of their best blend for a raffle, which raised the sum of £6.60, to help defray some of the cost of staging this super League. Following a recess over the festive season, the League was due to resume

activities on Tuesday Jan 11/1972 with Halex v. Jaques, BXL v. L.S. of F. and Scotia v. Reddings. This was the evening when Barnes was due to play Taylor, in a clash of the 100 percenters.

From the sponsors, players and officials of the Halex Super League to all readers of the T.T. News and potential spectators to future Super League matches, A Happy New Year with Table Tennis Greetings, to all, from Lou Hoffman.

WILTSHIRE NOTES

by "Moonraker"

Wiltshire's Executive-cum-selection committee will certainly provoke much comment with their January Senior Rankings with Dick Clode promoted to No. 1—without an appearance in the County Team Championships this season — while Bill Moulding, obviously playing below his proven form, demoted to third place.

Evidently Richard Arney is being made the "scapegoat" for the Moonrakers lack of success this season while there can be no arguing that Roy Smith's promotion was fully warranted after his unbeaten performance against Glamorgan II's at Swindon when the County incidentally picked up their first Division Two West point this season.

January Rankings are: MEN: 1. R. Clode (R.A.F. Lyneham), 2. R. Smith (West Wilts), 3. R. Moulding (Salisbury), 4. C. Hayward (Salisbury), 5. R. Arney (West Wilts), 6. K. Harrison (Swindon). WOMEN: 1. Miss A. Boyce (Devizes), 2. Mrs. G. Hazell (Swindon), 3. Miss H. Rusby (Devizes), 4. Mrs. M. Alexander (Devizes), 5. Miss N. Hazell (Swindon).

Male No. 4 seed Clive Hayward is the former Surrey ranked player who has made a big impression in the Salisbury League.

An upset to form was provided in the Western Counties Women's Match when Devizes hammered Swindon 8-1 at home with new No.

3 seed Helen Rusby scoring a 'two straight' 21-19 21-18 win over Gwen Hazell to once again stake a serious claim for possible inclusion in a county side which should now surely take on a team building policy.

Latest positions in the Wilts League are:

	MEN					
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
West Wilts	4	3	0	1	26	14 6
Devizes	4	3	0	1	20	20 6
Swindon	3	2	1	0	17	13 5
Warminster	5	2	1	2	27	23 5
Salisbury B	4	0	2	2	18	22 2
Salisbury A	4	0	0	4	12	28 0

	MIXED					
	P	W	D	L	F	A Pts
Devizes B	2	2	0	0	16	4 4
Devizes A	2	2	0	0	14	6 4
Salisbury A	2	1	0	1	10	10 2
West Wilts	2	1	0	1	10	10 2
Salisbury B	1	0	0	1	3	7 0
Swindon	3	0	3	7	23	0

Reigning Wilts champion Ailson Boyce successfully defended her Devizes title against another county seed Margaret Alexander at this season's Devizes Finals. I first saw the co-holder of the men's doubles title John Revell make his original appearance on Devizes Finals' Night some 22 years ago when also appearing on the 'same bill' in an exhibition match with Jack Carington was the then new World Champion Johnny Leach.

ALL THE RESULTS

Men's Singles: K. Welsh (Nurstead) bt A. Nicholas (Pulshot) -9, 19, 19. Women's Singles: Miss A. Boyce (Etchilhampton) beat Mrs. M. Alexander (Nurstead) 16, 17.

Boys' Singles: I. Wheeler (Devizes School) bt P. Lock (Boys' Brigade) 13, 19.

Veteran's Singles: D. Rigby (Poulshot) bt D. Perrett (Poulshot) 12, -18, 12.

Mixed Doubles: Miss A. Boyce/J. Cook (Etchilhampton) bt Mrs. M. Alexander/D. Yates (Nurstead) 15, -14, 7.

Men's Doubles: J. Revell/D. Rigby (Poulshot) bt A. Nicholas/D. Perrett (Poulshot) 12, 13.

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WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by Ron Anson

On the County front, Warwickshire's first team represented by "Rich" Cooper, Derek Munt, Ralph Gunnion, Jenny Cornock and Di. St. Ledger continued on their winning way with an 8-2 success over Hertfordshire. Main features of this match was the come-back of Gunnion, after a year's self-imposed 'rest', and the return to County duty of Jenny Cornock.

In the Junior Premier, Warwickshire achieved a creditable draw with last season's champions, Middlesex. Jeff Nix, Desmond Douglas and Stephen Taylor all performed exceedingly well to win 5 out of their 6 singles. Di St. Ledger and Karen Ludlow fought hard without quite achieving success.

Following this match, at Coventry, Nix and Douglas travelled to Worcester to do battle for Warwickshire II against Worcestershire II. Douglas in particular, was in tremendous form all day and along with Nix, Marcus Hall, "Andy" Jones and Janet Rowley helped Warwks. II to a 9-1 win.

At Junior second level, the County continue to disappoint with Cottam, Pilgrim, Ford, Karen Groves and Margaret Allen going down 3-7 at Derby. The general picture at junior level seems to indicate a faster rate of improvement by other counties and, obviously, much thought and effort will have to be brought to bear to rectify this disturbing situation.

Birmingham's men made further progress in the Wilmott Cup when Gunnion, Munt and Cooper defeated Hinckley 5-3. In the Rose Bowl, the women fell at the first hurdle to a very good West Bromwich side, but full marks to "Andy" Jones, Di St. Ledger and Janet Rowley for a brave effort which saw them 2-0 in front, with "Andy" beating the redoubtable Kath Perry, before going down 2-5.

Douglas, Nix and Taylor put Birmingham in Round 3 of the Carter Cup with a convincing 5-1 success over Derby, while Di. St. Ledger, Karen Groves and Margaret Allen saw Birmingham through to Round 2 of the Bromfield Trophy with a 5-2 victory, also over Derby.

At Intermediate level, Birmingham are taking all before them with Barry Johnson, Brendan Dunne and Brian Sturgess beating Oxford 10-0 and Johnson, Dunne and Phil Giles accounting for Nottingham 7-3.

The Veterans are having a difficult time with the "A" team of Eric Edwards, Jim Peakman and Eric Lippitt going down 3-7 to Oxford, and the "B" team of Arthur Hoey, Martin Crane and Mick Paddock losing to Coventry 1-9. Other results:— Birmingham (Judd, Hall & Mitchell) 8, Chesterfield 2.

Birmingham "A" (Munt, Cooper & Glynn) 6, Birmingham "B" (Morris, Mitchell & Isaacs) 4.

Birmingham Jnrs. "B" (Cottam, Horne & McCaughey) 2, Chesterfield 8.

From the Stratford Association comes news of new clubs and a new competition. New clubs in Henley-in-Arden, Ullenhall, Bearley and Fox Printers are proving stronger than expected being currently division leaders. It is good, however, to see

the growing interest which can only have the effect of raising the standard of play in this area.

The newly formed Intermediate league for 14-18-year-olds is proving a big success, and club leaders feel more coaching is now needed to consolidate this growth of interest. The Association is at the moment looking for a venue for its Closed Championships and are considering running an U-15 tournament in addition to an U17 event. Stratford's No. 1, John Tibbles, is leaving the district and will be sorely missed. While a ready-made replacement for John would be very welcome, the Stratford Assn., is making every effort to produce really top-class players from within their own boundaries, with a cherished ambition of providing a member (or members) of the County squad.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Laurie Landry

Unbeaten thus far in the Premier Division, the County has just cause for satisfaction more especially with the good result obtained against Glamorgan when without the services of Malcolm Sugden and Karenza Mathews.

The Junior team too remain unbeaten despite dropping a point to Warwickshire with an off-key performance at Coventry.

The immediate future gives cause for concern following the unfortunate accident suffered by Robert Aldrich who, on a training camp at Crystal Palace, broke his left arm. Hardly a Christmas present young Bob was looking for!

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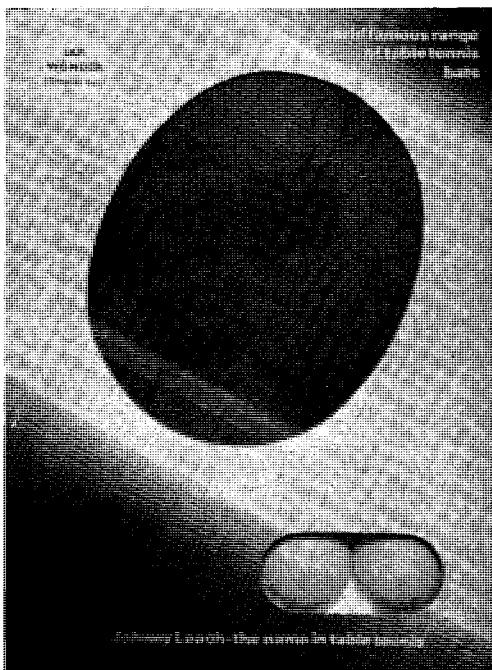
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NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Keith Ponting

Once again it is pleasing to report an increase in these championships. 57 leagues have entered their club champions as opposed to 47 last season. Many of these are new leagues and we welcome them.

In the Men's competition we have 55 teams, among them the winners last season, Ormesby of the Middlesbrough League. Even at this early stage in the competition it is difficult to see any team beating them, as they have a wealth of talent and experienced players to call upon.

The same can be said of the holders of the Women's event where we have the Gainsford Club of the Central London League aiming to repeat their success of last season. In this event we have 11 teams which is the same as last season.

I would like to see the ladies' number increase next year, so come on you ladies, let us have as big an entry as the men.

All first round matches should have been completed by Jan. 9th, and I list below the second round draw in both competitions for completion by Feb. 13th.

ZONE 1 —

St. Clares (Aycliffe) or Spittal (Berwick Upon Tweed) v. Moor Allerton (Leeds) or Harrogate Wanderers (Harrogate).

Tyne Dock Youth Club (South Shields) v. Ormesby (Middlesbrough) or St. James (Carlisle).

ZONE 2 —

Boston Penmaen (Boston) or Elm (Wisbech) v. Highgate 'B' (Grimsby) or Albion (Sheffield).

Sheepbridge (Chesterfield) or Rayner Sports (Sheffield Works) v. Norwich Lads Club (Norwich).

ZONE 3 —

Deepdale/Villa (Preston) or Savoy (Blackpool) v. Burnley Cricket Club (Burnley) or Blackburn Y.M.C.A. (Blackburn).

Silcoms (Bolton) or English Electric (Liverpool) v. Manchester Y.M.C.A. (Manchester) or Ilmond 'A' (Halifax)

ZONE 4 —

Co-operative 'A' (Nottingham) v. Central Y.M.C.A. (Birmingham) or Cookhill (Redditch).

Knighthorpe (Loughborough) v. Leicester Y.M.C.A. (Leicester).

ZONE 5 —

Acorn Cavalier (Watford) or East Herts College (Cheshunt) v. St. Neots T.T.C. (Bedford) or Hyde T.T.C. (Welwyn Gdn. City).

Ravens T.T.C. (North Herts) or Chesham 'A' (Chiltern) v. Brooniwade (High Wycombe).

ZONE 6 —

Cambridge University (Cambridge) or Clacton Brotherhood (Clacton) v. Fellows Cranleigh (East London) or Rosebery (Chelmsford).

Ilford Ltd. (Ilford) or Ellenborough (North Middlessex) v. Gascoigne (Dagenham) or Metropolitan W.B. (Walthamstow).

ZONE 7 —

John Keeble (Willesden) v. Whitbread Sports (London Bus. Houses) or Gunnersbury Triangle 'A' (Acton).

Blues (Tunbridge Wells) v. North Mundham (S. W. Sussex).

ZONE 8 —

A.W.R.E. (Aldermaston) (Newbury) or Merton (Bournemouth) v. Weston Y.M.C.A. (Bristol) or Snows T.T.C. (Southampton).
Byfleet L.T.C. (Byfleet) or Reading Post Office (Reading) v. St. Annes (Staines) or Ash (Guildford).

WOMEN

Parkside 'A' (Grimsby) v. Ormesby (Middlesbrough).
Central Y.M.C.A. (Birmingham) Bye.
Gainsford (Central London) or Whitbread Sports (London Bus. Houses) v. Letchworth Settlement Club (North Herts) or Bardhill (Insurance Offices).
Maldon Wanderers (Chelmsford) or Fellows Cranleigh (Barking) v. Woodley (Reading) or Merton (Bournemouth).

MIDLAND LEAGUE

by Philip Reid

'Match Of The Month' without much doubt was the Veterans' First Division match between Walsall and Nottingham. Only two of the ten sets failed to go the full distance and three were settled at 21-19 in the third!

Bob Peach was involved in two of them and he was Walsall's hero with a fine maximum. Eric Coggins was able to chip in with two, including a 21-19 in the third victory over Ron Bolton. For once Don Pritchard was below peak form, losing all three, all of them closely. The result? A draw. And very satisfactory to all concerned. R. Marshall's game with P. Giles (Darlaston v. Walsall 'B', Veterans Division Two) produced the remarkable scores of 6-21, 21-6, 7-21.

In the Men's First Division, Wolverhampton already look doomed but in Keith Fellows they have a youngster of immense promise. Against Nottingham he beat both Alf Saunders and Brian Mayfield, but to no avail, Nottingham collecting the other eight sets.

Bristol are the only team with maximum points in the Men's Second Division and with their all-round strength should be able to stay in the First Division without undue trouble, always assuming, of course, they got there!

A good maximum by R. Fowler gave Cheltenham an 8-2 victory against Redditch and brought a halt to their run of 6-4 wins. Identically placed with Cheltenham are Leicester 'C'.

Birmingham Intermediates gave a sample of their power when they played the only other unbeaten team in the Division, Oxford. The result was a 10-0 win for Birmingham, all the sets being two straight. It does suggest that the league champions of this division are virtually decided already but of course there is time enough for Birmingham to slip-up!

The Junior Division One has some teams having played four matches and another team only one so any league chart would mean very little. With two England-ranked Juniors to call upon this is a division Birmingham should "walk" but Leicester are still 100% and on their heels.

Whilst most 100% castles have already been toppled, in the Junior Second Division, no less than four players have still to suffer defeat.

They are Michael Green (Cheltenham), D. Jones (Coventry), Stephen Penny and Kevin Hall (Leicester).

No team has maximum points in the Veterans' First Division but Oxford and Nottingham have each only dropped one. As these two teams are not due to play each other until the last match of the season it could well be that the Divisional title will not be settled until then. The only 100% player in the division, however, is Alan Bury (Coventry). A newcomer to the Veterans' Second Division is R. Thickpenny (Nottingham)

but he has made an immediate impact and is the only player undefeated in the division.

Early results suggest that West Bromwich could take the title which has been Birmingham's for almost every year since its inception over 20 years ago—The Women's Division. Only once have Birmingham lost this (and it was to West Bromwich on that occasion) but with Dorothy Deeley, Kath Perry, Ann Baker and Rita Beebee to call upon West Bromwich must be in with a good chance.

COUNTY DIARY

FIXTURES AND VENUES FOR JANUARY, 1972

PREMIER	DIVISION	
Jan. 22	Essex v. Surrey , St. Peter's School, Southminster Road, Burnham on Crouch.	7.00 p.m.
	Lancashire v. Yorkshire , Lancaster Boys' Club, Dallas Road, Lancaster.	7.30 p.m.
	Middlesex v. Kent , East Finchley T.T.C., 142 High Road, East Finchley, N.2.	7.00 p.m.
	Sussex v. Glamorgan , Holy Family Convent, Littlehampton.	7.30 p.m.
SECOND	SOUTH	
Jan. 22	Buckinghamshire v. Middlesex II.	7.30 p.m.
	Kent 11 v. Essex 11, The Satellite Youth Club, Tunbridge Wells.	7.00 p.m.
	Sussex II v. Hampshire , Sun-Alton Sports Ground, Horsham.	7.00 p.m.
SECOND	NORTH	
Jan. 22	Cheshire v. Northumberland , C.P.R.O., Ministry of Defence, Grove Lane, Cheadle Hulme.	7.00 p.m.
	Lincolnshire v. Derbyshire , Y.M.C.A., St. Rumbold Street, Lincoln.	7.15 p.m.
SECOND	WEST	
Jan. 15	Devon v. Wiltshire , Devonport Guildhall, Plymouth.	7.15 p.m.
" 22	Glamorgan II v. Cornwall .	7.00 p.m.
	Somerset v. Dorset , Y.M.C.A., St. James Street, Taunton.	7.00 p.m.
SECOND	MIDLAND	
Jan. 22	Hertfordshire v. Gloucestershire , Oxhey Community Assn., Broadfields Lane, Hamper Mill Lane, Oxhey, Watford.	7.00 p.m.
	Warwickshire v. Leicestershire , Nuneaton T.T. H.Q., Vicarage Street School, Nuneaton.	7.15 p.m.
	Bedfordshire v. Staffordshire , Vauxhall Canteen, Dunstable.	4.00 p.m.
SECOND	SOUTHERN	
Jan. 15	Buckinghamshire II v. Oxfordshire , Beaconsfield Youth Club, Maxwell Road, Beaconsfield.	7.00 p.m.
" 22	Hampshire II v. Berkshire .	7.00 p.m.
NORTHERN		
Jan. 22	Derbyshire II v. Northumberland II.	7.00 p.m.
	Durham II v. Cumberland , Copley, Bishop Auckland.	2.30 p.m.
	Lancashire II v. Nottinghamshire II, Montague Burton's Canteen, Wapping Street, Halliwell, Bolton.	7.00 p.m.
MIDLAND		
Jan. 22	Shropshire v. Denbighshire .	7.00 p.m.
	Warwickshire II v. Staffordshire II.	7.00 p.m.
Feb. 5	Worcestershire II v. Denbighshire , Dunlops Ltd., Churchfield Street, Dudley.	7.00 p.m.
EASTERN		
Jan. 15	Norfolk v. Suffolk , Youth Centre, Dereham, Norfolk.	7.30 p.m.
" 22	Cambridgeshire II v. Northamptonshire , Metal Box Co. Canteen, Weasenham Lane, Wisbech.	7.00 p.m.
	Essex III v. Huntingdonshire , Rochway Youth Centre, The Rochway, Rochford.	7.00 p.m.
JUNIOR	PREMIER	
Jan. 22	Cheshire v. Yorkshire , C.P.R.O., Ministry of Defence, Grove Lane, Cheadle Hulme.	3.00 p.m.
	Essex v. Middlesex , St. Luke's, The Boyd Institute, Jude Street Corner, Canning Town, E.16.	2.30 p.m.
	Surrey v. Hertfordshire .	3.00 p.m.
	Warwickshire v. Kent , Nuneaton T.T. H.Q., Vicarage Street School, Nuneaton.	3.00 p.m.
JUNIOR	SOUTH	
Jan. 22	Hampshire v. Buckinghamshire .	3.45 p.m.
	Kent II v. Berkshire .	3.00 p.m.
Feb. 5	Sussex v. Hertfordshire II, Albemarle Youth Centre, West Common, Haywards Heath.	3.00 p.m.
JUNIOR	NORTH	
Jan. 22	Cheshire II v. Northumberland , Y.M.C.A. Church Road, Gatley.	3.00 p.m.
	Durham v. Cumberland , Copley, Bishop Auckland.	3.00 p.m.
	Yorkshire II v. Lancashire , North Yorkshire League Centre, Ormesby, Middlesbrough, Teesside.	3.00 p.m.
JUNIOR	MIDLAND	
Jan. 22	Lincolnshire v. Warwickshire II, Y.M.C.A., St. Rumbold Street, Lincoln.	3.00 p.m.
	Northamptonshire v. Leicestershire , Mixed Youth Club, Falconers Hill, Daventry.	6.30 p.m.
	Staffordshire v. Derbyshire .	2.30 p.m.
JUNIOR	EAST	
Jan. 22	Cambridgeshire v. Bedfordshire , Soham T.T. Club, High Street, Soham.	3.00 p.m.
	Huntingdonshire v. Norfolk .	3.00 p.m.
	Suffolk v. Essex II, The Dome, 193 Defoe Road, Ipswich.	2.15 p.m.
WEST		
Jan. 16	Devon v. Wiltshire , Torbay T.T. Centre, Torquay.	3.30 p.m.
" 22	Glamorgan v. Somerset .	3.00 p.m.
	Worcestershire v. Monmouthshire , Alcan Welfare Hall, Rogerstone.	3.00 p.m.
VETERAN	SOUTH	
Jan. 15	Hertfordshire v. Essex .	6.30 p.m.
" 22	Kent v. Oxfordshire .	7.00 p.m.
	Northamptonshire v. Hampshire , The Drill Hall, Northampton Road, Kettering.	7.15 p.m.
VETERAN	MIDLAND	
Jan. 22	Leicestershire v. Gloucestershire , Knighton Park T.T.C., Avenue Road Extension, Leicester.	7.00 p.m.
	Nottinghamshire v. Staffordshire .	7.00 p.m.
	Worcestershire v. Cheshire , Cripplegate Pavilion, Tybridge Street, Worcester.	7.00 p.m.

JUNIOR NORTH

Cumberland 0, Northumberland 10
A flattering result for the more experienced visitors.

Durham 6, Cheshire II 4

Two more young girls 'blooded' by Durham (one not registered causing forfeit of GD). This was not Durham's day as they used two boys in the wrong order and had to forfeit two more sets! The only set taken by Cheshire from actual play was by the promising and diminutive T. Burrows who accounted for John Crawford; Peter Edon and John Alsop were much too strong.

Westmorland 0, Yorkshire II 10**JUNIOR MIDLAND**

Warwickshire II 3, Nottinghamshire 7
Derbyshire 7, Warwickshire II 3

Nottinghamshire 4, Staffordshire 6
Paul Blincow and Lesley Elkins had steered Northants into a 3-all position, and the former stood 19-14 up on Stephen Rowe in the first game. Rowe then showed why he has an England ranking and won 21, 11 and Staffs. did not look back.

Nottinghamshire 5, Leicestershire 5

Weakened by the last-minute withdrawal of No. 1 boy, Notts. still grabbed 5BS, Chris Rogers taking the odd one for Leices. As expected, the visiting girls were too strong although dropping a game in the XD.

JUNIOR EAST**Essex II 7, Bedfordshire 3**

A lethargic Peter Taylor dropped games in each of his singles, winning XD straight with Janet Kingman. Essex took the rest. .

Suffolk 8, Huntingdonshire 2

Suffolk boys stronger all-round, but their girls had no match for Susan Richards.

Norfolk 2, Cambridgeshire 8**JUNIOR WEST****Devon 5, Somerset 5**

The visitors deserved their point, with stronger girls not dropping a game. Keith James and Kenny Reeve undefeated for hosts.

Gloucestershire 10, Monmouthshire 0

Monmouths. but a shadow of their former selves could only twice demand a final game.

Glamorgan 9, Wiltshire 1**Somerset 7, Worcestershire 3****VETERAN SOUTH****Essex 8, Hampshire 1****Northamptonshire 0, Kent 9****Hertfordshire 3, Oxfordshire 6**

Expedite win for M. Davies over Mrs. K. Rowden -13, 10.

VETERAN MIDLAND**Gloucestershire 1, Cheshire 8**

Spearheaded by Derek Schofield, Cheshire were far too strong. Only home success by Les Allen.

Staffordshire 5, Leicestershire 4

A fluctuating match with Don Pritchard clinching victory in the final set. The debut of steady Mrs. B. Hall contributed much to this.

Nottinghamshire 9, Worcestershire 0**DIVISIONAL TABLES TO**

31st DECEMBER, 1971

Premier

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yorkshire	3	3	0	0	23	4	6
Middlesex	3	3	0	0	21	6	6
Sussex	3	3	0	0	17	10	6
Essex	2	2	0	0	13	5	4
Surrey	3	0	0	3	9	18	0
Lancashire	3	0	0	3	7	20	0
Kent	2	0	0	2	4	14	0
Glamorgan	3	0	0	3	5	22	0

2nd South

	Essex II	3	2	1	0	21	9	5
Surrey II	3	1	2	0	18	12	4	
Middlesex II	3	2	0	1	14	16	4	
Sussex II	3	1	1	1	16	14	3	
Kent II	2	1	0	1	10	10	2	
Hampshire	2	0	0	2	6	14	0	
Bucks.	2	0	0	2	5	15	0	

2nd North

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Yorkshire II	4	4	0	0	36	4	8
Cheshire	3	3	0	0	28	2	6
Derbyshire	2	1	0	1	10	10	2
Northmblnd	2	1	0	1	6	14	2
Notts.	3	0	0	3	7	23	2
Durham	4	0	0	4	12	28	0
Lincolnshire	2	0	0	2	1	19	0

Junior East

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambs.	2	2	0	0	16	4	4
Essex II	2	2	0	0	15	5	4
Suffolk	2	2	0	0	14	6	4
Bedfordshire	2	0	0	2	7	13	0
Hunts.	2	0	0	2	4	16	0
Norfolk	2	0	0	2	4	16	0

Junior West

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Gloucs.	3	3	0	0	24	6	6
Devon	3	2	1	0	23	7	5
Glamorgan	2	2	0	0	18	2	4
Somerset	3	1	1	1	16	14	3
Worcs.	3	1	0	2	14	16	2
Wiltshire	3	0	0	3	4	26	0
Monmouths.	3	0	0	3	1	29	0

Veteran South

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Oxfordshire	2	2	0	0	15	3	4
Essex	2	2	0	0	14	4	4
Kent	2	1	0	1	12	6	2
Herts.	2	1	0	1	9	9	2
Hampshire	2	0	0	2	4	14	0
Northants.	2	0	0	2	0	18	0

Veteran Midland

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cheshire	2	2	0	0	14	4	4
Staffs.	2	2	0	0	11	7	4
Notts.	2	1	0	1	12	6	2
Leics.	2	1	0	1	10	8	2
Gloucs.	2	0	0	2	4	14	0
Worcs.	2	0	0	2	3	15	0

Coca-Cola Awards

1971-72

NEALE STORMS AHEAD

As the result of picking up 400 points in the Scandinavian Open, Denis Neale has opened a tremendous gap between himself and second placed Nicky Jarvis with Chester Barnes languishing in third position.

Still maintaining her lead in the women's section, Linda Howard continues to pile up points as the result of her successes in home tournaments with Jill Hammersley advancing her cause with 110 points netted in Gothenburg.

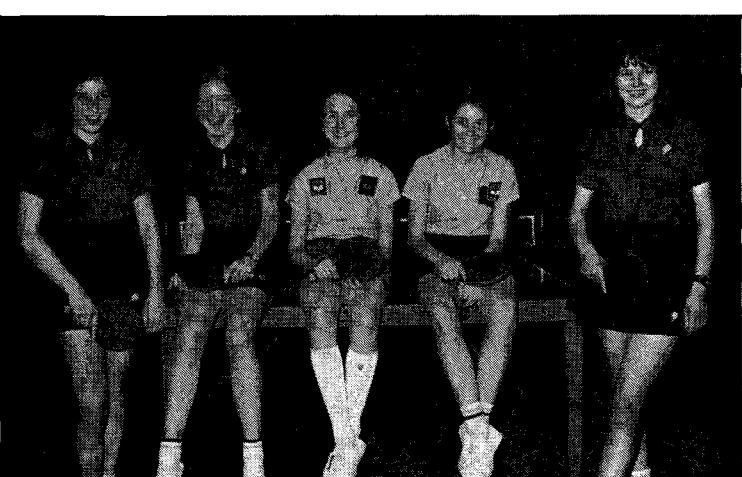
Wins by Judy Heaps, in the Midland Counties 3-Star, and by Shelagh Hession, in the Middlesex 2-Star, have advanced the challenge of both. Leading positions at the turn of the year were:—

Men

1. D. Neale (Yorks)	807
2. N. Jarvis (Yorks)	478
3. C. Barnes (Essex)	410
4. T. Taylor (Essex)	380
5. O. B. Haslam (Middx)	360
6. L. A. Clayton (Yorks)	257
7. B. Burn (Warwks.)	235
8. C. J. Warren (Surrey)	200
9. M. Johns (Ches.)	165
10. R. Chandler (Sussex)	130
J. Walker (Yorks)	130
D. Brown (Essex)	115

Women

1. L. Howard (Sussex)	640
2. J. Hammersley (Bucks.)	487
3. K. Mathews (Middx)	375
4. S. Hession (Essex)	300
5. J. Williams (Sussex)	275
6. D. Simpson (Essex)	160
7. J. Heaps (Ches.)	159
8. B. Bird (Kent)	125
9. L. Bashford (Yorks)	122
10. S. Lisle (Lancs)	105



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Five likely Yorkshire lasses from Hull seem pleased with the prospect. All aged 13/14, they are, from l. to r.: Beverley Shepherd, Joanne Kinnersley, Carole Grayson, Denise Sharples and Karen Wilson. All five are Hull Y.P.I. club members and are coached by Diploma Coach Peter Bowsley. Only Denise has yet to make a representative appearance for Hull, but you can be sure that state of affairs will not last much longer.

Photo by Tony Ross.

County Championships Round-up

by JOHN WRIGHT

SALUTE FOR GLOUCESTERSHIRE

The delayed publication date of this issue, and the early days of December in which most of the matches were played, combine to make this month's notes more like history than comment. But who would desire to deny a busy editor a peaceful Christmas dinner? Not this writer, at least!

No Premier shocks yet, but the big boys have yet to meet. 2nd North looks a two-horse race between Cheshire and Yorkshire II, with the former virtually certain to play in the Challenge matches. Warwickshire, of course, storm on in 2nd Midland although 2 South and 2 West are far less clear as yet.

Junior Premier hots up, with Yorkshire looking likely to gain the crown which eluded them last season. From the other divisions let us single out Gloucestershire in Junior West—when last did that County lead a Junior Division? My best wishes for the New Year to you all.

PREMIER

Glamorgan 2, Middlesex 7

G. Davies lost to O. Haslam -16, -16; bt A. Lindsay 12, 23.
A. Griffiths lost to Haslam -19, -17; lost to E. Coster -15, -16.
F. Anderson lost to Lindsay -16, 19, -17; lost to Coster -13, -14;
Davies/Griffiths lost to Haslam/ Lindsay -18, -18;
Miss L. Jones lost to Miss S. Hamilton 18, -18, -14;
Anderson/Jones bt Coster/Hamilton 18, -21, 14.

A weakened Middlesex team did well to win by this margin. Good singles wins for Eric Coster and Sheila Hamilton (both on Premier debut) but they rather surprisingly failed in XD. Glamorgan results should improve in the second half if their play in the last two matches is any guide.

Kent 2, Yorkshire 7

A. Piddock lost to D. Neale -14, -13; lost to A. Clayton -12, -14.
K. Baker lost to Neale -10, -10; lost to N. Jarvis -11, -16.
C. Morris lost to Clayton -11, -8; lost to Jarvis -12, -14.
Baker/Morris lost to Jarvis/Neale -13, -15.
Mrs. B. Bird bt Miss L. Bashford 8, 9.
Piddock/Bird bt Clayton/Bashford 22, -13, 19.

An unhappy Premier debut for Clive Morris who made little impression on powerful opponents.

Lancashire 2, Essex 7

A. Boasman lost to T. Taylor -11, -13; lost to D. Brown -12, -19.
K. Forshaw lost to Taylor -19, -16; bt S. Gibbs 14, -14, 17.
D. Parker lost to Brown -16, -20; lost to Gibbs -19, -16.
Boasman/Parker lost to Gibbs/Taylor -22, -17.
Mrs. D. Johnson bt Miss D. Simpson 16, 21.
Forshaw/Johnson lost to Brown/ Simpson -16, -16.

David Brown's powerful play thrilled the 150-strong crowd, his set

with Donald Parker being the evening's best with long rallies bringing long applause. Poor evening for Tony Boasman, way below his best and not troubling impressive Trevor Taylor. Nice wins for Kevin Forshaw and Diane Johnson.

Surrey 4, Sussex 5

C. Warren bt R. Chandler 15, -19, 13; bt S. Ogundipe 14, 14.
R. Penfold lost to Chandler -14, -11; lost to J. Clarke -12, -20.
B. Hill bt Ogundipe 10, 12; lost to Clarke -9, -19.
Hill/Warren lost to Chandler/Clarke 14, -18, -11.
Miss L. Howard bt Miss J. Williams 15, -17, 17.
Penfold/Howard lost to Ogundipe/ Williams -15, 18, -11.

Surrey preferred Linda Howard to sister Susan and in her first Premier match this young lady did them proud. Judy Williams had decided to hit a fair number of balls to spoil Linda's game, and after a time to adjust she levelled the set at game all. Then Linda began to read these and led 10-4 and 16-10; determined defence from Judy made it 16-all. A long point, finished by Linda with kill wide of her opponent's backhand virtually settled the issue. "Connie" Warren and John Clarke both impressive, the latter sweeping aside Ron Penfold after Surrey had come back from 1-4. Poor Penfold—really out of touch—let's hope he forgets easily.

2nd SOUTH

Essex II 8, Buckinghamshire 2

Middlesex II 2, Surrey II 8

A poor display by Middlesex and possibly vitally important points for Surrey, who did well to take the opportunities offered. Chris Strathearn and Paul Beck both in form.

Sussex II 4, Kent II 6

5 MS for Kent, with Joyce Ellis weighing in with WS, were just enough.

2nd NORTH

Derbyshire 4, Nottinghamshire 6

Colin Deaton occupied the table for a long time, being involved in two "expedites". Successful in the first, v Brian Mayfield from 11-9 in 1st game, he was outmanoevred by Alf Saunders in the second, Saunders led 14-9 in 2nd game when expedite called and he went on to win -14, 14, 17. Eric Hall outstanding but Notts had greater fight and won the three sets which needed a final game.

Durham 1, Cheshire 9

Cheshire flattered by the score: only in 4 sets were they undisputed masters. Services played a vital part giving the visitors initiative when it mattered. Mike Johns pushed hard by J. Armstrong, the latter polishing off Nigel Eckersley in the final encounter.

Northumberland 0, Yorkshire II 10

How are the mighty fallen! Three times champions of this division in the last four seasons (once with their 2nd team) and now this. But what a 2nd Yorkshire have: Jimmy Walker (lucky to beat Peter Hoyles 22, -14,

22), Alan Ransome (a member of two of those successful Northumberland teams), Jean Krier (Luxembourg No. 1, now at Hull University), Linda Sutton and Sylvia Broadbent. Useful.

2nd MIDLAND

Staffordshire 7, Cambridgeshire 3

Successful return to first team duty for Brian Keates, balanced by two good wins by Tony Littlechild who added Glen Warwick to his increasing collection of scalps.

Warwickshire 8, Hertfordshire 2

A bad day for Derek Munt, felled -10, -19 by Barry White and also dropping XD with Diane St. Ledger. Otherwise the visitors did not have much of a look in. Nice to see Jenny Cornock back in action.

Bedfordshire 2, Gloucestershire 8

2nd WEST

Devon 7, Dorset 3

A little flattering to Devon who had the best singles players: Dorset's teamwork gave them all the doubles. Barry Davis and Mike Rattue more positive than colleague Bob Parkins, whose determination pulled him through. Pam Mortimer taken the distance by Jenny Vass.

Wiltshire 5, Glamorgan II 5

This is a little more like it, Wilts, but two MS (both from No. 3 Roy Smith) is no way to win matches.

Worcestershire 7, Cornwall 3

The visitors' John Bassett continued his fine run, this time picking up MD (with Martin White) as well as his two MS. Worcs. generally in command.

SOUTHERN

Hertfordshire II 4, Berkshire 6

Good, straight-game win for David Rawlinson over Bob Thornton put Herts. in the lead at 4-3 after trailing 0-3. Berks. then rallied to take the last three for victory.

Oxfordshire 4, Hampshire II 6

Leading 4-2, Oxfords. looked like taking their first points for nearly two years. But it was not to be with Hants. coming through strongly at the end.

NORTHERN

Durham II 4, Northumberland II 6

S. Haughney got his young team off to a great start, beating Arnold Warents 16, 12 and this spurred his team (4 of whom have played for Durham Juniors) to a 4-1 lead. The greater experience of the visitors stood them in good stead in the crisis and they ran out narrow winners picking up the last five sets (numbers 7-10 needing the 3rd game). M. McMaster the best player.

Cumberland 2, Northumberland II 8

Derbyshire II 1, Lancashire II 9

Nottinghamshire II 5, Durham II 5

MIDLAND

Denbighshire 0, Warwickshire II 10

This looks a careless display by Warwicks., 5 MS needing a 3rd game, won variously at 7, 12, 15, 9 and 7.

Monmouthshire 6, Denbighshire 4

The difficult Barbara Williams took

both sets with something to spare, but apart from her Monmouths. had little trouble in taking a 6-2 lead. Tony Huish then let Roy Williams off the hook with loose play and fell 18, -27, -18, and Tony Watkins also fell at 18 in 3rd, to R. Lloyd. John Mansfield back in New Year for Monmouths?

Worcestershire II 1, Warwickshire II 9

2 hours 10 minutes for this match and would have been a good deal less had Marcus Hall retained concentration when leading John Bell by a game and 16-9. Superb hitting and fine retrieving in the final game made the extra time worthwhile with a win for Hall 17, -17, 19. Nick Bottomley dominated Jeff Nix (14, 11) in final set, the Warwicks. player having come over from Coventry after the Middlesex match.

Staffordshire II 10, Shropshire 0

EASTERN

Cambridgeshire II 1, Essex III 9

Seven sets won in 3rd game, all by Essex, who were denied a clean sweep by Paul Day's 22, 17 success over David Bowles.

Suffolk 8, Northamptonshire 2

Good wins by Mike Palmer and John Kitchener, both over Roderick Marchant, and the ball running for the hosts in the doubles gave them a resounding success and their biggest win since this match 4 seasons ago.

JUNIOR PREMIER

Cheshire 3, Middlesex 7

Despite a fine maximum from Brian Johns, the absence of Simon Heaps was too much for Cheshire.

Surrey 7, Kent 3

Keith Lythgoe recovered from shattering first game to beat David Harding -4, 11, 13 but Dean Dino-Smith's two BS were Kent's only other wins. Linda Howard took some time to quell the opposition spirit in GD; and XD very close with first two games going with boys service, then Surrey leading 10-2 at "ends" after "wrong" order. Mandy Coghlan then found the answer to David Bangerter's service, but the Surrey lead just enough.

Yorkshire 9, Hertfordshire 1

Richard Morris, who beat Tony Martin, unlucky to go down 16, -18, -18, to David Alderson but otherwise little trouble for this strong team.

Warwickshire 5, Middlesex 5

A big disappointment to the visitors, particularly after the previous day's result. But one BS (by Bob Aldrich over Jeff Nix -17, 15, 27) not good enough.

JUNIOR SOUTH

Berkshire 8, Hampshire 2

Berkshire's most decisive victory for many years, set up by BD which was close and could have gone either way. At 4-1 up, Berks. were confident, Hants. knew it, and could not hold them. A good match at Vandervell, a new and attractive venue.

Kent II 5, Buckinghamshire 5

7-3 said the result sheet, but an unregistered girl cost Kent GD and XD.

Sussex II 10, Oxfordshire 0

A real fight for John Avey who scraped home 14, -12, 22 over F. Bashir who had earlier been thrashed -14, -4 by Alan Terry.

Continued on page 27