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Table Tennis News

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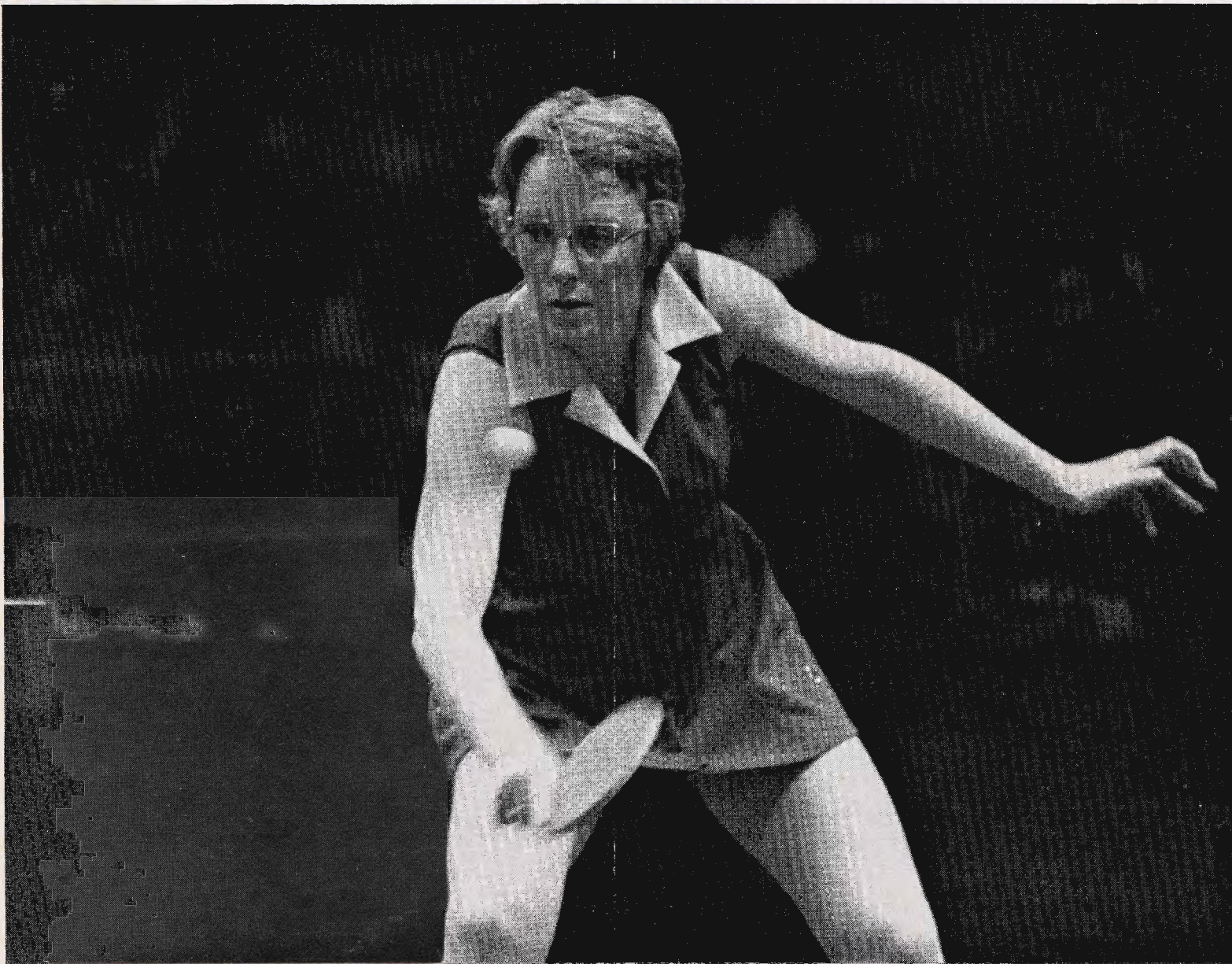


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LOST DIVIDEND

It would seem a pity that a little of the gloss attaching to the British Universities' Sports Federation 2-day Quadrangular International event at Sheffield University, on April 13-14, was tarnished by a lack of umpires.

Such was the state of affairs at Sheffield, on the Sunday at least, that the Hon. Referee had to lend a hand, as did the event organiser, not to mention the Guest of Honour, who felt obliged to render assistance also.

Only one other qualified umpire put in an appearance, which hardly did justice to an event of this nature, most seriously contested by student players from Great Britain, Federal Germany, Belgium and the Netherlands.

One cannot imagine the Deutscher Tisch-Tennis Bund being found guilty of such shortcomings were their Universities to have hosted the event, and it reflects adversely on the E.T.T.A., who are endeavouring to establish a courtship with such establishments as they are with the teacher-training colleges.

Not only should it be the aim of the national association to encourage educational authorities to an awareness of the sport in the coaching sphere, but practical assistance in other fields, suitably backed by county bodies, might well pay further dividends.

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NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS



Denis Neale on his way to taking his fifth men's singles title to equal the record of Chester Barnes.

SALUTE TO YOUTH

by JOHN WOODFORD

Denis Neale and Jill Hammersley, England's top players, will be wearing their crowns for the next year, but the 1975 Norwich Union English Championships will be remembered as the year when our young players made the greatest surge forward for at least five years!

Players of vast experience were swept aside at regular intervals by youngsters like Paul Day and Carole Knight—it was only the class of Denis and Jill that just about held them off from sweeping the board.

Two five-game singles finals suggested a really thrilling session, but things did not happen that way. Neale has suffered some embarrassing defeats at Crystal Palace over the last five years, with Trevor Taylor and Chester Barnes sharing the spoils. This time, thought Denis, "I'm going to win it."

No quarter was given in the Neale-Jarvis final. The Ormesby men fought like tigers. Using every inch of the table with his superb controlled blocking and half-volleying, Neale took the first two 21-12, 21-19. Then came a great recovery by Jarvis, piling on his heavy top-spin to win the next two 21-11, 21-18.

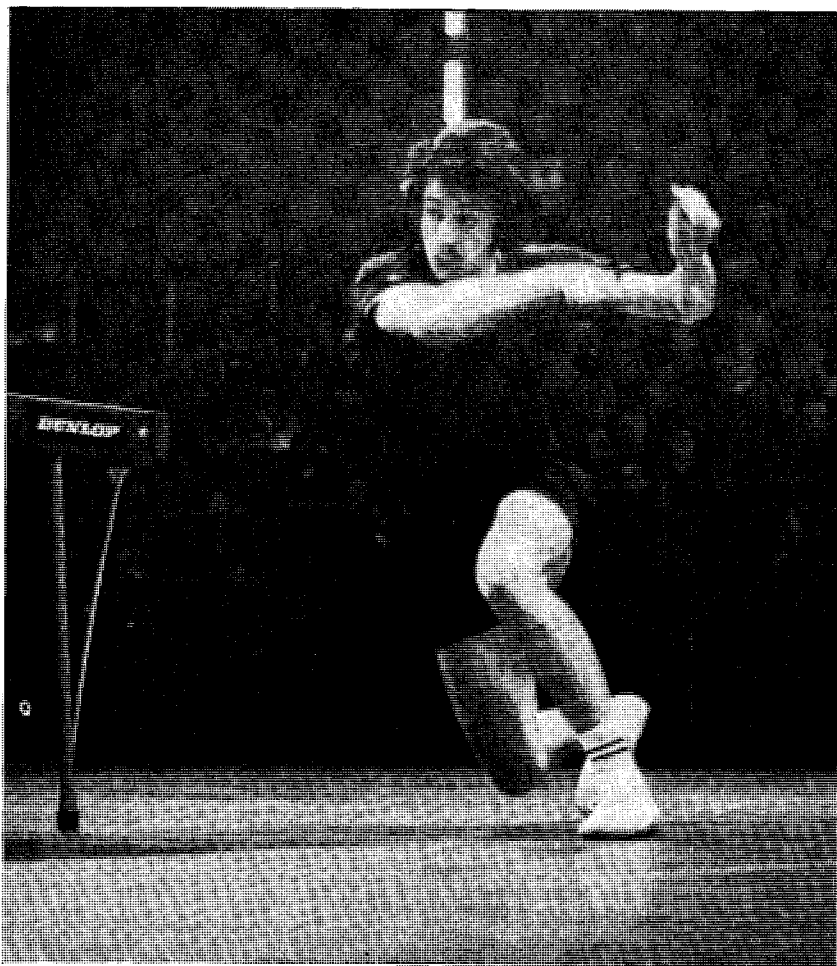
Jarvis, the fittest of our top players, looked as though he might take the title through sheer physical strength when he led 13-11. Neither man really varied his tactics. Neale levelled at 14-all then to 18-15 and finally 21-17, claiming his fifth crown, equalling the record of Chester Barnes.

ORMESBY TOP-SPIN

Carole Knight was certainly the wonder girl of the championships. Her Ormesby-brand of top-spin must make her an England champion of the future. Her problem in the final against Jill Hammersley was that she couldn't maintain the pressure or the accuracy over five games. Defenders always seem to have the physical advantage in a long battle, and so it proved here. Carole dashed ahead to win the first two, cutting through Jill's usually immaculate defences 21-17, 21-19.

Jill's ranking of No. 4 in Europe was achieved after similar fight-backs. The scores of the last three games—21-15, 21-14, 21-11—reveal the true picture of Jill gaining confidence as the Ormesby lass slid slowly down the hill to defeat—but still a great performance by Carole. She has one person to thank, Anita Stevenson, for taking out the No. 2 seed, Linda Howard, in the second round.

England selectors have a relatively easy task in making up the top of their final lists for the campaign. Neale and Jarvis must remain as they are. The big question is, has Carole Knight done enough to make the No. 2 spot? I think she has.



Nicky Jarvis, who fought every inch of the way in a memorable men's singles final.

Karenza, as she said, "... would have liked to have gone out winning," but it was the improving Janet Hellaby who piled on the pressure to win at 22-20 in the fifth. In Round 2, however, Miss Hellaby's progress was brought to an abrupt conclusion by England's No. 1 junior, Miss Melody Ludi.

Bearing in mind that most supporters have already been impressed by the potential of Carole Knight and Paul Day, Miss Ludi's game has been elevated on my list of future champions to a high position.

Digressing for a moment on the serving of these rising stars—one of the main topics of the tournament was the question of Paul Day's serving. On the Thursday night there was the rumpus when umpire Bob Bridges faulted him. On Friday there was a much shorter hold-up in the mixed doubles when Carole Knight stopped the game demanding that "he served properly." Ace services should not be a means of scoring in table tennis, but, of course, all services should be executed to make the return as difficult as possible for the receiver and as loose as possible for the server.

It's now up to our worthy band of umpires to give their verdicts. One has done so, but apparently, only because he could not see what was going on. There were also spectators a little unhappy over several of the services being employed by the leading juniors, including the three girls, Anita Stevenson, Melody Ludi and Carole Knight. This routine of dropping the hand holding the ball almost to the floor before bringing it up to table level is apparently legal, but also an annoying and an unnecessary fad.

SEEDS PERISH

Welcome changes to the programme brought forward Rounds 1—3 of the men's singles into the Thursday evening programme. Previously, only preliminary rounds were played on Thursday night.

On that evening, the top four seeds went through to the quarters, but the other four

perished. Out went Jimmy Walker (5), Andy Barden (6), Ian Horsham (7) and Donald Parker (8). Top-of-the-form in the shock category was a stunning show by Les Eadie (Essex) who beat Keith Summerfield (Hants) and then halted the recently rampant Barden -12, -14, 14, 18, 23. Eadie even took Peter

Taylor to a juncture only two points from defeat but Taylor struggled home 21-19.

Walker's defeat by Day included an 8-minute hold-up when the Cambridge lad asked for the replacement of the umpire, Bob Bridges, who was not happy with Day's service, or his ability to see what was going on. Referee Len Pilditch was called to the scene. He rapidly rejected Day's request. Despite the upset, it was Day who played better table tennis on the resumption.

Donald Parker's downfall to John Kitchener was the first shock for North-West supporters. The Suffolk lad, moving fast and counter-hitting splendidly, eventually went through at 19 in the fourth, although he nearly made it 3-straight as Parker survived a match-point in the third.

Clayton's battle with Ian Horsham provided the only five-gamer of Round 3. There was so little to choose between them as they snatched alternate games. Bitterly disappointed, Horsham was taken out 24-22 in a brilliant decider.

Guildford's Sue Henderson, another player alleged to be on the "soon to retire" list, was the lady who impressed most in Round 2 of the women's singles. The North-West supporters were silenced again as Mrs. Henderson's ability to defend and attack proved too much for the No. 3 seed, Susan Lisle. Sue Henderson may change her mind on retiring after this sort of victory.

An England No. 3 ranking takes a lot of living up to and on this occasion it was too much for Miss Lisle. The Cheshire lass's loop is in the older class, high and slow. This gives a class defensive player plenty of time. Mrs. Henderson took advantage of this to record a fine win 20, 14, -16, 14 and earned a battle with Shelagh Hession's dour defence in the quarters.

JOURNEY'S END

Round 1 of the women's singles proved to be the end of the road in two senses for Karenza Mathews, who has now retired from the competitive arena in favour of table tennis coaching and possibly squash. 231 appearances for England is an amazing record (thanks to the man who counted—Bryan Merrett) and one that must gain great respect, especially from coaching pupils.



"Put me amongst the girls" could well be the title of this shot of John McDonnell, Public Relations Manager of the Norwich Union Insurance Group, with (l to r): Karenza Mathews, Carole Knight, Linda Howard and Jill Hammersley.



New look attire as worn by Jill Hammersley, winner for the third successive season, of the women's singles title.

THE FALLERS

Appropriate to Grand National weekend, which must have kept the crowds down to around 200, these were a few of the fallers in the first three rounds of the men's singles: Steve Lyons (Surrey) lost -5, -9, -8 to Neale; Chris Sewell (Glos) almost took Horsham to 5; Gordon Chapman out -9, -17, -21 to Des Douglas; Laurie Landry out to a shocker by Mike Harrison, of Yorkshire—closest match of the tournament 21, -20, 20, -19, 24; David Brown down to Walker -22, -18, -13; Alan Ransome tanned by David Tan 17, 22, 9. At the next hurdle Parker took out Eckersley, Trevor Taylor hammered David Alderson 13, 11, 21, Eadie stopped Barden and Jarvis halted Tan 18, 12, 13.

JUNIOR TRIUMPH

For the first time in the history of this tournament the men's doubles was won by a junior pairing, Paul Day and Andy Barden. This was a wonderful achievement.

The lads were in the top half of the draw with an easy start, coming past Campbell-Richardson and Summerfield-Brown. First signs of powerful opposition came in the quarters when they stopped Chris Sewell and Mark Mitchell 9, 19, 17. Then, of course, they had to face the two best pairs in England to win. Faltering slightly in the semi-final by losing the first game to Neale and Douglas, they scraped the second 23-21 and then absolutely swept past the giants 13, 13.

In the bottom half, Nicky Jarvis and Jimmy Walker progressed, as expected, to the final, but Mike Johns, chairman of the new Players' Association, partnered by John Hilton, caught a lot of attention with a fine victory over the

No. 3 seeds, Trevor Taylor and Donald Parker, at 16 in the fifth.

Even in the final Day and Barden continued to combine so well that they really slaughtered Jarvis and Walker 12 and 9. The Cleveland pair began a fight-back in the third but the lads held on in great style to win 23-21.



Nicky Jarvis and Jill Hammersley further combine with a smile after their mixed doubles success over Paul Day and Melody Ludi.

LAST SCANNING

A last look at the remaining draw-sheets shows a very low entry in the women's events—only 16 pairs in the doubles is an appalling entry for the Championship of England. In that event both seeded pairs—Hammersley-Howard and Mathews-Knight—reached the final. It was fitting that Karenza Mathews ended her career on a winning note when partnered by Carole Knight, they broke through the No. 1 seeds 17, 19, 15.

Juniors Paul Day and Melody Ludi led the competitors in the top half of the mixed doubles a fine dance! They waltzed past Ian Horsham and Sue Lisle but only at 16 in the fifth and then whizzed through the Walker-Knight combo in four. So it was tough all the way—in the semis another cracking success at 19 in the fourth over top seeds Denis Neale and Karenza Mathews. Meanwhile in the other half, predictably, Jill Hammersley and Nicky Jarvis (surprisingly seeded No. 3) came through but not before another 19 in the fifth battle with Andy Barden and Angela Mitchell. But, in the final, class told once more, and it was almost total victory for Nicky and Jill, winning the last three comfortably after losing the first.

DESMOND EXPRESS

I think the senior player who promised most during the tournament and came away with precious little, was Desmond Douglas. Having seen him on a few of his best days, notably his classic win over Johansson at Belper, I thought Desmond was almost playing well enough to win the title. The sheer speed of his attack against Neale in the singles semi-finals left one wondering how soon he will come out on top. An injection of Neale's control and it must come.

MEN'S AND WOMEN'S CONSOLATION EVENTS

Nearly 60 men contested the consolation singles with David Welsman and Paul Randell contesting the final. Randell proved far too strong at that late stage to win 13, 5. But Welsman's victims included Gordon Chapman 19, 9, and Nigel Eckersley 25, -14, 18. Randell's scalps included Ian Kenyon (Kent) at 22, -20 in the third, and Keith Richardson, of Cambridge-shire, in the semis.

The women's consolation event was held for only seven players. Final victory went to the evergreen Jean Williams, who chopped her way to the trophy over Belinda Chamberlain.

Results

Men's Singles—Round 3

D. Neale (Cleve) bt J. Hilton (Ches) -16, 4, 17, 11.
 J. Kitchener (Sfлк) bt D. Parker (Lancs) 14, 20, -21, 19.
 A. Clayton (Yks) bt I. Horsham (Essex) 14, -17, 11, -5, 22.
 D. Douglas (Warwks) bt G. Blomfield (Essex) 15, 5, 12.
 T. Taylor (Beds) bt B. Johnson (Warwks) 21, 13, 10.
 P. Day (Cambs) bt I. Robertson (Nthid) 10, 20, 15.
 P. Taylor (Beds) bt L. Eadie (Essex) 15, 12, -18, 19.
 N. Jarvis (Cleve) bt M. Mitchell (Middx) 18, 12, 13.

Quarter-finals
 Neale bt Kitchener 19, 14, 12.
 Douglas bt Clayton 14, 20, -21, 19.
 Day bt T. Taylor 21, 14, 14.
 Jarvis bt P. Taylor 13, 12, 16.

Semi-finals
 Neale bt Douglas 16, -10, 19, -19, 12.
 Jarvis bt Day -16, 14, 12, 12.

Final
 NEALE bt Jarvis 12, 19, -11, -18, 17.

Women's Singles—Round 2

J. Hammersley (Bucks) bt J. New (Hants) 9, 13, 7.
 M. Ludi (Yorks) bt J. Hellaaby (Essex) 16, 20, -13, 15.
 S. Hession (Essex) bt S. Hamilton (Middx) 6, 12, 9.
 S. Henderson (Surrey) bt S. Lisle (Ches) 20, 14, -16, 16.
 C. Knight (Cleve) bt M. Walker (Middx) 8, 18, 12.
 K. Rogers (Leics) bt J. Livesey (Essex) 9, 20, 17.
 A. Stevenson (Leics) bt S. Sutton (Essex) -18, -16, 17, 18, 10.
 L. Howard (Surrey) bt K. Greenough (Surrey) 12, 8, 10.

Quarter-finals
 Hammersley bt Ludi 8, 10, 13.
 Henderson bt Hession 18, 16, -16, 14.
 Knight bt Rogers 18, 21, 20.
 Stevenson bt Howard 19, -19, -19, 14, 19.

Semi-finals
 Hammersley bt Henderson 18, 13, 14.
 Knight bt Stevenson 12, 13, -19, 17.

Final
 HAMMERSLEY bt Knight -17, -19, 15, 14, 11.

Men's Doubles—Quarter-finals

Douglas/Neale bt Kitchener/D. Tan (Middx) 15, 17, 18.
 A. Barden (Middx)/Day bt Mitchell/C. Sewell (Gloucs) 9, 19, 7.
 Hilton/M. Johns (Ches) bt Parker/T. Taylor 18, 19, -11, -6, 16.
 Jarvis/J. Walker (Cleve) bt D. Brown (Essex)/Horsham 15, 19, -7, 20.

Semi-finals
 Barden/Day bt Douglas/Neale -18, 21, 13, 13.
 Jarvis/Walker bt Hilton/Johns 15, 19, -7, 20.

Final
 BARDEN/DAY bt Jarvis/Walker 12, 9, 21.

Women's Doubles—Quarter-finals

Hammersley/Howard bt A. Mitchell (Middx)/Sutton 14, 18, 21.
 Lisle/Stevenson bt J. Coop/J. Reading (Hants) 15, 13, 20.
 Henderson/Hession bt L. Barrow (Essex)/Walker 13, -15, 10, 11.
 Knight/K. Mathews (Middx) bt Greenough/Ludi 22, 17, -20, 14.

Semi-finals
 Hammersley/Howard bt Lisle/Stevenson 13, -19, 13, 11.
 Knight/Mathews bt Henderson/Hession 19, 17, 19.

Final
 KNIGHT/MATHEWS bt Hammersley/Howard 17, 19, 15.

Mixed Doubles—Quarter-finals

Neale/Mathews bt Hilton/Hession 19, 13, 15.
 Day/Ludi bt Walker/Knight -15, 17, 17, 14.
 Jarvis/Hammersley bt Mitchell/Greenough 21, 20, 13.
 Barden/Mitchell bt Douglas/Howard 17, -21, -17, 9, 19.

Semi-finals
 Day/Ludi bt Neale/Mathews 21, 16, -17, 19.
 Jarvis/Hammersley bt Barden/Mitchell 17, 10, 19.

Final
 JARVIS/HAMMERSLEY bt Day/Ludi -14, 15, 16, 13.

Men's Consolation Singles—Quarter-finals

N. Eckersley (Ches) bt M. Palmer (Cambs) 17, 14.
 D. Welsman (Surrey) bt G. Chapman (Surrey) 19, 9.
 K. Richardson (Cambs) bt P. Glynn (Warwks) 18, -10, 19.
 P. Randell (Leics) bt C. Rogers (Leics) -20, 19, 18.

Semi-finals
 Welsman bt Eckersley 25, -14, 18.
 Randell bt Richardson -17, 12, 10.

Final
 RANDELL bt Welsman 13, 5.

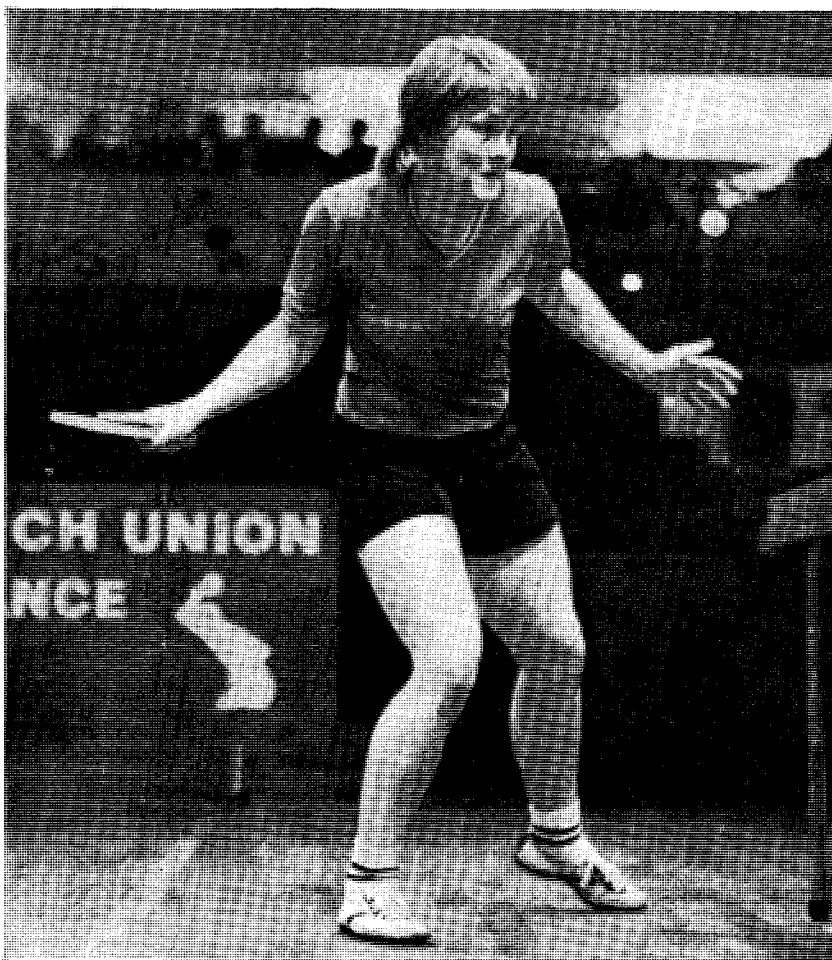
Women's Consolation Singles—Quarter-finals

J. Williams (Bucks) bye.
 Coop bt S. Sharp (Beds) 13, 12.
 E. Britton (Middx) bt J. Thorpe (Berks) 12, 17.
 B. Chamberlain (Hunts) bt D. Sinclair (Middx) 19, 16.

Semi-finals
 Williams bt Coop 20, -19, 26.
 Chamberlain bt Britton 12, 15.

Final
 WILLIAMS bt Chamberlain 12, 10.

**PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE
of the Championships is by
PETER MADGE**



Cleveland's Carole Knight, described as the "wonder girl of the championships."



Paul Day holding the new men's doubles trophy, donated by Mike MacLaren, pictured with Andrew Barden.

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I.T.T.F. RULE CHANGES 1975

by COLIN CLEMETT
(Chairman I.T.T.F. Rules Committee)

The formidable-looking list of amendments agreed at the 1975 B.G.M. in Calcutta, contained a few relating to the Laws and Playing Regulations, and most of these will affect equipment rather than playing procedure. Perhaps the most interesting was the decision to allow players, by mutual agreement, to play under the Expedite System at any time before its compulsory introduction after fifteen minutes of play in any game. In practice, the most likely time for such an agreement to be reached will be at the beginning of the match, but it remains to be seen how many players will take up the option and so relieve spectators of fifteen minutes boredom. Perhaps if this rule does not achieve its object we might suggest a variant in which the audience decide when the Expedite System should be introduced!

Apart from some minor changes of wording to remove possible anomalies, the racket law was changed by the addition of a clause making illegal the use of white, yellow or brightly reflecting material as binding or trimming round the edge of the blade. It was decided also to discontinue, at least for the present, the experimental rule that had been in force since 1973, allowing materials other than wood to be used as the blade material. This is not, however, the end of the matter, as the I.T.T.F. Equipment Committee will be studying the whole question of blade and covering materials and may well have proposals to put to a future Congress. This Committee is now concerned with a wider range of equipment approval, following the decision by Congress to add tables and nets to the list of items for which approval is needed before use in certain international competitions, such as Open International Championships. At a lower level, only types of ball approved by the Federation may now be used in any tournament played under I.T.T.F. regulations, a restriction applied previously only to the top-grade competitions.

There were several changes to the clothing regulations, including the permission to use lettering instead of or in addition to numbers on playing garments for the identification of players and a recommendation for the maximum width (10mm) of different-coloured edging or trimming round the edges or along the seams of playing clothing. The whole question of acceptable colours and designs for table tennis clothing, which has caused so much discussion and argument over the years, was studied by the I.T.T.F. Rules Committee and their recommendation to Congress for an experimental rule was accepted.

Under this rule, which any Association may decide to adopt, clothing may be of any colour other than white or yellow, provided it is substantially of a uniform colour. If, as is believed, this relaxation of the requirement for a "light colour" does not cause any difficulty to players, it may be possible at the next Congress to make the change permanent and remove at least one of the areas of contention arising from the present regulation. As part of a general desire to improve the presentation of the game, a new regulation that was introduced this year forbids the wearing of any part of a track suit during play at top-grade events, except by specific permission of the Referee. It is to be hoped that the organisers of other events, at which the rule is not automatically mandatory, will choose to adopt it as a condition of play.

The other innovations of interest to umpires are the use of a blue card to signify, to players and spectators, that a player has been warned for a service of doubtful legality and a rationalisation of the languages specified for scoring

and stroke counting. While the normal language for both functions will continue to be that of the organising Association, it will be permissible for the umpire to use any other language which is acceptable to both players or pairs. With the increase in exchanges of umpires at international events, it does not seem sensible to insist on, for example, a French umpire officiating at a match between two Czech players in the Swedish language when all three understand German, and the change simply recognises what has become accepted procedure in many events.

There are two items which are of particular interest to Referees. The first deals with one aspect of the perennial problem of draw changes, and specifies a procedure for re-arranging the seeding where several seeded players scratch from one section of the draw. It is now permitted, if a complete re-draw is impracticable, to re-number the remaining seeds and to re-draw them into the seeded places as far as possible, without altering the remainder of the draw. The second allows the Referee not to draw the winners of qualifying rounds into specific places in the main draw until the completion of the qualifying competition. When the winners are known he may then draw them into the places left vacant, but making sure that no winner is drawn against another player of the same Association.

Most of the other amendments were improvements to the wording of existing rules, in preparation for the publication of a new edition of the I.T.T.F. Handbook. This edition, which will be the first major revision since 1967, will attempt, among other things, to make quite clear which of the Regulations applies to which type of event. It will incorporate all the new changes and, in anticipation of its publication, amendment sheets have already been prepared for the Handbooks for Umpires and for Referees and Competition Organisers. These are now being printed and copies will shortly be made available for all E.T.T.A. officials concerned.

CHESHIRE NOTES

by Brian Kean

Cheshire finish runners-up in Premier Division, Stockport crash in their Wilmott Cup quest, and Trevor Burrows looks as though he's arrived in the top flight.

After edging home 5-4 against Bedfordshire, Cheshire have finished in 2nd spot of the Premier Division of the County Championships. The value of Susan Lisle has proved itself beyond compare. Susan hasn't lost a set and when you consider we've won four matches by the odd set, her record has been the backbone of our success. Overall it's been a great team performance, with Mike Johns, John Hilton and Nigel Eckersley supplying the required consistency to attain our position.

Stockport suffered a surprise defeat at the hands of Potteries in the Wilmott Cup. As a 1-5 reverse suggests, it was no fluke, Messrs. Hilton, Schofield and Kean offered little resistance to their destroyers, Isaacs, Rause and Burrows.

Consolation for Stockport in that Trevor Burrows is a Cheshire lad and his disposing of Schofield and your scribe gave heart for the future of the game in local pastures. With John McNee also producing the goods, we are now picking up some strength in the younger ranks. These two lads and Brian Johns, should provide a good young second team. I would like to see Wendy Shaw coming into this side to complete the breakthrough of youth.

The Stockport Closed Championships, played in April at Hazel Grove, can—from a player's view—only be described as a disaster. I played my first Stockport Closed ten years ago in conditions far superior to these provided last month. The lighting was pathetic—60w bulbs, 20 ft. or was it 1,000 ft. high—tables so close that doubles play was almost impossible.

I appreciate the thankless task officials have to endure in organising such events but I feel the game is about players and the playing of

Table Tennis, so every effort should be made to provide facilities conducive to a better standard of play—What!—Who won it?—Oh, I don't like bragging!!!—but Diane Johnson won the Women's Singles, Dave Constance the Youths, Steven Dobbins collected the J.S. title whilst the mixed went to Alan Summerfield and Diane Johnson. The unluckiest man on show must have been Terry Donlan, who lost in three finals. The Vets went to Derek Schofield, whose wife, Doreen, was Terry's partner in the mixed, the Vets finalists losing in the Men's Doubles to Parker and Kean "deuce" in the 3rd.

The Sale Championships provided new champions in all departments. The finals took place at Sale Cricket Club and it was pleasing to see youth to the fore in most events. Derek Schofield stifled the challenge of Graham Moore in the semis of the Men's as did Roger Idowu, who eliminated Brian Clements. However, from here on age and experience took over as Schofield crushed Idowu 14 and 9. The Women's Singles was won by Jane Fielding at the expense of her clubmate, Chris Hancock. Miss Fielding featured in two other finals, but without joy. In the J.S. she fell to Idowu and in partnership with Moore, Miss Taylor and Dave Constance proved too good a mixed pairing. A second title was had by Derek Schofield who, in partnership with Police Constable John Gallon laid down the law and imposed a penalty of defeat on the Temple Club's youthful pairing of David Madden and Kevin Hayes.

In the same league the Railway Club team performed more regularly and consistently than their trains, and collected a hat-trick of titles in the form of the First Division championship, the knock-out cup and rounded the season off by taking the Handicap Trophy also. So congratulations go to Messrs. Mole, Boardman, Clements, Nixon and chief whip, Mike Gardner.

The two major titles in the Manchester Schools' Championships were won by lads who could honour our gracious county in future years. David Madden and Ross McFarlane won the U-17 and U-15 events respectively.

Comic comment of the year was heard at the recent Scottish Open, in Edinburgh, where we were graced by the visit of Venezuelans.

I hereby publish a conversation between Scotland's Russell Brown and John Wilson:—JOHN: "I wonder if the Venezuelans speak Spanish."

RUSS: "Of course they do . . . ! All South American countries speak Spanish—except Portugal!"

On that note I'll take my leave of you—see you next month.

TABLE TENNIS TERMS

The International Table Tennis Federation have recently produced for Umpires, a handbook of Table Tennis Terms, giving some 300 words and phrases used in table tennis in English, French, German and Spanish. Further details can be supplied from A. K. "Bill" Vint, the Hon. General Secretary of the I.T.T.F., at 20 Havelock Road, Hastings, TN34 1BP (Phone: Hastings 30971—office hours).

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LEICESTERSHIRE NOTES

by Phil Reid

DISAPPOINTING NOTE

The 1974-5 season finished on a disappointing note for the County having lost by default to Derbyshire in circumstances which were unfortunate, to say the least. Topping the 2nd Division (Midland) for the second consecutive season would not, of course, guarantee a place in the Premier Division, but the team would have welcomed the chance. My sympathies go to the Leicestershire team who would almost certainly have won the match easily, had it have been played, wherever it had been played.

The Junior 1st team have, not surprisingly, been relegated, having collected only one point the whole season. Without Anita Stevenson and Karen Rogers, this team really never had a chance of staying up, particularly as only Chris Rogers and Grahame Hall were available regularly. There were, however, encouraging signs for the Junior 2nd team which could have a very good season next term. Whilst Chris Rogers is unlikely to be available very often, there will be Steven Kenney, David Gannon, Steven Day and Steven Freeman all available. With Julie Revill and Yvonne Hall likely to play, this team could be one to be watched.

The Veterans had another good season, ably led by Bryan Hall, aided and abetted by Charlie Jacques, Phil Overend and Glenys Odams.

Midland-League wise, Leicester had mixed results. Congratulations are in order to the first men's team, who topped the Men's Division 1. Paul Randell had another fine season, losing only two of his 24 sets, whilst Chris Rogers (16 wins) and Graham Hughes (15) supported him well. Graham Hughes must have been particularly satisfied with his display

over the season. He has often threatened to do well but this must surely be his best-ever season, certainly for consistency.

As disappointing as the Men's 1st team was satisfying, was the indifferent displays put up by the Men's 2nd team, who have been relegated. Colin Truman was the only player to show anything like the necessary standard. He collected nine wins out of 18 sets, whilst the remainder of the team could muster only eight out of 45 between them. The Women's team, too, was dominated by one player—Karen Rogers—who was 100%. Her efforts certainly improved the final position of the Leicester team.

If there appears to be a shortage of promising young female players to play in the town team, certainly the position is much happier with the boys. Against all odds, the Leicester team, chosen from Kenney, Phil Smith, Gannon and Day, have gained promotion to the Junior 1st Division. All of these players, except Smith, will be available next season for the team's matches in Division One. It is a pity Smith will be too old—he has really blossomed as the season has progressed, but at his present rate of progress he could still be playing for Leicester next season—for the Men's 2nd team. Kenney was undefeated—a good performance for a player who at the start of the season was playing far from well.

The Veterans had another useful season with Jacques topping the averages.

The Rose Johnson Bowl was duly won by the young Jones & Shipman team (Phil Smith, Steve Day, Gary Metcalf and Dave Boatman) with a win over the keen Great Glen side (Johnny Aston, Alan Wilford, John Lucas and Andrew Read) in the final.

Few changes are anticipated at the Leicester League A.G.M., although the chairman, John Bowness, has announced he will not be standing for re-election. With his numerous other commitments, he feels the time has come to

step down, although fortunately, he will be carrying on as Press Officer of the Leicester League.

TRAINING CAMPS IN SWEDEN

The Swedish Table Tennis Association have had many requests from English table tennis players who want to take part in Swedish Training Camps during the summer:

The following camps have been arranged to take place in Kolboda, near Kalmar:—

Bo Persson Table Tennis School—
June 8-14, 14-20 and 21-27.

Anders Johansson Table Tennis School—
June 27—July 6 and July 3-9.

Youth Camps—
July 9-15 and 15-21.

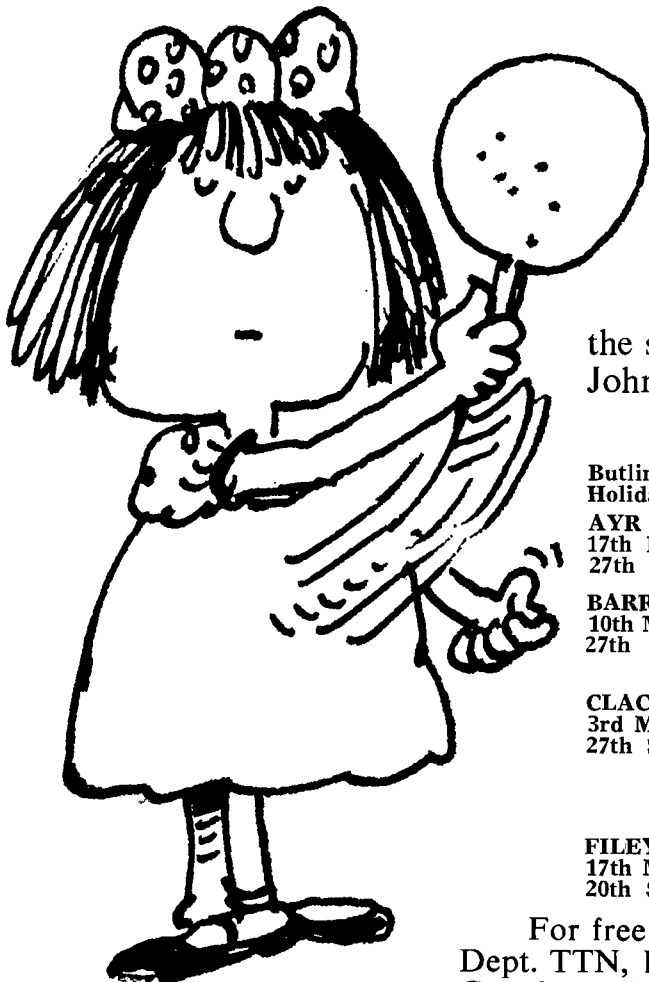
Top Weeks (Swedish classified players)—
July 21-27 and July 27-Aug. 7 (Swedish top trainer engaged).

Ann-Christin Hellman Table Tennis School—
Aug. 2-8 and 8-14.

Cost per course is 95 U.S. dollars and further information can be had from Camconsult, Box 104, 184 00 Akersberga, Sweden. Please state name, age, home address and phone number and time of intended visit. Contact can also be made through the Swedish T.T.A. or by telephoning 0764/62605. Play at Kolboda will be on 20 Stiga Expert tables.

Cover Picture

Jill Hammersley, England's First Lady, who brought off her third consecutive win in the women's singles event of the Norwich Union English Championships at Crystal Palace last month. Jill's new style dress made a splash of colour in blue with a bright yellow collar.



1975 NEWS OF THE WORLD BUTLIN TABLE TENNIS COACHING SCHEME

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FILEY 17th May to 20th Sept. **STEVEN TRACEY** Irish International

Butlin's Holiday Centre Coach and Title

MINEHEAD 10th May to 20th Sept. **ALAN GRIFFITHS** Hawthorn, Pontypridd Welsh International and No. 1 Player

PWLLHELI 17th May to 27th Sept. **BRIAN JOHNS** Northwich, Cheshire English International

SKEGNESS 17th May to 27th Sept. **DENIS NEALE** Great Harwood, Lancs. English International and Reigning English Champion—Member of 1975 World Championship Squad

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On the International Front

by The Editor

ENGLAND DEMOTED WITH FEDERAL GERMANY

Beaten 4-3 by Yugoslavia in their final European League match of the season at Hull, the closeness of the defeat gave England an expectancy of retaining their Premier Division status, based on having a superior sets analysis to that of the Soviet Union.

But the Russians, away to Sweden, the new champions, also obtained three wins to equal England's tally of sets won and lost, the tie break being effected by the ratio of games which went in favour of the Soviet Union, whose 60-60 was much superior to the 57-67 of England, who join Federal Germany in the descent to Division 2.

France, beaten 4-3 by Hungary at Le Havre, maintained their one set advantage obtained against England at Horwich, whereas Federal Germany, beaten 4-3 by Czechoslovakia, in Jesenik, were already doomed.

England, in their Humberside encounter, put up a gallant display to the extent of leading 3-2 after being 0-2 in arrears. Denis Neale might well have saved the day in the penultimate set but he let slip a golden opportunity to capitalise on an opening game win over Dragutin Surbek, to go down 19, -19, -13.

Nicky Jarvis, in the match decider, failed to counter the deft touches of Anton Stipanovic, a player who reached the final of the men's singles in the Calcutta World Championships.

Jill Hammersley had sparked off England's revival with a competent display against Erzebet Korpa, furthered by success in both sets of doubles in which Neale and Desmond Douglas won the men's and Douglas, partnered by Linda Howard, took the mixed. Individual scores:—

D. Neale lost to A. Stipanovic -13, -15.
N. Jarvis lost to D. Surbek -10, 18, -15.
J. Hammersley bt E. Korpa 9, 13.
D. Douglas/Neale bt Stipanovic/Surbek 14, -14, 20.
Douglas/L. Howard bt Stipanovic/Korpa -11, 18, 19.
Neale lost to Surbek 19, -19, -13.
Jarvis lost to Stipanovic -17, -16.

Russia, from being 1-4 down to Sweden, took the last two sets when Stanislav Gomozkov beat Stellan Bengtsson and, in a gripping final set, Anatoliy Strokotov got the better of Kjell Johansson. Scores:—

S. Bengtsson bt A. Strokotov 20, -10, 17.
K. Johansson bt S. Gomozkov 18, -17, 17.
A.-C. Hellman bt E. Antonian 13, -13, 17.
Bengtsson/Johansson lost to Gomozkov/S. Sarkhojan 14, -17, -18.
Johansson/Hellman bt Gomozkov/T. Ferdman 12, 22.
Bengtsson lost to Gomozkov -16, -15.
Johansson lost to Strokotov 11, -19, -18.

Jacques Secretin, with wins over Istvan Jonyer, the world champion, and Gabor Gergely, carried the fight for France at Le Havre, where Claude Bergeret registered her first women's singles win in the Premier Division by beating Henriette Lotaller. Scores:—
J. Secretin bt I. Jonyer 12, 11.



P. Birochaeau lost to G. Gergely -13, -15.
C. Bergeret bt H. Lotaller -15, 17, 19.
Birochaeau/Secretin lost to Gergely/Jonyer -19, -14.
Secretin/Bergeret lost to Jonyer/Lotaller -22, 17, -20.
Secretin bt Gergely 15, -19, 13.
Birochaeau lost to Jonyer 20, -22, -17.

Jochen Leiss had a win over Milan Orlovski, the European champion, in Jesenik, and partnered Wiebke Hendriksen to a mixed doubles success over Miroslav Schenk and Ludmila Smidova. Miss Hendriksen had earlier beaten Miloslava Zizkova in the women's singles. Scores:—

M. Orlovski bt P. Engel 12, 12.
J. Kunz bt J. Leiss 15, -17, 15.
M. Zizkova lost to W. Hendriksen -9, -15.
Orlovski/M. Schenk bt Engel/Leiss 15, -18, 16.
Schenk/L. Smidova lost to Leiss/Hendriksen -10, -17.
Orlovski lost to Leiss -18, -11.
Kunz bt Engel 9, 18.

FINAL TABLE

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Sweden	7	6	1	31	18	6
Hungary	7	6	1	28	21	6
Yugoslavia	7	5	2	27	22	5
Czechoslovakia	7	4	3	28	21	4
France	7	2	5	23	26	2
Soviet Union	7	2	5	22	27	2
England	7	2	5	22	27	2
Federal Germany	7	1	6	15	34	1



Claude Bergeret who, in Le Havre, notched her first European League W.S. success in beating Henriette Lotaller.

Individual scores in matches played on April 10 on which grey date France beat England 4-3 at Horwich were:—

Federal Germany 2, Hungary 5 (at Elsenfeld)
Leiss lost to Gergely -16, -16.
P. Stellweg lost to Jonyer -13, 12, -9.
Hendriksen bt Lotaller 19, 19.
Engel/Leiss lost to Gergely/Jonyer -20, 10, -16.
Engel U. Hirschmüller lost to Jonyer/J. Magos-Havas -16, -19.
Leiss lost to Jonyer -19, -14.
Stellweg bt Gergely -19, 19, 12.

Sweden 5, Czechoslovakia 2 (at Sölvesborg)
Johansson bt Kunz 19, -12, 18.
Bengtsson bt Schenk 11, -14, 12.
Hellman bt A. Grofova -21, 10, 18.
Bengtsson/Johansson bt Kunz/Schenk 14, 10.
Johansson/Hellman lost to Kunz/Grofova -16, -14.

Johansson bt Schenk 13, -15, 15.
Bengtsson lost to Kunz -20, 15, -19.
Yugoslavia 5, Soviet Union 2 (at Nis)
Surbek bt Strokotov 23, 16.
Stipanovic bt Sarkhojan -18, 14, 20.
E. Palatinus lost to Antonian -16, -17.
Stipanovic/Surbek lost to Gomozkov/Sarkhojan -17, 11, -18.

Stipanovic/Palatinus bt Sarkhojan/Antonian -12, 18, 14.
Surbek bt Sarkhojan -8, 16, 12.
Stipanovic bt Strokotov 14, 14.

LEADING AVERAGES

Men	Average			
	P	W	L	%
D. Surbek (Yu)	12	10	2	83.3
G. Gergely (Hu)	14	10	4	71.4
K. Johansson (Sw)	14	10	4	71.4
J. Kunz (Cz)	14	10	4	71.4
S. Bengtsson (Sw)	14	9	5	64.2
I. Jonyer (Hu)	12	7	5	58.3
A. Stipanovic (Yu)	12	7	5	58.3
J. Secretin (Fr)	14	8	6	57.1
M. Orlovski (Cz)	12	6	6	50.0
A. Strokotov (Ru)	10	5	5	50.0
D. Douglas (En)	4	2	2	50.0
J. D. Constant (Fr)	2	1	1	50.0

Women	Average			
	P	W	L	%
H. Riedlova (Cz)	3	3	0	100.0
J. Magos-Havas (Hu)	4	3	1	75.0
J. Hammersley (En)	7	5	2	71.4
A.-C. Hellman (Sw)	7	5	2	71.4
W. Hendriksen (FG)	6	4	2	66.6
E. Antonian (Ru)	3	2	1	66.6
A. Grofova (Cz)	3	2	1	66.6
E. Palatinus (Yu)	4	2	2	50.0

Both Denis Neale and Nick Jarvis finished with a 25% average playing 12 sets, winning 3 and losing 9. Contesting the men's doubles sets throughout, Neale and Douglas won 5 and lost 2 for an average of 71.4%, whilst Douglas, with Linda Howard, succeeded on 4 occasions, losing to Orlovski/Riedlova (Cz), Gergely/Magos-Havas (Hu) and Secretin/Bergeret (Fr).

PLAY-OFF

Beating Denmark 5-2 in Holstebro on April 12, Poland became the outright winners of Division 2A, qualifying to meet Austria, the champions of Division 2B who, in their final match, lost 4-3 to Italy but, by virtue of a better set average, denied their conquerors, whose 5-2 defeat by Greece must still smart.

Scores:—
Denmark 2, Poland 5
C. Pedersen bt Z. Fraczyk 14, 19.
B. Grimstrup bt W. Woznica -16, 19, 17.
S. Poulsen lost to C. Norworyta -10, -10.
Grimstrup/N. Ramberg lost to S. Fraczyk/Woznica -20, -17.
Ramberg/Poulsen lost to Woznica/Norworyta -14, -18.
Pedersen lost to Woznica -8, -10.
Grimstrup lost to Z. Fraczyk -13, -24.

Italy 4, Austria 3 (at Bari)
S. Bosi bt Rottenberg -14, 8, 16.
R. Giontella bt Thallinger -20, 16, 18.
L. La Gioia lost to R. Gerich -15, -17.
Bosi/Giontella bt Rottenberg/Thallinger 20, -18, 19.
Giontella/F. Pascale lost to Rottenberg/Gerich -12, -11.

Bosi lost to Thallinger -15, 7, -20.
Giontella bt Rottenberg 18, 18.

Final tables:—

DIVISION 2A

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Poland	4	4	0	20	8	4
Netherlands	4	3	1	17	11	3
Ireland	4	1	3	13	15	1
Denmark	4	1	3	11	17	1
Belgium	4	1	3	9	19	1

DIVISION 2B

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Austria	4	3	1	20	8	3
Italy	4	3	1	16	12	3
Greece	4	2	2	14	14	2
Luxembourg	4	1	3	12	16	1
Switzerland	4	1	3	8	20	1

The play-off for promotion to the Premier Division will be played in Czechoslovakia on a date to be announced. Bulgaria, as winners of the Mediterranean Group will play off against Norway, the winners of the West European Regional Group, for promotion to Division 2. In the Mediterranean Group play-off Bulgaria beat Turkey 6-1 and Spain 7-0. Spain beat Turkey 6-1 to finish second.

As was agreed at a General Meeting of the E.T.T.U. in Calcutta, the Second Division will, next season, consist of two divisions of six teams each. As a result, there will be no team relegated from this Division. The Premier Division reverts to seven teams, hence two teams being demoted—England and Federal Germany.

EUROPE CLUB CUP

The final of the Men's and Women's section will be played in Frankfurt on May 9 between GSTK Vjesnik, of Zagreb, Yugoslavia, and Sparta Praha (CSSR). The latter club will also contest the women's section final against Varbergs BTK, of Sweden, who ousted the holders for the past four years—Statistika PSC, of Budapest, Hungary, by 5 sets to 3.

In front of 340 paying spectators in the small city of Varberg, the Swedish girls excelled with the following scores:—
E. Stroemvall lost to J. Magos-Havas 1-2.

A.-C. Hellman bt H. Lotaller 2-0.
B. Olsson lost to B. Kishazi 1-2.
Hellman bt Magos-Havas 2-1.
Stroemvall lost to Kishazi 0-2.
Olsson bt Lotaller 2-1.
Hellman bt Kishazi 2-1.
Olsson bt Magos Havas 2-1.

Ann-Christin Hellman is the only player to reside in Varberg. Birgitta Olsson lives in Vaernerborg, another small town, whilst Eva Stroemvall travels from Stockholm.

EUROPE TOP 12

A very successful Europe Top 12 was organised by the Austrian Association in the Stad-halle, Vienna, over the period April 4-6, 1975. The event attracted 1,500 spectators on each of the five sessions, who were treated to some very exciting play.

Winner of the Men's Section was Kjell Johansson, of Sweden, who won 10 of his 11 sets, losing only to Istvan Jonyer, and in the Women's Section, Ann-Christin Hellman, also of Sweden, won through without loss. Unfortunately Hana Riedlova, of Czechoslovakia, had to withdraw because of a sprained arm and some of the best women were unable to attend—Zoya Rudnova (USSR), Jill Hammersley (England), Beatrix Kishazi (Hungary) and Birgitta Radberg (Sweden). Results:—

	Won	Lost
1 Kjell Johansson (Sw)	10	1
2 Anton Stipanovic (Yu)	8	3
3 Istvan Jonyer (Hu)	8	3
(Stipanovic bt Jonyer)		
4 Dragutin Surbek (Yu)	7	4
5 Stellan Bengtsson (Sw) ..	7	4
(Surbek bt Bengtsson 24-22 in the 5th)		
6 Milan Orlovski (Cz)	5	6
7 Jacques Secretin (Fr)	5	6
8 Jaroslav Kunz (Cz)	5	6
(4-3; 5-4; 3-5)		
9 Sarkis Sarkhojan (SU) ..	4	7
10. Gabor Gergely (Hu)	3	8
11 Anatoliy Strokotov (Ru) ..	3	8
(Gergely bt Strokotov 21-17 in the 5th)		
12 Janos Börzsei (Hu)	1	10

Women

	Won	Lost
1 A.-Christin Hellman (Sw) ..	10	0
2 Wiebke Hendriksen (FG) ..	8	2
3 Henrietta Lotaller (Hu) ..	6	4
4 Maria Alexandru (Ru) ..	6	4
(Lotaller bt Alexandru)		
5 Elmira Antonian (SU)	5	5
6 Alica Grofova (Cz)	5	5
7 Svetlana Fedorova (SU) ..	5	5
(2-0; 1-1; 0-2)		
8 Judit Magos-Havas (Hu) ..	3	1
9 Blanka Silhanova (Cz)	3	7
10 Edit Wetzal (FG)	3	7
(42.22; 42.31; 42.34)		
11. Ursula Hirschmüller (FG)	1	9

TRAINERS' CONFERENCE

Under the auspices of the E.T.T.U. a Trainers' Conference will be held in Paris from May 25-29, 1975.

EUROPEAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Advance information about the 10th European Championships, to be held in Prague, Czechoslovakia, is that Congress will be held on March 28, the period of the championships being from March 26—April 4, 1976. Preliminary entries must be made by Dec. 1, 1975, and final entries by Jan. 20, 1976. The draw will be made on Feb. 18, 1976.

CORRECTION

On the Calendar of Approved Tournaments sent out on March 12. Last item—English Junior Open Championships — please change the date from May 17-18 to May 15-16, 1976.

Entries for next season's Europe Club Cup close on June 30, 1975. The final of the Men's and Women's Team event will be held in Reykjavik, Iceland, on June 21, 1975.

FEDERAL GERMAN JUNIOR OPEN

DAY REACHES TWO FINALS

England's Paul Day reached the final of the boys' singles in the 2nd Federal German Junior Open, played over the weekend of March 29-30 in Dillingen, and, with Andrew Barden, contested the final of the boys' doubles.

The host nation's Engelbert Engel, a defender, triumphed in the singles event, as did Hans-Joachim Nolton and Ralf Wosik in the doubles.

Young Day began his singles run with a win over Guido Bisi, of Italy, and followed up with a victory over Michael Graf, of Federal Germany. In the quarters, the Soham boy ousted Lars Franklin, of Sweden, whose Ake Grönlund fell to the English left-hander in the semis.

Marie-France Germiot, of Belgium, won the girls' singles title beating Eva Strömvall, of Sweden, in the final, and it was Belgium again with another success in the girls' doubles with Veronique Germiot joining her sister Marie-France, to beat Roswitha Schmitz and Ingrid Schröder, of Federal Germany.

Day and Suzanne Hunt were beaten in the quarter-finals of the mixed, losing to Graf and Birgit Lehr, of Federal Germany who, in the final, were beaten by their compatriots Nolton and Schröder.

Federal Germany I beat Sweden I to win the boys' team event, the counterpart title going to Yugoslavia with a like 3-1 win over Belgium. Results:—

B.S.—Quarter-finals
E. Hüging (FG) bt M. Constantini (It) 15, 15.
T. Danielsson (Sw) bt T. Hartung (FG) 13, 13.
P. Day (En) bt L. Franklin (Sw) 17, 14.
A. Grönlund (Sw) bt H.-J. Nolton (FG) 15, -9, 19.

Semi-finals
Hüging bt Danielsson 15, 13.
Day bt Grönlund 15, -17, 11.

Final
HUGING bt: Day 18, 11.

G.S.—Semi-finals
M.-F. Germiot (Be) bt M. Gourmelon (Fr) 22, -10, 11.
E. Strömvall (Sw) bt D. Fabri (Yu) 18, 13.



Varbergs BTK women's team of Birgitta Olsson (20), Ann-Christin Hellman (20), and Eva Stroemvall (17).
Photo by Tommy Andersson, Lund, Sweden.

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Final
GERMIAT bt Strömvall 14, 16.

B.D.
NOLTON/WOSIK (FG) bt A. Barden (En)/
Day 14, 18.

G.D.
M.-F. GERMIAT/V. GERMIAT (Be) bt R.
Schmitz5I. Schröder (FG) 16, 14.

X.D.
M. GRAF/B. LEHR (F.G.) bt Nolton/Schröder
18, -16, 6.

TEAM EVENTS

After beating Austria 3-0 in the boys' team event, Day and Barden were disappointedly beaten 3-2 by Federal Germany's second string team of Michael Graf and Frank Klitsch.

Scores:—
Day bt Graf 20, 16.
Barden lost to Klitsch -16, 19, -13.
Barden/Day lost to Graf/Klitsch -12, -23.
Day bt Klitsch 15, -20, 16.
Barden lost to Graf 15, -15, -19.

In the girls' event Suzanne Hunt and Angela Tierney, after beating Spain 3-0, lost by the same scores to Belgium. Scores:—
Tierney lost to V. Germiot -18, -10.
Hunt lost to M.-F. Germiot -5, -15.
Hunt/Tierney lost to Germiot/Germiot -4, -9.

English results in the individual events were:—

Boys' Singles

A. Barden bt Christansen (De) 16, 18; lost to Hartung (FG) -18, -14.
P. Day bt Bisi (It) 17, 20; bt Graf (FG) 19, 14; bt Franklin (Sw) 17, 14; bt Grönlund (Sw) 15, -18, 12; lost to Hüging -18, -11.

Girls' Singles

A. Tierney lost to Fogelberg (Swiz) -18, 24, -18.
S. Hunt lost to Dill (FG) -8, -11.

Boys' Doubles

Barden/Day bt Apolloni/Constantini (It) 17, 15; bt Hüging/Otto (FG) 12, 10; bt Graf/Klitsch (FG) -16, 19, 15; lost to Nolten/Wosik -14, -18.

Girls' Doubles

Hunt/Tierney bt Jansen/Lund (De) 8, -12, 17; lost to Schmitz/Schröder (FG) -10, -15.

Mixed Doubles

Day/Hunt bt Lund/Falsk (De) 18, -17, 17; bt Lupon/Sanahuja (Sp) 12, 16; lost to Graf Lehr (FG) 19, -16, -11.
Barden/Tierney lost to Gropper/Amplatz (Au) -15, 17, -14.

MIXED FORTUNES IN AACHEN

Following the 2nd Federal German Junior Open, in Dillengen, England's juniors engaged their German counterparts in Aachen on Mar. 31. Sadly the boys went down 0-5 but the girls brought off a surprise 3-2 win.

It was a closer match than the score would suggest, for Paul Day and Andrew Barden, as the Federal German side is about the best in Europe at present. Barden was suffering from a bad back, which prevented full mobility in his strokes. He would not have played had a reserve been available. Day led in both his games against Hüging and led Nolton 16-14 in the third. Scores:—

Day lost to Hüging -18, -19.
Barden lost to Nolton -17, -14.
Barden/Day lost to Nolton/Wosik -13, -25.
Day lost to Nolton -19, 19, -16.
Barden lost to Hüging 12, -13, -15.

Suzanne Hunt and Angela Tierney brought off the surprise win, each winning one singles and combining to take the doubles. Scores:—
Hunt lost to Schmitz 19, -9, -11.
Tierney bt Schröder 19, 11.
Hunt/Tierney bt Schmitz/Schröder 16, -16, 19.
Hunt bt Schröder -16, 19, 19.
Tierney lost to Schmitz -14, -19.

SURBEK SCORES IN PRAGUE

Yugoslavia's Dragutin Surbek powered his way to success in the Czech Open, played in Prague over the period Mar. 29-31, beating Milan Orlovski, the European champion, in straight games in a one-sided final. Hana Riedlova beat her Czech compatriot, Alica Grofova, to win the women's singles. Surbek, partnered

by Anton Stipancic, won a second title with the men's doubles, beating Damir Jurcic and Danijel Klinger.

Czechoslovakia came into their own in the women's and mixed doubles, firstly when Smidova and Zizkova won and Costache and Uhlíkova combined for the mixed title.

Scores:—
M.S.: Surbek bt Orlovski 16, 18, 9.
W.S.: Riedlova bt Grofova -18, 16, 15, 15.
M.D.: Stipancic/Surbek bt Jurcic/Klinger 10, 14, 12.
W.D.: Smidova/Zizkova bt Cigiceva/Popova -14, 19, 15, 14.
X.D.: Costache/Uhlíkova bt Burnazian/Popova 16, 16, -18, 14.

The Czechs took both team events, the men beating Yugoslavia 3-2 and the women's "A" team beating the "B" 3-0.

England's representatives fared badly with no progression beyond the second round in any event. Susan Lisle was a 1st round faller in the W.S. to Szabo, of Hungary, and Carole Knight, after beating Uldrichova (Cz), lost over 5 games to Neikova, of Bulgaria.

Jimmy Walker, in the M.S., had a win over Baer, of Austria, before being ousted by Orlovski (19, 14, 12). Donald Parker fell to one of the Fraczyk brothers, of Poland, and Ian Horsham, a late replacement for Trevor Taylor, lost to Mucka (Cz).

In the team events, England had an opening win in the men's over Hungary "B" (3-1) but were sunk without trace by Sweden's Ulf Thorsell and Anders Johansson in Rd. 2. Czechoslovakia's "B" team of Dubinova and Cikova, beat England 3-2 in the women's event, Dubinova beating Susan Lisle in the decider after Carole Knight had won both her singles.

ESSEX NOTES

by Geoff Newman

SOME PERFORMANCE!

Congratulations to our County teams that have carried off no less than four County Championship titles this season, namely the Senior Premier, Junior Premier, Junior South-East and the Veterans' South, quite some performance. It was a breathtaking finale with three of these titles being won on games average, but nevertheless a tremendous achievement and one of which we are justly proud.

I have no doubt all our players will be receiving their accolades at county functions in the near future and at this juncture I would like to say a big thank you to the team secretaries, who have made this season such a memorable one.

Namely Seniors: Mike Watts and Peter Roden; Veterans: Phyllis Lauder, and Juniors: Alan Shepherd, without whose wholehearted endeavours none of this would have been possible. The amount of work that these people put into the County teams never ceases to amaze me and we certainly have a champion team in all departments.

A number of our leagues have been holding their closed championships and the roll of champions this month is as follows:—

Barking

M.S.: Laurie Fountain.
W.S.: Pat Anker.
M.D.: Jack Anker/Ronnie Herber.
W.D.: Alison May/Elaine Sayer.
X.D.: L. Fountain/Lyn Chamberlain.
V.S.: R. Herber.

Billericay

M.S.: Trevor Laverns.
W.S.: Ann Hewitt.
M.D.: Colin Maris/Jamie Willson.
W.D.: Helen Gore/A. Hewitt.
X.D.: Clinton Heath/Brenda Lafferty.
V.S.: Fred Lockwood.

Braintree

M.S.: Rob Milne.
W.S.: Muriel Buck.
M.D.: Alan Hearn/R. Milne.
W.D.: M. Buck/Celia Fowler.
X.D.: R. Milne/C. Fowler.
V.S.: Ivan Palmer.

Chelmsford

M.S.: Steve Whiteley.
W.S.: Linda Barrow.
M.D.: David and Steven Newman.
W.D.: L. Barrow/Clare Hamilton.
X.D.: S. Whiteley/Paula Cant.
V.S.: Joe Lewington.

Romford

M.S.: K. Caldon.
W.S.: Jane Livesey.
M.D.: D. and K. Caldon.
W.D.: A. Hewitt/J. Livesey.
X.D.: Faisal Mauthoor/Marie Know.
V.S.: Ken Beamish.

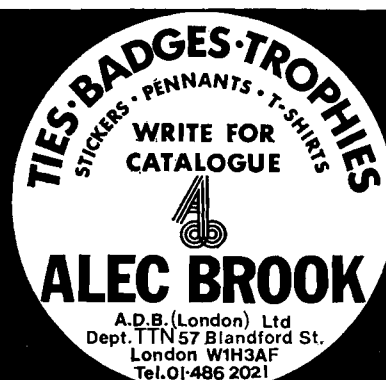
Walthamstow

M.S.: Joe Andrews.
W.S.: Elaine Tarten.
M.D.: M. and D. Wells.
X.D.: Alan Candy/E. Tarten.
V.S.: Percy Curtis.

The Dagenham 2-Star Open is being sponsored by Mapsport, of Tamworth, and Bernard Chatterley has a bumper programme in store. The entries include Istvan Korpa, Richard Yule and Karen Senior from foreign fields, and it looks like being a fitting finale to the season. One player who will be missing the Dagenham Open is Gill Locke, who is to be married to Alan Donaldson on May 10. Best wishes for the future, Gill.

The Clacton League, from our furthest outpost, announce that Gordon Smith and Brian Rowlan have just become International Umpires. Well done, both of you, a feather in the cap for both yourselves and Clacton.

Three of our Club teams reached the final stages of the Stiga National Club Championships, viz.:—Fellows Cranleigh, of the East London League, who had double representation in the men's team of Ian Horsham, David Brown and Robert Potton, and the women's of Janet Hellaby, Elaine Tarten and Sandra Sutton, whilst Chadwell Heath, of Ilford, had David Jemmett, Graham Blomfield and David Newman carrying their banner.



COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

FLOURISH

Both Cambs Junior teams finished the season with a flourish. The first team had wins over Leicestershire (8-2) and Lancashire (9-1) so ensuring their place in the Premier Division. This, of course, has been mainly due to Paul Day, who has not lost a set all season, but credit is also due to Keith Richardson and Geoff Davies, who have given him magnificent support. Davies has improved enormously during the last few weeks, and only lost -19, -19 to Richardson in the semi-final of the M.S. in the Cambs Closed, and was also narrowly beaten by the same player in the final of the Junior Singles. Ruth Newman and the Ellis twins have also given good support and they can be well satisfied with their season's performance.

The second Junior team, who have won their division, had fine wins over Norfolk (6-4) and Lincolnshire (8-2). This has been a fantastic season for them as they have not lost a match, thanks to the efforts of the Wisbech Juniors Tony Holmes, Mike Crowson and Davies, the latter now being promoted to the first team. The Wisbech girls, Vivian Rowell and Pat Tingey, have also done very well and have given the boys good support.

It is very gratifying to see the many juniors from Wisbech, who are certainly making the grade in record time, thanks mainly to the efforts of Ian Marshall, who must have spent many hours coaching these youngsters.

The Senior First Team, who had already won their division, completed their fixtures with a 9-1 win over Suffolk at Ipswich. Day had a straight-games win over John Kitchener who, in turn, beat Mike Harper for Suffolk's only success. Like the Junior Second Team, the Senior First have won all their matches and were due to participate in the challenge matches on April 26-27.

The Second Senior team, the only one not to have had any success this season, were heavily defeated 9-1 by Essex III at Great Dunmow, to finish the season pointless and bottom of the Eastern Division. The County's only win came from Brian Jones, who beat Brian Mailey. Towards the end of the season Juniors were included and made promising debuts, which augers well for next season.

Over the Easter weekend Day won two silver medals at the Federal German Junior Open and then successfully took on England's best at the Norwich Union English Championships. His performance at Crystal Palace made a mockery of the Senior ranking list, which had the ludicrous situation of Andy Barden—who is ranked below Day in the Junior list—seven places higher in the Senior! Day's power play should see him much higher than his current 13th position when the new list is announced, and I shall be very much surprised if he does not appear in the top five. Surely Day must now stand an excellent chance of being in the England Squad for the World Championships in 1977.

While Day was picking up silver in Germany, his clubmate, Richardson, was at Barry, South Wales, winning the "News of the World" "Boy of the Year" title. After winning, Johnny Leach described the Soham boy as a player in the mould of Chester Barnes and Day, both past holders of this title! These two youngsters have certainly put Soham and Cambridgeshire on the table tennis map and tribute should be paid to John Ashman, their original coach, who first sent them on their successful way.

Cambridge, champions of the East Anglian League for the past two seasons, surrendered the title to their Norfolk rivals when they only managed a 5-5 draw. Cambridge, who included Gerald Coteman, were only able to win two singles, when Richardson beat Chris Bensley and Bob Thornton. John Thurston was only beaten by Bob Mitcham 22-20 in the final game. Valerie Scripps beat Mrs. Hartman in the singles and Coteman and Thurston gained their only success when they beat Bensley and Mitcham in the M.D.

With only a short time to go to the end of the season, the promotion and relegation issues in the Cambridge League have almost been resolved, although a few clubs will probably have to wait until the last week to know their fate. In Division I, Soham I and N.C.I. I are level with 33 points each, but Soham have a match in hand and a superior sets average, so that they must be favourites to take the title for the third consecutive season. University II are doomed to relegation after only one season in the top division, but any of five clubs could go down with them. Telephones I and Torchbearers I will be promoted to Division I and Telephones II and Melbourn II will be promoted to Division 2. It will be a double celebration for Telephones, whose teams have won all their matches by decisive margins.

In the South East Midlands League, Cambridge beat Daventry 6-4, with a much-improved Bob Pettitt and veteran Ron Nunn both winning two singles. Cambridge will have the "unique" experience of not winning any titles in this league, although the Women and Veterans have made a tremendous effort in their respective divisions.

In the Rose Bowl Competition, Cambridge reached the quarter-finals when they beat Cheshunt. The team of Valerie Scripps, Janet Rodgers and Sally Hirst have played splendidly and although they have a hard fight on their hands when they play Chesterfield, I am sure that they will give a very good account of themselves.

Ruth Newman came third in the "News of the World" "Girl of the Year" tournament, which was a very good performance for this fifteen-year-old Cambridge Junior.

CAMBRIDGE LEAGUE

(Leading positions)

	Division 1						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Soham I	18	16	1	1	154	26	33
NCI I	19	15	3	1	128	62	33
Guildhall I	20	11	4	5	117	83	26
NCI II	19	12	2	5	109	81	26
Wilburton	19	12	1	6	115	75	25
YMCA I	14	9	3	2	90	50	21

	Division 2						
	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Telephones I ..	20	20	0	0	172	28	40
Torchbearers I ..	20	17	1	2	137	63	35
Haverhill I	21	10	6	5	121	59	26
Impington I	19	11	4	4	108	82	26
YMCA III	17	9	4	4	95	75	22

HAMPSHIRE NOTES

by David Cosway

SPARK OF LIFE

The County senior team ended its programme in a disappointing season with a more encouraging result. Although beaten 4-6 by a weakened Essex II, they showed the spark of life that perhaps indicates a better season to come. If Hampshire were to gain a win from this match the wins were expected from the men, as Essex were fielding two reserves in the men's singles. As it happened two wins came against the strong Essex women. Joyce Coop gained an excellent -16, 19, 15 win over England-ranked Janet Hellaby and combined with Linda Wales to beat Miss Hellaby and Linda Barrow in the women's doubles. Keith Summerfield and Trevor Smith each picked up one men's singles to gain Hampshire's other successes, but these two disappointed in the men's doubles to lose a "home banker".

The inter-town leagues came to a climax with the second round of matches at Portsmouth in both the mixed and junior first divisions. I have heard comments both for and against staging these matches at a central venue which has been tried as an experiment this season in these two divisions. From an administration and expenses point of view there is no doubt this is the best system. From a playing point of view I have reservations. Three matches in a day with literally non-stop play from 10-00 a.m. until 10-00 p.m. is a bit much at this level, especially when each senior match has twelve sets. In the mixed Div. 1, Bournemouth "A" and Southampton "A" won all their matches up to their final encounter. Bournemouth "A" then had little difficulty in beating the holders 10-2. Bournemouth, with Steve Wilson, Smith, Cyril Bush, Joyce Coop and Julie Reading were really far ahead of their rivals and in their five matches only dropped 13 sets.

Southampton, with a number of their top players not wishing to play for the City, did well to finish runners-up. Their only wins in the Bournemouth match were Summerfield over Smith and Christine Davies over Joyce Coop. Christine was the only unbeaten regular player in the singles in this division. The top of the junior division one was equally clear cut with Bournemouth "A" and Basingstoke "A" winning their first four matches and meeting in the final session. In fact Bournemouth won each of their first four matches 10-0 while Basingstoke only dropped three sets in a 7-3 win over Bournemouth "B". In the deciding match, Bournemouth won 6-4 but the star was the Hampshire No. 1, Clive Payne, of Basingstoke, who maintained his 100% record in this division. John Robinson, Colin Wilson, Richard Bergeman and Janet New all won one singles for Bournemouth, who also won the boys' doubles and one mixed.

After these matches Basingstoke "B" are relegated from the mixed division and Gosport "A" from the juniors. Their places will be taken by Isle of Wight, who won both the second mixed division and the junior second division.

Basingstoke take the men's division title and included in their unbeaten season a 10-0 win over the holders, Isle of Wight. Portsmouth took the veterans' division, also with an unbeaten record, with Daphne Gray winning all her sets.

My report on local league closed tournaments and divisions is limited by the usual fact that no one bothers to send me information. What I do not receive cannot be included!

This does not apply to Bournemouth, where Harold Pearce sends me his very good monthly "21-up" magazine. I see in their championships Steve Wilson, of Merton, won the Premier Division title as well as the men's open singles, while his brother, Colin, won the under-13, 15 and 17 titles. With Joyce Coop winning the women's singles, doubles and mixed, it is not difficult to see why Merton are the unbeaten leaders of the Bournemouth Premier Division. In fact Merton had a clean sweep of all the open events.

In Winchester, the men's singles final of the closed tournament to be played at their finals night, will be between John Lewis, of Hursley, and Dennis Macklin, of St. Cross. I cannot understand why Winchester do not hold a women's singles event! I know few women play in the League but surely there should be a women's champion. To my mind the Winchester, Portsmouth and Bournemouth idea of having a staged finals night is so much better than having the finals at the end of a long day's tournament with little spectator interest. I am pleased to see that the St. Cross "A" team of Doug Balchin, Paul Freeman and Macklin, winning the Winchester division one, after for so many years finishing behind teams with "imported" players from Southampton.

In the Portsmouth closed, Steve Kitcher and Linda Wales retained their titles

In Gosport, Kevin McQuade did well to beat Steve Kitcher in straight games to take the men's singles and Karen Saywell won the

women's singles, beating Linda Clemmett in the final.



KEITH SUMMERFIELD

The Southampton closed tournament gave the Hampshire No. 1, Keith Summerfield (Alpha), his first singles title. Keith had a very narrow semi-final win over Phil Brown (Snows) while Kitcher (Four T's) accounted for the County champion, Chris Shetler (Snows). Although Keith lost the first game of the final at 18, he won the next two 19 and 10. A very disappointing entry in the women's events gave Christine Davies (Four T's) little trouble in coming out a triple champion. She beat clubmate Christine Summerfield in the singles, combined with her sister, Carol Hockley, to win the doubles, and with Brown to win the mixed. Kevin Batt (Four T's) beat Steve White (Alpha) to win the juniors, while Don Cartridge (Alpha) won the veterans'. What an amazing player Don Cartridge is! Thirteen years ago he won the juniors; he has since then won the men's singles four times, recovered from a serious heart operation and now wins the veterans' in his first eligible year. His final win over Dennis Shepherd (Snows) at 18, -18, 19, was a real cliff-hanger. The Southampton Premier Division has become a non-event for the past few years with Snows so dominating the division that the only interest has been who would be relegated. Marchwood "A" won the much more competitive first division title.

A lot has probably already been said about the Super League and South of England 3-Star Tournament, held at Basingstoke, so I will just add my praise for the excellent weekend's table tennis and hope that lack of a sponsor will not force Basingstoke to abandon this event. I am sorry to hear the cancellation of the Merton Junior 1-Star due, I understand, to a complete lack of understanding by the Local Authority. After approving the hire of the Avonbourne School for the Tournament last December, the Local Authority suddenly at a later stage, imposed a 7 p.m. deadline on Merton's use of the hall, which meant the matches could not have been finished in time. What a pity the Local Authority, who should be helping the young of the town, cannot help a club who have done so much for the young players, not only of Bournemouth, but of the whole County.

I will end my report with the news that the Association President, Ken Course, has decided

to retire. Ken has been President for 14 years and on the H.T.T.A. Committee for 20 years. His retirement is, I feel, premature, as he admits he has still a great deal of interest in the game but he considers a younger person should fill this position. In my opinion Ken has been the ideal President, having attended most Committee Meetings, chaired the Association A.G.M's, and has always been available with his help and advice when required. I would like to thank Ken both personally for all the assistance and friendship I have received from him over the years, and from the Association for the service he has given. He will be hard to replace.

DERBYSHIRE NOTES

by Derek Oldman

PLAY-OFFS

Since my last notes both the County senior and junior teams have qualified for the end of season play-offs for a place amongst the elite next season. The juniors did so by virtue of a 9-1 victory over Notts in the final match. The play-offs will be nothing new to some of the juniors because they reached a similar stage last year but failed to clear the final hurdle. It goes without saying that this time we hope to go one better.

The seniors emerged as champions of their division in rather unfortunate circumstances. When the team arrived at Leicester for the match the room to be used measured over 3 feet less than the minimum laid down in the rules. As the Derbyshire team included 3 defenders, the captain, David Smith, foresaw these players being at a decided disadvantage against the Leicester hitters and refused to play, at the same time giving Phil Read ample opportunity to find another venue. I am informed that this offer was not taken up, so a claim was inevitable. It remains to be seen whether this episode will affect future Leicestershire/Derbyshire relations, but hopefully, may I say not.

The major problem facing the County Committee now is how to find the necessary money to send two teams to the play-offs. It doesn't help trimming your own expenses because the cost is pooled between the competing teams.

The recent County Championships were held at the Chesterfield College of Technology Sports Centre on April 5, and the titles were once again shared between Chesterfield and Derby. Maurice Billington emerged as men's champion for the first time, whilst Sandra Walters regained the ladies' title which she last won some years ago. Mark Jenkins won the boys' singles for Derby while Allyson Marples beat team-mate Lindsay Mellor in the girls' final.

The Chesterfield Closed Championships followed on the Sunday and competition was again keen. Billington again excelled to become dual champion, his match with Alan Croome, the Notts No. 1, who plays in the Chesterfield League, being the highlight of the evening. Sandra Walters also emulated Maurice Billington in winning the ladies' singles, this time at the expense of Mandy Mellor. Sister Lindsay reversed the result of the previous day by taking the girls' title from Allyson Marples. Paul Taylor became boys' champion for the second time, the favourite, Robert Allen, losing in the semis to Steve Webb.

Results:—

M.S.: M. Billington bt P. Vickers 16, 18.
W.S.: S. Walters bt M. Deakin 11, 15.
M.D.: Vickers/D. Yallop bt M. Askham/Billington 18, -15, 17.
W.D.: M. Mellor/Walters bt Deakin/L. Mellor 18, 20.
X.D.: E. Hall/Walters bt Billington/M. Mellor 14, -10, 19.
V.S.: B. Marples bt T. Carlisle 15, 19.
B.S.: M. Jenkins bt R. Allen -19, 15, 8.
G.S.: A. Marples bt L. Mellor 19, 20.

Chesterfield Closed

M.S.: Billington bt A. Croome -21, 9, 19.
W.S.: Walters bt M. Mellor -14, 16, 17.

M.D.: Croome/N. Marples bt T. Moran/P. Spencer 15, -12, 17.

X.D.: Billington/M. Mellor bt Hall/Walters 20, -13, 14.

B.S.: P. Taylor bt S. Webb 13, 9.

G.S.: L. Mellor bt A. Marples -21, 17, 15.

Further details involving the Chester-Chesterfield Wilmott Cup episode have now come to light and it could be that Chesterfield were not entirely blameless. If this is the case then I apologise to the Chester League and Keith Ponting for any embarrassment my previous comments may have caused.

HERALDING HEREFORDSHIRE

by Ian R. Crickmer

NO SURPRISES

The "run-in" of the six divisions of the Hereford League provided no surprises, and the 1974-75 titles went to the teams which had in the main, led the challenge since last autumn. Ledbury, with 31 points from 18 matches, finished top of Division One, two points ahead of Village Farm Dodgers, with the Village Farm Challengers two further points behind in third position.

Rank Xerox, the Mitcheldean side, which plays all its matches away from home, took maximum points in winning Division Two, and finished 12 points ahead of second-placed Civil Service Hawks. In Division Three, Pembridge "B", on 33 points, had only a one-point advantage over Saunders Valves Night Owls, and the Fourth Division proved the only one decided on sets record. Saunders Valve "B" just headed Post Office "A", both finishing on 28 points. M.E.B. "A" emulated the Rank Xerox feat when they went through Division Five with full points, finishing six points ahead of College Hill Youth Club "A". In Division Six it was again M.E.B., through their "B" team, who led with 30 points, with College Hill's second team on 22 points, capturing runners-up spot, ahead of Hinton Youth Club "B", who finished on the same points total.

In the return friendly match with Shropshire, the latter again emerged successful with a 7-3 scoreline. Richard Owens took the only men's singles when beating S. Dixon, but the highlight of the match was the ladies' singles, rated by all spectators as the best they had ever seen. Margaret Newcombe excelled in beating Mrs. Jones at 21-13 in the third, and the other Herefordshire success came in the men's doubles, taken 21-17 in the third by Mike Prosser and Neville Meredith.

Honours were even in the three inter-County schools' matches, played on the same day. Herefordshire owed their victory to their girls who, playing on an Under-14 basis, won 7-3. Sharon Owen, Juliette Bower and Elizabeth Owens took two singles each, though none was able to match the play of Shropshire's Alison Oates. In the boys' Under-13 fixture, Michael Owens contributed four wins towards the 5-5 draw. His team-mates for this match were Chris Garnet and Andrew Born, both of Ledbury, and it was Born who contributed the vital fifth victory. Particularly meritorious was Owens' success over Mark Pugh, who had the previous day qualified as a finalist at the E.T.T.A's Under-13 Singles event at Reading, on May 24.

The boys' Under-15 match saw Shropshire gain a resounding 9-1 win, though the home-sters took five singles into a deciding game—the "whitewash" was prevented by Mark Owen in beating I. Clarke. The inclusion of two Ledbury boys is an encouraging sign, and I hear that Neville Meredith, who has been responsible for their progress, is now enrolled as a student coach—a welcome addition to Herefordshire's ranks.

Mark Owen and Michael Owens are among eleven boys chosen to attend a preliminary assessment course at Worle on May 3, from which the best players will move on to Regional gradings at Reading on June 21.

Having had the benefit of a County Committee adjudication on their disputed semi-final

Continued on page 19.

Cambridgeshire Closed

by LESLIE CONSTABLE

FOUR TITLES FOR KEITH

Fifteen-year-old Keith Richardson swept the board at the Cambridgeshire Closed Championships held at Cambridge Corn Exchange, April 6. He won the Men's Singles for the first time when he beat a former champion, Alan Ponder. The Soham youngster took the first game at 15, but in the second Ponder, relying mainly on chop defence, got home at 18. Ponder started badly in the third, but was 10-9 up at the change, but Richardson went on to win at 13.

In the M.D. Richardson partnered team-mate Brian Jones to his first Championship title against brothers Brian and Steve Palmer. He completed a hat-trick of senior titles when he won the Mixed with Ruth Newman against Derek Kiddle and Pat Tingey. Richardson's fourth title came in the Boys' Singles in which he beat Geoff Davies in two close games.

Valerie Scripps became the new W.S. champion in her first appearance in the Championships, when she beat last season's winner, Ruth Newman, and then partnered her defeated opponent to win the W.D. against Vivian Rowell and Pat Tingey. The same Wisbech pair were surprise finalists in the Girls' Singles the title going to Miss Tingey. The Boys' U-14 Singles was an exciting affair, when A. Withers was beaten in three games by A. Hubble. Withers won the first but Hubble came back to win the next two at "deuce". In the Girls' U-14 Singles J. Palmer beat J. Hunter in two and with John Thurston winning the Veterans' Singles for the third time against Ron Nunn, so ended a most interesting tournament.

Paul Day, last season's M.S. champion, did not defend his title as he was participating in the Norwich Union English Championships at Crystal Palace.

Results:—

M.S.—Semi-finals

K. Richardson (Ely) bt G. Davies (Wis) 19, 14.
A. Ponder (Cam) bt A. Holmes (Wis) -19, 16, 16.

Final

Richardson bt Ponder 15, -18, 13.

W.S.—Final

V. Scripps (Cam) bt R. Newman (Cam) 16, 11.

M.D.—Final

B. Jones (Ely)/K. Richardson bt S. Palmer/B. Richardson (Ely) -18, 16, 11.

W.D.—Final

Newman/Scripps bt V. Rowell/P. Tingey (Wis) 12, 10.

X.D.—Final

K. Richardson/Newman bt D. Kiddle (Wis)/Tingey 19, 18.

V.S.—Final

J. Thurston (Cam) bt R. Nunn (Cam) 11, 9.

B.S.—Final

K. Richardson bt G. Davies 19, 19.

G.S.—Final

Tingey bt Rowell 15, 17.

B.S.—U-14—Final

A. Hubble (Wis) bt A. Withers (Hav) -18, 20, 20.

G.S.—U-14—Final

J. Palmer (Ely) bt J. Hunter (Wis) 15, 18.

Midland 'Closed' 1975

by RICHARD HABGOOD

Held at the magnificent Derby Sports Centre on April 13, and organised by the industrious officials of the Derby League, this ever-popular tournament featured just one player who swept all before him—his name, **Desmond Douglas**, who carried off the men's and intermediate singles, men's and mixed doubles.

Only once did Douglas look like faltering when in his semi-final clash with Paul Judd, he lost the first game. Judd, whose angling and killing of the ball was just perfection in the first, was unable to keep up his momentum and Douglas was able to scrape through in

closer games than the scores suggest.

All the top four seeds reached their allocated semi-finals, with Paul Randell and Alan Fletcher contesting the bottom half of the draw. Fletcher's superb first-ever victory over Randell, made it an all-Birmingham final, where Douglas had just too many answers. However, the Fletcher-Randell match was undoubtedly the best of the tournament and would have done justice for a memorable final.

Karen Rogers took the women's singles with a comfortable victory over Mandy Mellor—their semi-final victims being Diane St. Ledger and Marilyn Deakin (Derby) respectively.

The boys' singles was not without incident. As early as the second round top seed Chris Rogers crashed out in straight games to Paul Taylor, who then went on to contest the final against No. 2 seed, Mark Jenkins. In front of his home crowd Jenkins came through in fine style in a match which proved to be the best of all the finals.

Another upset, but a thoroughly deserved one, came in the girls' singles final. Karen Groves was very impressive in defeating Beverly Green, with her attack and penetration undermining Bev's suspect footwork.

On reflection sympathy must go to Alan Fletcher, who not only lost in the M.S. final, but also in the M.D. with Pat Glynn and X.D. with Bev Green. The tournament was refereed by Arthur Morgan, with the local organisers, including Keith Holmes and Mike Yallop. They, and everyone else who helped, proved an impressive team and no praise is too high for their efforts—well done the Derby League.

Results:—

M.S.—Semi-finals

D. Douglas (B'gham) bt P. Judd (B'gham) -14, 19, 17.

A. Fletcher (B'gham) bt P. Randell (Leics) -16, 16, 16.

Final

DOUGLAS bt Fletcher 14, 17.

W.S.: K. Rogers (Leics) bt M. Mellor (C'field) 13, 14.

B.S.: M. Jenkins (Derby) bt P. Taylor (C'field) 14, -18, 19.

G.S.: K. Groves (B'gham) bt B. Green (B'gham) 16, 17.

I.S.: Douglas bt C. Rogers (Leics) 18, 14.

V.S.: D. Marples (C'field) bt J. Ellis (Notts) 6, 12.

M.D.: Douglas/Judd bt P. Glynn (B'gham)/Fletcher 8, -18, 15.

W.D.: Mellor/Rogers bt J. Carr/S. Jones (Wolves) 21, -21, 11.

X.D.: Douglas/D. St. Ledger (B'gham) bt Fletcher/Green 13, -16, 15.

B.D.: A. Barker/C. Hughes (Cov) bt S. Day/P. Smith (Leics) 10, 11.

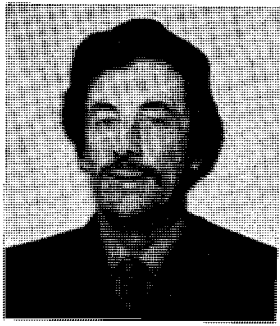
G.D.: Green/Groves bt S. Hemming (B'gham)/Jones 18, 18.

PRICE UP

Blame inflation, but the ever-spiralling costs of paper and printing, together with the astronomical increase in postal rates, which became operative on March 17, 1975, means the price of "Table Tennis News" next season **must go up.**

Accordingly the rates for next season will be £2.00 for the eight issues (October to May) which includes postage (2nd Class). Other subscription rates are:—European addresses—£2.75; Air Mail to overseas—£4.00; Sea Mail to overseas—£2.00.

The magazine (over the counter) will be priced at 20p and the plea is made for tolerance in trying circumstances. The magazine of the French Association, "France Tennis de Table", is currently selling at 4 francs, which is the equivalent of 36p!!



John Woodford

says . . .

THE CAPTAIN SHOULD CARRY THE CAN

Captains of table tennis teams seem to take far less responsibility than most other sports. So let's nip back to the grass roots of the game, as Stiga so rightly say, the clubroom, to consider the position of teams appearing with un-registered players in local league matches.

Playing completely un-registered players, that is, players who are not registered for any other club in that league, is an innocuous event. But, playing a man who is registered for another club under an assumed name is, in my view, as serious a matter as in golf when a competitor moves a ball in the rough.

In football, of course, it is the team manager who carries the can on team composition. Playing spare and un-registered men in football seems quite common and not regarded so seriously as in table tennis. Fines of £5 are often imposed on football clubs for this offence.

But I say that in table tennis it is the captain who should accept the responsibility to see that his side contains all "legitimate" men or women.

In a case where a conspiracy is proved and where the "illegal" player's games affect the result, especially leading to the opposing team's defeat, then the captain should be the person who should accept the punishment if the case is proven.

I suppose that in football, if one man in eleven is playing "illegally" legislators say that it is not so likely to affect the result, but in a table tennis team of three players, things are very different, as we all know.

Several years ago I recall a case where a player was suspended for a year for appearing under an assumed name. This is the sort of penalty that should be paid, in my view, by the captain of the side, with perhaps a smaller suspension for the player.

A few months back I brought up the subject of "on-course" betting on table tennis with an official betting shop adjacent to the arena. Things are moving quite steadily in the direction where most, if not all sports, will have betting facilities. The latest breakthrough is at Wimbledon this year. The bigger the event the more certain it is that betting will take place underground.

Our own World Championships, Birmingham, 1977, will be a good example. Those people bitterly opposed to gambling will have to face up to the fact that there will be betting there. There will be bookmakers willing to lay the odds and table tennis players willing to suggest the prices. We shan't beat 'em, so we may as well join 'em and gain another sponsor.

Birmingham Closed

1975

by RICHARD HABGOOD

THREE-IN-A-ROW FOR DOUGLAS

With a comfortable two-straight 21-10, 21-8 victory over Derek Munt, Desmond Douglas made it three-in-a-row when capturing the Men's Singles title in the Birmingham Closed on Sunday, April 7th.

For the first time this event was sponsored by B.R.M.B. Commercial Radio, which is Birmingham's own station broadcasting twenty-one hours a day. Many thanks are extended to Sports Editor Tony Butler and the rest of his team for their grateful support.

The Women's Singles event was won by Worcs. County player, Joyce Lloyd, defeating top-seeded Bev Green in the final.

Dougie Johnson took the Boys' Singles, defeating Simon Claxton and then combined with Richard Mountford and Karen Groves to take the Boys' and Mixed Doubles respectively.

Results:—

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

D. Douglas bt P. Judd 14, -20, 14.
D. Munt bt A. Isaac 5, 16.

Final

DOUGLAS bt Munt 10, 8.

Women's Singles—Final

J. Lloyd bt B. Green 17, 11.

Boys' Singles—Under-17—Final

D. Johnson bt S. Claxton 15, 14.

Boys' Singles—Under-14—Final

A. Frain bt J. Airey 10, 7.

Girls' Singles—Under-17—Final

B. Green bt K. Groves 10, 14.

Girls' Singles—Under-14—Final

V. S. Hemming bt S. Beesley 12, 12.

Men's Doubles—Final

Douglas/Judd bt A. Fletcher/P. Glynn -17, 14, 12.

Women's Doubles—Final

D. Hazzard/D. St. Ledger bt M. Rose/S. Elsdon 10, 13.

Boys' Doubles—Final

D. Johnson/R. Mountford bt P. Russell/A. Barker 14, 15.

Veterans' Singles—Final

R. Morris bt J. Airey 12, 9.



Gail Round in action.

New Sporting History in Making

by GARY MATTHEWS

Two local girls made history last month when they became the first individuals ever to be sponsored in table tennis by a company not involved in sport.

Teenagers Gail Round and Janet Carr, ranked numbers one and two in Staffordshire respectively, will travel to most of the major tournaments in the Midlands with all of their equipment provided for them by KGJ, the Bilston insurance firm.

KGJ are already experienced sponsors. They provide similar amenities for a basketball team which plays in the West Midland League premier division.

And now they plan an all-out attempt to dominate local table tennis tournaments by pitching in on their behalf the two best girl players in the county.

Seventeen-year-old Gail, of Swancote Drive, Penn, has been playing table tennis for five years, and at the age of 13 was ranked number four in England at her age group.

Gail is a dental nurse for the area health authority and is currently working at the Red Hill Street Clinic.

MORSEL

Every morsel of spare time that both she and Janet manage to find is spent playing table tennis. As Janet says: "At the moment our lives revolve around the table tennis. I don't think we would know what to do with our spare time if we didn't play."

Janet, of Warstones Drive, Penn, is the 18-year-old head girl of Highfields Comprehensive. She is captain of the school team which has just won its way through to the national finals of the all-England table tennis championships.

She started playing at the same time as Gail, in 1973-74, and was best individual in the Wolverhampton League, Division Five, in which most of the players are men.

The girls' biggest thrill to date was at their most recent tournament — The Glamorgan Open Championship — at which they won EVERY major title between them.

Gail won the girls' singles, and the ladies' doubles, while Janet carried off the ladies' doubles and the ladies' singles, in which she beat Gail in the final.

CONFIDENT

In the past both girls have attended England assessment camps at Cheltenham and training sessions at Lilleshall.



Janet Carr in action.

So it's not really surprising that KGJ's Peter Humble is confident that Janet and Gail will pick up more than their fair share of titles while wearing his company's gear.

He said: "Obviously at first we will concentrate our efforts on local tournaments. But after about six months we'll take a fresh look at the situation and consider moving further afield."

The £100 worth of gear that KGJ have already provided includes a latest-style tracksuit with light blue top and dark blue bottoms; two skirts and two pairs of shorts each; a pair of pumps; a holdall; a new bat and wrist bands.

Mr. Humble has every right to feel confident that the girls would do his firm proud. At their age group, no girl in the county can boast the record of success of this pair, and they are obviously going to be a force to be reckoned with in local table tennis competitions.

After that, who knows? But one thing's for sure — they will certainly put the name of Wolverhampton and KGJ on the table tennis map.

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Photos by courtesy of "Express and Star," Wolverhampton.

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JOOLA

table tennis

County Notes

Continued from page 14.

of the Worcester Knockout competition, Ledbury could not hold Village Farm in the all-Herefordshire final. Neville Meredith beat Mark Owen and Ray Lee, but Brian Powell and Jimmy Ahern were not strong enough to prevent the Allensmore team from recording a 7-2 success.

Another win for Village Farm came in the Hereford League's Divisions 1 and 2 Handicap competition for the Wenderlish Cup when, conceding 45 points to Pembridge, Challengers won the final by 34 points. In the "Hereford Times" Cup, open to teams from Divisions 3 and 4, Civil Service Harriers, receiving a start of 54 points, held on to beat Saunders Valve "B" by a margin of 46, and an all M.E.B. tussle saw the "A" side, conceding 72 points to their "B" team, nevertheless emerge triumphant by 34 points in the final of the Divisions 5 and 6 competition.

HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES

by David Deller

COCKRAM THE STAR

A good entry was received for this season's County Championships staged at St. Ivo Recreation Centre, on Mar. 23. After twelve hours of play, Gordon Cockram emerged as start of the day, taking both the Men's and Veterans' singles titles. In the semis of the Men's, Cockram, one of three St. Neots' representatives at this stage, had an easy win over Jim Sizer (Central) 9, 15. Alan Lamprell, the top seed, then ended competition for the holder, Len Saywell, 15, 14. In a good final between two experienced players, Cockram won 17, -19, 15.

The Women's Singles final was played out by our top youngsters, Belinda Chamberlain (St. Neots) and Jean Allinson (Peterborough). Jean took the first and led 8-0 in the second against the No. 1 seed before Belinda fought back to take the game at 17. The Peterborough player again led 18-16 in the decider before Belinda again battled through to win at 19 and retain her title. The Paul Charlton Memorial Trophy, bought from donations received after his tragic death last season, was won in its initial year by Tim Speller (St. Ives) who beat Paul MacArthur (St. Neots). This competition was played for by players aged 17 to 21. Cockram took the Veterans' title by overhauling the No. 2 seed, Stan Roberts (St. Neots) 15, 12.

Ken Green and Stephen Andrews (Hunts Central) came from an unseeded position to capture the Men's Doubles crown. In the deciding game they were 2-12 in arrears to holders Cockram and Roberts. At this point they took nine points in a row, going on to a 21-17 win. The mother and daughter combination of Evelyn and Jean Allinson gained the Women's Doubles final at the expense of Belinda Chamberlain and Tilly Albon, whilst Peter Berna and Shelly Holland (Peterborough) were fine winners of the mixed against the '74 winners, Saywell and Belinda Chamberlain.

A week earlier the County Youth and Junior Tournament was held at Longsands, the entry being particularly encouraging. Belinda Chamberlain retained all three titles she had captured last term, the Youth, Junior and Under-15 titles. St. Ives player, Melanie Ringrose, found little difficulty in lifting the U-13 Girls' title. Speller retained the Youth title with Steven Fisher (St. Ives) beating his twin brother, Mark, for the Junior crown. Gregg Baker (Peterborough) notched the U-13 Boys'.

On the subject of juniors, after four consecutive defeats, the Hunts team of Alan Smith, Fisher, Baker, Belinda Chamberlain and Jean Allinson, scored a fine victory at the expense of Lincolnshire 6-4. Alan and Steven both took their singles, Gregg one, with the Boy's Doubles clinching victory. Mark Fisher replaced Gregg against Northamptonshire and here again an encouraging display saw the

Hunts quintet take a well-earned draw. Steven was unbeaten, including a fine gain over Gary Hamilton, Mark took a singles, Belinda the girls' solo and Jean and Alan partnered to take the mixed.

Cockram was the lone winner for the County Veterans' as they found the Hampshire team too strong, suffering an 8-1 reverse. Early April brought better fortunes as they took their first points of the season against Hertfordshire. Here Ken Green, with two singles, Cockram and Roberts taking one apiece, and Roberts and Green joining forces for a doubles gain, gave the home county a narrow 5-4 win.

The Seniors' final County match was a real disaster against Bedfordshire II, with regulars Lamprell, Andrews and Speller all engaged elsewhere. Hunts failed to gain a point, therefore finishing with two wins from their five fixtures.

Belinda Chamberlain had little play in the Women's Singles at the English Closed, going out to Sandra Sutton at the first hurdle. She had a measurable success in reaching the final of the Consolation singles where she found Jean Williams too strong. Partnered by Trevor Taylor, Belinda also figured in the final of the Fenland tournament, losing to John Hilton and Shelagh Hession.

NORFOLK NOTES

by J. S. Penny

TURNER MAKES COMEBACK

Norwich League held their closed championships at the University of East Anglia. This time, it was John Turner's turn to come out on top. John, with his wooden bat and forward defensive prods, followed by a left-handed smash, was last Norwich champion in 1962-63, and he also became York champion two or three seasons ago. John Fuller, who had beaten Bob Thornton in a fine match in the semis, was his victim in the final.

There was no seeding, but events proved interesting to the end. 12-year-old Ruth Harrowven caused a sensation by reaching the final of the Women's Singles before falling to Mrs. Ruth Hogg. Ruth, her brother, Robert, and her father and mother, Ron and Jean, play in a family team called Homestead in Div. 10 of the League. Results:—

M.S.: J. Turner bt J. Fuller 18, -11, 14.
W.S.: Mrs. R. Hogg bt Miss R. Harrowven 10, 11.
V.S.: L. Branson bt S. Honor 18, -17, 19.
J.S.: D. Bennett bt R. King 10, 8.
M.D.: A. Hipperson/R. Thornton bt J. Fuller/M. Musson 18, 17.
W.D.: Mrs. E. Fletcher/Mrs. R. Hogg bt Miss S. Henderson/Miss H. Pearce 19, 16.
X.D.: R. Thornton/Miss W. Hogg bt D. & Miss S. Henderson 14, 19.
H'cap S: M. Broughton bt D. Hardy 51-45.

John Fuller, who has seen a lot of University table tennis this season, had compensation for his Norwich defeat when he retained his title at the Yarmouth championships held at Erie Electronics Canteen. Results:—

M.S.: J. Fuller bt M. Broughton -19, 11, 13, -18, 17.
W.S.: Mrs. E. Fletcher bt S. Allen 16, 19.
V.S.: J. Harris bt A. Cropper 14, 19.
M.D.: M. Broughton/C. Bensley bt J. Fuller/M. Archer 18, 15, 21.
W.D.: E. Fletcher/P. Ribbans bt S. Allen/L. Nelson 17, 9.
X.D.: C. Bensley/E. Fletcher bt P. Durrant/P. Ribbans 10, 17.
Lower Div. S.: R. Brown bt D. Ribbans 16, 7.
Consolation S: A. Cropper bt W. Haydock -15, 17, 19.

Norwich League have the distinction of winning both Div 1 and Div. 2 of the East Anglian League, but only on sets average in both cases! Norwich and Cambridge, following an exciting drawn match between them, both finished with the figures: P.8, W.6, D.2, L.0, but Norwich 56-24, just pipped Cambridge

54-26. In Div. 2, Norwich P.9, W.8, D.0, L.1, 68-22, ousted Bury St. Edmund's P.9, W.7, D.2, L.0, 64-26. Wisbech won Junior "A" and Bury Junior "B".

NOTTINGHAMSHIRE NOTES

by Colin Hammond

LOW NOTE CONCLUSION

The County 1st team concluded their season (their worst for some years) with a 7-3 defeat at the hands of Gloucs. Surprisingly, two of the three doubles were won by Notts., the first doubles successes of the season, unfortunately, coinciding with the only occasion when all six men's singles were lost. Gloria Stocks continued her unbeaten run with a comfortable victory in the women's singles. This season has definitely been one of transition, but the omens do not look altogether promising.

The 2nd team finished the season on a low note also, losing 9-1 to Division 2 champions, Derbys. 2nd, albeit with a somewhat experimental line-up. David Fairholm did well to gain a victory on his County debut for Notts.

The Junior side continued its good run with a 7-3 victory over Staffs. All three Notts. boys were making their debuts, and all did well, being well supported by the girls.

In the deciding match in the Veterans' league, Cheshire proved too strong for the home team, and Notts' championship hopes were destroyed by an 8-1 defeat, Ron Bolton gaining the only success.

In the Midland League, Nottingham Men's "B" became Division 3 champions by beating Loughborough 10-0. Rod Corbett, Nicky Kirkland and Tom Ellis being the team's regular members. In the Veterans' Division 1 the "A" team were second only on rubber average to Oxford. Needing to beat their closest rivals, they recovered from a 0-4 position to achieve a draw. Ron Bolton, John Burraston and John Ellis have all proved too good for the majority in this division. All the other teams entered in the league have had moderate seasons, with no fears of relegation.

EAST KENT AFFAIRS

by Brian A. Jordan

Although hardly mentioned this season in the County Notes, table tennis continues to thrive in East Kent, where Canterbury and District T.T.A. recently staged their best-ever Closed Championships. Spread over two days, they attracted entries from 215 players from many parts of East Kent and 16 tables were required to complete the many events.

Dennis Whittaker (Herne Bay), the former Kent player, but still ranked in the County, won the Men's Singles for the second time, beating Folkestone's John Lawson in the final 16, 14. Whittaker also won the Men's Doubles when, with his club team mate, Bill Spence, they beat Brian Maxted, ranked 12 in Kent, and Barry Chapman, a former County junior, 19, 17. This was a particularly entertaining final, which was not surprising when it is realised these two pairs have dominated the local doubles league for the last four seasons. Spence was a winner again when he retained his Veterans' title against another Canterbury player, Stan Brocklebank, who played for England as a junior many years ago.

The W.S. title was won for the second year by Miss Pat Hammond, a student at Kent University, and the current British Universities' women's champion. Her victim was Mrs. Jean Hackers, from Sittingbourne, but Mrs. Hackers was more successful in the Women's and Mixed Doubles. In the former she and Miss Pat Gouge, also from Sittingbourne, defeated Mrs. Gill Whittaker (Herne Bay) and Mrs. June Laming (Canterbury) 15, 15. In the Mixed her partner was Brocklebank and they had a hard and long encounter before beating Miss Gouge and Lee Shoebridge (Sittingbourne) 21, -13, 17. Bob Mellin (Ashford), another former Kent junior, won the Under-21

and Consolation Singles. In the former he beat John Glass (Whitsable) currently ranked five among Kent Juniors, and in the latter he triumphed against another Sittingbourne player, John Kane.

The three divisional competitions all drew large entries with the winners being Divisional 1/2: John Slade (Canterbury); Divisional 3/4: Joseph Chan (Canterbury) and Divisional 5/6: Bill Baxter (Herne Bay). The Junior part of the championships were equally successful and the high standard of play was reflected in the failure of the ranked John Glass to retain his titles. The under-17 Cup went to local boy John Gardiner, who also reached the U-15 final which he lost to Margate's John Yeomanson. As expected, Tony Jones, from Whitsable, retained the U-13 title against John Greenstreet (Faversham). Unluckily for Greenstreet, his opponent will remain eligible for this event for another two years.

Debbie Cannon (Whitsable) won the Girls' U-17 for the third successive year and both the Girls' U-15 and U-13 titles went to Jane Gardiner, sister of John.

News of the Kent League has been scanty in this part of the county this season following the failure of the organisers to obtain any press publicity. Canterbury, however, have made a determined effort to retain the Veterans' championship. Last season they were unbeaten but this year suffered an early reverse against N.W. Kent, but got ample revenge in the return match and all depended on their last match against Thanet.

Whitsable Natives T.T. Club are shortly planning to play the fifth of their series of 24-a-side matches with Atlantic T.T.C., of Antwerp. Whitsable are the hosts on this occasion and will be seeking to recover the trophy they left in Antwerp last year.

NORTHANTS NOTES

by Dennis Millman

COMPLEXITIES

This season's extra edition of "Table Tennis News" should give me an opportunity of bringing the year to a satisfactory close, for even in this day and age, it is unlikely that the present complexities at the top of the major leagues will not be resolved a month hence. Meanwhile it is sufficient to say that the system of points scoring employed locally, could well produce the wrong result in both Wellingborough and Kettering, while at Northampton no scoring system yet devised should prevent U.T.C. "A" from again taking the Premier title.

This year the Northampton League was responsible for organising the County Closed Championships, and the team of administrators, headed by County Chairman Phil Rivett, and former County Press Officer, Gwyn Powell, did an excellent job. Regrettably, many of the established County stars were missing from the small entry, and this poses a problem for the future. Perhaps a change of date would be to everyone's mutual advantage, for it is imperative that all players should be available to support the major event of the season.

The Men's entry was least effected and Rod Marchant, with a superb all-round performance, took his third consecutive Men's Singles title, to equal the record of John Goodall (1965-67) and to approach the consistency of Colin Hogg, who took the title without a break from 1957 to 1961, and who again was Marchant's main threat in 1975. Meeting in the quarter-final, the flair of Marchant and the defensive artistry of Hogg, once again produced the match of the tournament, before the cool temperament of Marchant enabled him to edge home by 17, -14, 21. The semi-final and final were formalities, as Marchant used his speed and accuracy with telling effect against County colleagues Gary Hamilton and Gary Alden, although it had been anticipated that Alden, in particular, would take him close.

However, every player is subject to the occasional lapse, and Alden made no further mistake, winning all four of his other events,

the first time that this feat has ever been achieved. Alden's successes came in the Junior Boys' Singles against Gary Hamilton, in a tense match in which fortunes changed from point to point, until after a spirited fight-back by Hamilton, Alden snatched victory at deuce in the third, the Junior Doubles with Hamilton, the Men's Doubles with Rod Marchant, and the Mixed Doubles with the much-improved Christine Dilley.

With the County's top women, Connie Bane and Anne Wallis, unable to compete, the Women's Singles took on an interesting look, with no-one confident of predicting the likely finalists. In the event Dusty Marsh, a newcomer to the Wellingborough League from the London area, fought her way to the semi-finals where she had a surprisingly comfortable win over five times winner, Anne Lenton, and Glennis Hooper, with a successful tournament season behind her, accounted for Sue Edwards, the County No. 3. In a disappointing final, Mrs. Marsh used her experience to good advantage to take the title at the first time of asking.

However, Miss Hooper gained some consolation in the Women's Doubles when she and Christine Dilley just scraped home in a thrilling encounter with former winners, Pat Rixon and Anne Lenton, thus preventing Mrs. Lenton from taking her twenty-third title, and giving the young Wellingborough pair their first.

The third title to be retained came when Colin Hogg proved to be much too good for all his opponents, beating Cliff Bull in a one-sided final for the Veterans' Singles. Ten times winner Dick Ingle, and conqueror of Hogg in the Northampton League's Veterans' event, went out in the second round in the only match of the tournament requiring the enforcement of the expedite rule.

Valerie Feakin, Keith Nicoll and Helen Cottier won the remaining junior events, features of which were the all-day enthusiasm of the competitors, the even standard of play, and the lamentable shortage of young ladies in the County ranks.

RESULTS

M.S.: Rod Marchant bt Gary Hamilton 10, 15.
W.S.: Dusty Marsh bt Glennis Hooper 14, 17.
M.D.: Marchant/G. Alden bt Phil Snelling/John Horne -16, 14, 17.
W.D.: Hooper/C. Dilley bt Anne Lenton/Pat Rixon -16, 23, 20.
X.D.: Alden/Dilley bt Graham/Valerie Feakin 8, 15.
V.S.: Colin Hogg bt Cliff Bull 12, 9.
B.S.: Gary Alden bt Gary Hamilton 23, -18, 20.
G.S.: Valerie Feakin bt G. Burrow 12, 3.
B.S. (U-14): Keith Nicoll bt D. Gallo 9, 9.
G.S. (U-14): Helen Cottier bt G. Burrow 14, 16.
B.D.: Alden/Hamilton bt Nicky Wells/Russell Thompson 12, 17.

DEVON NOTES

by Keith Ponting

DEATH OF LIONEL KERSLAKE

Many people in Devon, and Exeter in particular, were very saddened by the sudden death, in April, of Lionel Kerslake. Lionel, who played to a very high standard for many years, will be remembered for his peculiar style, which baffled many opponents, and he won many titles, including the English Veterans' Closed event. A most popular person, Lionel, a former Chairman of the Exeter League and a Life Member at the time of his death, will be sadly missed by all who knew him. He was 69.

On a happier note—Our congratulations to the Plymouth League, who have taken all the honours in the Devon League. Their "A" team of Gerry Elliott, Frank Hatton and Dave Wood, just got the better of their "B" team by one point. In the Junior Sections, Terry Fairbanks, John Coker and Tommy Watmore, all County Junior players, won the 1st Division very con-

vincingly, whilst the lesser-known Michael Briggs, Graham Craig and Neil Wigglesworth won the 2nd Division by six points. A great season for Plymouth, which illustrates the wealth of talent in that area and a credit to the coaches.

League Tables

Senior Division 1

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Plymouth "A"	10	8	0	2	78
Plymouth "B"	10	8	1	1	77
Exmouth "A"	10	5	1	4	55
South Devon	10	6	0	4	48
Exmouth "B"	10	2	0	8	32
South Hams.	10	0	0	10	5

Junior Division 1

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Plymouth "A"	8	8	0	0	61
Plymouth "B"	8	5	0	3	46
South Devon "A" ..	8	3	1	4	38
Tavistock	8	1	1	6	30
Exeter	8	2	0	6	25

Junior Division 2

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Plymouth "C"	6	6	0	0	51
Plymouth "D"	6	4	0	2	45
Ifracombe	6	2	0	4	22
South Devon "B" ..	6	0	0	6	2

WESTERN LEAGUE NOTES

by Grove Motlow

TREBLE FOR CAROLINE

Newbury women's "A" team had a good 6-3 victory away to Devizes, where Caroline Reeves again did well to win her 3 sets against Helen Rusby, Margaret Alexander and Alison Boyce. Carol Houghton was beaten rather comfortably by Alison Boyce and Mandy Smith excelled in beating Mrs. Alexander. Allison Boyce (2) and Helen Rusby (1) scored for Devizes.

Although beaten twice, Mandy Smith, of Newbury, gave a very promising display and should prove of great value to her league next season.

Newbury "B", at home to Bournemouth, found their visitors much too strong and were beaten 9-0. Janet New, Joyce Coop and Julie Reading had quite comfortable victories over Sandra Heath, Carol Rogers and Christine Rogers. The very young Newbury side fought hard and Christine Rogers did manage to take a game off Julie Reading. This season's experience in the League should be of valuable benefit to them next term.

Newbury's men, at home to Exmouth, were much too strong for their visitors, who went under 9-0 to David Wise, Simon Heaps and David Reeves, who did their league proud.

Following up, Newbury next disposed of Bristol by the same score, despite the game fight put up by Tony Brown, Paul Lewis and Brian Sturgess, the latter taking both Reeves and Wise to a decider.

Bournemouth's men, at home to Weston, had a good 7-2 win with Steve Wilson and Trevor Smith securing 3 wins each. Wilson lost to "evergreen" Ray Philpott and Tony Russe while, a little surprisingly, Jim Andrews had a blank night. Congratulations to 12-years-old Colin Wilson, Steve's brother, who, on his debut, did well to beat Andrews. Good luck for next season, Colin.

Leading positions:—

Men

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Newbury	7	7	0	50	13	14
Plymouth	5	4	1	27	18	8
Newport	7	4	3	25	38	8
Salisbury	5	3	2	30	12	6
Bournemouth	5	3	2	25	22	6

Women

	P	W	L	F	A	Pts
Bournemouth	4	4	0	31	5	8
Newbury "A"	4	4	0	23	13	8
Plymouth	5	3	2	30	15	6
Newbury "B"	4	2	2	16	20	4
Devizes	5	2	3	17	20	4

STIGA NATIONAL CLUB CHAMPIONSHIPS

By JOHN PIKE

MONOPOLY CONTINUED

The Stiga Weekend at Aston University last month was a great success, and at the end of the day, we still had Ormesby and Gainsford way out in front of the rest. This was no surprise, of course, but I think it would be good for Stiga, the competition as a whole, and table tennis in general, if we saw two new names on the cups next season. Having said that, Ormesby and Gainsford both played like champions and again should do England proud in Europe.

Stiga, like all sponsors, are learning all the time, and their idea to hold a Disco in Birmingham after the quarter-final ties, was an untold success. The players liked it, and with this social side now being added to the National Club Championships, it must be good for next season's entries. With one or two minor adjustments to the rules, I am sure we shall see a record entry. The prize for the best supported team went to Fellows Cranleigh. If there was a black spot to the weekend it came with the news that Byfleet could not raise a team for the trip to Birmingham. At this stage of a major competition this is just not good enough and I hope we do not get a repeat of this sort of thing next season. It is unfair, both to the sponsors and the team they were due to play, in this case it was the Merton Club from Bournemouth.

With Neale, Jarvis and Jimmy Walker on parade, Ormesby quickly disposed of Gatley Y.M.C.A. 5-0 in the quarter-finals of the Stiga Ormesby Cup. The match opened on an exciting note with veteran Derek Schofield coming close to beating Nicky Jarvis. Nigel Eckersley and Brian Kean both did well in their games with Walker and Neale, but that, I am afraid, was that for the game Stockport side.

Fellows Cranleigh beat Dunstable Vauxhall by the same margin but had a much easier passage into the semi-final with David Brown, Ian Horsham and young Bob Potton all going well.

Despite Mike Johns carrying top weight these days, Handsworth Victoria eased their way into the semis with a 5-1 win over Sheepbridge. The Chesterfield side gained their only success when John Wallhead beat Mike Judd saw to it that nothing else went their way.

The closest quarter-final tie was that between Chadwell Heath and St. Annes, and what a cliff-hanger this turned out to be. With the score at 4-4 it was left to Graham Blomfield and R. Mason to settle the issue. Blomfield won the day and so swelled the Ilford club's kitty, but it was tough luck on David Welsman, who was good enough to win his three.

The draw for the semi-finals took place in the evening at the Royal Angus Hotel, and brought together Ormesby and Handsworth Victoria, and Fellows Cranleigh and Chadwell Heath. At that stage one could see a repeat of last year's final looming large and clear. And so it was, with the holders, Ormesby, going through 5-0, while Fellows Cranleigh went one better with a 6-0 win over Chadwell Heath. The final, on the Sunday afternoon, attracted a good crowd to the University and the match was by no means as one-sided as the 5-0 scoreline suggests. Like all champions, Ormesby had the edge when it mattered, but what a spirited display we saw from David Brown's team. He played so well himself and with the sort of support he received from Horsham and young Potton, Fellows Cranleigh must one day, lose the "best runners-up" tag they have held for so long.

From the men to the women and again Gainsford's international class stood out like



Ormesby N.P.C., Alan Ransome, holds the Stiga Ormesby trophy yet again, the line-up towards him being: Nicky Jarvis, Jimmy Walker, Brian Hearn (Stiga), Denis Neale, Maurice Goldstein and David Alderson.



E.T.T.A. President, Maurice Goldstein, presents the Stiga Gainsford trophy back to Adrian Howard, the major domo of the Central League club, whose players (l to r) are: Jill Hammersley, Karenza Mathews, Shelagh Hession and Diane Court.

a lighthouse on a dark night. In their quarter-final tie with the Chesterfield Conservative Club, it was all too easy, with the holders coasting home 6-0. Let's be honest, Sandra Walters, Jackie Billington and Mandy Mellor are a good side, and yet some of the scores in this match only adds to my argument that one or two rule changes are needed if teams like this Derbyshire trio are to get to the top in this competition.

The experience of Gatley Y.M.C.A. was too much for the young Ormesby side and so the Stockport club went through 5-2. For the losers Carole Knight accounted for Di Johnson and Doreen Schofield before narrowly losing to Susan Lisle. The other team to get an easy passage into the semis was Fellows Cranleigh,

who made short work of a game but outclassed Letchworth Settlement side, 6-1. With Byfleet not turning up, it meant that Merton went straight into the last four, but it must have seemed a long trip from Bournemouth for them when they crashed 5-1 against Gatley Y.M.C.A. Joyce Coop got their only win but full marks to young Julie Reading for her fine performance against Di Johnson.

Gainsford's 6-0 win over Fellows Cranleigh in the other semi-final meant, like the men's, we had a repeat of last year's final, with the holders taking on Gatley Y.M.C.A. For this tie, Gainsford brought in Diane Court for Shelagh Hession, but it made little difference to the final count, for the holders went back into Europe with a comfortable 5-1 win.

As at Loughborough last year, Brian Hearn, of Stiga, presented tankards to those officials involved with this year's championships, which this season included the referee for the Stiga Weekend, John Devey, of Warwickshire.

The awards to the players were made by the E.T.T.A. President, Maurice Goldstein, and the deputy chairman, George Yates.

Yes, the Stiga Weekend has come to stay, and who knows, next year we might even have two new winners to write about. Above all, I hope we get a record entry.

PHOTOGRAPHIC COVERAGE

BY RON BENNETT

OF BIRMINGHAM

STIGA ORMESBY CUP

Quarter-finals

Ormesby 5, Gatley Y.M.C.A. 0
N. Jarvis bt D. Schofield 20, 20; bt N. Eckersley 16, 13.

J. Walker bt N. Eckersley -17, 14, 16.
D. Neale bt B. Kean -16, 14, 9; bt D. Schofield 14, 11.

Chadwell Heath 5, St. Annes 4
G. Blomfield lost to P. Shirley -19, -11, lost to D. Welsman 19, -14, -13; bt R. Mason 15, 18.
D. Jemmett bt R. Mason 8, 19; bt P. Shirley 14, 11; lost to D. Welsman -19, -15.
D. Newman lost to D. Welsman -16, -13; bt R. Mason 13, 15; bt P. Shirley 11, 11.

Sheepbridge 1, Handsworth Victoria 5
D. Marples lost to R. Gunnion -13, -17; lost to M. Johns -17, -16.
A. Croome lost to P. Judd -18, -12; lost to R. Gunnion 16, -21, -15.
J. Wallhead bt M. Johns 16, 13; lost to P. Judd 15, -13, -15.

Fellows Cranleigh 5, Dunstable Vauxhall 0
D. Brown bt G. Major 5, 9; bt F. Nilam 17, 18.
I. Horsham bt C. Crowe 11, 15; bt G. Major 11, 11.
R. Potton bt F. Nilam 19, 21.

Semi-finals

Chadwell Heath 0, Fellows Cranleigh 6
Blomfield lost to Brown -14, -19; lost to Horsham -10, 22, -13.
Jemmett lost to Potton -11, -19; lost to Brown -11, -14.
Newman lost to Horsham 19, -14, -10; lost to Potton -21, -14.

Handsworth Victoria 0, Ormesby 5
Judd lost to Neale -10, -16; lost to Jarvis -12, -15.
Johns lost to Walker -15, -13; lost to Neale 11, -10, -11.
Gunnion lost to Jarvis -19, -14.

Final

Fellows Cranleigh 0, Ormesby 5
Horsham lost to Jarvis -14, -18; lost to Neale -17, 17, -22.
Brown lost to Walker 16, -18, -20; lost to Jarvis 15, -14, -13.
Potton lost to Neale -13, -15.

STIGA GAINSFORD CUP

Quarter-finals

Gainsford 6, Conservative Club (Chesterf'd) 0
K. Mathews bt S. Walters 10, 11; bt M. Mellor 19, -18, 5.
J. Hammersley bt J. Billington 10, 8; bt S. Walters 6, 13.
S. Hession bt M. Mellor 15, 11; bt J. Billington 20, 15.

Gatley Y.M.C.A. 5, Ormesby 2
D. Schofield bt B. Kearney 17, -20, 14; lost to C. Knight -9, -6.
S. Lisle bt A. Tierney 12, 14; bt B. Kearney 15, 19; bt C. Knight 17, 19.
D. Johnson lost to C. Knight -16, -17; bt A. Tierney 19, 9.

Fellows Cranleigh 6, Letchworth Settlement 1
E. Tarten bt D. Baines 17, -16, 15; bt S. Felstead 17, 10.
J. Hellaby bt G. Calver 14, 8; bt D. Baines 11, 9; bt S. Felstead 8, 14.
S. Sutton bt S. Felstead 15, 17; lost to G. Calver -18, -19.

Semi-finals

Gatley Y.M.C.A. 5, Merton 1
Schofield bt J. New 16, 17; lost to J. Coop -18, -14.

Lisle bt J. Reading 8, 11; bt J. New 18, 9.
Johnson bt J. Coop 17, 13; bt J. Reading -18, 14, 21.

Gainsford 6, Fellows Cranleigh 0
Mathews bt Hellaby 9, 8; bt Tarten 15, 6.
Hammersley bt Sutton 10, 9; bt Hellaby 12, 13.
Hession bt Tarten -14, 20, 19; bt Sutton 11, 20.

Final

Gainsford 5, Gatley Y.M.C.A. 1
Mathews bt Johnson 14, 14; bt Lisle -18, 20, 8.
Hammersley bt Schofield 11, 12; bt Johnson 8, 8.
D. Court lost to Lisle -16, -18; bt Schofield 15, 11.

YORKSHIRE NOTES

by Tony Ross

REPRIEVED

Yorkshire's first team, having been reprieved at the last possible moment from relegation by Nigel Eckersley's win over Peter Taylor in the Bedfordshire-Cheshire match, can look forward to Premier Division table tennis again next season. But Tony Clayton will need more consistent support if the same situation is not to arise again. Yorkshire's other teams all finished in positions much more respectable than some pundits predicted following the loss of Ormesby players to Cleveland by Yorkshire. However, there is no room for complacency, and the season ended in disaster for the junior first team, slammed 9-1 by Berkshire at Bracknell. It was very disappointing, coming after some good performances at home in mid-season.

In the Zone 2 final round of the Carter Cup, Leeds were 1-4 down at Hull before Steve Hazelwood hauled the West Riding team back into the match with a close win over a tiring Mike Harrison, who had been called upon to play in two other events earlier the same day. Leeds eventually won 5-4, and celebrated their near escape with an excellent 5-3 away win in the quarter-finals over an Ormesby lacking Robert Wiley. Details:—

S. Hazelwood bt I. Plummer 15, 19; bt A. Kilburn 9, 18; lost to S. Souter -20, -20.
A. Metcalfe lost to Souter -15, 24, -13; bt Plummer 9, 12; bt Kilburn 18, -17, 9.
B. Metcalfe lost to Kilburn -16, -18; bt Souter 20, 19.

In a Rose Bowl match four days later, West Riding hopes, Bradford, crashed 0-6 in straight games to Ormesby at the Hermits Club.

Details:—

Miss M. Ludi lost to Miss M. Kearney -8, -18; lost to Miss A. Tierney -16, -22.
Miss S. Broadbent lost to Tierney -19, 22; lost to Miss C. Knight -12, -17.
Miss L. Hryszko lost to Knight -11, -18; lost to Kearney -19, -17.

In the Yorkshire League, end of season blues beset Sheffield I in Division 1. At one stage challengers to new champions Huddersfield, the Sheffield team went down 4-6 at home to Bradford II and then could only draw at Halifax. The Bradford onslaught was led by Ian Gomersall and Mick Stephenson, who each defeated David Rayner and Brian Baxter, and it was left to David Sykes and Mike Hoy to salvage something from the wreckage for the home team.

Sheffield won both doubles, but for Sheffield's fixture secretary, Les Jennings, it was "the worst performance from a Sheffield first team I have ever seen".

It is with regret that I have to record the sudden death, in March, of a South Yorkshire table tennis stalwart, Joe Platts, who was secretary of the Rotherham League from its formation in 1950. The sympathy of the Yorkshire Association is extended to Joe's family and friends.

Former Hull coaching secretary and inter-league player, Pete Bowsley, is now stationed for a while on an off-shore oil terminal off the coast of Iraq. (I suppose a table could be set up on the helicopter landing pad). We await news from the area with interest.

Finally, I think the achievement of Yorkshire under-14 pair, Kevin Beadsley and Joe Naser, in winning the under-17 boys' doubles title at the West Midlands Junior Select deserves the mention it didn't receive in the "Open Tournament Survey" of the last issue.

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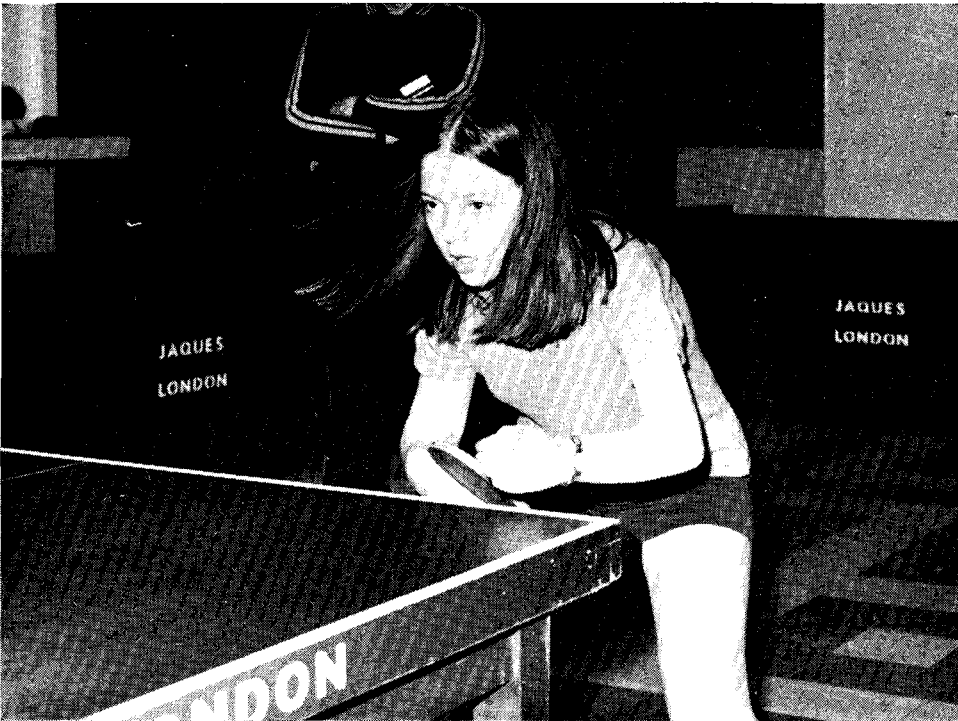
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'NEWS OF THE WORLD' NATIONAL COACHING SCHEME

By **JOHNNY LEACH**



Johnny Leach, twice a former world champion, predicts a great future for "Boy" and "Girl of the Year", Keith Richardson and Beverley Green.



Mandy Wallis, a 13-year-old from Wellingborough, who finished runner-up to Beverley Green.

Photos by courtesy of
The Butlin Group of Companies.

The Finals of the 1974 "News of the World" National Coaching Scheme took place at Butlin's Barry Camp over Easter, 1975, and proved to be the most closely-contested for several years, particularly so far as the boys' award was concerned.

15-years-old Keith Richardson, from Soham, Cambridgeshire, was eventually adjudged "Boy of the Year" by a panel led by myself and comprising Jill Hammersley, Linda Howard, Susan Henderson, Alan Griffiths (Wales) and Richard Yule, the Scottish No. 1.

Keith Richardson, 5ft. 2in. and slim in build, showed exceptional flair in his counter-hitting and put his game together just a little better than his rivals—though they were of a very high standard.

Only two points separated the winner from 13-years-old Sam Harmer, from Leighton Buzzard, who gained his first "News of the World" weekly award at the age of 6, while John Hibbard (14), from Derby, was placed one point behind Harmer. 12-years-old Graham Sandley, from Potters Bar, was another player well in the running for the main award.

The judges are confident, however, that Keith Richardson can achieve his ambition of representing England in world competition if he retains his intelligent and dedicated approach. A good all-round sportsman and, incidentally, a pianist of some ability, Keith excels in mathematics and physics and aims to work in a laboratory.

The "Girl of the Year" is 15-years-old Beverley Green, from Birmingham, a bright personality who is one of very few of her age who favours the defensive style. However, she blends with her sound defensive technique a penetrating forehand hit.

Beverley, who aims to become a personal secretary, has been selected as a "Girl of the Week" on four occasions, and practices regularly on five evenings per week. She, too, should soon realise her ambition of representing England.

Runner-up to Beverley was 13-years-old Mandy Wallis, from Wellingborough, Northants, who comes from a family of keen table tennis players and has a very promising attacking style.

Mandy also represented Pwhelli Camp, as partner to Gary Alden, in the final of the Pupil Partner Challenge Cup competition, but once again had to be content with a runners-up award. The winners of this popular annual doubles event were Sam Harmer and Beverley Green, representing Butlin's Minehead Camp.

An audience of some 2,000 spectators, including a number of table tennis celebrities, saw the presentation of the awards by H. Roy Evans, O.B.E., President of the International Table Tennis Federation, who a few weeks previously, had presented the World Championship trophies in India, Mrs. Nancy Roy Evans, Hon Secretary of the European Table Tennis Union, and Charles M. Wyles, Chairman of the English Table Tennis Association.

Also present were Ron Crayden (Chairman of England's Selection Committee), Albert Shipley (Admin. Secretary of the E.T.T.A.) and Mike Lawless (E.T.T.A. Development Officer). Various exhibition games were well received, particularly the doubles match in which the new "Boy" and "Girl of the Year" opposed Richard Yule and Jill Hammersley, and demonstrated their assurance in such distinguished company.

Adjudged the best of over 4,000 competitors in the 1974 "News of the World" Coaching Scheme at Butlin Holiday Camps, Keith Richardson and Beverley Green have every chance of earning fame equivalent to that of our most successful previous winners.

TREVOR GOES DUTCH

Trevor Taylor, England's fourth-ranked player and three times winner of the Commonwealth men's singles title, has signed a 2-year contract to play for Tempo in the Netherlands Club championship competition.

BRITISH UNIVERSITIES SPORTS FEDERATION

QUADRANGULAR SUCCESS AT SHEFFIELD

by Derek Oldman

The reward of many months planning came to fruition at Sheffield University when top University players representing the countries of Belgium, Netherlands, Federal Germany and Great Britain came together in the first-ever quadrangular tournament to be staged involving these four nations, on April 12-14. The competition proved to be a great success, mainly due to the players themselves entering into the informality of the occasion, mixing excellently with each other and showing no signs of tantrums but still retaining the competitive spirit and the will to win.

The strengths of the three continental countries were an unknown quantity. However, as was expected, the Germans proved to be very strong, the Belgians quite good, whilst the Dutch were comparatively much weaker. The British team selected was the strongest available, namely:—

MEN: Clement Lo (Bradford), John Fuller (Warwick), David Boulter (Hull) and Paul Bishop (Oxford).

WOMEN: Elaine Smith (Edinburgh), Pat Hammond (Kent), Val Duffin (Leeds) and Christine Iacopi (Nottingham).

In the team events, played on the Sunday, three series of matches took place in the morning, afternoon and early evening. The teams consisted of 3 players from the squad of 4 and British Captain, Peter Simpson, omitted Lo and Christine Iacopi for the first match and saw no reason to alter the team for later encounters.

The first matches saw Federal Germany Men beat Belgium by 6-3 and the Federal Germany Women also defeated the Belgians by 7-2. At the same time Great Britain Men were getting the better of the Netherlands by 8-1, Bishop being the unfortunate player to drop a set—while the British Women trounced the Dutch girls without losing a set.

During the afternoon Federal Germany continued to dominate, with the men and women beating the Netherlands by 8-1 and 9-0 respectively. Great Britain's Men's match with Belgium was a much closer affair, the home side eventually getting the upper hand by 6-3. Boulter was undefeated, Fuller won twice and Bishop beat the Belgian No. 3. The British Women also won by the same score, Elaine Smith gaining another treble. Val Duffin won 2 and Pat Hammond beat the opposing No. 3.

The stage was therefore set for the final series of matches between Federal Germany and Great Britain playing for the championship and Belgium and Netherlands fighting it out to decide 3rd and 4th places.

The Belgian men proved far too strong for the Dutch and ran out easy winners by 8-1, while the women from Belgium had a 6-3 victory over the Netherlands.

Both the Federal Germany-British matches were long hard tussles, but in the end the stronger German teams won the day. Fuller and Boulter each won one set for the British, who were eventually defeated by 2-7, one match between Fuller and Lochner being decided on "expedite". In the women's match Elaine Smith again proved her superiority by winning all her sets but alas, Pat Hammond and Val Duffin were outclassed and the home side crashed by 3-6.

At the end of the first day the two leagues looked like this:—

Men

	W	L	Pts
Federal Germany	3	0	6
Great Britain	2	1	4
Belgium	1	2	2
Netherlands	0	3	0

Women

	W	L	Pts
Federal Germany	3	0	6
Great Britain	2	1	4
Belgium	1	2	2
Netherlands	0	3	0

INDIVIDUALS

The second day saw the commencement of the individual events. In the men's singles two surprises were the defeat of the German No. 1, L. Lochner, by the Belgian, A. Killesse, and Bishop's victory over the Belgian No. 1, P. Turine. Killesse again continued to impress by accounting for Boulter in the next round but unfortunately, the main British hope, Lo, lost a very close match with R. Piechowski, from Belgium. At this stage the British interest was Nil.

In the semi-finals, K. Bohler, of Federal Germany, was really extended before reaching the final at the expense of Killesse, and was later to be joined by team-mate L. Pruss, who overcame Piechowski.

The final saw some brilliant play from both players with the stronger attack of Pruss being the deciding factor, but praise must be given to both players for producing such an open and entertaining match.

Elaine Smith and Val Duffin got through the first round of the women's singles, but unfortunately, Pat Hammond and Christine Iacopi went out early. Elaine Smith continued to dominate, beating German opponents in both the quarters and semis. In the final she was opposed by yet another German, their No. 1, U. Waldvogel. However, she swept aside all opposition and proved to be a very worthy champion.

Bishop and Boulter gained a first round victory in the men's doubles but went out in the semis to the eventual winners. The highlight of this event was the emergence of the Dutch pair, C. Van Schie and G. Klassen. They reached the final by defeating Belgian and then German opponents but eventually met their masters, Bohler and Lochner, the No. 1 German pair. At one stage it looked as if the Dutch would take the second game, but after leading 17-13, they were hit by a tremendous assault by the Germans, the final score being 18-21.

Elaine Smith and Val Duffin had an easy first round match against a Belgian pair, but the British second string, Pat Hammond and Christine Iacopi were unfortunate to be drawn against the eventual champions, Waldvogel and G. Werner. The German pair proved to be a thorn in the flesh of the British when Elaine and Val went by the way in the semis.

The final was an all-German affair and while the scores were close, the result never appeared to be in doubt.

In the mixed, the British pairs, Lo/Iacopi, Boulter/Duffin and Fuller/Hammond, all went out in the first round but Bishop and Elaine Smith got through at the expense of a Netherlands couple. In the quarters they were fortunate to meet the German 4th string, but in the semis they came up against a strong German pair, Pruss, the singles champion, and K. Tetzlaff. However, with Elaine in form and Bishop playing as well as he had ever played, the British pair swept aside the opposition, thus breaking the German dominance of the event. Their opponents in the final were the German No. 1 string, Lochner and Waldvogel. The British pair were in no mood to have their day spoilt and played magnificently, giving their opponents no chance to dominate.

On reflection many things spring to mind, the main one being the dominance of the Germans, particularly in the men's events. They assured me that they had left the three best players at home; well, maybe that was just as well.

Elaine Smith stood out in a class of her own among the women. In team matches and singles events the No. 1 ranked Scot never dropped a game and won the admiration of all present.

However, in University circles strengths can change vastly from year to year and if rumours prove to be well-founded, the British team could be much stronger during the next three

years and well able to cope with the present strength of the German squads.

INDIVIDUAL RESULTS

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

Bohler bt Killesse 20, 19.
Pruss bt Piechowski 17, 15.

Final

PRUSS bt Bohler 16, 13.

Women's Singles—Semi-finals

Waldvogel bt Cools 14, 12.
Smith bt Werner 7, 11.

Final

SMITH bt Waldvogel 16, 9.

DOUBLES RESULTS

Men's Doubles—Semi-finals

Bohler/L. Lochner bt Bishop/Boulter 15, 12.
C. Van Schie/G. Klassen bt K. Wiese/Pruss 12, 18.

Final

BOHLER/LOCHNER bt Van Schie/Klassen 13, 18.

Women's Doubles—Semi-finals

Henke/Tetzlaff bt Cools/F. Alexandre 13, -12, 14.

Waldvogel/Werner bt Smith/Duffin 12, -16, 18.

Final

WALDVOGEL/WERNER bt Henke/Tetzlaff 23, 18.

Mixed Doubles—Semi-finals

Lochner/Waldvogel bt Sine/Cools -12, 19, 15.
Bishop/Smith bt Pruss/Tetzlaff 14, 13.

Final

BISHOP/SMITH bt Lochner/Waldvogel 12, 17.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The University of Sheffield Athletics Council and the British Universities' Sports Federation wish to acknowledge the efforts of the many individuals and organisations who helped to organise and run the tournament:—The University of Sheffield, who provided the facilities by courtesy of the Vice-Chancellor, Professor G. D. Sims, the Registrar, Mr. A. M. Currie, and Mr. J. D. Robins, the Director of Physical Recreation; The University Surveyor's Department and Staff, who supplied the special lighting required; the Catering Staff of Tapton Hall of Residence; the Manager and Staff of the Students' Union, for supplying the meals at the sports centre; John Jaques and Son Limited, for the use of Tables, Nets and Surrounds; Ascot Sports, for the supply of balls; Beecham's Limited, for the supply of "Dynamo" drinks for competitors.

English Junior Open

TIDE OUT AT WORTHING

As none of the twenty or so overseas nations asked to participate in the **Worthing Junior International Championships** were able to accept the invitation, the English Table Tennis Association feels that it is not in a position to fulfil its contractual obligations to the sponsor, and has decided, therefore, with the agreement of Worthing Borough Council, to cancel the event, which was due to take place on May 17-18.

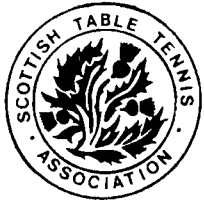
The Championships were not included in the initial programme of approved Championship dates on which all national associations base their own schedules, and although they formed part of an addendum in June, 1974, most countries would by then have taken advantage of the free dates shown to make other arrangements.

A.W.S.

FULL TIME COACH

The Irish Table Tennis Association (Ulster Branch) invites applications for the post of Full-Time Coach/Development Officer for Northern Ireland.

Application form and further particulars re salary, etc., may be obtained from J. E. Ellis, 21 Roughal Park, Downpatrick, Co. Down.



SCOTTISH NEWS

by DENIS GEORGE

The Scottish Closed Championships were held at the Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh, on 19th April, 1975. This was the last Scottish tournament of the season, and Richard Yule and Elaine Smith confirmed their No. 1 rankings by each winning a triple crown. In the Men's Singles, Eric Sutherland—making something of a comeback—defeated John McNea 15, 12, John Wilson 20, 16 and Bert Kerr 7, -20, 18 for the right to play Richard Yule, who had reached the Final by way of David Fraser 7, 8, and Jim Graham 9, 11. In the Final, Richard, continuing in the good form shown in the Scottish Open, had little difficulty in repulsing Eric's challenge and won comfortably 18, 14. Elaine Smith had a similarly comfortable victory in the Women's Singles, but did drop the middle game to Grace McKay in the Final.

RESULTS

Men's Singles—Semi-finals

R. Yule (London) bt J. Graham (Glasgow) 9, 11.

E. Sutherland (Edinburgh) bt R. Kerr (Edinburgh) 7, -20, 18.

Final

R. YULE bt E. Sutherland 18, 14.

Women's Singles—Final

E. SMITH (Edinburgh) bt G. McKay (Edinburgh) 5, -19, 6.

Men's Doubles—Final

R. YULE/ J. McNEE bt P. Forker/E. Sutherland 18, 15.

Women's Doubles—Final

P. FLEMING/E. SMITH bt E. Craig/G. McKay 9, 9.

Mixed Doubles—Final

R. YULE/E. SMITH bt J. Wilson/P. Fleming 19, -18, 14.

Veterans' Singles—Final

R. KERR bt J. Mitchell.

Some of our players travelled over the water for the Lisburn Open on 13th April. Richard Yule was narrowly beaten 20-22 in the 3rd by Jim Langan in the Men's Singles Final and Patrice Fleming lost to Karen Senior in the Women's Singles Semi-finals.

Next event in our calendar is a Junior International against Wales at Wrexham, on 10th May. A number of top players will be going south for the Dagenham Open, and a full squad to Worthing for the English Junior Open. To round off the season we are sending Cadet teams to Zagreb, in August, for the European Junior Championships, in addition to our Junior teams.

MIDDLESEX NOTES

by Laurie Landry

CREDITABLE THIRD

A fairly successful season for the County teams with our Premier Senior team of teenagers, plus Karenza Mathews, finishing a creditable third—a good effort. Sad to say, our last match of the season, against Warwicks, was also the final one for Karenza, who has announced her retirement.

It was Karenza's 50th appearance for the Premier team and the County are most grateful to her for her wonderful play and team spirit, and it is this that has been the reason that Middlesex are the only County to have always been in the Premier Division.

The second team enabled the County to give senior match experience to players like Melvyn Waldman, David Jemmett, Robert Aldrich and Richard Philips, as well as Angela Mitchell and Sue Dove.

The Junior teams were very successful, with the Premier side coming runners-up on average, due to our unfortunate breakdown on the way to Yorkshire, which led to the forfeiture of two sets and the loss of a point. Our new Junior second team won all their matches and Johanne James finished the season unbeaten.

Much credit must go to George Tyler, who looked after this team.

Within the County, the Victor Barna competition (3-a-side) was won by North Middlesex I with N. Middlesex II, although unbeaten, in second place. (3 points for a win and 2 to 1 for a 5-4 win). Staines and Acton were relegated and Wembley and S.W. Middlesex take their places.

In the Norman Pegg competition (2 men and 2 women), S.W. Middlesex were the winners with Wembley the runners-up. Barnets II and Willesden were relegated, and Uxbridge and North Acton promoted from Div. 2. In the Junior Division, N. Middlesex were again the champions, but they lost to unbeaten Barnets, who finished in 2nd place.

On the County Committee, Ted Connell retires after 28 years' service. An E.T.T.A. Vice-President, Ted will be sadly missed. After an election, Geoff James is next season's Chairman, with Iris Moss continuing as Secretary/Treasurer.

IN THE COACHING FIELD

with JOHN O'SULLIVAN

Over the past few years there have been a number of changes made to the structure of coaching in the E.T.T.A. The introduction of a national Trainer/Coach on to the Staff; the formation of the Panel system; and the Assessment Camps for Juniors.

It is therefore necessary, at some time or other, to take stock and determine whether the methods employed and the results obtained are consistent with the effort put in. It is with this in mind that a Coaching Conference will be held at Lilleshall over the weekend of May 23-25.

As can be appreciated, it is impossible to invite every coach on the register, as there are only a limited number of places available at the Sports Centre. Therefore some method of selection had to be adopted.

Apart from members of the National Coaching and Schools' Committee, it is envisaged that the number will be made up from those who will benefit most, and enlighten the greatest number, from what is gleaned.

It has been decided that Panel Chairmen, together with the approved assessors, will be invited and any spare places then offered to nominations made by the National Coaches. A nominal charge of £3 will be made to help defray the expenses which will otherwise be defrayed by the E.T.T.A.

Subject matter will be variable but will include the use of video equipment as an aid to coaching and training, the speaker on this subject being Peter Hirst, National Coach for the South-East.

Although it may be argued that video equip-

ment is expensive and not readily available to most coaches, it is fast becoming an important aid in other sporting fields and Table Tennis is going to have to keep up to date to compete.

Bryan Merrett, National Coach for the Midlands and South-West, will be talking on "Team Captaincy". I have never seen this subject on an agenda before, and I am amazed, for all county teams taking part in the C.T.T. Championships, must have a captain. As far as I am aware, nobody has ever asked for information of this nature before.

I have been captain of a county team for some years and it has never entered my head to look for a course on the subject. But I welcome this item, as no doubt will many others.

There have, in the past, been many enquiries as to why there isn't an official handbook published to help coaches to standardise their methods over the whole country. These enquiries have always received the same answer. To have an official viewpoint, it is necessary for all officials to agree on interpretation, and this has not been easy to achieve. Also, as fast as notes are prepared, they have to be updated as methods change.

Basic coaching in itself should not change, even though it is a complex subject and opinions vary over apparently simple issues. A manual of this nature is long overdue. Therefore, Peter Simpson, National Coach for the North, in conjunction with the other national coaches, has compiled a draft of the proposed Coaching Manual.

Peter will be speaking about the manual at the Conference, and I feel sure most coaches will concede that it will be a great help to have an official "bible" on coaching which will be a guide to basic standardisation, which we have been striving for. Many times, on my travels, I have seen coaches putting their pupils through training that would do justice to commandos.

When you have a number of people working over a wide area, spreading the gospel on any particular theme, there will be occasions when disputes over methods of teaching are bound to arise. Different viewpoints on the same subject can, in most cases, be beneficial, for we can learn from each other.

It is when direct conflict between two people occurs that things may be said that are not only detrimental to the coaching image as a whole, but the main sufferers are the pupils.

There has, in the recent past, been such a conflict, and as with such disagreements, one cannot become involved without taking sides. It is not my intention to attempt mediation, but just to say that it is better for the people concerned to get together, discuss and, if possible, iron out the differences.

It has now been suggested that representatives for the E.S.T.T.A. should sit on each of the Area Panels. I welcome such an idea, for liaison between the Schools' Association and the Panels has never been too good. This system will, I hope, encourage an exchange of information, especially about forthcoming events, thus preventing such clashes that we have had in the past.

NEW CHAMPION AT BARNET

In the absence of Andrew Barden, Mark Mitchell and David Tan, a new champion emerged in the Middlesex Closed, played at the Barnet Centre, on April 27. Robert Aldrich won the Men's Singles title, surviving a first game defeat to account for David Jemmett

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THE ASCOT BUTTERFLY NATIONAL LEAGUES CHAMPIONSHIPS

by KEITH PONTING

The Quarter-finals Carter Cup Holders Beaten

"We visited the Lion's Den and escaped with his Dinner." This must be the quote of the season and it came from Leeds' Junior Coach, Colin Morath, in his match report of his lads' great win against the holders of the Carter Cup, Ormesby. Brian and Andrew Metcalfe and Steven Hazelwood played their hearts out and scored a deserved 5-3 win about which Alan Ransome had no complaints. Alan was most generous in his praise for the Leeds team and said they were by far the best team on the night. The other cupholders, Ormesby, Central London and Dagenham, still live to fight another day, but there are some tough matches ahead.

Wilmott Cup

Jimmy Walker, Nicky Jarvis and Denis Neale won two each against Manchester, only one set needing a third game. The Potteries have had an outstanding season and must have thought they were in with a chance against Birmingham. However, Paul Judd, Derek Munt and Mike Johns had other ideas and ran out 5-1 winners. Stephen Rowe won the single Potteries set by beating Johns. A brilliant maximum from David Tan and two from Mark Mitchell were enough for North Middlesex to end the hopes of Cheshunt. Graham Blomfield, trying a new bat, was beaten by Barry White and Jack Bender. An all-London clash resulted in East London getting the better of Central 5-1. David Erown, David Iszatt and Ian Horsham just had the edge, with Derek Holman scoring a brilliant win over Horsham.

Rose Bowl

Bradford have done well to reach this stage but found Ormesby just too strong with Angela Tierney, Carole Knight and Barbara Kearney winning two each. Another comfortable win for the holders, Central London, thanks to Diane Court, Shelagh Hession and Karenza Mathews against Wembley. No details but other scores were Bournemouth 2, Guildford 5 and Cambridge 2, Chesterfield 5.

Carter Cup

Leeds deserve the headlines and now meet Leicester in the semi-finals, who easily accounted for plucky Dunstable, as Grahame Hall, Phil Smith and Chris Rogers won two each. North Middlesex must surely be the favourites and Mark Mitchell, Colin Williams and David Iszatt must be feeling very confident after their 6-0 win at Wembley.

Bromfield Trophy

North Acton had to make a long journey to Grantham but came away well satisfied following a 7-2 win. Although feeling tired, Sue Dove, Marilyn Sangster and Jill Campion outshone their opponents. The only trouble for holders Dagenham came from North Middlesex No. 1, Angela Mitchell, who was unbeaten. However, Janet Boulter, Sandra Sutton and Penny Abbott had the better of Barbara Devine and Philomena Conlon. Bournemouth's outstanding girls, Julie Reading and Janet New, were in top form against Guildford and each won three in a 6-3 win.

SEMI-FINAL DRAW

Wilmott Cup:

Birmingham v Ormesby
East London v North Middlesex

Rose Bowl:

Ormesby v Chesterfield
Guildford v Central London

Carter Cup:

Leicester v Leeds
Thames Valley or Newbury v N. Middlesex

Bromfield Trophy:

Birmingham or Ormesby v North Acton
Dagenham v Bournemouth

INTRODUCING

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DENIS NEALE (4 times English Champion and No. 1 player).
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RICHARD YULE (Scotland's No. 1).

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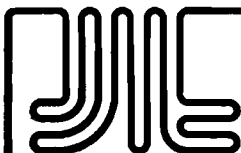
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A TRIBUTE TO KARENZA

by RON CRAYDEN



England captain, Ron Crayden, has a quiet word with Karenza (then Miss Smith) before her match against Eleanora Mihalca, of Rumania. Karenza went on to bring off one of the best wins of her career and it was a case of emiles before and after the match. Ron is now Chairman of the E.T.T.A's National Selection Committee.

Last month a star was lost to the table tennis firmament when, at the National Championships, Karenza Mathews (née Smith) announced her retirement from competitive play. For those, who through the years have been captivated by the talent and charm of this slip of a girl, it was a sad occasion with a rewarding finale. In the best story-book fashion, she went out in a blaze of incandescent light, winning the coveted Women's Doubles title with newcomer Carole Knight.

I well remember the arrival of Karenza who, as Miss K. Smith, hit the table tennis scene with a sudden impact. Physically, she did not seem strong enough to meet the demands of the competitive tournament circuit, but compete she did with startling effect. What she lacked in strength was counterbalanced by an inner drive that was unflagging in its intensity. She did not anaesthetise opponents by her power of shot but rather enmeshed them and stung them to defeat.

THE BEGINNING

It always interests me to trace the "how and why" very young people become deeply involved in sport and indeed, whether it is mainly natural talent or specialised training that takes them to the top. In Karenza's case the beginning can be simply explained, for at the tender age of ten, when most young girls

are still having a love affair with their dolls, she was taken to a Butlin's Holiday Camp and fell in love with table tennis. Although only just able to see over the table top, she attracted the attention of the resident coach, who recommended her to join Elsie and Jack Carrington's table tennis school in Bethnal Green. She was on her way. A few years later she returned to Butlin's in triumph to be crowned "Girl of the Year."

Karenza's progress can be attributed to skilful direction from the Carrington's, but I firmly believe it was her natural talent and total absorption in the game that took her to the top. A good coach can point the way, but even players with more than average talent must dedicate themselves and spend hours of unstinting toil before any worthwhile results are obtained. Karenza did just this. At the age of fourteen, she made her first appearance for England and so began a Junior career of exceptional merit. In February, 1966, and still only fifteen, Karenza bridged the gap that so many find a yawning chasm, between Junior and Senior play. Partnered by Mary Shannon Wright, she won a National Doubles title. From there it was a short step to selection for a senior International match and tour. She had arrived.

We often hear of history repeating itself

and it seems more than coincidence that Karenza hit the big-time by winning a National Doubles title and made her exit by taking the same title. What is more, her partner in the farewell performance (Carole Knight) is a youngster in the same mould as was the young Miss Smith, determined and aggressive. Everything points to the fact that she will emulate Karenza's title-winning ways.

FURTHER DEVELOPMENT

In November, 1966, Karenza's world took on a new dimension, for she was chosen to tour in Austria and Yugoslavia and to play in a full-scale International. I was privileged to be her Captain for the trip and a happy and memorable one it turned out to be. At this stage in her development Karenza was a bundle of quicksilver and her speed of reflex made old and tired eyes, such as mine, smile in appreciation. Her major weakness was against a consistent back-spin defence, as she had neither the experience nor the penetration of shot to deal with it. It must, therefore, have been soul-destroying for her to meet in quick succession, some of the greatest defensive players in Europe. Many of lesser stature would have gone to pieces but not Karenza, she fought with the tenacity of a tigress and in Yugoslavia won not only two titles but the hearts of the crowd. To win at all in a major National Open is an accomplishment, but to win two titles (the Team Championship and Women's Doubles) on your first Senior trip is tantamount to parting the waters. I shall always remember how this oh! so young-looking girl, by her speed and brilliance, took a partisan Yugoslavian crowd by the scruff of the neck and had them chanting "Bravo Schmidt" in appreciation. Remember, she was only sixteen at the time and yet in the team final, against the U.S.S.R., she demolished the great Zoya Rudnova at 16 in the third. Like Mary Wright, her partner on this trip, Karenza is blessed with a wonderful temperament and in the best Kipling manner, treats success and failure with equanimity.

HER GREATEST YEAR

To measure Karenza's contribution to the game by cataloguing her results would perhaps satisfy a statistician, but in my eyes, it would be a travesty of justice. She is not just a girl who has played table tennis and registered a number of fine wins. Karenza is one who epitomises all that is good in the game; technical skill, fitness, fair-mindedness, loyalty and sportsmanship, all coupled with an innate determination to fight to the last drop. For good measure you could throw in the three C's—Courage, Concentration and Conviction—Karenza had them all in abundance. The trip to Yugoslavia helped to expel from her some of the greenness of youth and the build-up to her greatest year began. Always a specialist at Doubles, wedding bells rang for Karenza in 1968, and she became Mrs. Mathews. Her husband, Ken, being a great enthusiast of the game, encouraged her at every turn and the full flowering of her gifts came in the 1970-71 season. It all started in March, 1970, when, with her friend and partner, Mary Wright, she won the English Open Women's Doubles title, one which she still remembers with a glow of satisfaction. In October of that year Karenza reached her highest peak when, in a classical exhibition of two-wing attacking, she outplayed the current World Singles Champion, Toshiko Kowada, of Japan. The match itself was not an exhibition but a closely-fought International and Karenza actually won 21-13, 21-13. Later that month, I took a team to Madrid and Karenza kept the English flag flying by winning the Spanish Open Singles and Women's Doubles titles. On the English Tournament circuit, Karenza picked up many individual titles and became the country's undisputed No. 1 in January, 1971, when she won the triple crown at the National Championships.

Since that wonderful season, Karenza has had many moments that in memory she will relive with pleasure, including visits to such exotic places as Australia, China, India and Singapore. It is perhaps difficult to realise that she will no longer be gracing the tournament arenas with her presence; I consider myself privileged that I was around when she did.



English men's doubles champions, Paul Day (left) and Andrew Barden, who fell in straight games to Surbek and Stipancic at Leeds.

Photo by Tony Ross.

Rothwell International

by George R. Yates

Following on the European League match in Hull, England engaged the visiting Yugoslavians in a friendly international encounter at the Rothwell Sports Centre, Leeds, on Friday, April 25.

Both Denis Neale and Jill Hammersley were stood down from the previous night but Desmond Douglas set England off to the best possible of starts by adding yet another highly-valued scalp to his belt in that of Anton Stipancic, the beaten men's singles finalist in Calcutta.

But, alas, it was to be the only home success of the evening as Yugoslavia ran out 6-1 winners, the only other sets going to a deciding game both involving Erzebet Korpa, who needed three to account for Carole Knight and Linda Howard.

Straight from their men's doubles success in the Norwich Union English Championships at Crystal Palace, the fledglings Paul Day and Andrew Barden were thrown to the lions against Stipancic and Dragutin Surbek.

No story-book ending ensued, however, as the formidable Surb and Stip hammered their way to a 2-straight victory and Day, in a later singles engagement, fell in similar fashion to fellow left-hander, Stipancic. Results:—

- D. Douglas bt A. Stipancic 18, -17, 13.
- N. Jarvis lost to D. Surbek -19, -15.
- Miss C. Knight lost to Miss E. Korpa -19, 18, -18.
- A. Barden/P. Day lost to Stipancic/Surbek -13, -19.
- Miss L. Howard lost to Miss Korpa -18, 15, -16.
- Day lost to Stipancic -17, -18.
- Douglas lost to Surbek -17, -11.

BACK IN THE SADDLE

Charles Wyles (Chairman), George Yates (Deputy Chairman) and Tom Blunn (Hon. Treasurer) have all been returned unopposed for a further term of office and tender their thanks for your continued support of their combined efforts as officers of the English Table Tennis Association.

WARWICKSHIRE NOTES

by Ralph Gunnion

UP — BY A WHISKER

So our first team have done it, with Des Douglas back in the side, and two successive 5-4 victories against Essex and Middlesex our Premier team maintained its status—but only just.

I'm glad the County Championships are coming under the auspices of the E.T.T.A. because in recent seasons they have become a joke, especially for ourselves, having Desmond Douglas out of the side and being unable to postpone matches due to international commitments. Looking back at the fixture calendar only Lancashire beat us with our full team and so instead of fighting off relegation, if we had been able to play our full side every match, maybe we would have been challenging for the title. Still, that's history now—I hope we're able to alleviate the problem next season.

I feel that I must mention our three other regular players, viz. Paul Judd, Derek Munt and Beverley Green. Between them they've done a superb job. Judd has been an invaluable member of the team, giving everything and gaining very little, but his contribution to the well-being of the team has been tremendous. This has had to have been Derek Munt's best-ever season for us, only being on the losing end four times from fourteen games—well done, Derek. As for Bev Green, well she became the first female player to win a women's singles for us in the Premier for many a season. Her victory over Shelagh Hession (Essex) was truly magnificent and climaxed a brilliant debut season where Bev won four sets from seven appearances. At Easter Bev became the "News of the World" "Girl of the Year"—I'm sure we are all going to hear a lot more from Bev before very much longer.

P.S.—If all the trials and tribulations of becoming a father has meant that Derek Munt has had his best-ever season for us, then Derek, I think you'd better plan for an addition each and every season. (Derek's wife, Linda, gave birth to a son, Nicholas, on 24th January).

NORTHUMBERLAND NOTES

by Pauline Jackson

GRAND FINALE

The Northumberland County first team provided a grand finale to the season when they easily accounted for a very young Cheshire II team, which had already played the junior fixture that afternoon in its entirety, by 8-2. Andrew Clark, Barbara Kearney and Pat Small were all unbeaten, while Ian Robertson and Alan Jones each lost a men's singles to give the visitors their two sets.

The recent good run of the junior team, however, came to an end when they surprisingly lost by the unexpected margin of 1-9 to their opponents, with Andrew Clark being the only player to win a set.

The Northumberland Closed Championships were held in the canteen of the Dept. of Health and Social Security, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on April 19, and attracted a reasonable entry, although well down on the previous season. Ian Robertson proved to be the most successful player, winning the men's singles, men's doubles with Dave Armstrong, and mixed with Pauline Jackson. Peter Hoyles, a former Closed champion, was the beaten finalist, who had come through by defeating Malcolm McMaster, conqueror of Andrew Clark in the previous round. The shock of this event was the performance of No. 3 junior, Eddie Thomas, who had suffered early defeats in both the youths' and boys' singles events; he beat the holder, Alan Jones, and then Dave Armstrong in successive rounds before losing to Robertson in the other semi-final.

Pat Small has waited a long time to win the women's singles event of this tournament, but she took the title for the first time in no uncertain manner by easily disposing of Christine Joyce, who had put out Pauline Jackson in an earlier round by 20-22 in the third. Admittedly, the absence of Barbara Kearney and Phil Clark meant that the standard was not quite so high as previously, but this did not detract from the keen and hard-fought games which were evident throughout.

The men's doubles event was predictably won by Robertson and Armstrong, who defeated unseeded pair Walter Rossiter and Fred Short in the final. The mixed doubles—for some reason not drawn in seeding order—was won by Robertson and Pauline Jackson, who came through the hard way with victories over Jones and Pat Small (25-23 in the third), Hoyles and Daphne Russell, and finally Armstrong and Christine Joyce, who predictably came through via McMaster and Elaine Harrison, having received a bye in the previous round.

Clark again proved himself invincible by taking both the youths' and boys' singles titles, while at the other end of the scale the ever-green Harry Dignan again proved his undisputed superiority in the veterans' singles. Anne Henderson narrowly beat Kim Cheung to take the girls' singles title for the first time.

Results:—

- M.S.: I. Robertson bt P. Hoyles 16, -21, 9.
- W.S.: Mrs. P. Small bt Miss C. Joyce 14, 7.
- M.D.: Robertson/D. Armstrong bt W. Rossiter/F. Short 15, 13.
- W.D.: Not held—lack of entries.
- X.D.: Robertson/P. Jackson bt Armstrong/Miss Joyce 18, -21, 18.
- V.S.: H. Dignan bt W. Ellison 9, 14.
- Y.S. (U-19): A. Clark bt T. Chow 10, 10.
- B.S. (U-17): Clark bt R. Wilson 9, -19, 16.
- G.S. (U-17): A. Henderson bt K. Cheung -17, 12, 20.
- I.H.: F. Short (scr) bt R. Wilson (+4) 18, 15.
- W.H.: Miss Cheung (+8) bt Miss Jackson (scr) 10, 14.

The Tournament, League and Cup Trophies will be presented at the Annual Northumberland County T.T.A. dinner-dance, which is once again to be held at the premises of J. T. Parrish Ltd., Shields Road, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, on Friday, May 16. Thanks are due to Bill and Lily McMaster for once again agreeing to organise the event.

FINAL TABLES

PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	7	6	0	1	43	20	12
Cheshire	7	6	0	1	39	24	12
Middlesex	7	4	0	3	38	25	8
Warwickshire	7	3	0	4	30	33	6
Lancashire	7	3	0	4	27	36	6
Yorkshire	7	2	0	5	28	35	4
Bedfordshire	7	2	0	5	28	35	4
Glamorgan	7	2	0	5	19	44	4

SECOND NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cleveland	5	5	0	0	42	8	10
Yorkshire II	5	2	2	1	29	21	6
Northumberland	5	2	1	2	25	25	5
Lincolnshire	5	1	3	1	24	26	5
Durham	5	0	2	3	18	32	2
Cheshire II	5	0	2	3	12	38	2

SECOND WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Berkshire	6	6	0	0	47	13	12
Devon	6	3	1	2	38	22	7
Somerset	6	2	3	1	35	25	7
Wiltshire	6	3	1	2	35	25	7
Worcestershire	6	3	1	2	33	27	2
Cornwall	6	1	0	5	18	42	2
Dorset	6	0	0	6	4	56	0

JUNIOR PREMIER	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	7	5	1	1	46	24	11
Middlesex	7	5	1	1	44	26	11
Berkshire	7	4	2	1	42	28	10
Yorkshire	7	3	2	2	33	37	8
Surrey	7	3	1	3	38	32	7
Cambridgeshire	7	2	2	3	38	32	6
Lancashire	7	1	0	6	24	46	2
Leicestershire	7	0	1	6	15	55	1

JUNIOR SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Middlesex II	6	6	0	0	52	8	12
Sussex	6	5	0	1	41	19	10
Hampshire	6	4	0	2	40	20	8
Essex III	6	1	2	3	29	31	4
Hertfordshire II	6	1	2	3	23	37	4
Buckinghamshire	6	1	2	3	20	40	4
Oxfordshire	6	0	0	6	5	55	0

JUNIOR NORTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cleveland	6	5	0	1	42	18	10
Durham	6	5	0	1	40	20	10
Yorkshire II	6	4	0	2	35	25	8
Cheshire	6	3	1	2	36	24	7
Northumberland	6	2	0	4	19	41	4
Lancashire II	6	1	0	5	22	38	2
Cumbria	6	0	1	5	16	44	1

JUNIOR MIDLAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Derbyshire	6	5	1	0	43	17	11
Clwyd	6	5	1	0	38	22	11
Warwickshire	6	4	0	2	48	12	8
Nottinghamshire	6	3	0	3	26	34	6
Staffordshire	6	2	0	4	24	36	4
Leicestershire	6	1	0	5	20	40	2
Shropshire	6	0	0	6	11	49	0

JUNIOR EAST	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cambridgeshire II	6	6	0	0	43	17	12
Norfolk	6	4	1	1	40	20	9
Suffolk	6	4	0	2	32	28	8
Northamptonshire	6	2	2	2	29	31	6
Bedfordshire	6	2	0	4	24	36	4
Huntingdonshire	6	1	1	4	22	38	3
Lincolnshire	6	0	0	6	20	40	0

JUNIOR SOUTH-EAST	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex II	6	5	0	1	44	16	10
Surrey II	6	4	2	0	40	20	10
Kent	6	3	2	1	39	21	8
Hertfordshire	6	3	2	1	36	24	8
Berkshire II	6	2	0	4	28	32	4
Hampshire II	6	1	0	5	14	46	2
Sussex II	6	0	0	6	9	51	0

JUNIOR WEST	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dorset	7	6	1	0	54	16	13
Glamorgan	7	5	0	2	44	26	10
Gloucestershire	7	4	2	1	41	29	10
Wiltshire	7	3	2	2	39	31	8
Devon	7	3	1	3	37	33	7
Worcestershire	7	2	2	3	38	32	6
Cornwall	7	1	0	6	17	53	2
Somerset	7	0	0	7	10	60	0

VETERANS' SOUTH	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Essex	6	6	0	0	41	13	12
Essex II	6	5	0	1	35	19	10
Hampshire	6	4	0	2	36	18	8
Kent	6	3	0	0	28	26	6
Wiltshire	6	1	0	5	19	35	2
Hertfordshire	6	1	0	5	16	38	2
Huntingdonshire	6	1	0	5	14	40	2

VETERANS' MIDLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cheshire	7	7	0	0	57	6	14
Nottinghamshire	7	5	0	2	38	25	10
Warwickshire	7	4	0	3	31	32	8
Dxfordshire	7	3	0	4	31	32	6
Staffordshire	7	3	0	4	27	36	6
Leicestershire	7	3	0	4	27	36	6
Clwyd	7	2	0	5	22	41	4
Worcestershire	7	1	0	6	19	44	2

SENIOR CHALLENGE	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cleveland	4	4	0	0	27	9	8
Surrey	4	3	0	1	20	16	6
Cambridgeshire	4	2	0	2	18	18	4
Derbyshire	4	1	0	3	13	23	2
Berkshire	4	0	0	4	12	24	0

GLOUCESTERSHIRE NOTES

by John Cooper

In Gloucestershire's match against Derbyshire young Chris Sewell played superbly to win against tremendous defensive play. Conditions at the C.E.G.B. headquarters could not have been better. There was plenty of light and space yet still the Derby chaps were crashing into the crowd in trying fantastic retrievals and mostly succeeding. With 3 from Chris we managed a draw with the help of our doubles combinations, which included the return of Mrs. S. Matthews.

Sewell had another "Sunday Times" Super League game, this time with Ian Horsham's team. Chris also had a good day at the Basingstoke men's event with a win over Ian Robertson (ex-ranked) and Graham Davies, of Wales, before going out to Trevor Taylor after getting the first end and only losing the middle one at 19.

In the Welsh Open, Chris reached the quarters of the men's doubles and in the English "closed" he coupled up with Mark Mitchell to reach the quarters.

With the "loss" of Sewell to Avon next season (?) and due to the tremendous cost increases in running county sides and the serious financial position of the new county area of Gloucestershire (Avon get the built-up areas to the south) it is proposed that the junior County team be withdrawn.

On a more cheerful note it is nice to see the name of Gloucestershire-trained Chris Iacopi doing well in University tournaments.

In my round-up of the Leagues, Gloucester have had their annual competitions with the following results:—

M.S.: Roy Morley.
M.D.: Roy Morley/Grahame Rider.
X.D.: William Dawe/Jane Dovey.
V.S.: Ray Phillips.
B.S.: W. Dawe.
B.S. (U-15): Martin Lane.
B.S. (U-13): Derek Morgan.

Lane and Morgan are from St. Mark's and they had a good day in the Gloucestershire Boys' Clubs event with Derek winning the U-16 B.S. and combining with Martin to win the U-16 doubles. L. Callum took the U-18's and he and N. Malcolm took the U-18 doubles. In the Mixed youth clubs Jane Dovey won the girls' event.

Stroud girls had a good draw with Bristol "A" which they achieved without Susan Giles, but Louis Wilshere contributed 3. They also drew with Cheltenham. Stroud boys, however, lost 0-10 to Bristol "A" but Stroud men beat Telford 6-4. Andrew Golding gets another special mention. He is just 11, and playing in Div. 3 of the Stroud League, has won all his sets over the last 14 weeks. He also won three in a match in Div. 1 and reached the last 8 in the Stroud men's tournament, putting out four 1st Div. players in the process!

Cheltenham, in the County Junior League, got a 10-0 win with their boys over Bristol "B" but then they lost 2-8 to their "A" side, but beat Stroud 8-2. Their girls drew with Bristol "A". Guy Greening won the Gloucestershire Mixed Boys' club event and now goes on to the regional do. Bournside School now has two tables and teachers there thought they would like to see if the girls were interested; they were—60 turned up! That will need some organising, table scheduling or purchasing!

Cheltenham are also hosts again for the Regional U-13 E.T.T.A. competition.

Bristol have had their annual schools' competition, the winners and runners-up being as follows. There was an interesting response in the younger age groups.

Girls (U-11): T. Lee (winner), S. Brain (runner-up).

Boys (U-11): S. Cox, R. Wittiker.
Girls (U-13): C. Rowe, J. Higgins.
Boys (U-13): K. Morris, N. Baldwin.
Girls (U-16): D. Vowles, W. Simmons.
Boys (U-16): P. Lewis, R. Wolfe.
Boys (U-19): M. James, R. Hoare.

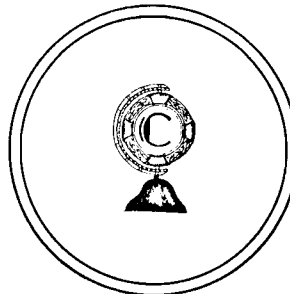
This competition is to be used as a base for entries to the English Schools' Association by Avon, as other areas have no entries. Therefore, to the last Bristol shows the way, as Gloucestershire have put forward no entries.

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County Championships Round-up

continued from page 32

Alden and their lack of adequate cover exposed. Kevin McPartlan continues to improve, but Suffolk well worth this result.

Lincolnshire 2, Cambridgeshire II 8

Only Suzanne Hunt between Cambs and a clean sheet.

Northamptonshire 5, Huntingdonshire 5

Gary Alden the only unbeaten player in this fluctuating contest, but the best set that between Belinda Chamberlain and Mandy Wallis with Belinda winning -12, 17, 19.

Suffolk 6, Bedfordshire 4

At 3-all, Kevin Savage gave Suffolk the lead for the first time when he beat Alau Chandler 27, -10, 17 in a "cracker". Suffolk never looked back.

JUNIOR WEST

Dorset 7, Glamorgan 3

So Dorset go to the Challenge after a splendid season; they have the best record of the challengers.

Wiltshire 8, Cornwall 2

Entrusted for the first time with G.S., Wendy Parker taken to 16, -18, 18 by Sharon James.

Worcestershire 4, Gloucestershire 6

Splendid set between Chris Sewell and Simon Claxton, won 18, 20 by Chris, who had to pull out all the stops. Two nice wins for Mandy Mytton.

VETERAN SOUTH

Essex I 7, Kent 2

Hampshire 7, Wiltshire 2

For the 3rd time this season an unregistered player appeared v Wilts, who "won" 5 sets this way.

Hertfordshire 4, Huntingdonshire 5

VETERAN MIDLAND

Cheshire 7, Warwickshire 2

Leicestershire 6, Worcestershire 3

Oxfordshire 7, Clwyd 2

Staffordshire 5, Nottinghamshire 4

SENIOR CHALLENGE

Surrey 6, Cambridgeshire 3

R. Yule lost to P. Day -17, -15; bt M. Harper 19, 19.

S. Lyons lost to Day -9, 18, -20; bt K. Richardson -16, 11, 14.

D. Welsman bt Harper 7, 19; lost to Richardson -18, 17, -18.

C. Strathearn/Welsman bt Day/Richardson 17, 18.

Miss L. Howard bt Mrs. S. Hirst 14, 9.

Yule/Howard bt Harper/Hirst 11, 9.

A sound start for Surrey, with Steve Lyons a little unlucky to go down to Paul Day.

Berkshire 4, Derbyshire 5

S. Heaps bt M. Billington 13, 17; lost to D. Foulds -21, -18.

R. Thornton lost to Billington -19, 18, -14; beat E. Hall 11, 14.

D. Reeves lost to Foulds 20, -18, -15; beat Hall 11, 10.

Heaps/D. Reeves lost to Billington/Faulds -18, 19, -17.

Miss C. Reeves bt Miss J. Billington -19, 18, 17.

Thornton/C. Reeves lost to D. Yallopp/Miss M. Mellor 15, -19, -14.

Berks able to take only one of the 5 sets that needed a decider.

Cambridgeshire 6, Berkshire 3

Day bt Heaps 17, 15; bt P. Trott 16, 12.

Harper lost to Heaps 15, -20, -18; bt G. Roberts 7, 6.

Richardson beat Trott 19, 17; beat Roberts 17, -13, 13.

Day/Richardson lost to Heaps/Trott -11, -19.

Hirst lost to Miss K. Witt -12, -16.

Harper/Hirst bt D. Reeves/Witt 14, -11, 20.

Had Berks clinched X.D. there could have been a different outcome. Michael Harper superb v Garry Roberts.

Cleveland 7, Surrey 2

N. Jarvis bt A. Yule 13, 19; beat Welsman 14, 13.

J. Walker bt Yule 9, 21; bt Strathearn 17, 12.

D. Alderson bt Welsman 20, -19, 13; lost to Strathearn -15, 13, -16.

Jarvis/Walker bt Lyons/Welsman 17, -8, 18.

Miss C. Knight bt Howard 14, -13, 17.

Alderson/Knight lost to Yule/Howard -13, -12.

From 2-all, Cleveland steadily pulled away in what was regarded as the battle of the two best teams. Dave Welsman and Lyons unlucky not to topple Nicky Jarvis and Jimmy Walker, but Carole Knight did bring off a good win v England No. 2, Linda Howard.

Derbyshire 2, Surrey 7

M. Billington lost to Yule -15, -12; beat Lyons 20, 12.

Foulds lost to Yule -13, 8, -7; beat Strathearn 17, 15.

Yallopp lost to Lyons -11, -18; lost to Strathearn -18, -21.

M. Billington/Foulds lost to Lyons/Welsman -19, -14.

J. Billington lost to Howard -16, -12.

Yallopp/Mellor lost to Yule/Howard -11, -20.

Cambridgeshire 4, Cleveland 5

Day bt Jarvis 15, -18, 19; bt Walker 13, -11, 19.

Harper lost to Jarvis -10, -18; lost to Alderson -16, -19.

Richardson lost to Walker -13, -19; lost to Alderson -21, -9.

Day/Richardson bt Jarvis/Walker 18, -17, 13.

Hirst bt Miss A. Tierney -17, 17, 15.

Harper/Hirst lost to Alderson/Knight -17, -12.

So near to a major upset. Unbeaten Day set it up, Alan Ransome "helped" by giving Angela Tierney a run out (she found Sally Hirst too consistent), but the 5th set wouldn't quite come. Jarvis trailed Day 14-20 in 3rd and fought superbly to save 5 set points before going down on the 6th.

Cleveland 7, Derbyshire 2

Jarvis bt I. Warner 11, 19; bt Yallopp 16, 15.

Walker bt Warner 21, 12; lost to Hall -19, -23.

Alderson bt Yallopp 11, -17, 16; bt Hall 19, 14.

Walker/Jarvis bt Warner/Hall 18, 21.

Knight bt Mellor 18, 16.

Alderson/Knight lost to Billington/Billington 18, -15, -23.

Derbys rested their two best players and it was left for Walker to provide the excitement when he trailed Eric Hall by a game and 8-18.

He levelled, served off at 23-22 up, and then lost!

Surrey 5, Berkshire 4

Yule bt Heaps 9, 15; bt Thornton -19, 18, 18.

Lyons bt Heaps 16, -14, 18; lost to D. Reeves -19, 20, -15.

Welsman lost to Thornton -22, -16; lost to D. Reeves 17, -17, -18.

Strathearn/Welsman lost to D. Reeves/Thornton -13, 17, -7.

Howard bt C. Reeves 17, 5.

Yule/Howard bt Heaps/C. Reeves 9, 20.

A really tight match with Berks again possibly a bit unlucky. Bob Thornton so close to Richard Yule, whose class told in the end.

Berkshire 1, Cleveland 8

Heaps lost to Jarvis -16, -14; lost to Walker -17, -11.

D. Reeves lost to Jarvis -16, -17; lost to Alderson -15, 15, -24.

Roberts lost to Walker 17, -10, -13; lost to Alderson -15, -16.

Heaps/D. Reeves bt Alderson/Walker 17, -14, 18.

Witt lost to Knight -15, -17.

Thornton/Witt lost to Jarvis/Tierney -15, -16.

A good M.D. win for Simon Heaps and David Reeves, but the form of the Cleveland pairings was not impressive over the weekend. The last County match for Bob Thornton, who has given splendid service to Berkshire.

Derbyshire 4, Cambridgeshire 5

M. Billington lost to Day -16, -9; beat Harper 18, 17.

Foulds lost to Day -20, -9; beat Richardson 9, 8.

Warner lost to Harper -9, -14; lost to Richardson -17, 17, -17.

Hall/Warner lost to Day/Harper 19, -19, -9.

Mellor bt Hirst 22, -11, 18.

Billington/Billington bt Richardson/Hirst 19, 16.

Day troubled by both Maurice Billington and Doug Foulds in the first games, but powered through confidently in the seconds.

What a season—the only boy ever to take 14/14 in the Junior Premier, unbeaten in 2nd East, and now unbeaten in the Challenge.

SOUTH EAST MIDLANDS CHATTER

by Leslie Constable

UNTOUCHABLES

Ely have once again won the Men's Section of the S.E.M. League with, thus far, an unblemished record. Such is their strength that with Paul Day, Keith Richardson, Brian Jones, Mick Palmer and Brian Richardson to call on, where else could the title go?

Dunstable have had a good season and look almost certain to finish runners-up. Their women, too, have had more than a moderate season.

North Herts have the Junior Section championship well sewn up, with only Ely forcing a point out of them. This section has been very competitive and it will add interest to have Cambridge participating next season.

North Herts are almost certain to win the Women's Section although Cambridge and Dunstable have an outside chance. Both Wisbech and Ely have found the going hard and both are without success.

Northampton have won the Veteran Section by a slim margin over deposed champions Cambridge. One set was the advantage! Although Cambridge did not lose a match the points system prevented them from retaining the title. N. Herts won the Reserve Section after a great struggle with Northampton.

Leading positions:—

Men

	P	W	D	L	Pts
Ely	11	11	0	0	97
Bedford	14	8	3	3	84
Bletchley	14	9	2	3	84
Dunstable	10	9	1	0	82
Wellingborough ..	14	8	2	4	81

Juniors

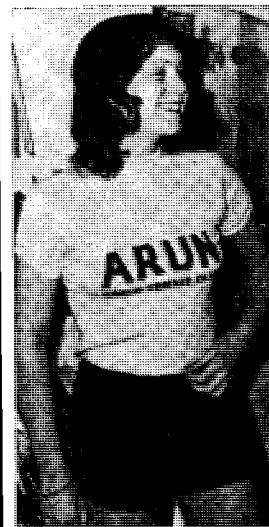
Nth. Herts	11	10	1	0	93
Hunts Central	10	7	0	3	68
Wellingborough ..	10	6	1	3	64
Bedford	10	5	1	4	59
Aylesbury	8	5	1	2	55

Women

Nth. Herts	8	7	1	0	65
Cambridge	5	4	0	1	38
Northampton	7	2	2	3	31
Dunstable	4	3	1	0	30
Wellingborough ..	6	2	1	3	30

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PALACE TRENDSETTER

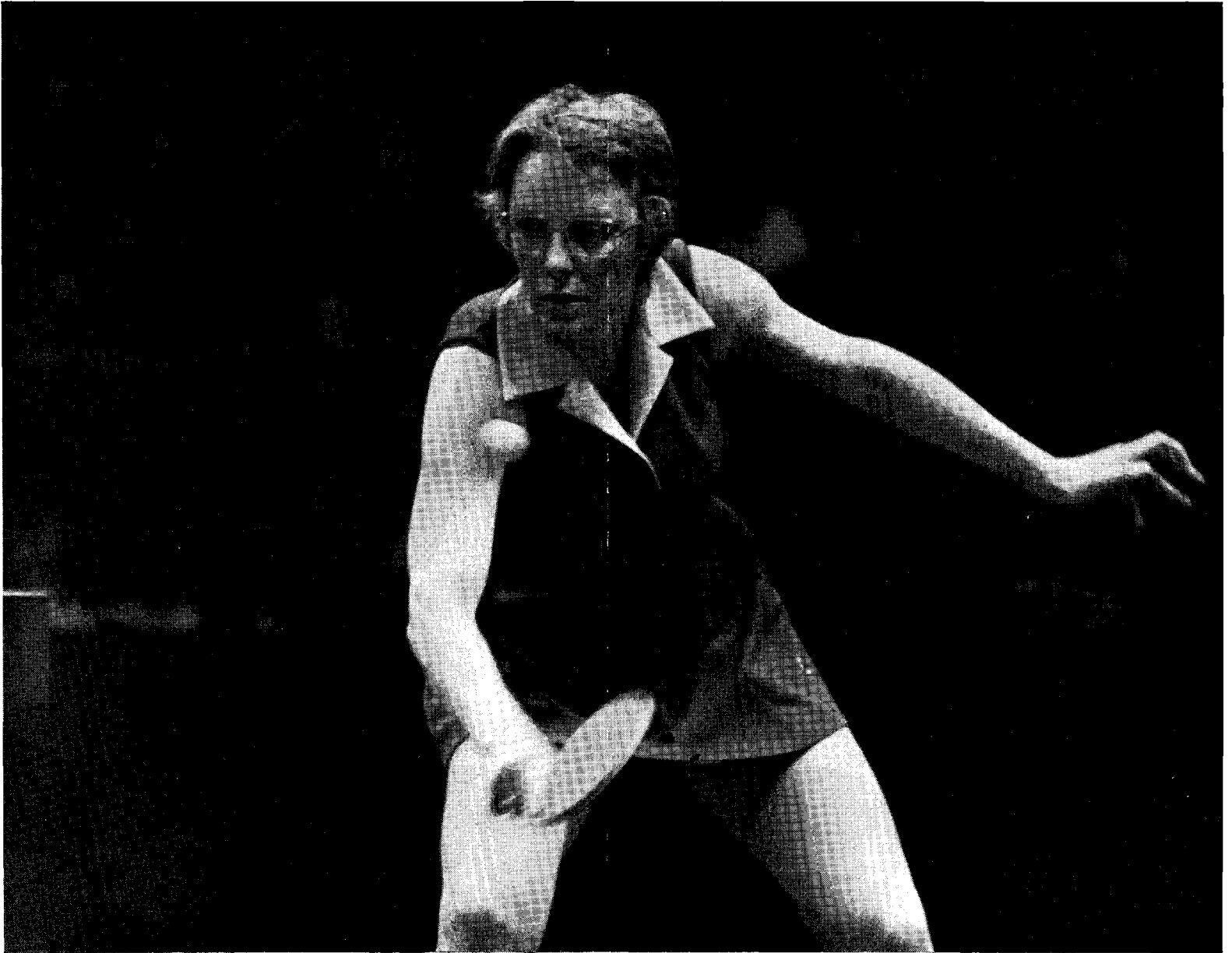


Photo by Tony Ross of Hessele