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On the International Front

by The Editor



Bon Voyage

Time is now running short for those players chosen to represent England in the 7th Commonwealth Championships, in Kuala Lumpur, and the 37th World Championships to be staged in Tokyo.

Avoiding the steam heat of Malaysia our reigning champions, Desmond Douglas and Karen Witt, will fly direct to Japan there to await their teammates who will be flying into Narita airport direct from Kuala Lumpur having, we hope, captured a medal or two as our squad did in Bombay.

Of our nine players making up the squad, only four remain of the party that participated in the 1981 Worlds in Novi Sad namely Desmond Douglas, John Hilton, Dougie Johnson and Karen Witt.

Much then will fall on the newcomers especially on the distaff side with the Bellinger sisters, Lisa and Jackie, and Joy Grundy, the latter coming in for Jill Hammersley-Parker who, herself, decided not to go. The same also applies to Graham Sandley and Carl Prean — youngsters all.

But what a glorious opportunity each and everyone of them will have and to those players back home, some breaking through from cadet and junior ranks, such an opportunity can be yours. Allied to natural ability, all it needs is dedication, hardly a commodity in short supply!

Bon Voyage then to the chosen few, may you acquit yourselves well.

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PERCENTAGE TRIUMPH FOR YUGOSLAVIA

As a consequence to Czechoslovakia's Jindrich Pansky losing to Claus Pedersen of Denmark in Odense on March 9 Yugoslavia retained their hold on the Super Division title of the European League on the basis of games won:played ratio after losing 4-3 to Sweden in Stockholm.

Pansky's defeat occurred in the opening set but thereafter, apart from Miroslav Broda's narrow success over Pedersen, the Czechs ran away with it. Scores:

C. Pedersen bt J. Pansky 21, -17, 21;
K. Kartholm lost to M. Broda -19, -13;
Annie Ramberg lost to Marie Hrachova -11, -14;

L. Hauth/Kartholm lost to V. Broda/Pansky -20, 20, -15;
Kartholm/Ramberg lost to Pansky/Hrachova -14, -19;

Pedersen lost to Broda -15, 17, -22;
Kartholm lost to Pansky -9, -18.

In Stockholm Yugoslavia were indebted to Dragutin Surbek, who beat Mikael Appelgren; Branka Batinic, who beat Marie Lindblad, and Zoran Kalinic, who also beat Appelgren, for the three sets that counted so greatly in the final analysis. Scores:

M. Appelgren lost to D. Surbek 17, -12, -13;
J-O. Waldner bt Z. Kalinic 16, -17, 16;
Marie Lindblad lost to Branka Batinic -19, 16, -17;

Appelgren/Waldner bt Kalinic/Surbek -16, 13, 21;

U. Bengtsson/M. Wizades bt Surbek/Batinic -18, 22, 13;

Appelgren lost to Kalinic 19, -12, -16;
Waldner bt Surbek 16, 9.

Poland's 4-3 victory over Hungary was largely due to the efforts of Andrzej Grubba who not only won both his singles, against Gabor Gergely and Zsolt Kriston, but also shared in two doubles successes when partnered by Stefan Dryszel and Jolanta Szatko. Scores:

S. Dryszel lost to Z. Kriston -9, -10;

A. Grubba bt G. Gergely 16, 18;

Jolanta Szatko lost to Zsuzsa Olah -12, -15;
Dryszel/Grubba bt Kriston/J. Molnar -21, 15, 20;

Grubba/Szatko bt Molnar/I. Balogh 13, 14;
Dryszel lost to Gergely -20, -17;
Grubba bt Kriston 19, 13.

England, as reported last month, crashed 6-1 to Federal Germany at Eastleigh and with the outstanding match between Federal Germany and Poland not now likely to be played, as it does not affect anything, England with their two wins over Poland (4-3) and Denmark (7-0) will have to content themselves with a last but one placing in front of relegated Denmark.

SUPER DIVISION

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Yugoslavia	7	6	1	34	15	6
				(74:43)		63.2%
Czechoslovakia	7	6	1	34	15	6
				(77:46)		62.6%
Sweden	7	5	2	34	15	5
Poland	6	3	3	21	21	3
Hungary	7	3	4	20	29	3
Federal Germany ...	6	2	4	19	23	2
England	7	2	5	22	27	2
Denmark †	7	0	7	5	44	0

† Demoted

Scores now to hand (on 18/3/83) of Yugoslavia's home match against Denmark in Novi Sad on Oct. 13/'82 were:

M. Karakasevic lost to J. Hansen -18, -13;
Z. Kalinic bt K. Kartholm 15, 10;
Batinic bt Ramberg 6, 14;
Kalinic/I. Lupulescu bt Hansen/Kartholm 14, 15;
Kalinic/G. Purkucin 10, 13;
Karakasevic bt Kartholm -15, 16, 18;
Kalinic bt Hansen 8, 15.

DIVISION 1

In beating Norway 6-1 in Gjovik on March 9, some four days after the Netherlands had



Andrei Mazunov, Russia's cadet champion of 1981 who, in Alkmaar beat former English international Bob Potton now playing for the Netherlands.

Photo by Juryi Zubarev, U.S.S.R.

(International Front continued)

brought about the surprise defeat of the Soviet Union in Alkmaar, **France** championed **Division 1** and return to the Super Division after just one season below decks.

The only set to elude France in Gjovik was the first in which Christian Martin was beaten by Geirr Gustavsen the scores being: G. Gustavsen bt C. Martin 13, 17; J. Gierlof lost to P. Birocheau -10, -11; T. Folkesson lost to B. Thiriet -17, -12; Gustavsen/T. Johansen lost to Birocheau/Martin 18, -19, -15; Gustavsen/Folkesson lost to Martin/Thiriet -16, -14; Gustavsen lost to Birocheau 19, -10, -11; Gierlof lost to Martin -18, -17.

Igor Solopov (2) and Andrei Mazunov (1) were credited with the Soviet wins in Alkmaar both accounting for England's former international Bob Potton. Only Rene Hijne had a men's singles win for the Dutch whose strength lay in Bettine Vriesekoop who partnered Potton to a mixed success, the latter in tandem with Ron van Spanje also succeeding in the men's doubles. Scores: R. Hijne bt A. Mazunov 14, 20; R. Potton lost to I. Solopov -15, -18; B. Vriesekoop bt F. Bulatova -15, 18, 9; Potton/R. v. Spanje bt Mazunov/Solopov 24, 17; Potton/Vriesekoop bt Mazunov/V. Popova 14, 18; Hijne lost to Solopov -14, -17; Potton lost to Mazunov -15, -13.

Belgium finished up their campaign by beating Finland 4-3 in Helsinki for a creditable final 5th position which must have pleased the Belgian president Louis van Gelder. Scores:

J. Ikonen lost to T. Cabrera -19, -13; J. Jokinen bt R. De Prophetis 20, 18; E. Malmberg bt B. Lippens 19, -14, 18; Jokinen/M. Pykko lost to Cabrera/De Prophetis -14, -19; Jokinen/Malmberg lost to Cabrera/Lippens -16, -7; Ikonen lost to De Prophetis -14, -18; Jokinen bt Cabrera 10, -18, 13.

Away to Austria in Perchtoldsdorf on Mar. 9 Italy came back from a 2-3 deficit to win 4-3 to give the Italians third position in the table with four wins to their credit. Scores: E. Amplatz lost to G. Bisi -20, 18, -11; G. Bar bt M. Constantini 9, 6; D. Fetter bt L. Vignola 8, 14; Amplatz/G. Muller lost to Bisi/Costantini -19, -22; Muller/Fetter bt Bisi/Vignola -17, 11, 17; Amplatz lost to Costantini 16, -12, -19; Bar lost to Bisi 12, -17, -15.

DIVISION 1

	P	W	L	F	A	P
France *	7	6	1	37	12	6
Soviet Union	7	6	1	35	14	6
Italy	7	4	3	21	28	4
Austria	7	3	4	21	28	3
Belgium	7	3	4	21	28	3
Netherlands	6	3	3	18	24	3
Finland	7	2	5	22	27	2
Norway †	6	0	6	14	28	0

N.B. The match between Netherlands and Norway is not included.

* Promoted † Demoted

DIVISION 2

Spain, whose only loss this season was to Switzerland, have gained promotion from **Division 2** following their 4-3 win over

Luxembourg in Valladolid on March 5. Down 2-3 Jose Pales and Ismael Caymel secured the Spanish victory with no small thanks to Scotland who defeated Turkey 5-2 in Izmir on the following night. Ireland, although beaten 5-2 by Switzerland in Stettisburg in their final match, have escaped the drop which exchanges Portugal for Guernsey, the third division champions. Scores:

Spain v Luxembourg

J. Pales bt A. Hartmann 19, 16; I. Caymel bt Y. Maas 18, -14, 18; M. Sanahuja lost to C. Risch -7, 21, -14; Casares/Pales lost to Hartmann/Maas -17, 22, -20; Caymel/Sanahuja lost to Hartmann/Risch -8, -8; Pales bt Maas 18, 14; Caymel bt Hartmann 15, 20.

Turkey v Scotland

G. Yaldiz bt R. Yule 18, 15; O. Cimen lost to D. Hannah -18, 12, -13; K. Poyrazoglu lost to C. Dalrymple -11, -14; Cimen/Yaldiz lost to Hannah/Yule 9, -21, -19; Yaldiz/Dogan bt Yule/Dalrymple -13, 19, 11; Yaldiz lost to Hannah -17, 17, -17; Cimen lost to Yule -12, -12.

Switzerland v Ireland

T. Miller bt J. Hamill 12, 6; T. Busin lost to C. Slevin -19, -9; B. Witte lost to A. Leonard -19, -18; Busin/M. Walker bt Hamill/Slevin 11, -20, 16; Miller/Witte bt Slevin/Leonard 18, 16; Miller bt Slevin 10, 26; Busin bt Hamill 10, 10.

DIVISION 2

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Spain *	7	6	1	33	16	6
Scotland	7	5	2	32	17	5
Turkey	7	5	2	31	18	5
Luxembourg	7	5	2	31	18	5
Switzerland	7	4	3	27	22	4
Ireland	7	2	5	19	30	2
Wales	7	1	6	19	30	1
Portugal †	7	0	7	4	45	0

* Promoted † Demoted

DIVISION 3

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Guernsey *	3	3	0	18	3	3
Malta	3	2	1	8	13	2
Iceland	3	1	2	8	13	1
Jersey	3	0	3	8	13	0

* Promoted

EUROPE CLUB CUP OF CHAMPIONS Finals

Men:
Heinzelman Reutlingen (FRG) 5
Borussia Dusseldorf (FRG) 3

Women:
STK Mladost Zagreb (YUG) 1
Statistika Budapest (HUN) 5

NETHERLANDS CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Bas den Breejen

For the seventh successive season **Bettine Vriesekoop** became the Dutch women's singles champion when, before 1,000 spectators in Utrecht over the weekend of March 12/13, she beat Mirjam Kloppenburg -15, 19, 16 and 11 in the final.

Ron van Spanje won the counterpart men's event with final victory over Han Gootzen 18, 21 and 19. In the semis van Spanje beat Bob Potton 18, 16 and 15 whilst

Gootzen accounted for the 1982 champion Henk van Spanje. Other results:

Men's Doubles:

Hans Lingen/Patrick Swier bt S. Meyer/A. Vlieg -19, 16, 16.

Women's Doubles:

Sandra de Kruiff/Vriesekoop bt E. and J. Bakker 15, 14.

Mixed Doubles:

Swier/de Kruiff bt Mayer/S. v Gennip -19, 12, 17.

The only winner for Nikon Valkenswaard in their semi-final Fair Cities Cup match against Vasutus of Budapest was Bob Potton who accounted for Bela Frank. The Hungarian team won 5-1, their other players being Janos Takacs and Josef Noczicka, the latter standing in for Gabor Gergely who was ill.

Theo Bakker, brother of the suspended Dutch national coach, Gerard, will captain the Dutch women's team in Tokyo. This follows the refusal of Nora Bakker (no relation) who, after trouble with Gerard at the Top 12 in Cleveland, said "My health and my husband and three children come first. I don't like to have more troubles in the future for Tokyo".

Carel Deken, a long time player, trainer and coach of the Tempo Team of Amsterdam has had his contract with the Dutch team cancelled.

FEDERAL GERMAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

Played in Munster over the period March 4/6 the winner of the men's singles was former Rumanian **Georg Bohm** who, in the final beat Ralf Wosik 7, 13 and 12. **Susanne Wenzel** won the women's singles beating Monika Sedlmair 19, 12 and 15 in the final.

Other results:

Men's Doubles:

Reinhard Sefried/Michael Krumtonger bt Wilfried Lieck/Manfred Nieswand 18, 19.

Women's Doubles:

Anke Olschewski/Wenzel bt Monika Kneip-Stump/Sabine Botcher 14, 8.

Mixed Doubles:

Nieswand/Birgit Lehr bt Lieck/Roswitha Beyerinck 19, 20.

The Federal German representation in Tokyo will be:

Men:

Georg Bohm, Ralf Wosik, Peter Stellwag, Michael Plum and Jurgen Rebel.

Women:

Susanne Wenzel, Kirsten Kruger, Andrea Gutkencht and Andrea Ullmann.

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VAL-U-COPY INTERNATIONAL

BLESSING IN DISGUISE

by Robert Oldfield

Skylet Andrew and Joy Grundy — the two players omitted by the selectors from the squad for the World and Commonwealth Championships — came to England's rescue in the Val-u-Copy international match against Federal Germany at Boundstone School, Lancing, Sussex on Thursday, 10th March. Even more ironically, Andrew only received the call-up on the day before — with England's first choice, Carl Preat, stricken with tonsillitis.

That, in itself, turned out to be a blessing in disguise as Preat could hardly have done better than his replacement. England still smarting from a stunning 6-1 defeat in the European League the previous night, started with the promise of a repeat performance when the German No. 1 Georg Bohm again out-served and out-hit a listless Desmond Douglas.

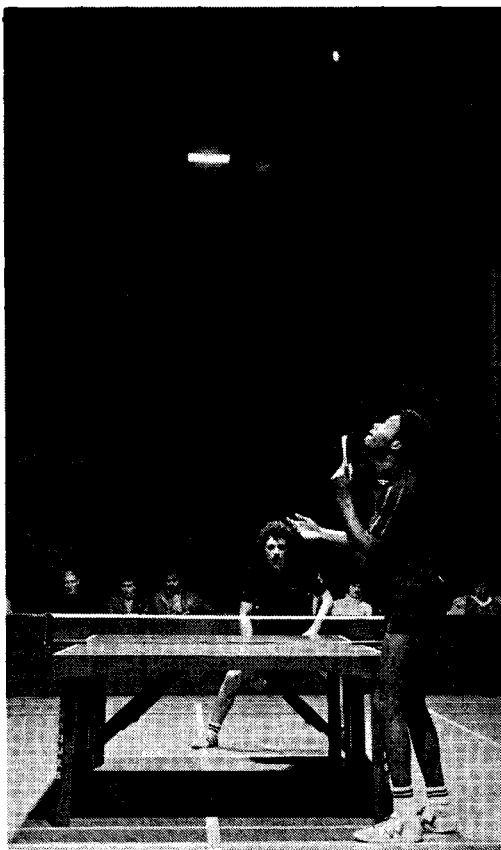
In only her second home international, 18 year old Joy Grundy then came to the table to face the impressive Suzanne Wenzel. With her Commonwealth and World selection still dependent on the fitness of Jill Hammersley-Parker, she was determined to impress and levelled the match score with a two straight win.

Then it was Andrew's debut and, even if he squandered his chances against Jurgen Rebel with a wild forehand at match point in the third, his style of play thrilled the crowd as he showed his flair for dicing with death.

Douglas then overwhelmed Germany's most well known player, Peter Stellwag, who seemed to have reconciled himself to a lost cause before entering the arena. Karen Witt, the new national champion, followed with drubbing Wenzel and you could have forgiven a spectator in the crowd if he had written the score down as a Draw and nipped off for a swift half before closing time.

However, with the score at 3-2 in England's favour, Andrew shattered everyone's expectations. He lost the first to Bohm at 18, won the second by the same score, and, tossing the ball higher and higher on his service, outplayed the German champion in all departments.

When Bohm served; Andrew hit impos-



Picture shows action from the game between SKYLET ANDREW (near end) and GEORG-ZSOLT BOHM in the ENGLAND v FEDERAL GERMANY INTERNATIONAL held at BOUNDSTONE SCHOOL, LANCING, on March 10, 1983.

Photo by Stephen Line,

sible winners. After a good Bohm return; the ball went flying back over the net. Sometimes by strokes of incredible touch; on others with the fastest of loops, leaving members of both teams and the capacity crowd laughing at the audacity of the England player.

Bohm, who was by no means giving the points away, staggered off the table, like a man struck twice by lightning and England had won by four sets to two — a marked contrast to the previous dismal night at Southampton.

RESULTS

D. Douglas lost to G. Bohm -18, -13;
J. Grundy bt S. Wenzel 20, 17;
S. Andrew lost to J. Rebel 18, -16, -20;
Douglas bt P. Stellwag 11, 11;
K. Witt bt Wenzel 12, 16;
Andrew bt Bohm -18, 18, 15.

The match, held at the Boundstone Community School, was a great credit to the Boundstone table tennis dynamo, Mike Chandler, and his team of helpers. At the excellent reception afterwards, ETTA Chairman, Tom Blunn, was delighted to thank Mr. S. E. Love, Headmaster of the school, and Bob Pittard, Managing Director of Val-u-Copy and himself no mean local league player, for their support.

Press Release

Butterfly Sponsor First International Cadet Championships in this Country

A 6-country cadet international tournament sponsored by Butterfly will be held at the Eurosport Village, Shotley Gate, Nr. Ipswich, Suffolk over the weekend of June 18/19, 1983.

The village will be remembered as the venue for the very successful Junior Rankings Trials held last October.

Over the past two years a quadrangular cadet tournament has been taking place involving teams from Denmark, England, Federal Germany and the Netherlands. This year both Sweden and France have been added by request and this now guarantees an extremely interesting championship for an age group that, outside of the European Youth Championships, rarely has the opportunity of international competition.

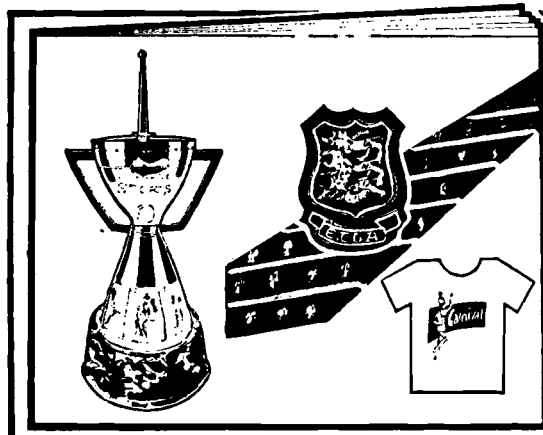
On the Saturday, June 18, team events take place with two groups of three teams playing each other whilst on Sunday, June 19, individual singles play commences, first with group play followed by play-off matches for places. The whole competition is scheduled to finish at 5.30 p.m. on the Sunday.

Spectators are welcome to attend at no charge and further details can be obtained from the ETTA office at Hastings ('Phone: 0424-433121).

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halex National LEAGUE

TWO POINTS STILL NEEDED FOR £1,500

True to his word, Ormesby manager, Alan Ransome, did neither of the Halex National League Championship contenders a favour on the weekend of 26/27th March. First they held Thorn-EMI Ellenborough to a draw on the Saturday; then repeated the performance against Hassy Perfection Soham the following day.

Richard Yule was the hero on both occasions. In the first he beat Colin Wilson to give Ormesby a 4-3 lead; in the second he began the Ormesby revival at 2-4, with a win over Kenny Jackson. Lindsay Taylor followed up at 25-23 in the third against Nicky Mason.

Hassy Soham, therefore, go into the final weekend with everything to play for and everything to lose. Thorn-EMI Ellenborough, their league programme completed, have a one point lead with a sets difference buffer so Soham need both points from Wamsdad on 10th April to recapture the Halex National League title and the championship prize of £1,500. A look at the league table says 'no problem', but the score on 6th February was only 3-5 in favour of Soham, and they needed the last three nail biting sets.

NEWCASTLE DOWN — JAQUES GEN UP

Even if the Championship is still undecided, there is no such speculation about the bottom of the Premier and the top of the First: Newcastle are down; Jaques Generation are up. And the Fareham club secured promotion in style with a whipping of Butterfly Cardiff while Grove and Tarmac held each other to a stalemate at Market Drayton.

This match provided some interesting results. One former European champion lost the first set (to Tarmac's Alan Cooke); another won the second 4 and 9 against Grove's Stephen Scowcroft. But, when John Hilton played Jill Parker, the result went to age not beauty. (Secs note: that depends on your point of view!). A current European champion, Carl Prean, had no such troubles at Cardiff so the current England No. 3 will be seen in the Premier next season.

"We've had a good season" crowed Jaques Gen official, Jim Manhire, "a few unfortunate losses when we were without Prean, but now we can go into the last match already champions". Jaques will take £600 back to Hampshire.

HOME WIN FOR HERMITS

A home victory by Hermits on 27th March also means that the Second Division North winners are already determined and the Bradford club deprived Halex Salford of

their golden target. Shaun Browne who, at home, had won two, ended up with a big zero for Salford; Martin Stead did the opposite for Hermits; and Kevin Beadsley won his usual two to stay undefeated in the 6-2 reverse.

At the other end of the division any points for Riversley Insurance are cause for Malcolm Corking to celebrate and, on 27th March, they picked up another one, at home to March. Glen Skipp won his first maximum of the season and lead the Stockton club back when they were trailing 0-3. Unity II, however, are only a point behind with a superior sets difference and two matches in hand — RB Lincoln on 10th April followed by Tarmac Wolverhampton in the re-arranged fixture for 24th.

BATH SHOWDOWN WITH DAGENHAM

We're building up for a showdown with Dagenham" said SIB Bath manager, Paul Hewitt, "and I think that we will win. Ironically" he said, "the team that loses could end up third with nothing while the winner takes home the £500 divisional prize".

But, in the back of Bath's mind, is the knowledge that mistakes earlier in the season could have cost them promotion and the division. "The loss to Gillette Reading at home was a real sickener" said Hewitt, "they pulled off the master stroke of the season by dropping Michael Childs, included Simon Rowlands who hadn't got a chance of winning any, but it put Jimmy Stokes up to No. 3 and he beat Andy Creed 2 straight, so that now we are really up against it, though I think that our two 8-0 and one 7-0 victories might end up giving us the title". These were the only three matches in the whole season which had a bigger margin than 6-2.

"It's true though", admitted Hewitt, "We have never beaten Dagenham before. Last year, a tactical ploy failed first time round and, since then, we have only been able to scramble two draws. If we get one this time, we will be well pleased as it will give us the title".

3 NORTH STILL BALANCED

Hermits second team are also leading the Third North but, unlike their Firsts, their position is far from secure. Grantham look a safe bet for two points at home to Halex Crusaders on 10th April, which means Hermits will need two from Byker. No easy task as the Geordies have not lost since January.

Steven Wathey, Steven Kosmowskey and Richard Whiteley have lead Hermits challenge all season though the absence of Nick Davies has caused them a couple of

problems during the season. Byker will select from Neil McMaster, Nigel Jobling, Cliff Olsson, Martin Young, David Godbold and Alan Matthewson in their bid for the £400 top prize.

LOCAL DERBIES TO FINISH 3 WEST

Chan Construction, rocked by a surprise 5-3 defeat by Jolliffe Poole in March when they were without Phil Gunn, played at full strength against Launceston Kernow to demolish the Cornish visitors. But Carl Morgan, Ian Gunn and Lester Bertie seem destined for the Second division after the promotion play-offs.

The champions will visit Cowbridge Bridgend for their last match on 10th April while four clubs play in 'local' derbies. Tarmac Ladies visit WW Solihull and Pengeley Torbay will cross the border to Launceston Kernow. Jolliffe Poole and Grove II will fight it out for third place unless Torbay make a slip that could cost them £200.

CIPPENHAM FINISH FOURTH

Cippenham finished off their season in Division Three East in fine style, defeating Dunlop Coles Waveney 7-1 at the Centre, Slough, on Sunday, writes Graham Trimming.

Ray Tilling's absence from the Cippenham side meant the promotion of Peter Simmonds and Viv McCarthy and a recall for Frank Earis, yet all three players recorded maximums, which must have left the Lowestoft team wondering if the long journey from Suffolk had been worthwhile.

It was Simmond's first ever maximum (and from the number one position) while McCarthy retained his 100% record. The only set that escaped the Buckinghamshire club was Mark Butler's close defeat by Mick Broughton, though five sets required a deciding game and some fine table tennis was enjoyed by the crowd.

Though the Cippenham club finished fourth, I reckon their press coverage is second to none. However, Ormesby have improved this season with the cultivation of the Northern Echo and SIB Bath now have the Western Daily Press. I rely on the clubs to provide me with a record of the column inches!

LEAGUE RESULTS

PREMIER DIVISION

26th March 1983

Ormesby 4 Thorn-EMI Ellenborough 4
Dougie Johnson bt Colin Wilson -9, 15, 16.
Donald Parker lost to Graham Sandley
-19, -23.
Richard Yule bt David Tan 16, 13.

Lindsay Taylor lost to John Kitchener 17, -13, -13.
 Johnson lost to Sandley -12, -9.
 Parker bt Kitchener 19, 14.
 Yule bt Wilson 9, 17.
 Taylor lost to Tan 18, -12, -24.

27th March 1983

Ormesby 4 Soham 4
 Dougie Johnson bt Kenny Jackson 16, -15, 17.
 Donald Parker lost to Paul Day -18, 15, -9.
 Richard Yule bt Nicky Mason 14, -20, 15.
 Lindsay Taylor lost to John Souter 18, -16, -17.
 Johnson lost to Day -14, -15.
 Parker lost to Souter -19, -19.
 Yule bt Jackson 16, -13, 19.
 Taylor bt Mason -21, 13, 23.

Unity 3 Thorn-EMI Ellenborough 5
 Skylet Andrew bt Mark Mitchell -17, 19, 17.
 Steve Turner lost to Graham Sandley -15, -14.
 Chris Rogers lost to David Tan -18, -13.
 Steven Sharpe bt John Kitchener 14, -19, 18.
 Andrew lost to Sandley -13, 14, -20.
 Turner bt Kitchener 19, 13.
 Rogers lost to Mitchell 18, -11, -12.
 Sharpe lost to Tan -15, 5, -15.

BWF Wamdsad 5 Letchworth Corporation 3
 Philip Bradbury bt Max Crimmins 16, -13, 15.
 David Barr lost to David Wells 18, -13, -19.
 Andrew Wellman bt David Dodd 7, -16, 11.
 Martyn Smith bt Joey Kennedy 19, 20.
 Bradbury lost to Wells -19, -17.
 Barr beat Kennedy 11, 13.
 Wellman beat Crimmins 29, 6.
 Smith lost to Dodd -18, -16.

Dunlop Birmingham 4 Newcastle 4
 Steve Mills bt Peter McQueen 7, -18, 14.
 Ian Horsham lost to Chu Van Que 17, -17, -15.
 Barry Johnson lost to Anthony Gelder -14, 15, -20.
 Derek Munt bt Ian Robertson 19, -19, 17.
 Mills lost to Chu Van Que -14, 19, -14.
 Horsham bt Robertson 16, 9.
 Johnson v McQueen (Johnson injured - scr)
 Munt bt Gelder 13, 11.

FIRST DIVISION

27th March 1983

Jaques Generation 8 Butterfly Cardiff 0
 Grove 4 Tarmac Wolverhampton 4
 TCB Dolphins 2 BWF Wamdsad II 6
 MBS St. Neots 7 Ormesby II 1

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

27th March 1983

Hermits 6 TG Salford 2
 Unity II 3 South Yorkshire 5
 Riversley Insurance 4 March Halex 4
 Tarmac Wolverhampton II 2 RB Lincoln 6

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

27th March 1983

Dagenham FC 4 Gillette Reading 4
 Larkhall 3 SIB Bath 5
 Graham Spicer 2 Gunnersbury Triangle 6

THIRD DIVISION NORTH

27th March 1983

Unity III 0 Grantham 8
 Byker 6 Vickers 2
 South Yorkshire II 2 Ormesby III 6
 Halex Crusaders 0 Hermits II 8

THIRD DIVISION WEST

27th March 1983

Tarmac Ladies 5 Cowbridge Bridgend 3
 Grove II 8 WW Solihull 0
 Chan Construction 7 Launceston Kernow 1
 Pengeley Torbay 5 Jolliffe Poole 3

THIRD DIVISION EAST

27th March 1983

Cippenham 7 Dunlop Waveney 1
 MBS St. Neots II 0 Jaques Generation II 8

LEAGUE TABLES

PREMIER DIVISION

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Thorn-EMI E'orough	14	11	2	1	81	31	24
Hassy Soham	13	11	1	1	72	32	23
Ormesby	14	8	4	2	70	42	20
Unity	13	3	4	6	48	56	10
Letchworth Corp.	13	3	3	7	45	59	9
BWF Wamdsad	12	4	0	8	39	57	8
Dunlop Birmingham	13	2	4	7	38	66	8
Newcastle	12	0	2	10	23	73	2

FIRST DIVISION

Jaques Generation	13	11	0	2	82	22	22
Grove	13	9	1	3	65	39	19
Tarmac W'hampton	13	7	4	2	63	41	18
Butterfly Cardiff	13	7	2	4	58	46	16
MBS St. Neots	13	5	3	5	53	51	13
Ormesby II	13	2	3	8	38	66	7
BWF Wamdsad II	13	2	1	10	25	79	5
TCB Dolphins	13	1	2	10	32	72	4

SECOND DIVISION NORTH

Hermits	13	11	1	1	77	27	23
Halex Salford	13	9	2	2	63	41	20
South Yorkshire	13	8	2	3	66	38	18
RB Lincoln	13	6	1	6	55	49	13
March Halex	13	3	6	4	50	54	12
Tarmac W'ampton II	12	2	3	7	32	64	7
Riversley Insurance	13	1	3	9	31	73	5
Unity II	12	1	2	9	34	62	4

SECOND DIVISION SOUTH

SIB Bath	13	10	1	2	71	33	21
Dagenham FC	13	9	3	1	65	39	21
Gillette Reading	13	8	4	1	62	42	20
Larkhall	13	4	3	6	49	55	11
Graham Spicer	13	3	3	7	47	57	9
Gunnersbury T'ngle	13	2	5	6	45	59	9
Cranfield Cis Halex	12	2	4	7	42	62	8
Halex Medway	13	2	1	10	35	69	5

THIRD DIVISION NORTH

Hermits II	13	10	3	0	79	25	23
Grantham	13	10	2	1	83	21	22
Byker	13	11	0	2	80	24	22
Ormesby III	13	5	2	6	47	57	12
South Yorkshire II	12	4	2	6	45	51	10
Vickers	13	2	2	9	28	76	6
Unity III	12	2	0	10	26	70	4
Halex Crusaders	13	1	1	11	20	84	3

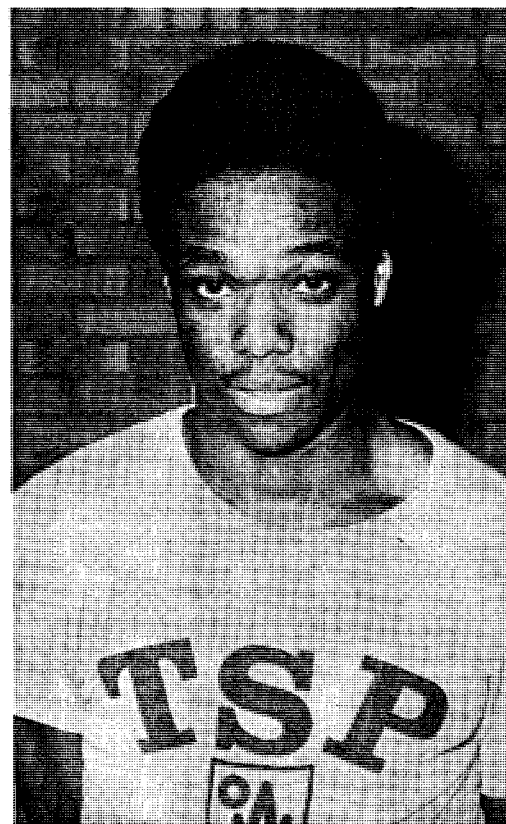
THIRD DIVISION WEST

Chan Construction	13	12	0	1	85	19	24
Pengeley Torbay	13	9	1	3	66	38	19
Grove II	13	9	0	4	71	33	18
Jolliffe Poole	13	8	2	3	65	39	18
Launceston Kernow	13	5	2	6	48	56	12
Tarmac Ladies	13	2	2	9	31	73	6
WW Solihull	13	2	1	10	27	77	5
Cowbridge Bridgend	13	0	2	11	23	81	2

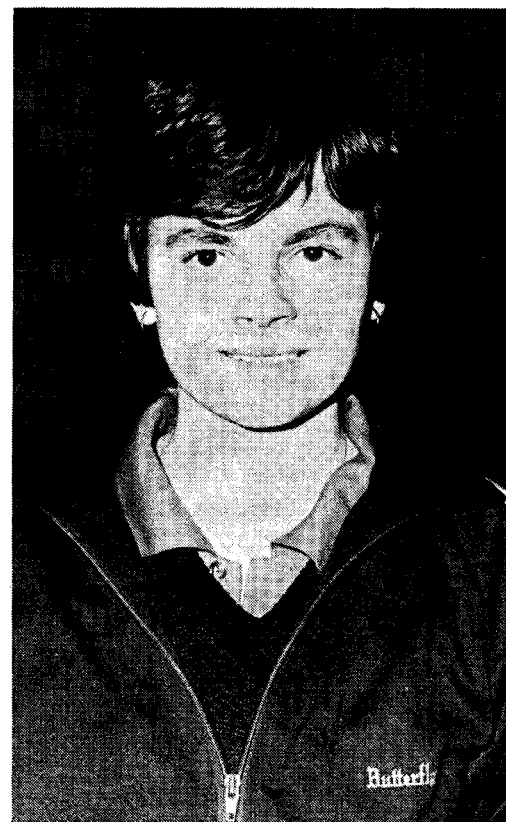
THIRD DIVISION EAST

Colne Valley	9	6	2	1	47	25	14
Halex Abeng	9	6	1	2	41	31	13
Jaques Generation II	9	4	3	2	40	32	11
Cippenham	10	4	2	4	42	38	10
Dunlop Waveney	9	1	3	5	28	44	5
MBS St. Neots II	10	1	1	8	26	54	3

DEJECTION —



and ELATION



Cover Picture

Mothers to be Linda Jarvis (left) and Jill Hammersley-Parker flank Carole Moore — all former English Corbillon players not making the trip to Tokyo this year for the 37th World Championships.

A dejected Skylet Andrew of Essex, omitted from the English team journeying to Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo and an elated Lancastrian, Joy Grundy, the reserve now to take the trip following the withdrawal of Jill Hammersley-Parker.

Photos by Tony Edenden, Barlestone, Nr. Nuneaton, Warwks.

DUNLOP MERSEYSIDE 2-STAR OPEN

EARLY DOORS AT KIRKBY

Top seed Philip Bradbury fell in the quarters to eventual winner **Alan Fletcher** in the men's singles of the Dunlop Merseyside 2-Star Open held at Kirkby Sports Centre on March 26. And, in the counterpart women's event, the top seed, Anita Stevenson, was an absentee and **Jill Harris** captured the title.

Entries overall were very much down on preceeding seasons and if one also takes into account the numerous scratchings including such personalities as Kenny Jackson, David Hannah and David Wells, plus Helen Williams and Rebecca Russe, it was no wonder the tournament finished early even allowing for a 10.30 a.m. start!

In an all-Yorkshire final of the men's singles Fletcher rode the storm of an

opening game reverse to Steve Mills to win comfortably enough and the same goes to an even greater degree for Jill Harris against Karen Groves in the women's singles final.

Mills and Fletcher together failed to add the men's doubles title when beaten in the final by **Kevin Beadsley** and **Nigel Eckersley** but **Miss Harris**, partnered by **Christine Peacock** of Fleetwood took a second title in the women's doubles.

David Rook, the top seed won the boys' singles beating Philip Aspinall in the final and it goes without saying who won the veterans' event — **Derek Schofield!**

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

A. Fletcher (Y) bt P. Bradbury (Bu) 16, 16;
N. Eckersley (Ch) bt G. Parr (La) 13, 19;
K. Beadsley (Y) bt R. Frankland (La) 10, 15;
S. Mills (Y) bt S. Moreman (Gs) 8, 10.

Semi-finals:

Fletcher bt Eckersley -12, 16, 18;

Mills bt Beadsley 19, 16.

Final:

FLETCHER bt Mills -19, 12, 11.

Women's Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Harden (Wa) bt w.o. A. Stevenson (Le) scr;
K. Groves (Wa) bt C. Peacock (La) -15, 18, 14;

A. Goodwin (La) bt S. Pekman (Wa) 15, 13;
J. Harris (St) bt C. Whitehead (La) 7, 9.

Semi-finals:

Groves bt Harden 16, 14;
Harris bt Goodwin 20, 7.

Final:

HARRIS bt Groves 2, 12.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Beadsley/Eckersley bt I. Johns/W. Percival (Ch) 16, 19;

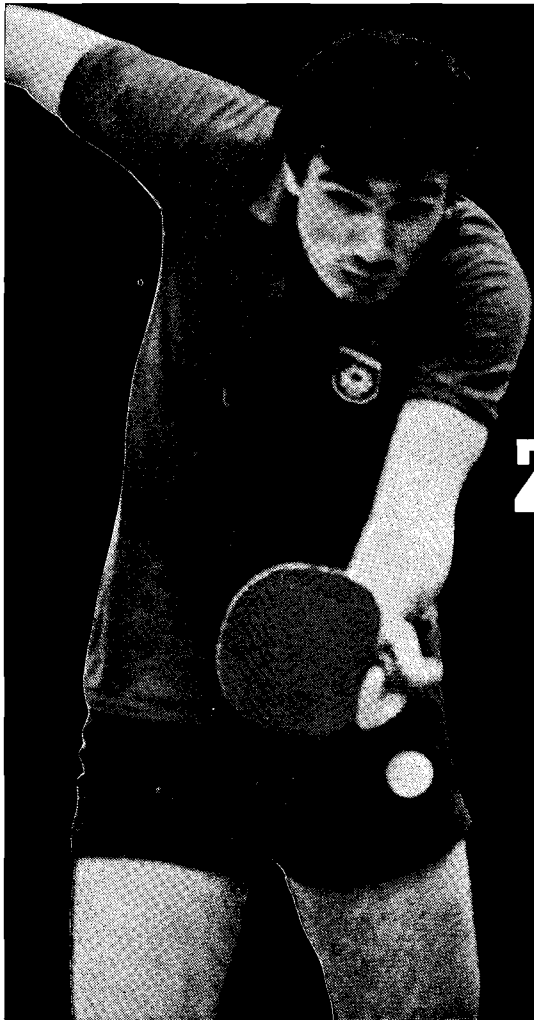
Fletcher/Mills bt B. Davey (La)/Parr 17, 18.

Final:

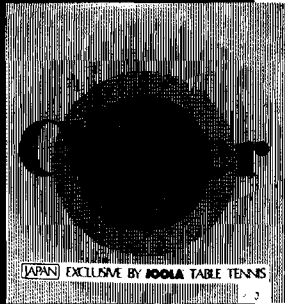
BEADSLEY/ECKERSLEY bt Fletcher/Mills 16, 17.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

Harris/Peacock bt Harden/L. Harrison (Ch) 8, 18;



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Groves/Peakman bt Goodwin/Whitehead 18, 17.

Final:
HARRIS/PEACOCK bt Groves/Peakman -20, 17, 14.

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

D. Rook (Y) bt D. Sneyd (La) 7, -19, 10;
H. Leigh (La) bt J. Murdoch (Ch) 22, 19;
M. Mercer (La) bt S. Bevan (La) -12, 19, 18;
P. Aspinall (La) bt L. Kenwright (La) 17, 19.

Semi-finals:

Rook bt Leigh 16, 18;
Aspinall bt Mercer 15, 17.

Final:

ROOK bt Aspinall -13, 14, 18.

Veteran Singles Quarter-finals:

D. Schofield (Ch) bt N. Deakin (Ch) 7, -18, 14;

E. A. Brown (Ch) w.o. T. Donlon (Ch) scr;
P. Taylor (La) bt J. Evans (La) -9, 16, 20;
P. D'Arcy (Ch) bt D. Hobbs (Wal) 12, 13.

Semi-finals:

Schofield bt Brown 7, 10;
Taylor bt D'Arcy 10, 10.

Final:

SCHOFIELD bt Taylor -13, 14, 18.



Welsh Corner

by H. ROY EVANS

THE RANKING ROUND-ROBIN

Something of the significance of this event was lost because Alan Griffiths was unable to come over from Germany, and Gary Wilkins and Dave Welsman were unable to compete. And so there were some surprises.

Mark Thomas played well enough throughout the day to take the No. 1 spot, but one hardly expected Nigel Thomas to play so badly. He struggled all through, and in addition to some narrow squeaks he lost to Jeff Morgan, George Evans and to Tony Healan twice. In his second match against Tony, Nigel took the first game without much trouble, lost the next easily, and trailed 11-17 in the decider. Hereabouts he began to play as he can, and caught up at 20-all, only to lose the next two points.

Evans was in noticeably better form, and Mark had to play at his best to get home in the final match for the top spot.

Trevor Manning was a worthy No. 5, his defensive game causing many problems, but in an expedite match with Evans he showed he has no experience of tactics in this type of play.

Welsh No. 1, Nigel Tyler, gained a worthy No. 6 place, and Ceri Phillips, unimpressive lately, pulled himself together to take the No. 7 place. Cadet John Ellis again impressed with a No. 11th final position.

Final Placings

1 Mark Thomas, 2 George Evans, 3 Tony Healan, 4 Nigel Thomas, 5 Trevor Manning, 6 Nigel Tyler, 7 Ceri Phillips, 8 David

Griffiths, 9 Nick Williams, 10 Jeff Morgan, 11 John Ellis, 12 Paul Griffiths, 13 Byron Davies, 14 Kevin Davies, 15 Bryn Tyler, 16 Stephen Lee, 17 Jeff Rigby, 18 David Chan, 19 Brian Kerley, 20 Peter Champion, 21 Anthony Jones, 22 Kelvin Roberts, 23 Chris Nash, 24 Anthony Hopkins.

All the Welsh women were present, Lesley Tyler confirming her No. 1 ranking by coming out top. In No. 2 spot was Shirley Cain, who only lost to Lesley. Both these girls are now coping with Evelyn Wright's defence, and she had to be content with third place. Jane Sully was next, losing to the three above her, but she made a poor attempt at penetrating Evelyn's defence. Vicki Skeats was in No. 5 position, playing quite well against Shirley Cain and Jayne Sully. Climbing the table was Chantall Nicholls, whose No. 6 position was due to some good play in the morning, having beaten both Heidi Cotter and Pamela Grant. Pam disappointed herself by not doing better than No. 7, whilst Heidi, studying more than playing these days, sank to No. 8. Also suffering through lack of competitive play is Linda Leggett, who could only manage No. 10 position, behind Karen Buckle, who is certainly much better now. Theresa Petty got reward for dedicated practice by coming 11th, in front of Joanne Lee and Claire Whymann.

Final Positions

1 Lesley Tyler, 2 Shirley Cain, 3 Evelyn Wright, 4 Jayne Sully, 5 Vickie Skeats, 6 Chantall Nicholls, 7 Pam Grant, 8 Heidi Cotter, 9 Karen Buckle, 10 Linda Leggett, 11 Theresa Petty, 12 Joanne Lee, 13 Claire Whymann.

THE WELSH CLOSED

Intent on disproving his Round Robin performance, Nigel Thomas won the Welsh Closed for the first time, putting an end to Griffiths's five year reign. Alan was there, giving a slight indication that the play he is getting in Germany does not sharpen him up enough to beat off the challenges of home based players snapping at his heels. He found difficulty in beating both Manning and Evans, and he confessed he was not surprised to falter against Nigel, albeit two of the three games went to 20-all.

Welsman came down for the tournament, but a day too late! Brian Jeanes took full advantage of Dave's absence from his section, beat Wilkins, and then Andrew Jones in the semi-final after the latter had had one of his days of brilliance in which he eliminated No. 2 seed Mark Thomas.

Nigel beat Brian easily enough in the final, and this win should help to restore his confidence for the Commonwealth and World Championships.

No. 1 Junior Nigel Tyler came up with an unexpected win against Healan, and gave Nigel Thomas a good run in the quarters. No. 1 cadet John Ellis again showed up well with wins over John Bloomer and Bryn Tyler, but he fell away badly against Mark Thomas.

Lesley Tyler's first game in the final against Evelyn Wright was close, but she was well on top in the second. Jayne Sully extended Lesley in the semi-final, after convincingly beating Heidi Cotter, who had just as convincingly beaten Jayne in the girls' event earlier on.

Debbie Coulthard provided the upset of the event when she beat Shirley Cain in the second round, but she then succumbed

to Cathryn Jones who continued a comeback with a good three game effort against Evelyn Wright.

Wilkins and Andrew Jones improved on their Glamorgan Open performance by beating Griffiths and Evans, whilst Jayne Sully and Heidi Cotter repeated their Glamorgan triumph by taking the women's doubles.

Nigel Tyler beat John Ellis in the semi of the boys', but found unexpected opposition from Paul Griffiths in the final, the latter playing better now, and beat David Griffiths in his semi.

Anthony Jones is slowly getting back his earlier game, but he lost to Ellis in the cadet boys', whilst Evelyn took the cadet girls against a still improving Theresa Petty.

Earlier Evelyn had relinquished her junior girls' title to Heidi Cotter, who played very well indeed.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

N. Thomas bt A. Griffiths 22, -10, 22;
B. Jeanes bt Andrew Jones 17, -17, 13.

Final:

THOMAS bt Jeanes 16, 13.

Women's Singles Final:

L. TYLER bt E. Wright 22, 11.

Men's Doubles Final:

G. WILKINS/ANDREW JONES bt Griffiths/G. Evans 22, -18, 17.

Women's Doubles Final:

J. SULLY/H. COTTER bt Tyler/S. Cain 15, 18.

Mixed Doubles Final:

N. THOMAS/CAIN bt M. Thomas/Tyler 16, -17, 15.

Boys' Singles Final:

N. TYLER bt P. Griffiths 16, -18, 17.

Girls' Singles Final:

COTTER bt Wright 22, 18.

Cadet Boys' Singles Final:

J. ELLIS bt Anthony Jones 11, 13.

Cadet Girls' Singles Final:

WRIGHT bt T. Petty 15, 14.

THE NATIONAL LEAGUE

It was a case of "after the Lord Mayor's show" for both Butterfly Cardiff and Cranfield Colours, and both slumped after good results. Butterfly players, after a late night following the Welsh Closed, made the long journey to Fareham to meet favourites for promotion Generation. It was a repeat of last season's game, only this time Butterfly lost 8-0! Cranfield crashed 5-3 at home to Lansdowne Medway, Jeanes winning both his sets, and Jeff Morgan taking one. John Bloomer and Andrew Evans were without a win.

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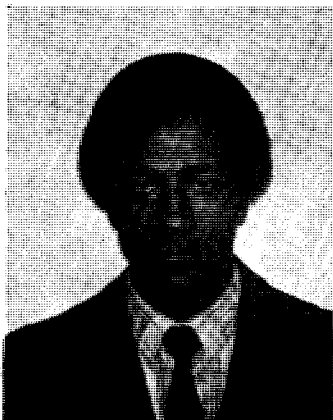
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Reflections on the Combination Racket Controversy

A HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVE



by
ROBERT SEALES
Toronto, Canada

A short time ago, while in the middle of a research project, I came across a table tennis article from the "New York Times" of March 13, 1956. I was struck by the similarity of the arguments made against new table tennis rubbers at that time, twenty-seven years ago, and the present. I decided to share this article with other players and fans since I feel that it helps lend historical perspective to the present controversy surrounding the use of combination rackets in the sport of table tennis. The following is a condensation of that article:

SPONGE RACQUET CREATES TEMPEST IN TABLE TENNIS

**ESTABLISHED PLAYERS ASSERT
IT LOWERS QUALITY OF GAME
BUT NEWCOMERS LIKE TWISTS AND
SPINS IT MAKES POSSIBLE**

by LEE BERTON

Table tennis is undergoing alterations. Played in the United States by nearly 20,000,000 persons who spend an estimated \$8,000,000 a year for equipment, the game is witnessing new developments in tournament play and racquet surfaces.

For one, relative newcomers are coming up with unexpected victories. And how are the newcomers winning? The answer is "sponge". Instead of throwing it in, the younger set is trading in the orthodox pimped rubber coating on tournament racquets for new surfaces, the most popular of which is sponge rubber. The result is a tricky spin which is adding new dimensions to the game.

With the United States national open championships for 1956 coming up Friday, Saturday and Sunday at White Plains, and the world championships to be held at Tokyo, April 2-11, the subject of racquet surfaces is much in discussion.

At the Broadway Table Tennis courts on Fifty-fifth Street, sometimes referred to as "the Forest Hills of Table Tennis", the owner and manager, Herwald Lawrence, was asked about the sponge innovation. Lawrence, who opposes the new racquet surfaces explained the effect of sponges as follows:

"It has given even more grip to the ball than pimped rubber and thus produces more spin.

Since the major strokes in table tennis graduate up or down off the line of flight of the ball, strokes with a sponge racquet cause more error".

The sponge, said Lawrence, has dominated the last three world championships. "Employed by the Japanese, who ordinarily play a scorching offensive game, it has enabled them to beat us consistently and decisively", he stated.

Players in Japan hold the racquet with what is called the "penholder" grip which, Lawrence declares, has been more effective with sponge racquets than the American "handshake" grip.

Swing to Substitutes

The winning grip up to 1952, when Japan first sent a team to the world championship matches at Bombay, India, was the handshake or tennis grip. This is the grip recommended by all United States experts. The penholder grip, which is exactly what its name implies, was considered too limited.

But when Hiroji Satoh of Japan captured the title handily at Bombay with a sponge racquet and the penholder grip, the swing to substitutes for pimped rubber became more pronounced.

Toshiaki Tanaka, who won last year at Utrecht, the Netherlands, used a soft rubber racquet. It had a base of wood covered first with sponge rubber and then with pimped plastic or rubber with the pimples turned in.

Leading United States players at Utrecht succumbed to the increased sponge spin of Tanaka's frenetic game. Bobby Gusikoff and Harry Hirschowitz, ranked third and fourth in this country, believe that sponge bats have taken spectator interest from the sport. Both were beaten at Utrecht.

They, along with Lawrence and other top-ranked United States players, are seeking a rule that would standardize racquets used in championship play. This, in effect, would eliminate the use of sponge racquets, at least on this side of the world.

Last year, Lawrence said, a boy named Barry Michelman heard so much about sponge that he was inclined to try it. Today Barry, a newcomer to the celluloid coterie at 16, beats players of considerably more experience.

Now sponge has come along and added some twists and spins of its own. Whether the same objections are raised to sponge and soft rubber today as may have been raised to pimped rubber then is a moot question. But some things are certain. There is less long-range strategy with sponge racquets, volleys are much shorter, more points are made on service, and spectators say there is rarely a sensational point.

As the foregoing excerpts show, the debate concerning racket coverings is almost as old as the sport itself. However, some proposed changes in the rules of the game are likely to have a significant impact on the effectiveness of certain playing techniques which require combination rackets, and thus on the nature of the sport as a whole. More about those proposed changes later.

In the article above, we see two top ranked table tennis players lamenting that "sponge bats have taken spectator interest from the sport". (This accusation, made against sponge rackets in the 1950's, is almost identical to accusations being made against combination rackets in the 1980's). We also see attempts to "eliminate the use of sponge racquets", and the writer of the article concludes that "there is less long range strategy with sponge racquets . . . and spectators say there is rarely a sensational point". Which spectator in 1983, watching top English players like Desmond Douglas and John Hilton play with sponge rackets would say that there is rarely a sensational point?

The fact of the matter is that table tennis, like any other sport, is affected by new scientific advances and inventions. New

types of table tennis rubbers always cause difficulty for some players at first, but as time passes, new techniques are developed to accommodate these changes; players adjust, and in my opinion, the sport is then improved. For example, during the early years of the game, racket coverings consisted of cork or sandpaper. Later on, pimped rubber (no sponge) was introduced and predictably, there were those who were unhappy with this innovation.

In the 1950's the Japanese developed what was then a revolutionary racket surface: that is, sponge attached to pimped rubber. This permitted players to impart so much spin and speed to the ball that the whole nature of the game was changed, and table tennis entered what might be called the "modern era". But, as usual, there are always those persons whose inflexible attitude prevents them from changing with the times, and there were calls to outlaw the use of sponge rackets. Fortunately, however, more farsighted minds prevailed and today, the overwhelming majority of the world's top players use sponge rackets.

In the 1970's new types of rubber were developed to counteract the devastating effects of topspin drives and loops. These rubbers (which come in smooth and pimped, with and without sponge) may be classified as "anti-topspin" rubbers. They helped to cut down on the overwhelming advantage which attacking players enjoyed over defenders. As a result, defensive table tennis, which had lost much of its appeal, began to stage a comeback.

As time passed, the more adventurous defensive (and offensive) players began experimenting with various combinations of heavy-spin and anti-spin rubbers on different sides of their rackets, and after much practice and perseverance, developed the skill of switching or "twiddling" their rackets. This skill, along with the fact that the anti-spin and heavy-spin rubbers on the two sides of the blade are usually of the same colour, sometimes gives combination-racket players an initial advantage over their opponents — just as how in the past, pimped rubber gave an advantage over sandpaper or cork, and "sponge-rubber" subsequently gave an advantage over "pimped rubber" players. (It has been suggested that racket switching be prohibited, but such an unenforceable rule would be an umpire's nightmare, especially in doubles play).

The reaction of some players to the advent of new, anti-spin rubbers is quite remarkable. Instead of trying to develop the necessary skills to play effectively against combination rackets, they make silly remarks about "junk rubber". This is in fact a derogatory term used by impatient, under-skilled players who seek to express their frustration in an insulting manner, while failing to acknowledge the time, patience and skill it took for their opponents to learn to play with a combination racket. Furthermore, as far as I can detect, the great majority of serious table tennis players use ITTF approved rubber, and, to the best of my knowledge, the ITTF does **not** approve "junk".

Interestingly enough, there seems to be comparatively little controversy concerning anti-spin rubbers or combination rackets at the highest levels of the sport, and personal skill seems to make all the difference. For example, at the Norwich Union Masters held

in Ontario in June 1982, I saw Japan's penholder Seiji Ono defeat combination racket defensive chopper Park Lee Hee of South Korea quite easily, winning 3-0, although Park was ranked higher in the latest world rankings.

It has been said that history repeats itself. Now in the 1980's (as in the 1950's) there is a new group of people who wish to impede the march of progress. Their complaint is that combination rackets, especially those with the same colour on both sides, are destroying the sport. I absolutely and categorically reject this argument. Experience has shown that given sufficient time and practice, even moderately skilled players adapt and learn to read the varying spin (or non-spin) of the different rubbers on combination rackets.

Nevertheless, it now appears that there will be at least three main proposals made at the upcoming ITTF congress to be held in Tokyo in April-May 1983. The initial purpose of these proposals is to reduce or eliminate any possible advantage which might be enjoyed by users of combination rackets. The first proposal will urge that players use the same rubber on both sides of the racket; the second one will be that if two distinctly different types of rubber are used on different sides of the racket, then the colours of these rubbers must also be distinctly different. The third proposal will be that all table tennis rackets must have a different colour on each side. (Not necessarily a different colour rubber, since most penholders, for example, play with rubber on only one side of the blade).

H. Roy Evans, president of the ITTF feels that this last proposal, while not the most popular, is the one most likely to gain support because "it is impossible to tell whether the rubbers are different or not, the only way to regulate for it is to say that each side should be of a different colour. Two identical pieces of rubber could be treated to produce a different effect on the ball. They may look identical but there is no comparison in their playing characteristics. Also a different effect could be achieved from two identical rubbers which are of different age lengths" (see interview in "Tees Sporter" magazine, Christmas 1982).

What are the main reasons for these new proposals? (a) declining spectator interest and (b) reduced funds, which is partly caused by (a). (And, underlying all this is the strong suggestion that combination-racket players are somehow responsible for most of both a and b).

On the question of spectator interest and funds, Rufford Harrison, Chairman of the ITTF Equipment Committee puts it this way: "... the best players are not always the best to watch. Today they have developed the sport to such a highly technical level that the spectator frequently can get little understanding from it. . . . When a player wins something big, he deserves to have the public watching, to recognize his talent. But the public has another function, namely to pay money" (See "Table Tennis Report" Dec. 1981).

In the aforementioned interview, H. Roy Evans also addressed this issue of declining spectator interest and reduced funds. He warns that "the sport, particularly in Europe, is losing spectator appeal and the TV companies are not as interested as they were. . . . it is difficult to attract spectators

when it is hard for them to understand what is happening. They pay their money to watch matches and be entertained, not to see supposedly top players put the ball into the net for no apparent reason".

While most of the above arguments are true within their specific contexts, I am a little worried by the fact that it seems as if there is some potential for table tennis rules and regulations to be held hostage to European television ratings. Perhaps we should ask whether television is the most effective medium to promote the sport. What about attempts to educate spectators about the finer points of the game? This might improve their understanding and appreciation. Also, one wonders whether this drop in spectator interest is as critical in non-European countries, and whether the politico-economic system might have some-


thing to do with this state of affairs. And what if, after all the proposals are heard and the laws of the sport are changed, there continues to be low television viewership and spectator support? What then?

I agree that the sport now appears to be faced with some problems which must be prudently addressed. It would be interesting to see how effective the proposed changes in the laws will be if they are approved. One can only hope that whatever decisions are made will be in the best long-term interests of table tennis.

Up to this point I have been historical and somewhat critical. But the question remains: What can be done (apart from seemingly unwarranted legislation on combination rackets) to improve the situation? The following is my personal position:

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ADDRESS

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be placed on mass participation. Table tennis is a relatively inexpensive sport, yet it provides excellent exercise and is great fun to play. These three facts must be convincingly conveyed to people in every segment of society: from school children (especially school children) to university students to working adults.

I realize that projecting this positive image of table tennis can require considerable sums of money, and as we read earlier, it has been suggested that the business or commercial sector is showing insufficient interest in the sport. Whether or not this is so, we as players must increase our individual efforts to promote the sport. Also, our clubs and associations must seek government assistance as assertively as they can.

In what ways can players increase their individual efforts for the benefit of table tennis? We might begin by consulting with our local school officials and requesting that inexpensive table tennis equipment be supplied to every school (there are still many schools without). This would expose greater numbers of children to the joys of

the game at an earlier age. Adults can ask their employers to buy some table tennis equipment for the company recreation room or gymnasium. (This is a common practice in Japan). Try to recruit two new members to your local club.

This would not only increase the number of players but would also provide additional funds to the affiliated clubs and even the associations. (It is regrettable that so many of us have enjoyed the benefits of table tennis for years and yet have never sought to share them).

Special programmes should also be provided for adults who wish to learn the game. Many clubs have no teaching programmes whatsoever, and consequently, many beginners join a club full of enthusiasm only to discover that other players are so busy trying to improve their own game that they are reluctant to play with anyone below their level. These beginners often become discouraged and never return. Obviously, this is no way to expand the sport.

While local tournaments and international championships are very important,

other activities such as organizing small table tennis exhibitions in appropriate places might also help to generate greater enthusiasm among the public. Finally, all this requires people who are sufficiently interested in the sport to participate in various umpire, referee and coaching clinics. Players must also be aware that volunteers are required at every level of the game. Those who can afford the time should help.

I believe that individual commitment to the sport on the part of players and enthusiasts coupled with the type of grass-roots organization I have advocated would help ensure the prosperity and future of table tennis.

Desmond on T.V.

On the eve of the World Championships in Tokyo the BBC2 programme "Ebony" on Wednesday, 27th April at 7.00 p.m., will show the England team in training with a special look at Desmond Douglas and his view of English table tennis.

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COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

Gerald Green reports from . . .

SHROPSHIRE TELFORD CLOSED

Dave Elkins took the men's singles title in the Telford TTA's closed championships held at Lilleshall.

The event attracted more than double last year's entry and the standard was good throughout with a number of players looking to make their mark in the forthcoming Shropshire Closed.

In the men's singles No. 1 Steve Cullis was edged out by Malcolm Langford after taking the first game 21-13. Langford battled back and edged in 18, 20. No. 2 seed Bill Herbert was forced to withdraw with a shoulder injury and this left the way open for No. 3 seed Elkins to take his place in the final where he met Mark Hughes, who had ended Langford's hopes 14, 11 in the semis.

The final produced some fine table tennis with the in-form Elkins emerging triumphant in straight games 18, 15.

The men's doubles produced a tight game at the semi-final stage when Geoff Clibborn and Langford beat Cullis and Terry Jones 28, -16, 17. They then had an equally nail-biting final against Elkins and Wally Harris, but came out the winners -19, 18, 19.

The boys' competition lived up to expectations with No. 1 seed Robert Holding meeting No. 2 seed Richard Fettes in the final. The result however was not so predictable with Fettes taking the title 16, 17.

With only three entries in the women's singles the finalists were decided after a 'Round Robin' and this was so close that games average had to be called on to put Alison Lowe and Patricia Lynn into the final. Lynn won 12, 15 in what will be one of her last games in this area as she moves to London shortly.

The veterans' competition produced the shock of the day with No. 2 seed Graham Phillips succumbing to unseeded Harris. With No. 1 seed Bill Herbert out Harris beat Motto Jones and Phillips beat John Holding to reach the final. Harris won the first game and even a bat change by Graham during the second could not prevent him taking that as well with the final result being 18, 16 in favour of Harris.

MIDLAND LEAGUE

Grove Junior 'A' clinched promotion to the first Division by beating Coventry 7-3. Colin Wilson was unbeaten whilst two wins each came from David Williams and Sean Groom.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

Andrew Bellingham, recovered from illness, produced a brilliant display of attacking table tennis to pave the way for Grove's 5-3 victory against St. Neots.

Bellingham, who had not been able to attend the previous week's training session,

fought his way back to form and, in his opening match, used his experience and consistency to comfortably beat Keith Willett. He then turned the match in the Drayton team's favour with an exciting victory over Peter Taylor.

It was a tense week-end for the Grove side with Bellingham ill all week and Phil Bowen withdrawing at the last minute because of an injury. Malcolm Green had had his kit stolen and to add to the problems the second team had left for Torbay. So to fill the gap they included their 11th ranked player Bill Bridgeman. As it turned out they made an excellent choice.

The match started badly with Steve Scowcroft losing to the in-form Keith Richardson. John Hilton levelled the score in beating Taylor, but Grove fell behind as Mick Harper's experience proved too much for Bridgeman. Bellingham levelled the score again in beating Willett then surprisingly Hilton fell to Richardson in three. It looked a black Sunday for Grove when Bellingham trailed Taylor but he eventually won a tense game and Scowcroft, fighting for every point, beat Harper 18 in the third to give them a 4-3 lead.

This left Bridgeman with the pressure match against Willett to win the day. He responded magnificently and gaining in confidence all the time demolished his opponent in straight games to keep Grove in the quest for honours.

SCHOOLS EVENTS

It was an excellent week end for Shropshire Schools in the Midlands and West Regional Schools finals at Stroud.

Five Shropshire teams qualified for the National Finals at Matlock.

Mary Webb School, Pontesbury will be making their first appearance in the finals, joining Market Drayton schools who will be competing for the fifth consecutive year.

The victories show the strength of schools table tennis in Shropshire in general and the Market Drayton area in particular. Mary Webb totally dominated the U-13 opposition, Alexandra Road Junior School will be having their U-11 Boys' and Girls' teams on view and the Grove Comprehensive School are represented by their U-13 and U-19 Girls' squads.

Mary Rose reports from . . .

WARWICKSHIRE BRISTOL WEEKEND

Barry Johnson captained Warwickshire when, at Bristol, Barry Hayward had to withdraw through illness from the County Championships Premier Division second weekend. The county already doing without the services of Duggie Johnson, on England duty, were more than pleased to have Pat Glynn in support with the rest of the squad comprising Derek Munt, Carl Morgan and Karen Groves.

The first match was against Dorset which resulted in an impressive 8-1 win. Karen continued her successes by beating Julie Reading and Munt had a good win in defeating Tony Clayton.

Our second match against Essex was a different story when we narrowly lost 5-4 after a great fightback after being 0-3 down. First Karen and Carl stopped the rot in the mixed and then the Munt/Johnson

pairing pulled back another set. Karen levelled the scoreline with a close win over Lisa Hayden. Derek lost to Ian Horsham and Kenny Jackson ensured victory for Essex when he beat Barry. Carl narrowed the gap with a final 17, 32 victory!

In the third session we came up against Lancashire but we were without Carl who was released for Brum's Wilmott Cup team against Dagenham and Lancs won 6-3. Karen, paired with Pat took the mixed and then Karen completed her considerable success in the Championships by beating Amanda Goodwin. Derek obtained our other set against Steve Scowcroft. We still have Staffs to play.

The County II's, against Cumbria, were represented by Lester Bertie, Ian Gunn, Adrian Pilgrim, Di St. Ledger and Sandra Peakman. The match was played at the West Warwickshire Club, Solihull with the county proving much too strong winning 10-0.

MIDLAND LEAGUE

The Birmingham team in Div. 1 are still in with a chance of honours with much depending on the result of their last match against the defending champions. The 'B' team in Div. 2 have a fair record with four wins from six matches. The Junior 'A' team on losing to Gloucester 2-8 in their last match look to have lost their chance of topping the division whilst the 'B' team seem destined for the drop.

The Women's 'A' team have one match left but having lost to Wolverhampton it now seems certain that the latter will win the title. The Women's 'B' team have beaten Leamington and Market Drayton but have lost to Leicester and Bristol.

WILMOTT CUP

Birmingham lost to Dagenham when the team of Morgan, Ian Gunn and Lester Bertie found the opposition too strong and lost 2-5. Carl disappointed in winning only one on his recall from Bristol.

Congratulations to Karen Groves and Sandra Peakman in winning the women's doubles at the Lancs Open and again to Sandra who, with Kevin Beadsley won the mixed at the Pontefract 1-Star.

Semi-final draw for the Warwickshire Club competition is: Newman Hall v West Midland Police (Solihull) and G.E.C. Coventry v National Westminster Bank, Coventry. The final will be played at the West Warwks Club on Tuesday, April 12.

RUGBY AND DISTRICT

The Rugby Closed was held on Jan. 9 with Michael Thomas again finishing the day both Junior and Senior champion.

RESULTS

Winners	Runners-up
Men's Singles: M. Thomas	Ian Randle
Junior Singles: M. Thomas	Mark Randle
Doubles: I. & M. Randle	Pat McCabe/Greg Saville
Veteran Singles: Bill Fletcher	Dave Griffiths

In the Midland League, Rugby's senior team have now played six out of their seven matches in Div. 2. Two have been won and the other four lost. The Juniors have a return of one win, one draw and two defeats in Div. 5.

BIRMINGHAM CLOSED

The Birmingham Closed was held at

Rover, Solihull over the weekend of Mar. 12/13. Phil Gunn, as expected, won the boys' singles but Dawn Bromley caused an upset in the round robin girls' singles by taking the title from last season's winner Fiona Sutton.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles:

P. Gunn bt C. Grant 9, 17.

Girls' Singles:

D. Bromley.

Boys' Doubles:

Martin Campbell/Gunn bt Stuart Bartie/Shawn Simon 19, 18.

Girls' Doubles:

Tina Brown/Bromley bt Fiona Sutton/J. Hill.

Cadet Boys' Singles:

Simon.

Cadet Girls' Singles:

L. Poole.

Munt came back out of the wilderness to cause a big upset by winning the men's singles. The semi-final meeting of Derek and Barry Johnson must surely have been the longest set of the day lasting nearly an hour. No wonder Derek developed cramp and again in the final against Morgan. Karen Groves retained her women's singles title defeating Anne Lloyd and added the women's and mixed doubles title in partnership with Di St. Ledger and Morgan.

Joan Harden to who I must apologise for calling her Jean Hewer in my Feb. March notes again caused an upset when she defeated Warwickshire's No. 2-ranked Sandra Peakman in the quarters. It was good to see the return of Beverley Green, the county's former ranked No. 1 and England-ranked junior, although only entering the doubles, with Sandra Peakman in the women's and Richard Tanner in the mixed:

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

D. Munt bt B. Johnson -17, 19, 18;

C. Morgan bt P. Gunn 18, -18, 16.

Final:

Munt bt Morgan -16, 15, 17.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

K. Groves bt D. St. Ledger -21, 13, 15;

A. Lloyd bt J. Harden -14, 14, 17.

Final:

Groves bt Lloyd 14, 18.

Men's Doubles:

B. Hayward/B. Johnson bt P. Glynn/Munt.

Women's Doubles:

Groves/St. Ledger bt B. Green/S. Peakman 18, 7.

Mixed Doubles:

Morgan/Groves bt Johnson/Lloyd.

Veterans' Singles:

Brian Belcher bt Dave Hilliard 18, 16.

Dunlop Birmingham had a great chance of picking up maximum points in their Halex National League Premier Division match against Unity of Bradford. The clash at Handsworth Victoria ended all square at 4-4, the third home draw for Dunlop this season.

Skylet Andrew and promising teenager Billy Gleave were missing from the Bradford side so Dunlop must have fancied their chances. It was a particularly disappointing match for Steve Mills, Dunlop's No. 1 who lost both his sets to Steve Turner and Chris Rogers. Munt playing at No. 4 had another fine match and skipper Barry Johnson and Ian Horsham won one each taking Dunlop's points tally for the season to seven.

Pauline Long reports from . . .

NORTHUMBERLAND

DAY OF DISASTER

Saturday, Feb. 19 proved to be a day of disaster for both the first team and the juniors. The senior team were without Ian Robertson, Andrew Clark and Clare Mouzon, and they crashed 2-8 to Yorkshire II at Rotherham, with Chu Van Que scoring two singles victories. The juniors lost 4-6 away to Nottinghamshire in a match that they really should have won. Denise Wilkinson won her singles and combined with Denise Campbell to win the girls' doubles, but the boys fared badly, with Eddie Smith and Steven Waugh winning one singles each and Peter Curry having a blank afternoon.

Obviously, this result sent the dark clouds of relegation to Div. 3 hovering overhead, but the senior team partly redeemed themselves on March 5, when they scored an easier than expected victory over Cheshire at Byker Community Centre. Chu, Robertson and Clark were all undefeated, and Christine Burke won her singles to give Northumberland an 8-2 victory.

RESULTS

Northumberland 8 Cheshire 2

Chu Van Que bt B. Johns -18, 10, 15;
bt T. Taylor 16, 12.

I. Robertson bt Johns -16, 18, 17;

bt R. Bevan 12, 18.

A. Clark bt Taylor -14, 20, 19;

bt Bevan 12, 13.

Chu/Robertson bt Johns/Taylor 17, 19.

Caron Buglass lost to Doreen Schofield -11, -21.

Christine Burke bt A. Dakin 7, 19.

Buglass/Burke lost to Schofield/Dakin -16, 18, -17.

This victory lifted the team off the bottom of Div. 2A, but it should be said that a team which at full strength is the same that played in the Premier Division last season should never have been in this position in the first place. We cannot expect to hold our place at this level unless we have our strongest team available regularly, and with some difficult matches to come, we need all the points we can get.

County ranking lists for March are as follows:

Men

1 Chu Van Que, 2 Ian Robertson, 3 Andrew Clark, 4 Martin Young, 5 Neil McMaster, 6 Fred Short, 7 Tom Trewhitt, 8 Ronnie Scott, 9 Alan Matthewson, 10 Peter Whiteman, 11 Dave McAllister, 12 Martin Moore, 13 Steve Robinson, 14 Malcolm Aitchison, 15 Michael Grimes.

John Burke and Glen McCardle have been omitted because of lack of match play.

Women

1 Clare Mouzon, 2 Caron Buglass, 3 Christine Burke, 4 Pauline Long, 5 Susan Norris, 6 Julie Land, 7 Shirley Laver, 8 Daphne Russell, 9 Olive Drapkin, 10 Gail Curry.

Caron Buglass and Christine Burke, also Susan Norris and Julie Land, have exchanged ranking positions in the current list.

Junior Boys

1 McMaster, 2 Eddie Smith, 3 Peter Curry, 4 Tom Blackman, 5 Steven Waugh, 6 Jonathan Miller, 7 Paul Walters, 8 Darren Shaw, 9 David Watson, 10 Keith Patterson,

11 Rob Hall, 12 Wasim Shakoore, 13 Andrew Drapkin, 14 Damien Linskill, 15 Paul Prady, 16 James Fairbairn.

Steven Pearce is missing from the junior boys' ranking list — hopefully only temporarily — and Paul Prady is a new name in the list at No. 15.

Junior Girls

1 Mouzon, 2 Denise Campbell, 3 Denise Wilkinson, 4 Karen Wilkinson, 5 Elaine Hopper, 6 Judith Drapkin, 7 Marjorie Cooper, 8 Julie Smith, 9 Meeta Shukla, 10 D. Smith, 11 Tracey McMaster, 12 Julie Robson.

Cadet Boys

1 Shaw, 2 Watson, 3 Kevin Shakesheff, 4 John Morton, 5 S. Scott, 6 D. Fairbairn, 7 P. Atkinson, 8 G. Fairbairn, 9 Darren Selig.

Twelve year old Darren Shaw takes over the top cadet boys' spot from David Watson after beating the England-ranked cadet in the Northumberland Junior Closed tournament.

Cadet Girls

None.

The Northumberland League beat York 6-1 in the Wilmott Cup men's team competition, and were due to meet Leeds in the next round. The Carter Cup junior boys' team put out Hartlepool 5-1, and their next match was to be away to Ormesby. In the Bromfield Trophy, the girls just scraped through 5-4 against Ormesby, and were due to play Sunderland in their next match — as were the women's Rose Bowl team in their first outing of the season.

Byker kept themselves in the Halex National League promotion hunt in Div. 3 (North) by beating South Yorkshire II 6-2, Nigel Jobling and Neil McMaster both gaining maximums, and Martin Young and Alan Matthewson taking one singles each. The same team had a good win by 7-1 away to Ormesby III, Jobling, McMaster, and Matthewson all being undefeated, while Young lost the only set to A. Wattis.

The Northumberland League season is now drawing to a close, with the last matches due to be played during the week ending April 1. It looks as though North Shields YMCA 'A' are set to retain their Premier Division title, as they are five points clear of Electrics 'A', with a game in hand over their rivals. Cullercoats 'A' and Newcastle YMCA 'B' are so far ahead of their challengers in Div. 1 that it seems practically impossible for either team to be caught, while in Div. 2A Reyrolles 'C' and Delaval C.C. currently occupy the first two positions. Leading teams and runners-up in other Divisions are as follows:

Div. 2B Tyne Dock 'B' and Dunston Hill 'A'

Div. 3A Washington 'B' and Byker C.C. 'E'

Div. 3B Procter & Gamble and Byker C.C. 'F'

Div. 3C Byker C.C. 'G' and Tyne Gas 'A'

Div. 4A Telephones 'B' and St. Charles 'B'

Div. 4B Tyne & Wear Fire 'B' and Berger.

Players and officials were saddened to learn of the death of Trevor Frost of Whitehouse Lane Table Tennis Club, who was killed in an accident at work during early February. Our sympathies are extended to his family at this time.

The winter season officially ends with the Evening Chronicle Northumberland Open 2-Star Tournament, which is to be held on Saturday, April 30 at Concordia Leisure Centre, Cramlington. The prize fund is once again just over £1,000 with top prize of £225 going to the winner of the men's singles.

The season's final draw of the Northumberland County Association Supporters' Club is due to take place at this tournament, and this would be an ideal opportunity for any prospective members to consider lending their support to the association. The subscription is £1 per month, £4 per quarter or £12 per year, and at present there are 46 members in the draw for one prize of £60, one of £30, and four of £10, these being held approximately once every three months. Full details can be obtained from Aubrey Drapkin, 59 Beach Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 1DZ (Tel. 0632-514983).

Dennis Millman reports from . . .

NORTHANTS SHRUGGED OFF

Graeme McKim, whose brilliant run of successes was temporarily curtailed by a mystery back injury sustained at work, was nevertheless able to shrug off the painful effects sufficiently, to add the Kettering Men's Singles and three other titles to his long list of honours for 1982-83.

As befits a County champion, McKim outplayed all opposition to take the singles at the first time of asking, and also ended on top in the junior singles, the mixed and junior doubles, missing out only in the men's doubles.

In November, McKim and Chris Handshaw had no difficulty in winning the County title, but this time they fell to the unseeded and previously untried combination of the occasionally brilliant Graham Ball and the remarkably consistent Mark Nannery, who followed up their straight games success by ousting former holders John Palmer and Dennis Millman after losing the first and trailing in the second. At the last however, Wellingborough's Ian Hawes and Steve Kendall produced the brilliance they are always capable of, but seldom achieve, to speedily despatch their Kettering opponents and so take the title for the first time.

Hawes, slightly below his considerable best on the day, had earlier been eliminated from the junior singles by the ever-improving Andrew Edmonds, who went on to lose narrowly to McKim in the final.

However Hawes turned the tables in the men's event, only to struggle against Handshaw in the quarter-final and Steve West in the semis, before coming up against McKim in a final made noteworthy by the greater mobility and quicker reflexes of a county champion determined to stamp his authority on the game. This he did to such good effect that he was always in the ascendancy, racing to an eventual win.

Jane Nicoll was the day's best lady performer, beating Maxine Shears in an enterprising singles final, joining sister Anne to take the doubles, and McKim to complete a treble, but being thwarted in the Second Division Handicap when she failed to concede a ten point handicap to sister Anne.

Millman took his first veterans' title since 1975, and his fourth in all, when he made Mike Cryer a losing finalist for the second successive year but much interest this time centred on the consolation and handicap events, both designed to encourage the type of players who form the backbone of the league.

In the consolation singles, with eighteen

seeds omitted, it was Bournemouth's Bill Broome, who came through to win out-thinking Steve Brown in an entertaining final. Broome also landed the First Division Handicap playing off scratch, the familiar figure of Phil Slade relinquishing a winning position in the face of Broome's accuracy.

The Premier Handicap saw the demise of all the top players, with the notable exception of Geoff Atkinson, who after a brief flirtation with sponge earlier in the season, used his customary hard bat to good advantage to get the better of Chris Millman 21-17 in the decider.

Young Richard Draycott played superbly to take the Third Division event, while the other junior events went to Kevin Elsworth and Richard Ambrose.

Longest match of the day saw the ebullient Steve Brown upset Tournament Organiser Ken Nicoll's plans for an early finish, when he took Nicoll to a marathon 75 minutes encounter before finally succumbing to Nicoll's patience and perseverance, qualities well in evidence as Ken and his father Ian brought the championships to a successful conclusion.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

Graeme McKim bt Mark Cole 14, 20;
Ken Nicoll bt Geoff Atkinson -14, 15, 13;
Steve West bt Steve Kendall 18, -17, 13;
Ian Hawes bt Chris Handshaw 23, 16.

Semi-finals:

McKim bt Nicoll 13, 12;
Hawes bt West 19, 17.

Final:

McKim bt Hawes 11, 10.

Women's Singles Final:

Jane Nicoll bt Maxine Shears 17, 9.

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

Hawes/Kendall bt West/Cole 15, 17;
Graham Ball/Mark Nannery bt John Palmer/Dennis Millman -23, 17, 9.

Final:

Hawes/Kendall bt Ball/Nannery 15, 8.

Women's Doubles Final:

Jane/ Anne Nicoll bt Shears/ Marj Chambers 13, 16.

Mixed Doubles Final:

McKim/J. Nicoll bt Andrew Edmonds/ Shears 17, 16.

Veterans' Singles Final:

D. Millman bt Mike Cryer 11, 12.

Junior Singles Semi-finals:

McKim bt Richard Ambrose 10, 8;
Edmonds bt Melanie Brooks 5, 5.

Final:

McKim bt Edmonds 14, 18.

Junior Doubles Final:

McKim/Hawes bt Edmonds/Shears 12, 16.

Men's Consolation Singles Final:

Bill Broome bt Steve Brown 16, 14.

Premier Division Handicap Singles:

Geoff Atkinson (+3) bt Chris Millman (+11) 18, -10, 17.

First Division Handicap Singles:

Broome (Scr) bt Phil Slade (+3) -11, 19, 11.

Second Division Handicap Singles:

Anne Nicoll (+12) bt Jane Nicoll (+2) 13, 14.

Third Division Handicap Singles:

Richard Draycott (+3) bt Neil Atkinson (+12) -13, 16, 18.

Junior Under-15 Singles:

Kevin Elsworth bt Lee Fraser 8, 17.

Junior Under-13 Singles:

Richard Ambrose bt David Waples 10, 9.

In the most recent County matches, the Firsts proved to be the only successful side, thereby regaining the momentum that can yet give them promotion to Division Two.

Against Glamorgan, the "man of the match" was undoubtedly Hawes, who brought into the side as replacement for the unfit McKim, and making his debut at this level, won twice and in the process beat the two players who in their turn had accounted for Gary Alden and Keith Nicoll respectively.

Alden, who again started slowly lost the opener but Hawes fought tenaciously to put Northants on level terms. Nicoll then beat the home No. 1 to put his side ahead, and then another superb doubles display from Mandy Wallis and Dorothy Marsh, followed by a similar effort from Alden and Nicoll gave Northants a four-one lead at the half-way stage.

Hawes then completed his debut in match-winning style, and Alden and Miss Wallis increased the lead with confident wins. Dorothy Marsh again went close, and so did Nicoll, before both were narrowly beaten to make the final score seven-three to Northants.

Ken Nicoll was the man in form for the Seconds at Worcester, as he took both his sets, while Brian D'Hooghe was another to make a satisfactory debut, losing his first set narrowly, and then overwhelming the Worcester No. 3. He then combined with John Sanders to take the Men's Doubles, but the Worcester ladies proved too strong, and Northants went down six-four.

The remaining sides fared even worse as both faced formidable opposition. The Veterans travelled to Leicester to meet a side almost assured of promotion to the top flight, and so far unbeaten this season. Joyce Porter was the only winner as she easily accounted for her opponent, but she and Keith Jones lost their unbeaten Mixed record when they went down narrowly in the decider. The only other set requiring a third end came when Dennis Millman lost to Geoff Aldwinckle, and for once even Keith Jones was unable to cope with some top-class opposition.

The Juniors made the long journey to Yorkshire, and had little to show for their efforts, losing all ten sets. Only Andrew Edmonds can look back on the match with any satisfaction, as on his debut, he took both of his strong Yorkshire opponents to third ends before coming off second best.

In the local leagues, A.C.C. 'A', Chapmans and Kettering Town continue to lead, with the first named most likely to finish top at the season's end.

Malcolm Allsop reports from . . .

DERBYSHIRE

BURTON CHAMPIONSHIPS

FINALS RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

P. Vickers bt R. Gough 7, 8;
P. Harvey bt N. Adams.

Final:

Vickers bt Harvey 19, 12.

Ladies' Singles:

Miss D. Smith bt Mrs. J. Vickers 18, 13.

Junior Singles:

N. Adams bt M. Allsopp 5, 15.

Veterans' Singles:

P. Bentley bt D. Ridge -19, 17, 8.

Division 2/3 Singles:

H. Jones bt S. Sethi 19, 22.

Division 4/5 Singles:

D. Brightman bt T. Sharpe 17, -17, 7.

Mixed Doubles:

Vickers/Vickers bt Miss C. Smith/Adams 12, 12.

Men's Doubles:

Vickers/Fisher bt I. Kyles/P. Bentley 13, 11.

In the Derby Championships the following weekend, Trevor Kerry came through to win team-mate Doug Foulds in the men's singles final, and paired with Robert Albutt won the men's doubles.

Surprises were fairly frequent in Men's Singles with David Yallop falling victim to Paul Druce in the 3rd round 17, -21, -20, Druce then lost to Nigel Adams at which stage Stephen Yallop beat Stephen McCarthy.

To Thuy Dung took the ladies singles and U-17 girls singles fairly comfortably, but Nigel Adams failed to successfully defend his boys' title going down to Martin Allsopp in the second round, with Martyn losing a close semi-final with Alan Hearn who, in the final, could not match the consistency of Paul Harvey.

DERBY CHAMPIONSHIPS

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

D. Foulds bt N. Adams 15, 13;

T. Kerry bt S. Yallop -13, 13, 20.

Final:

Kerry bt Foulds 6, -20, 18.

Ladies' Singles:

To Thuy Dung bt M. O'Sullivan 20, 13.

Men's Doubles:

Kerry/R. Albutt bt S. Yallop/S. McCarthy -9, 17, 13.

Mixed Doubles:

D. Yallop/O'Sullivan bt P. Druce/To Thuy -13, 13, 8.

U-17 Boys':

P. Harvey bt A. Hearn 19, -18, 15.

U-17 Girls':

To Thuy bt L. Forster 13, 17.

U-14 Boys':

I. Stewart bt G. West 14, 19.

U-14 Girls':

J. Forster bt P. Corden 20, -19, 10.

U-12 Boys':

W. Hollingworth bt R. Scott-Birchall 21, -14, 20.

Veterans' Singles:

D. Smedley bt D. Stills 15, -16, 15;

The Eastwood League had an excellent first season in the Midland Junior League winning four of their six matches (three by 10-0) to finish a creditable third. The team consisted of David North, A. Ross, Joanne and Adrian Weightman, and was captained and coached by Billy Fowkes.

Doug Moss reports from . . .

WORCESTERSHIRE

MARVELLOUS SEASON

The County 1st team is having a marvellous season and now look well set to win the Championship of Division 3C. The team recently visited Bucks with the two teams level on points and average. From a comparison of results a draw might have been expected. But again the team won 9-1! Next came a visit to Oxfordshire and disappointing news the day before that Steve Dunning was ill with 'flu. The II team had a match that day and the selectors perhaps

gambled on introducing Chris Martin, for his first County performance, to the I team in a vital match. Chris lives in Redditch and plays for Droitwich Hardware 'B' in Worcester Premier Division and was certainly the man in form. The decision was well justified because Chris won his two singles events. There was yet another great team performance achieving their fourth successive 9-1 win. Unfortunately Mandy Mytton lost her unbeaten record but Murray Jukes is unbeaten after three matches. We now wait until 9th April and the visit of Wilts II for the final match.

The County II team had only three matches this season. Their programme concluded with a 6-4 win over Northants II which was very satisfying. Ken Walton (team captain) played well to win his two singles and the girls, Annette Snee (Malvern) and Debbie Hough, dominated the ladies events.

The County Juniors have been playing without Murray Jukes (elevated to the 1st team). They therefore did very well to beat Hants II 6-4 with Lewis Siket winning two singles on his debut. They came unstuck, however, against Bucks losing 9-1, but with Lewis winning the one event. The Veterans team lost any chance of promotion when beaten 6-3 by the strong Leics team.

The County League is proceeding well this season and at this stage it seems that Dudley 'B' will win the Championship. The County team Knock Out competitions are also reaching a conclusion and the Finals are likely to be played during April.

I think comment on the activities of the Kidderminster League is appropriate. Apart from their six Divisions the League is well blessed with representative teams. They have a Men's, Ladies' and 2 Veterans' teams in the Midland League plus two teams in the County League. The two Veterans teams met recently when the 'A' team, well served by Ken Burton with three wins, beat the 'B' team 6-4. It is perhaps surprising to see that Willy Ahern, who plays in the Hereford, Malvern and Worcester Leagues, is also with Kidderminster and is a member of the Men's Midland League team. The Kidderminster League is very well served for publicity. Eileen Tasker produces lengthy weekly reports of which I receive a regular copy for use with Radio Wyvern reports.

The Association is now getting very good service from Radio Wyvern. I have a five minute weekly spot which is now broadcast at 4.15 p.m. each Saturday. Wyvern has also shown interest in our sport by interviewing Doug Young regarding his appointment as an Umpire at the World Championships in Tokyo, of which our Association is very proud. The producer also visited 14-year-old Murray Jukes at his home in Kidderminster to make a recording.

The Finals of the various League Championships are now looming up. The Evesham Championships are at Prince Henry's Grammar School, Evesham on 19th March. The Malvern Championships are this year to be played at the end of April. They take place in extremely pleasant surroundings at The Winter Gardens, Malvern. The Worcester League is not having a Finals Night this season. As a further celebration of the Golden Jubilee a Social Event at the local Indoor Bowling Club is to be held on 22nd April. On this occasion the trophies will be presented to Divisional Champions and runners-up and the successful contestants

in the League Tournaments. The social event is obviously an excellent idea but it seems a little disappointing not to have a Finals Night when there are such talented players in the League, and especially from the Premier Division.

Alf Peppard reports from . . .

GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Yours truly has been doing quite a bit of travelling of late. Thanks to the generosity of Bryan Merrett I accompanied him to Cardiff for the Welsh Open and more recently to the English Closed at Woking. One factor "stood out a mile" at both tournaments — the apparent lack of spectators. Now there were spectators there, but moving around one sensed that they were parents, ex-players, administrators and such, but very few in relation to the general public.

We are all conversant that T.T. is not as popular today as it has been, 'But why not?' There are many theories put up, short rallies, the dreaded combination bat, etc., I think the only honest answer to the question lies in the fact that the general public just isn't interested in our sport and that indeed the future of T.T. at all levels is OUR responsibility alone.

I have a deep feeling of respect towards the men and women in blue, one sees them at all the tournaments, both big and small. No readers, I'm not talking about the Police, but Umpires. They give up so much time and often some even refuse their expenses. I saw one Umpire in question at The English Closed on almost continuously all day. I often wonder if the majority of players appreciate their presence as much as they should.

At the English Closed I found myself sitting next to a very well known gentleman of table tennis and at first I confess to not recognising him. The funny thing was, I was writing about him a few months ago in T.T.N. . . But he recognised me. Yes, Murray Corbin, fellow T.T. journalist, it was nice meeting you and also pleasant to hear your views and ideas on our sport. Before we parted I think we both shared many views about the game in general. By comparison the work coverage that Murray handles in Surrey makes my job in Gloucestershire seem very small indeed, almost insignificant.

At this time of writing the E.T.T.A. have just released the names of the England Squad for Tokyo, Carl Prean, Lisa and Jackie Bellinger, Joy Grundy are quite rightly selected, they constitute the new generation. Now what about Jill Parker, The Selectors played it cool and diplomatically by suggesting that Jill has a medical. If that proves O.K. one assumes that Jill will go. But what if the medical does not go in Jill's favour? Who will go in her place? I cannot but think that the Selectors just might, for a second or two, regret not placing Carole Moore on their list. Carole is Commonwealth Champion was the defending Women's Ladies' Champion at the English Closed. She fights like Hell, I saw her beat Lisa Bellinger at Woking. What more was the lady expected to do, "KISS THE SELECTORS FEET"?

I'm one that thinks that Carole's outburst was justified, even if it did entail a few gritty Northern expressions. Now to the

other side of the coin, selectors do, at times, have a hard job on their hands. I'm only a mere County Selector myself and fully appreciate even at that lowly level that much criticism comes our way. I dare say many will agree with me and equally many will not. I met our Editor for the very first time at the English Closed and was pleased to see that he now has recovered from his serious illness of some little while ago. George tells me news is plentiful for T.T.N. **GOOD LET'S KEEP IT THAT WAY.**

Around the County, Finals Nights seem uncomfortably near. As a prelude, Gloucester City's top 1st Division team, the Gordon League, are dead certain to retain their championship. In Cheltenham the Y.M.C.A. seem to be heading much the same way, and over at Stroud, its almost certainly Nailsworth 'A' for the 1st Division Cup.

Another table tennis scribe (No I do not do her justice) 'Editor', is Cheltenham's effervescent Gill Smith. Her frequent publications under the heading of "Nett and Edge", keeps everyone well informed with regard to what's going on not only in Cheltenham, but elsewhere as well. Here's an example of what Gill's husband John wrote in her magazine about the 2nd Division in Cheltenham. "Division 2 has been described by some of our 'Elder and Better' players as the graveyard of the league, but it must be said that there are some vigorous, vociferous and sprightly corpses decorating the division. In addition this Division has an unrivalled complement of Ladies - and can by no means be described as geriatric, grizzled, or even more uncharitably from a table tennis stand-point, chisellers. I have found the graveyard most enjoyable and far from somnolent to play in and long may it continue, after all it is age and experience that count, and Division 2 has it in abundance".

The Newent Invitation Closed, attracted between 60 and 70 entries, played on eight tables. It was a credit to its Organisers, Graham Lee, Dave Colwill and Peter Ridler. Darren Griffin repeated his earlier form, when he won the County Closed, by beating Steve Moreman 12 and 14 in the final. Other events: Jean and Andrew Golding beat Heather Colwill and Griffin 19, 12, in the mixed. The Open Doubles was won by Moreman and Golding who beat Griffin and Graham Slack 15, -17, 14. The boys' singles went to Griffin who beat David Smith 12 and 14 and the Girls' was won by Heather Colwill who beat Clare Symonds 15, 15.

The Gloucester Junior Closed was organised and run by Andy Browett, the City Secretary. It was played on four tables at Saintbridge School and provided no great shocks or surprises. Having said that, one match above all stood out, in the quarter-finals of the under-17's, 12-year-old Dale Saunders of Cinderford, a registered 6th Div. player, beat Tony Wilson of the Gordon League six in the third, Wilson plays 2nd Div. in the City League.

The Boys' U-15 final was won by Lawrence Symonds of The Strollers. He beat Tony Wilson 11, 10. The Boys' U-17 final as expected went to Griffin who beat Aaron Beckett -17, 15, 12. The U-13's final was won by Saunders who beat Gary Thomas 10, 14. In the Girls' section under-17 years, Heather Colwill of Newent beat Clare Symonds of Strollers 21 in the third to take the title.

Richard Russell the County's No. 3 from Cheltenham, won the Leicester 1-Star Open Singles and also reached the doubles final. Richard is based at Bristol, where he is a student and openly admits that as his work load increases so his time for active table tennis is somewhat curtailed, a disparity equally shared by many today I would think.

The Warner Shield, first played for in 1951, often not played for at all has of recent years been strongly contested. These days it goes to the strongest Town or City within the County boundaries. As Gloucestershire only has three Leagues, Gloucester City, Cheltenham & Stroud it really does not take all that much organisation. Well this year Cheltenham opposed Stroud and the former won a nail-biting match 5-4. This put Cheltenham into the position of a final versus the holders Gloucester City, who won 7-2. Cheltenham fielded Stuart Beattie, Graham Slack, Simon Moysey and Sylvester Callum, Gloucester's team comprised Paul Jackson, Mark Owen, Darren Griffin and Martin Lane.

County Matches

The Juniors were hammered 8-2 by very strong Berkshire team, Heather Colwill and Aaron Beckett provided our victories. This match was played at Nailsworth. On the same day our Seniors went down to St. Austell to play Cornwall and duly returned with a 6-4 victory, Christine Iacopi not only played and won, she drove the team down and back, great effort Chris!

More recently, our Juniors travelled to Neath to play Glamorgan. The team of Griffin, Beckett, David Smith, Jenny Ellery and Heather Colwill won 8-2, Beckett lost to Kevin Davis, and Smith to David Griffiths. Both Jenny and Heather combined well to take the doubles, Darren and Aaron likewise. The Seniors had a great 9-1 win over Hants.

SCORES

Andrew Golding bt Chris Wilshere 12, 17.
Richard Russell bt Steve Snow 22, 15.
Paul Jackson bt Chris Shetler 10, 13.
Christine Iacopi/Cathy Robb bt Barbara Clark/Andrea Seager 13, 14.
Jackson/Golding bt Wilsher/Shetler 11, -15, 15.
Golding bt Snow 19, 12.
Robb bt Seager 11, 19.
Jackson bt Wilshere 11, 16.
Iacopi lost to Clarke -12, -10.
Russell bt Shetler 19, 17.

Tony Carey reports from . . .

SOMERSET

EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE

Before I start this report, I would like to put right an omission in my report on the South of England Junior Open at Woking. This was the fact that I had failed to mention the excellent performance given by one of our talented up-and-coming girls, Mandy Williams, in reaching the semi-final of the U-12 event. Well played, Mandy, and I am sure in the future you will proceed to the final stage and win.

England Junior Ranking Trials (Lilleshall) March 5/6

Somerset's Juniors, as regards England ranking, are still being represented by Melonie Carey, Sarah Webb and Fiona Stuart, but I am sure it will not be long before our boys start to enter the list with

Paul Fowler and Paul Smith showing great promise.

Our top girls, Melonie and Sarah, currently ranked in the top 20, were invited to compete in the trial, the second of the season. The venue was, to my mind, perfect for the occasion with excellent accommodation and good warm-up facilities adjacent to the playing hall, which was well laid out with adequate room for defender and attacker alike.

The competition was of the highest class, as to be expected from England's top 20 cadets split up on the first day into groups of 10, giving each player 9 sets to play, dependent on how they progressed. Each match was eagerly fought for with the prize of valuable computer points to be won. This aspect understandably put some pressure on the players creating tension, which in some cases was relieved by a high slap and in others by tears. This though it sounds hard, was a good test of character.

Our girls coped reasonably well with varying fortunes. Melonie started off with a bang in the first set, recording a good win over her old rival, Debbie Soothill, who showed her experience and ability by ignoring that defeat and going through the rest of that day unbeaten. Well played, Debbie, and a good example of how a trial like this should be played — which I am sure Melonie will remember for her future. After this Melonie had three tight matches in a row and although losing them, in the 3rd in each case, she still had the satisfaction of knowing that she had improved on her previous performances against these highly ranked players. She finished the day with three more wins, one against Sarah Webb, who found the first day a disappointment, having fought well but unable to overcome the greater experience of her opponents, coupled with the fact that she is still in the transitional stage between attack and her new defensive style with "funny" bat. But on the second day she had some success in beating three players ranked below her.

A weekend full of experience, although not too rewarding, for both girls, and an indication that Somerset are still holding their own and in some areas improving, albeit slowly.

This was highlighted the following weekend when our Junior team led by County champion Lee Sadler beat Cornwall 6-4 at Minehead. Other members of the team were Mark Bryant, Philip Payne, Sarah Webb and Fiona Stuart.

On the same day, Melonie made her debut for the Senior team in a match against Avon as partner for Somerset's No. 1 Gill Green, in the doubles, and although they lost, she played well and gained valuable experience. A satisfying debut. The venue was the RAF camp at Locking, Weston-Super-Mare, where it was well staged. At first glance it could have been taken for an International match with the Avon team of umpires very well turned out in their blazers and ETTA ties under the very able direction of the well-known and respected International umpire Pat Archdale, as referee.

The sets were all well fought, as to be expected from the rivalry which exists between the teams. Somerset winners: Brian 1, Jill 1, Dave Lee 2. But unfortunately, as last season, the result went to Avon 6-4. However, don't despair, Somerset fans, as our day will come if we have patience in our youngsters' progression.

Bridgwater and District Junior Championships - 13th March

Once again this season, Chilton Trinity School, Bridgwater rang to the sounds of bat upon ball, tiny feet, tears and laughter, intermingled with the slapping of bat on thigh in frustration. The titles being fought for were the U12, U14, and U17 boys' and girls' events. The U12 attracted an entry of 56 which was run in groups to determine the quarter and semi-final placings. This entry was a good indication of the interest being generated in Somerset as a whole, as some of these players did not come under the Bidgwater and District League areas. Some upsets were caused in the groups but this did not affect the seeds who progressed through to their respective places in the semis. The girls' U12 proved a cliff-hanger with the No. 1 seed, Mandy Williams, one game down and 10-15 in the second (against another of our fine up-and-coming girls, Joanna Webber) producing a champion's display of tenacity and skill to win at 21-19 and take the title by winning the third. Well played, Mandy!

The boys' U12 title went to Paul Smith after a hard three games against Paul Fowler — two to watch for the future.

The U14 events produced some very good clashes, especially amongst the girls where Sarah Webb beat Fiona Stuart in the semi to proceed to the final where she met Melonie who, playing with confidence and control, beat her 2-straight to take the title. The boys' event went to Philip Payne who beat David Woodbridge from Yeovil. The U17 events again brought together old rivals from the U14 events and in the girls' it produced the re-emergence of last year's champion, Wendy Payne, who beat Sarah Webb in the semi to proceed to the final where she met Melonie, who had beaten Fiona Stuart thus upholding her No. 1 seeding again.

This proved to be Melonie's day as she proceeded to win her second title this being her first win over Wendy, who I am sure will view her performance in reaching the final as very good after being seeded No. 4. I hope this will inspire her to return to full league competition next season and show that she still has a lot of talent, as she showed in her match against Sarah, and get the results in senior competition which she deserves.

The U17 boys' title went to Lee Sadler, beating Mark Bryant with some devastating hitting which should serve him well when he aspires to the senior team, as I am sure he soon will.

This leads me on to the subject of adequate competition for our top juniors, as they need greater competition to improve their play. The girls have gained this by joining the tournament circuit and competing in the Premier Division of the Bridgwater League against very experienced players and I am glad to see Lee and some of the other boys like Mark Bryant who is very talented also doing well and attending Open competitions, but they must still seek greater competition where it is to be found to establish themselves in the England Rankings, which is a criteria for measurement of true ability.

Cornish 2-Star Junior Open - Redruth 19th March

Another Saturday, another competition. This time we had a sample of what the Cornish players have to endure with regard

to travel when they have to compete in Open competitions near us. A squad of 13 Somerset players travelled to this venue and achieved varying successes, some notable, Claire Brazier, reaching the U-12 final, and Melonie beating Cornwall's No. 1 U17, Allison Clemens 2-straight for the first time. Our near neighbours, Avon, also had a notable win by their fine girl, Helen Perrott, from Bristol, beating Leanne Harman of Dorset and proceeding to the final against Juliet Houghton from Kent, who had, in turn, also reached the U14 final with Louise Davis.

Somerset and Avon Inter-Town Junior Div. 2

After a long lay-in on Sunday morning, some of our very young players were in action again against Bath 'B', contesting their final league fixture to decide who would be winners of this division. The match was a very close affair with the score swinging from one to the other throughout. We had a fine start with a win by Sean Jones but they gained it back to level. Then we won again through Paul Smith with a scintillating display of hitting, chopping and looping. This was followed by a fine win by Mandy Williams who pulled out all the stops in her set. Then we had a gripping match with Paul Fowler showing his great potential and surprising his older opponent by his quick reflexes, and although losing, was a credit to Bridgwater. There was a fine win by Rachael Scott, another of our good breed of youngsters (who is also a fine county tennis player) and another win by Smith gained us a well-earned draw, and I hope on count back of results a winning margin for the title.

I should like to say thanks to all the parents who turned up to watch and give support and encouragement to our team, and also assisting with the tea arrangements afterwards. And well done all the players!

Colin Taylor reports from . . .

CUMBRIA

The last but one round of County matches saw the Junior II side gain their first point of the season with a 5-5 draw against Cleveland II. Stephen Parker (B) excelled for Cumbria winning his two singles 21-17, 21-14 and 21-15, 12-21, 21-11 in the final set of the match. Norman McLeod (B) also deserves a mention winning one of his singles and the doubles partnered with Matthew Gale (W). Jane Usher (W) was Cumbria's other winner, beating her opposite No. 2, 21-16, 21-19. Karen Backhouse (B) also gave a good display narrowly losing 19-21, 21-15, 18-21 against a strong opponent in Ann Pashley, and partnered with Usher just failed in the doubles 21-19, 20-22, 16-21.

The Junior I side did better against the same Cleveland II side to record a 9-1 victory. After Stephen Holland (W) lost the opening set 21-23, 15-21 to the visitors No. 1, all the other sets went to Cumbria without the loss of a game. From the Cumbria players, namely Ian Sharp (M), Chris Brockbank (B), Stephen Holland, Debbie Soothill (W) and Claire May (B), special mention goes to Sharpe and Miss Soothill for outstanding displays. The Junior I side did not fare as well against Cheshire, losing 3-7. Once again Debbie Soothill was unbeaten in singles and doubles. The only

other set to go Cumbria's way was a win for Stephen Holland 22-20, 22-20. Ian Sharp was out of luck in his singles to lose 21-15, 13-21, 19-21 and 18-21, 20-22 against the visitors No. 2 and No. 1 respectively.

The Senior Team without Neil Smith were overwhelmed 0-10 at Warwickshire. Only David Hillbeck (W) provided some resistance, with both his singles going to three games.

In the last round of County matches the Junior I team lost 3-7 at Derbyshire. Yet again Ian Sharp and Debbie Soothill turned in good performances to win all their singles in straight games, but the rest of the team found the opposition a lot tougher and were unable to add a single game.

The Junior II side also found the going tough at Northumberland, losing 0-10. Karen Backhouse gave a good show losing 18-21, 21-23 to her opposite No. 1.

With only one match remaining Debbie Soothill will be out to retain her unbeaten singles record in the Junior team, having won 7 out of 7, with just one doubles defeat in 7 matches also.

The Cumbria Closed Tournament at Millom School went fairly predictably with Debbie Soothill appearing in six out of ten finals and winning five of them, three in singles events and 2 in doubles. All five victories were achieved in two straight games underlining her superiority. Her final scores were as follows - 21-15, 21-12 against Mary McPortland (B) in the Ladies Singles. 21-13, 21-19, against Claire May in the Girls' Singles. 21-8, 21-6 against Darren Kelly (M) in the U14 singles. 21-13, 21-17 partnered with Stephen Holland against Alan Manson (B) and Mary McPortland in the mixed doubles, and 21-7, 21-15 partnered with Mary McPortland against Joanne Miller and Dawn Yardley (B) in the women's doubles. The one that got away was the Junior Doubles event in which Ian Sharp and Chris Brockbank beat Debbie Soothill and Stephen Holland in the final 21-10, 21-14.

Sharp made it two out of two finals with an impressive 21-13, 21-13 win over Chris Brockbank in the Boys' Singles event.

Neil Smith (M) also had two out of two finals to his credit, beating Tim Pachul (M) 21-18, 22-20 in the Men's Singles. Semi-finalists in the men's singles were Stan Halesworth (B) who narrowly lost to Smith 17-21, 21-19, 18-21 and Roger Stewart (C) who lost to Pachul 12-21, 15-21. Stuart had beaten the No. 3 seed Eddie O'Hara (B) 21-8, 21-17 in the quarter-final. Smith's other win was the Men's Doubles partnered with Pachul they beat Andrew Murphy (B) and Neil Yardley (B) 21-18, 21-16. Murphy and Yardley had a particularly tough route to the final beating No. 2 seeds Stan Halesworth and Alan Manson in the 2nd round and David Hillbeck with Shaun Ellison (W) 21-17, 21-17 in the semi-final.

Eddie O'Hara got some consolation for his defeat in the men's singles by winning the Veteran singles 21-23, 21-19, 21-13 against Peter Buxton (B).

League news from Carlisle is that Scotby 'A' comprising of Ian Brown, Ian Oliver and David Kirkpatrick still lead division one with 36 pts. from 19 games, and look certain to retain the League Championship. Racecourse 'B' have moved into 2nd place two points ahead of Scotby 'C', but have played two matches more. Racecourse's Roger Stewart is having a good season and is

leading the averages with 56 wins out of 57 games, and he has also just won the Men's Singles in the Cumbria Investment City Closed Championships. Losing finalist was Alec Craib (Scotby 'C'). Jose Dymond (Chapelcross) beat Jennie Gallagher (Nalgo) in the Ladies' Singles final. The Men's Doubles was won by Ian Brown partnered with Paul Watson (Scotby 'C') against Roger Stewart and Ian Oliver. Winner of the Under-15 and Under-17 titles was Stuart Sayer (Chapelcross) who has accomplished this feat for the past three years. News 'A' lead division two with a 100% record and look certain to be playing in division one next season.

The Whitehaven division one leaders are Kells Methodists 'A' lead by Stephen Crosby and they are favourites to retain their League title having beaten nearest rivals Telecom 'A' 7-3 earlier this season. Jimmy Cummings (Marchon) presently heads the averages with only one defeat against his name, that being at the hands of Stephen Crosby who lies second having lost three games. In division two Kells Methodists 'C' need one more point for promotion and look certain to get it from their final opponents Telecom 'B'. Whitehaven News lie second having already lost twice to the leaders, albeit by narrow margins. Mick Boyd (Kells M. 'C') leads the averages with 100% followed by Alan Irvine (Whitehaven News) 97% and George Bell (YMCA Aces) 95%.

The Halsall Cup Competition has reached the semi-final stage and the draw is Telecom 'A' v Windscale and Kells Methodists 'A' v D.H.S.S. D.H.S.S. being the only 2nd division side left in the competition.

Code:

B—Barrow, C—Carlisle, M—Millom, W—Westmorland.

Les D'Arcy reports from . . .

YORKSHIRE

SPOTLIGHT ON THE LEAGUES

Pride of place this month goes to the Barnsley Table Tennis League which has recently completed a fantastic week of table tennis to celebrate the League's Golden Jubilee. The Event was organised by League Chairman, Jim Summerscales, Janet Hampshire and Geoff Williams with valuable help from Val Summerscales, Ernest Hampshire and other League members.

Although the emphasis of the week's activities was on youth with Geoff Williams and Geoff Bubb coping manfully organising events for a hundred young hopefuls each day, other age groups were not neglected. Several tournaments were organised from schools' to super veterans' level for players of pre 1939 vintage, the latter event being won by Randy Banford with Alan Cooke, 2nd. League President, Alan made his usual outstanding contribution to table tennis by producing a booklet on 50 years of Barnsley League Highlights. Alan traces the growth of the League from 1933 when there were only eight teams which grew to a hundred and twelve in ten divisions by 1978-79 the League's peak season. His facts about Barnsley players who have achieved distinction include Mrs. Caroline Cooke who in 1953 became the first Barnsley player to win an English Open when she won the women's veterans tilte. Miss Pat Dainty became the second one

when she won the junior girls' doubles with Miss J. Kruger of West Germany in 1964. Florence Wright gained a first when she represented England in 1954 in a junior international against Germany. Alan Hydes, after making 21 junior appearances for England became Barnsley's only senior international to achieve an outstanding 101 appearances. At county level, Alan has also the additional distinction of being the youngest player to play for Yorkshire's 1st Team and is the only person to have gained the Les Forrest Memorial Award for service to table tennis on two occasions.

Event winners at the Jubilee were as follows:

Draw Doubles:

Brian Starkie/Richard Shirt bt Brian Isam/Ian Liversage.

Junior Schools Team Champions:

Mapplewell (H. Shadbolt, K. and M. Summerscales).

Hard Bat Championship:

Brian Starkie bt Nicky Newton.

Youth Cup Team Champions:

Silkstone Y.C. (J. McIver, C. Hoggard, N. Oades).

Veterans' Championships:

Mick Carr bt Brian Starkie.

Women's Championship:

Eileen Starkie bt Loraine Andrews.

Senior Schools Team Champions:

Penistone Grammar (R. Ackroyd, J. Haigh, J. McIver).

Players entering League after 1961 event:

Ian Denton bt Neil Wesson.

Winners of other competitions were: A. Wesson, J. Beecroft, R. Wilcockson, A. Beaumont, J. Courtney and K. Exley. Most improved players were: A. Beaumont and A. Marshall.

One of the highlights of the week was a table tennis exhibition given by Alan Hydes and several of the League players, showing how the game had evolved from hard bat techniques to the modern looping styles.

Chairman Jim Summerscales, his Committee and all those who helped to make the Barnsley League's Golden Jubilee such a great success receive our sincere congratulations and best wishes for the future.

HARROGATE

Nigel Pennock, who has registered some sterling performances in the Yorkshire Premier Division this season, showed that he is becoming a force to be reckoned with by taking the Harrogate Closed Men's Singles when defeating John Troughton 21-17, 17-21, 21-16.

Nigel is a quiet, unassuming champion who seems to have made tremendous progress with the minimum of practice. This important win could be just the confidence booster which Nigel needs to move into a higher class.

Although Richard Whitely, county player, missed the Championships his family were represented in four of the twelve finals. Andrew Whitely, age 12, took the U-12 and U-14 titles, but was beaten in the Divs. 4 to 6 final by M. Hewson. Mrs. Janet Whiteley rounded off the family's successes by taking the women's handicap singles against Sandra Jackson, 21-12 in the third.

Other RESULTS:

Ladies' Singles:

Lou Smith bt Judith Coy 21-18, 21-15.

U-17 Boys' Singles:

David Scruton.

Open Doubles:

Cliff Twineham/Keith Bell.

Mixed Doubles:

Mick Hick/Lou Smith.

Handicap Doubles:

M. Hewson/A. Lovell.

Handicap Singles:

Divs. 1 to 3 B. Clarke.

Veterans' Singles:

D. Rider.

SELBY

The progressive Selby T.T. League continues to move forward and has established a coaching centre with nine tables. Forty players attended one session and about eighty different youngsters between six and sixteen have taken part in coaching at the Selby Centre under the direction of Regional Coach, Mike Wilcockson, League Chairman, Mike Hanley, League Secretary, Ray Gilyeat and Peter Harpham. One of the County's top players, Julie McLean (Selby High) and Mr. R. Hewitt (Brayton High) are helping in the development of coaching at school level.

Judging by the success of young players at the recent Selby Closed Championships, coaching is paying off. County player, Mike Emmerson in his first year as a senior had another excellent day to retain his men's singles title and the under 21 years singles in addition to taking the Handicap Singles and the men's doubles with D. Jackson.

15 year old Mandy Holmes won the ladies' singles and then gained county recognition against Northamptonshire Juniors.

Other event winners: Veterans Roger Hewitt, U-14's Ian Mason, U-12 Singles Chris Hewitt, Div. 2 Singles Ian Mason, Consolation Singles Dave Brady.

Sturge T.T.C. is once again the most successful Selby table tennis club with two teams leading the League Championship. The Club's top trio (M. Emmerson, N. Thorn and M. Wilcockson) have reached the last eight of the Yorkshire Clubs' Knock-out Championships and are firmly established in Division 2 of the Yorkshire League after gaining promotion last season. The most successful of Selby's Yorkshire League sides this season has been the newly formed cadet team with Ian Mason, Martin Carling, Alan Dobson and Sharon Phillipson winning all Selby's matches in the Cadets' 2nd Division and are well placed to win the Championship in their first season. Selby Juniors after winning the Yorkshire League Division 2 title last season are showing good form in Division 1 with Steve Emmerson and Mandy Holmes leading the way.

The Selby Management Committee are also to be congratulated on organising the annual Selby Junior Open, sponsored by the Yorkshire Evening Press, with a prize fund this year of 215 pounds. Newly qualified umpires Stan Newman and Ray Gilyeat look like being in great demand.

For a league with only eight clubs, twenty two teams and ninety players the achievements of Selby T.T.L. are indeed commendable and will become even more so in the future.

PONTEFRAC

A few weeks ago I had the pleasure of talking to Tony Trigg the new press officer of the Pontefract and Castleford TT League and to Denis Wright one of the League's most energetic and respected veterans. Both spoke in glowing terms about a player who had been playing in their league for

almost sixty years and was still going strong for Castleford YMCA, the Club he joined all those years ago.

George Simpson at 71 years of age is easily the oldest player in the League, but he has no thoughts on retiring, "I'll carry on as long as I enjoy it", he says.

Back in the 1930's George was without doubt the best player in the area, appeared regularly for West Yorkshire and was twice selected for the full county side in 1936. He had a graceful and fluent style executing all the strokes on both wings with unhurried ease, and according to Denis Wright, who is a member of the same club, still does. "He was so good" commented Denis "that in the handicap singles they used to put him on minus 25 with some of the other players on plus 16 in 21 up". Some player! What is the secret of his success? A former Chairman of the League, George has always shown an active interest in several sports and played cricket for Castleford for 30 years. He still continues his fitness training which includes two weight-training sessions a week plus a twenty minute jog. If the weather is bad he runs 'on the spot' on a piece of old carpet. Great idea George! I don't know how you feel about modern training methods, but you're sure to cope with the pimples out rubber, on the bat which has served you so well for 50 years.

What became of Don Ratcliffe, Ken Westmorland, Baker Aldersea and Dave Lorrimer who used to be with you and Denis Wright in the successful Y.M. team of the 1950's? Let me know sometime.

TSB CORNISH 2-STAR JUNIOR OPEN

DOUBLES FOR MARK AND JULIET

Played at the Carn Brea Leisure Centre, Redruth on March 19 the TSB Cornish 2-Star Junior Open attracted a goodly entry topped by 94 for the boys' singles won by **Mark Ellett** over his Devon teammate Gary Wilson in the final.

Juliet Houghton of Kent was the winner of the counterpart girls' event with a final victory over Helen Perrott of Avon. Both singles winners were again successful in the doubles, **Ellett**, paired with **Gary Lambert**, and Miss **Houghton** with **Louise Davis**.

Miss Davis also took the Cadet Girls' title, beating Miss Houghton in the final whilst Kent's **Karl Bull** was successful in the Cadet Boys' singles with a final win over Andrew Hunt of Launceston.

Not to be outdone by his sister **Andrew Houghton** claimed the U-12 boys' title beating Du Ly, another Launceston player, in the final. **Jane Wright** of Devon took the U-12 Girls' title the defeated finalist being Claire Brazier of Somerset.

RESULTS

Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

G. Lambert (Dv) bt L. Sadler (So) 15, 13;
G. Wilson (Dv) bt K. Buddell (Dv) 14, 17;
R. Thomas (Do) bt M. James (Co) -15, 16, 12;
M. Ellett (Dv) bt M. Campbell (Wa) 13, 9.

Semi-finals:

Wilson bt Lambert 21, 21;
Ellett bt Thomas 18, -18, 12.

Final:

ELLETT bt Wilson 19, 23.

Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

H. Perrott (Av) bt L. Harman (Do) 9, -19, 19;
D. Kratochvila (Dv) bt M. Carey (So) 12, 20;
L. Davis (Wo) bt S. Butler (Dv) 14, 14;

J. Houghton (K) bt M. Cohen (Av) 8, 18.

Semi-finals:

Perrott bt Kratochvila 15, 11;
Houghton bt Davis -15, 20, 16.

Final:

HOUGHTON bt Perrott 7, 15.

Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:

Ellett/Lambert bt Buddell/Wilson 19, 17;
James/G. Reed (Co) bt J. Hegarty (Do)/Thomas -12, 20, 17.

Final:

ELLETT/LAMBERT bt James/Reed 15, 12.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Butler/Kratochvila bt Harman/Perrott 22, 20;
Davis/Houghton bt A. Clemens (Co)/Cohen 15, 16.

Final:

DAVIS/HOUGHTON bt Butler/Kratochvila 21, 19.

Cadet Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

A. Hunt (Co) bt D. Webster (Gn) 19, 14;
A. Houghton (K) bt K. Roberts (Gn) 14, 18;
L. Jose (Co) bt P. Payne (So) 17, 18;
K. Ball (K) bt Phong Tran (Co) 22, 17.

Semi-finals:

Hunt bt Houghton 19, -13, 12;
Ball bt Jose 16, 13.

Final:

BALL bt Hunt 15, 18.

Cadet Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

Davis bt C. Brazier (So) 7, 6;
Carey bt K. Broczek (Co) 14, 18;
S. Webb (So) bt F. Stuart (So) 16, 8;
Houghton bt D. Elward (Gn) 8, 6.

Semi-finals:

Davis bt Carey 21, 22;
Houghton bt Webb 9, 13.

Final:

DAVIS bt Houghton 17, 17.

U-12 Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:

Houghton bt M. Bawden (Co) 8, 11;
P. Smith (So) bt C. White (Dv) 10, 7;
S. Appleby (Co) bt N. Bevan (Co) 12, -20, 5;
Du Ly (Co) bt W. Wright (Dv) 11, 12.

Semi-finals:

Houghton bt Smith 12, 7;
Du Ly bt Appleby 16, 9.

Final:

HOUGHTON bt Du Ly 16, 15.

U-12 Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:

J. Wright (Dv) bt Elward 14, 16;
T. Sadler (Co) bt L. Clarke (Co) 12, 17;
M. Broczek (Co) w.o. S. Anderson (Co);
Brazier bt H. Wright (Dv) 8, 7.

Semi-finals:

J. Wright bt Sadler 8, 12;
Brazier bt Broziak -18, 17, 11.

Final:

J. WRIGHT bt Brazier 5, 13.

IT'S HEAVENLY AT ST. NEOTS

... writes Philip Reid

It all started when Leslie Smith decided to have the County Championships meeting at St. Neots. I knew vaguely where St. Neots was somewhere between Bedford and Cambridge and a regular haunt of veteran expedite expert Mike Jackson, who lives at the latter place. I decided, seeing that the Junior play-offs would take place the whole week-end that rather than dash back the same day I'd book in at my own expense at a hotel and have a more leisurely time. I'm glad I did. Having made my way to St. Neots and nearing the place I suddenly saw a car open its welcoming doors. "Jump in — I'll take your bag". The Good Samaritan was none other than genial Stan Parr, who was on duty that weekend. "Oh yes, you'll get in at a hotel all right. Try the 'George' at Buckden. Les and I have booked there. I'll get the phone number for you". This was typical of Stan's thoughtfulness and he gave examples of it throughout the weekend.

At St. Neots I was immediately impressed by the organisation and friendliness of the place. A grey-haired gentleman who between washing up and fetching cups into the canteen, introduced himself as the President of St. Neots. And what a place this canteen is. Several dedicated women worked tirelessly to ensure everybody was

happy and indeed they were. The prices were very reasonable indeed and the mid-day lunch — for £1.25 — was sumptuous. Chairman of the County Championships (Ian Whiteside) praised these hard-working ladies in his vote of thanks, to generous applause. You deserved every decibal ladies! I wandered round to the bar where I had my favourite tippie (barley wine) and again the friendship of St. Neots was evident.

However in the afternoon I participated in what I had really come for — the committee meeting. Aply chaired by Ian Whiteside (you were only joking about not standing for re-election weren't you Ian? I mean, it wouldn't be the same without you) with Stan Parr and Les Smith also in evidence. Les not only attended as County Championship Administrator but also took on the job of referee! After the meeting I wandered round and met several non-playing captains, the men who get no reward for their ceaseless hours of dedication, other than seeing their pupils improve. Mr. Corner (Surrey), Mr. Holden (Cleveland) were there — oh and my old pal Alan Fisher, of Kent. Yorkshire were leading the field and with Steven Sharpe — now ranked fifth England junior — I wasn't surprised. "He won't lose any this weekend" I said. In fact he lost one in the very match I was watching — to Middlesex's Nigel Tyler. "I've lost to him before" said Steve. But Nigel was due to go for Welsh trials on the Sunday although he stayed long enough to ensure that Middlesex took the only point Yorkshire dropped.

There was the unusual spectacle of two juniors defending — Graham Barnes (Sussex) and David Goode (Middlesex). Goode particularly impressed me. Not afraid to give the ball plenty of air, nor to come in for a telling kill, here is a player of the future. His only fault, as far as I can see, is a tiny bit of temperament which could easily be interpreted as fight. A thrilling game with Anthony Wattis, the Cleveland No. 1 was worth going a long way to see. At night we went to the comfortable 'George Hotel' at Buckden where we rested our weary legs — and replenished our parched throats — at the bar. On Sunday it was much as before but one thing struck me. These youngsters, playing in competitive table tennis have a tremendous chance to show their paces. Unlike tournaments in which they can get knocked out early or play some players who would, with respect, not grace their local league, they play several matches, all competitive. And the excited looks on their relaxed faces as they chatted excitedly to their friends told the whole story.

If nothing else, this festival of table tennis is worth continuing for that reason alone. Yorkshire looked champions but even their most avid supporter could not have imagined their 'needle' match with Devon — who they beat 9-1 — would be routed so comprehensively. Only the boys' doubles went to the Western county. As I looked at St. Neots Table Tennis Club I could only marvel at the twenty or so enthusiasts who had made this palace of table tennis possible and indeed are continuing to make it possible. The matches over, it was time to say 'Goodbye' to the many friendly faces I had encountered. Les Smith kindly took me to Bedford station and as I climbed the stairs I thought 'Well — that's it for now'. But not for ever.

REFLECTIONS ON AN INTERNATIONAL

by David Cosway
Chairman, Southampton T.T.A.

"Table Tennis: European Super League (Eastleigh) West Germany bt England 6-1"

That was the extent of National press coverage in the average morning paper. If you pay more for your daily paper you may have had the benefit of slightly more detailed coverage, but if your daily paper is of a popular variety that starts on page 3 not even the result was published.

But what lies behind the match? What can you expect if your Association, like mine in Southampton, decide they would like International Table-Tennis in their area. We applied during last season to the ETТА for a European Match to celebrate our Golden Jubilee season and heard in May 1982 that we had been given the Federal German match in March 1983. So we were given plenty of time for the organisation — or so we thought!

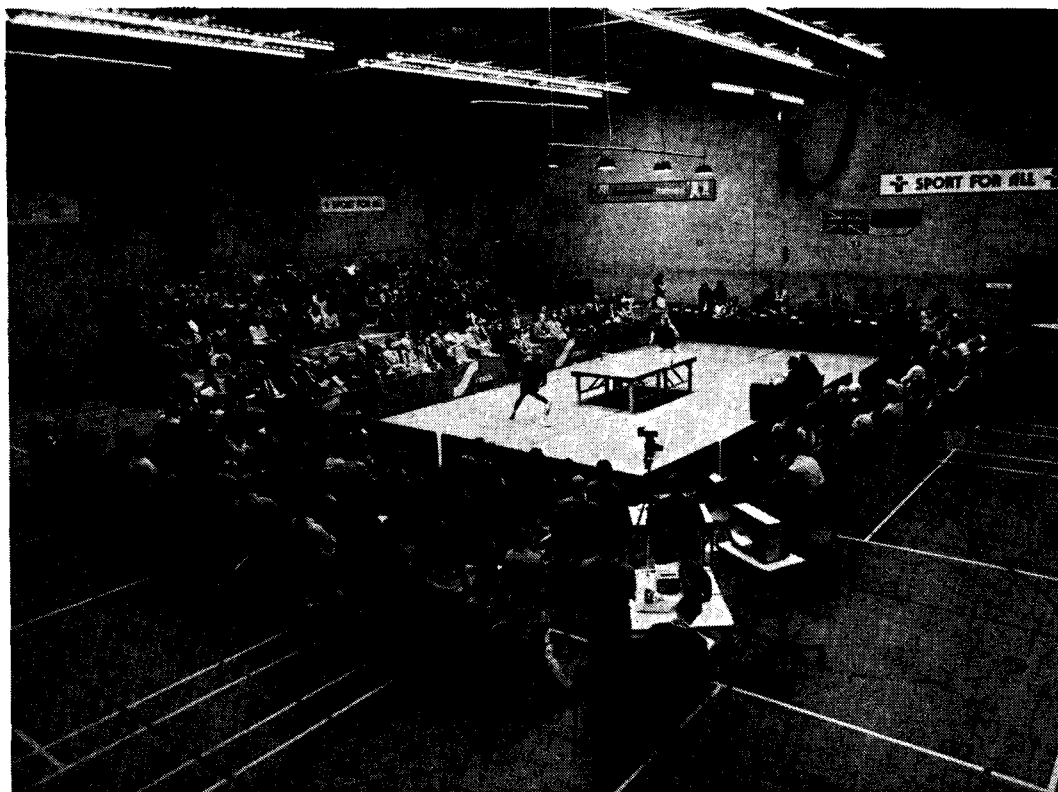
The first thing to realise however, is that the match will be expensive. By the time you pay the ETТА for the privilege of staging the match for them, hire the venue, book the players and officials into a top hotel for two days, print a programme, hold a reception and provide pocket money and gifts for the players, you have spent in excess of £4,000! With gates now plummeting well below the 1,000 once expected, you must budget for a crowd of 500-600, the average over the last few seasons. With some spectators quibbling about paying the £3 or £4 we charged for tickets you will quickly appreciate that the books do not balance. Your main priority therefore is to obtain sponsorship. This can either be in money, kind or advertisements in the programme. In Southampton we were approached by a marketing company who agreed to deal with the whole Golden Jubilee season for us — obtain sponsors, print our handbook and match programme and relieve our Association of all the worries! Unfortunately after promises of untold wealth, coming our way, the marketing company went broke. We had therefore lost a great deal of time and were faced at the start of this season with fending for ourselves. We soon obtained help from local companies. Bourne Plasterers agreed to pay for the reception after the match; Ottos Winetasting Warehouse agreed to provide the wine for the reception and L. S. Vail and Son the free printing of the programme. Beneficial terms were negotiated with the Crest Hotel for the accommodation and meals and several adverts were promised for the programme. We were still however short of a major sponsor, and it was not until January of this year that IBM United Kingdom Limited came into the picture and offered the financial assistance which meant that the Southampton Table-Tennis Association would not celebrate its Golden Jubilee by following the marketing company into liquidation.

The next major hurdle to overcome is obtaining a suitable venue. No trouble you might say, Southampton — premier port of the South Coast, "gateway to the Empire"! There must be a suitable hall to accommodate our match in a City of that stature. But no! No indoor sports centre, and no conference centre. The only possibility was the Guildhall but the cost of importing tiered seats into the hall made it completely uneconomic. So we had to go outside the City and return to Eastleigh's Fleming Park Sports Centre, where we had successfully staged two other similar events.

This was no hardship for the help and expertise we receive from Bob Millard, the Sports Centre Manager, makes life a lot easier than going cold into a new venue. Since our previous matches in Eastleigh the new Crest Hotel had been built next door to the sports centre which helped, with no transport problems between the hotel and the match. So the sports centre was booked. Then came the shock of its cost, well over double the previous occasion. By this time however, we had no option but to confirm the booking.

So with a month to go to the match the printing of the programme had to be organised. This season we found for the first time that the ETТА were not to provide the main programme but the organising association had to print the whole thing. This more than doubled our estimated printing expenditure but fortunately the printers agreed to still cover the whole of the cost, and as we then did not have to pay the ETТА for their part of the programme this worked in our favour. We wanted photographs and pen pictures of the two teams and these were provided by the English and German Associations. Both sets of photos however, were a bit dated and did not include some of the players who eventually played. This surprised us with National Associations. The time had now come to start the pre-match publicity and we looked for the lead to the ETТА. It was

here we first encountered the "Carl Prean Factor". As you know Carl is a local lad. He started his Table-Tennis with Hampshire and although the Isle of Wight has gone independent he is still looked upon as a Hampshire player who has come good. We don't get many of those in this area and when the ETТА provided programme notes including Carl and stated he could make his European debut in our match, we were naturally pleased, as local interest is always a crowd puller. The local press and television caught on and promised full coverage spurred on by press releases from the ETТА. Great we thought! At last the ETТА are getting commercially minded and have thought a full house with a local player making his debut must be good for the game. With Carl at No. 3 in the Lentec rankings, semi-finalist in the English closed, and with numerous good wins over European players, no one could say he had not earned his selection, especially as England were safe from relegation after their win in Denmark. Then came the bomb-shell, Carl was not playing. Immediately TVS lost interest. National Press coverage concentrated on who was not playing — Carl Prean and Jill Parker, rather than who was. This does not help sell tickets. What made matters worse was the announcing of a friendly against Germany, the day following our match, only just down the road at Lancing with Carl Prean selected! To say we were not amused, at the time, is a considerable understatement. Ironically though Carl went down with tonsillitis, so he did not play in Lancing and could not have played in our match. Fortunately press officer Brian Lamerton pushed things locally both on Radio Solent and in the local press and things started to look up. Why though was so little made of Lisa Bellinger? 16 on the day of the match, and making her home European League debut, surely that deserved some publicity, and the day before the match we got excellent coverage in the



View of the England v Federal Germany match at Eastleigh.

Photo by Simon Barnett, Copnor, Portsmouth.

Southern Evening Echo. Mike Watts, met the German team at London Airport and transported them to the Crest Hotel where the STTA organising committee joined the two teams for dinner.

At 7.00 a.m. on the day of the match, Alan Waters starts setting up the lighting for the venue, another expense now to be borne by the organisers. Alan also brings the tables, nets and surrounds provided by the European League Sponsors, Stiga. The sports centre staff set up the arena and it is here that their expertise is shown. When we looked in, with the two teams at 9.00 p.m. the evening before, hockey and badminton were still in progress, but by lunch time on the day of the match the arena was ready for the expected 600/700 spectators. During the morning the two teams practiced on two tables at the side of the hall from 10.00 to 1.00. After lunch at the Crest, the German players do not wish to practice but at 3.30 the English players returned for a further knock by now in the centre of the arena.

The sports centre provided tea and sandwiches for the players before they departed to prepare for the match.

The doors opened at 6.30 for a 7.30 start. We decided on 7.30 to enable spectators to come from a wider area after work but this did not help with national press deadlines. We had £3 seats at each end with £4 seats at the sides. Guest's seats were reserved but all others were un-numbered. With tickets out to so many people we considered it impractical to number the seats. We had the normal problem with sports centre seating — not the most comfortable for a long match. Although the Sports Centre provided some staff our committee members were responsible for meeting guests, showing spectators to seats, selling tickets on the door etc. We also provided juniors both to head the two teams and

hand out the programmes. The programmes incidentally were included in the price of the tickets, which saved the problem of having to collect money on the day, and guaranteed a 100% "sale" to spectators — a factor with advertisers. We also sold tickets for our jubilee draw and had a stand selling ETTA souvenirs etc. but unfortunately the February/March Table-Tennis News did not arrive as hoped.

So to the match reported (elsewhere) previously. Suffice to say England just did not live up to expectations and the better team on the night won.

80-90 guests, players, officials, etc. were expected for the reception in the Sports Centre Restaurant after the match, but I reckon about 120 arrived. As the "gate crashers" were all table-tennis people I for one did not complain! We had decided to have the reception at the Sports Centre rather than the Hotel firstly because it was on the spot, and secondly because it was half the cost. The Sports Centres Restaurant Manager put on a great spread including a special iced cake she made herself. Then came the speeches. The Eastleigh Mayor who naturally and rightly boasted about his town's fine Sports Centre, and Southampton's lack of one. Tom Blunn, who kindly did not mention that for the second time he had to find his own way from the station to the venue by Taxi after he caught a different train to that advised to us. Then Ray Yates, the Southampton Association President thanked all who had worked to make the event a success. Finally the new German Association General Secretary, a charming gentleman, Norbert Wolf, ashamed us all by giving a speech in fluent English. This was his and his wife's first trip abroad and the first time they had flown. What a fine ambassador for his Country and our sport. So off went the teams and officials the following morning to the friendly at

Lancing. The end of almost a year of work for my Association.

So it was all over. A great deal of hard work, a lot of worry and financial risk to the STTA. A fair crowd of about 500 to 600 put us just about in a break even situation. So was it all worth while? Of course! I think all involved enjoyed the experience and would not have missed it for the world. Next time though we will make sure we get a sponsor first and then think of running our next international. I can not afford to lose much more hair!

WHAT'S ON AND WHERE

- April
- 16 National Council Meeting (London).
 - 16 West of Scotland Youth and Junior 1-Star Open, Castlemilk Youth Centre, Dougrie Road, Castlemilk, Glasgow.
 - 16/17 Essex Junior 'Select' Open, Harlow Sports Centre, Hammarskjold Road, Harlow, Essex. From 9 a.m. each day. Finals 6.30 p.m. Sunday.
 - 17/23 7th COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS, National Stadium, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.
 - 17 Hartlepool 1-Star Open (Hartlepool, Teesside).
 - 23 South Yorkshire 2-Star Open (Concord Sports Centre, Sheffield). Details from Mr. S. Wainwright, 129 Mount View Road, Sheffield S8 8PJ. Phone: 0742-585260.
 - 23/24 Tunbridge Wells Junior 2-Star Open (Tunbridge, Kent). Details from E. Peerless, Cairn Villa, School Lane, Crowborough, East Sussex TN6 1PA.
 - 28 - May 9 37th WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, Yoyogi National Stadium, Tokyo, Japan.
 - 30 The Evening Chronicle Northumberland 2-Star Open, Concordia Leisure Centre, Crumlington, Northumberland. Details from Mr. A. Drapkin, 49 Beach Avenue, Whitley Bay, Tyne & Wear NE26 1DZ. Phone: 0632-514983. Prize Fund £1005. MS Winner £225.
 - 30 - May 1 ENGLISH SCHOOLS INDIVIDUAL CHAMPIONSHIPS (Mansfield Leisure Centre).
 - 30 - May 1 Hollington Junior 1-Star Open (Hastings). Details from ETTA Office.
- May
- 7/8 Yorkshire Junior 'Select' Open, Y.P.I. Ferens Recreation Centre, Chatterlands Avenue North, Hull. Details from Mr. R. Balmford, 30 Glebe Road, Wavne, Hull HU7 5XR. Phone: 0482-821279.
 - 13/15 Scandinavian Junior Open (Roskilde, Denmark).
 - 21/22 ENGLISH JUNIOR OPEN The Worthing Sports Centre, Worthing, West Sussex. Sponsored by Worthing Borough Council. Details from ETTA Office, 21 Claremont, Hastings, East Sussex TN34 1HA (Phone: 0424-433121).
- June
- 4/5 ETTA Referees and Umpires Conference (Coventry).
 - 5 National League Championships Finals.
 - 11 County Championships Conference (London).

THREE-IN-A-ROW

Fleetwood, for the third successive season, won the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy on March 19 when, at Bamber Bridge, they defeated Bolton 5-1 in the semi-final and Warrington 5-2 in the final. Warrington had accounted for Stockport 5-0 in the other semi.

Roy Frankland, Brian Carney, Steve Bevan and Christine Peacock comprised Fleetwood's team.

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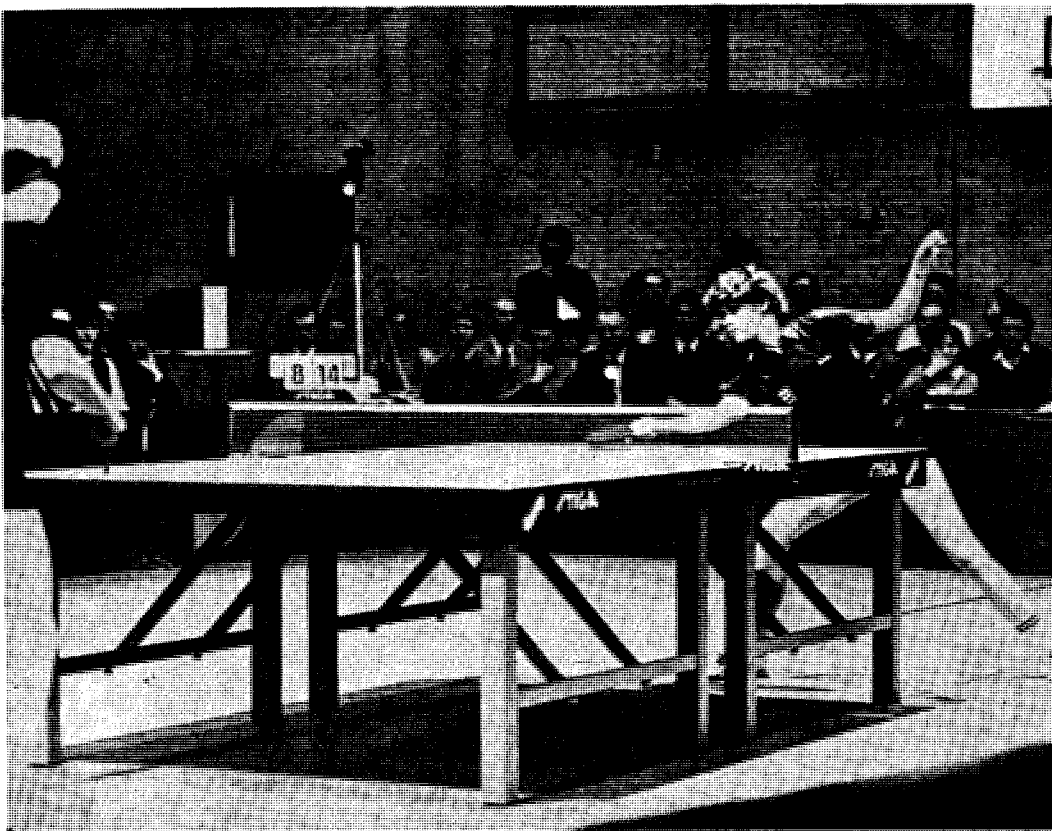
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Lisa Bellinger stretches to retrieve on her European League debut against Susanne Wenzel of Federal Germany.

Photo by Inter Action Photos.

'LENTEC' JUNIOR COMPUTER RANKINGS

NO CHANGE AT THE TOP

In all four categories of the junior sphere no changes have been effected in the previous No. 1's with **Carl Preat**, **Lisa Bellinger**, **Andrew Syed** and **Jill Powis** still dominating.

Elsewhere there have been some remarkable ups and downs particularly in the boys' list with **Darren Griffin** jumping up from No. 25 to No. 9 — a leap of 16 places — closely followed by **Stuart Worrall** with a jump of 15 places from No. 30 to No. 15 whilst **Gary Wilson** moves from No. 21 to No. 10.

On the downward trend **Steven Dettmar** has the dubious distinction of losing the most places coming down from No. 9 to No. 28 a displacement of 19 positions. **Jeffrey Thatcher** loses 14 places, from No. 10 to No. 24 and **Dipak Topiwala** drops down 12 positions from No. 14 to No. 26.

At the sharp end of the boys' list **Alan Cooke** replaces **Nicky Mason** at No. 2 and likewise in the girls' list **Susan Collier** takes over from **Jean Parker** at No. 2. **Matthew Syed** jumps from No. 5 to No. 2 in the cadet boys' behind his brother, **Andrew**, **Johnathon Bult** moves up 6 places, from No. 16 to No. 10 whilst **Sean Gibson** takes 8 strides in lifting himself from No. 24 to No. 16.

Debbie Soothill, in the cadet girls, takes over from **Louise Davis** as the No. 2 and this from her previous 7th placing. But the biggest leap has been performed by **Sarah Hammond** from No. 14 to No. 6.

RANKINGS

Boys

	Points
1 Carl Preat (IOW) (1)	415
2 Alan Cooke (Dy) (4)	407.5
3 Nicky Hoare (Sy) (2)	387
4 Steven Sharpe (Y) (5)	381
5 Gary Lambert (Dv) (3)	365.5
6 Billy Gleave (Ch) (6)	352.5
7 Philip Huggon (La) (7)	347
8 Philip Gunn (Wa) (8)	334
9 Darren Griffin (Gs) (25)	292.5
10 Gary Wilson (Dv) (21)	279.5
11 Andrew Cunningham (K) (11)	276
12 Andrew Dodd (K) (17)	271
13 Richard Hayward (St) (23)	268.5
14 Keith Samuels (Bd) (24)	266
15 Stuart Worrall (Li) (30)	264
16 Martin Firth (Y) (18)	263
17 Andrew Sexton (Sy) (16)	260
18 Mark Ellett (Dv) (13)	258
19 Andrew Syed (Bk) (26)	256
20 David Rook (Y) (12)	253
21 David Blackburne (Du) (31)	249
22 Darren McVitie (Du) (15)	246
23 Mark Randle (Wa) (28)	245
24 Jeffrey Thatcher (Y) (10)	240
25 Michael Thomas (Wa) (19)	240
26 Dipak Topiwala (K) (14)	219
27 Chris Bartram (K) (20)	218
28 Steven Dettmar (E) (9)	204
29 Murray Jukes (Wo) (29)	190
30 Phillip Logsdon (Nk) (22)	178.5
31 Richard Tilford (Ng) (27)	170.5
32 Lee Neil (Ng) (32)	153
33 Paul Ashcroft (La) (34)	153
34 Neil McMaster (Nd) (33)	142
35 Philip Aspinall (La) (35)	140
36 Philip Cole (Hu) (36)	139
37 Jimmy Stokes (Bk) (37)	134
38 Julian Wheel (Ca) (38)	127
39 Jaskaran Singh (Wa) (39)	127
40 Adrian Dixon (St) (40)	116
41 David Dewsbury (Sy) (41)	112
42 Rodney Thomas (Do) (42)	109
43 Richard Darnell (E) (43)	107
44 Anthony Wattis (Cv) (44)	107
45 Peter Holliday (Ca) (45)	94
46 Kevin Cartwright (St) (46)	93.5
47 Graeme McKim (Np) (47)	86
48 Peter Bannister (K) (48)	82
49 Christ Metcalfe (Cv) (49)	80
50 Clifford Grant (Wa) (50)	70



Teresa Moore of Sussex up to No. 10 from her previous sixteenth position.

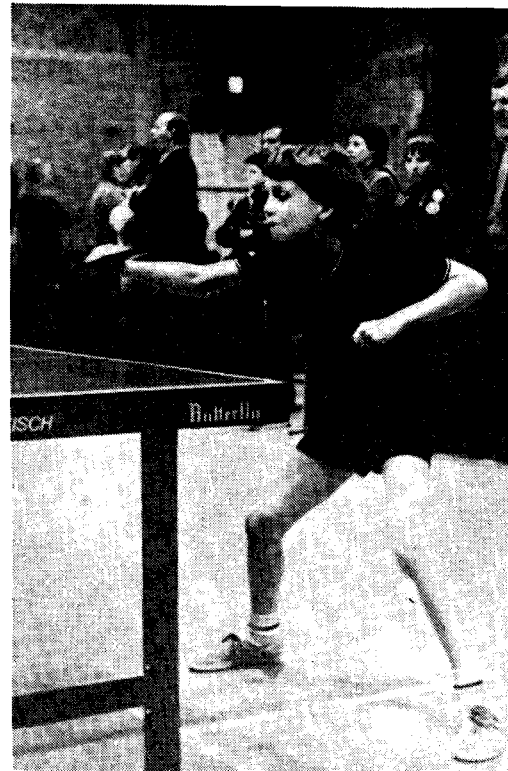
Photo by Leo Black, London W11.

Girls

	Points
1 Lisa Bellinger (Bd) (1)	376
2 Susan Collier (Bk) (3)	365
3 Jean Parker (La) (2)	349
4 Jill Powis (St) (4)	287
5 Helen Bardwell (He) (6)	261.5
6 Fiona Elliot (St) (8)	255
7 Melonie Seaton (Y) (9)	243.5
8 Tracy Lightfoot (Ch) (7)	241.5
9 Joanne Shaw (Y) (13)	225
10 Teresa Moore (Sx) (16)	225
11 Rachel Brook (Y) (14)	220
12 Josette Ryalls (Y) (11)	214.5
13 Nina Tsakarisianos (Gs) (5)	203
14 Amanda Hegarty (St) (15)	196
15 Claire Mouzon (Nd) (17)	193.5
16 To Thuy Dung (Dy) (18)	186
17 Laura Goldsmith (Mi) (12)	176
18 Alison Boxall (He) (24)	160
19 Michele Hams (Sy) (10)	159
20 Louise Davis (Wo) (19)	132
21 Tracy Spencer (St) (29)	131
22 Amanda Judd (Ca) (20)	121.5
23 Lesley Popkiewicz (Sy) (30)	109
24 Angela Sanders (St) (21)	108
25 Nikki Hamilton (Bu) (22)	107
26 Leanne Harman (Do) (23)	105
27 Debbie Soothill (Cu) (25)	93
28 Debbie Simmons (Sy) (26)	83
29 Lisa Hayden (E) (27)	77
30 Rachel Knight (Mi) (28)	77
31 Alison Barker (Sp) (31)	67
32 Jane Mills (Sy) (32)	65
33 Jane Barella (Sy) (33)	62
34 Sarah O'Leary (Dv) (34)	61
35 Lisa Robins (Bd) (35)	51
36 Mary Denbow (Ox) (36)	46
37 Ruth Hunter (Nk) (37)	43
38 Alison Clemens (Co) (38)	43
39 Juliet Houghton (K) (39)	43
40 Julie Shippey (Ng) (40)	41
41 Sally Weston (Sx) (—)	37
42 Fiona Sutton (Wa) (—)	31

Cadet Boys

	Points
1 Andrew Syed (Bk) (1)	381.5
2 Matthew Syed (Bk) (5)	310
3 Adrian Dixon (St) (3)	283.5
4 Paul Amos (K) (4)	279.5
5 Stuart Craggs (Cv) (6)	271
6 Jimmy Stokes (Bk) (2)	255.5
7 Michael Oxley (Wi) (9)	229
8 Karl Ball (K) (7)	210
9 Michael Rutherford (K) (8)	207
10 Johnathon Bult (Y) (16)	201
11 Greg Barden (K) (12)	192
12 Tony West (E) (11)	191
13 Bradley Billington (Dy) (10)	177
14 Michael O'Driscoll (Y) (18)	177
15 Nicholas Carr (Y) (19)	175.5
16 Sean Gibson (La) (24)	175
17 Kevin Lawrence (St) (14)	162.5
18 Matthew Harvey (St) (20)	151
19 Paul Gooding (Sk) (21)	138
20 Simon Jones (Ch) (17)	132
21 John Ferguson (K) (13)	121



Damian Holland of Essex still striving in the boys cadet list although down from No. 22 to No. 24.

Photo by Leo Black, London W11.

22 Sion Simon (Wa) (15)	117
23 Tim Shepherd (Ng) (23)	98
24 Damian Holland (E) (22)	74.5
25 Johnathon Goode (Mi) (25)	65
26 Ian Neate (Wi) (26)	58
27 Leon Jose (Co) (27)	54
28 David Watson (Nd) (28)	49
29 Alaric Bassano (Y) (30)	47
30 Raymond Powell (Wi) (29)	46
31 Neil Pickard (Nk) (31)	42
32 Mark Land (Y) (32)	40
33 Adrian Bolton (Ng) (36)	40
34 Paul Fisher (Sp) (33)	38
35 David Smedley (Dy) (34)	38
36 Kevin Gray (St) (35)	37
37 Peter Galica (Sy) (37)	32
38 Andrew Houghton (K) (38)	29

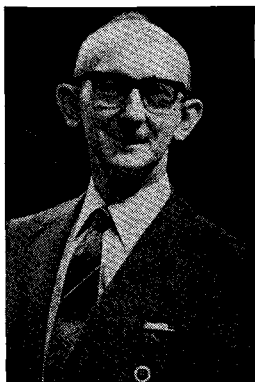
Cadet Girls

	Points
1 Jill Powis (St) (1)	417.5
2 Debbie Soothill (Cu) (7)	299.5
3 Louise Davis (Wo) (2)	295
4 Angela Sanders (St) (4)	273
5 Juliet Houghton (K) (3)	267.5
6 Sarah Hammond (Ha) (14)	259
7 Andria Holt (La) (8)	257.5
8 Lisa Hayden (E) (11)	254
9 Claire Potts (Ch) (6)	240
10 Rachel Knight (Mi) (9)	232
11 Lesley Souter (Mi) (5)	224
12 Alison Evans (Y) (12)	223
13 Helen Perrott (Av) (10)	221.5
14 Lisa Robins (Bd) (13)	188
15 Amanda Shuffebotham (Ox) (17)	162.5
16 Melania Carey (So) (16)	149.5
17 Sarah Webb (So) (15)	140
18 Jenny Eijery (Gs) (19)	130
19 Karen Wilde (Sy) (20)	120
20 Dawn Wickstead (Sp) (18)	111
21 Jane Roberts (Y) (21)	96
22 Helen Broomhead (Y) (28)	71
23 Tanya Holland (E) (22)	69
24 Helen Lower (St) (23)	68
25 Fiona Stuart (So) (24)	67
26 Angela Wattis (Cv) (25)	66
27 Hazel Kavanagh (Y) (26)	65
28 Karen Rogers (St) (27)	60
29 Joanne Cooke (E) (29)	46
30 Tracey Scott-Pawson (Do) (30)	46
31 Sarah Padley (Dy) (31)	38
32 Katrina Baker (Mi) (32)	36
33 Ruth Bray (Y) (33)	36
34 Andrea Wood (Dy) (34)	36
35 Kerry Hall (Dy) (35)	31
36 Debbie Ballard (Sx) (36)	28
37 Gillian Patten (E) (37)	19
38 Claire Brooks (Sy) (38)	18

NATIONAL COUNCIL

The next meeting of the ETTA's National Council will take place on Saturday, April 16, at the Bloomsbury Crest Hotel, Coram Street, London W1, commencing at 10.30 a.m.

The YOUNG ONES



by **TOM BLUNN**
Chairman, ETTA

The teams chosen to represent England in the forthcoming Commonwealth and World Championships are the youngest ever to play for England in these events. In the past the dominance of the older players has prevented very young players being given the experience.

On occasions a young player has been included in order to gain experience rather than to be expected to play a vital part in the events. On this occasion the youngsters are going to play that vital role; the older and more experienced players will not be able to produce the results we require in

the team events without the support of the younger players. This may well be a very good opportunity for them, when they know full well that they are there to win, not just to sit on the bench and watch.

The retirement of three of our senior women has given the younger girls this opportunity, though their results this season would almost be getting them there on merit. The decline in the performance of some of the senior men has left Desmond Douglas out on his own more than ever before and this may be an inspiration to the younger players to produce their best to support him.

The long term policies of the Selection Committee are now paying off. These policies have been designed to give the juniors far more experience in international competitions, particularly on foreign soil where conditions are far different from here at home. Gone are the days when the first major tournament for a cadet was the European Youth Championships when they were overwhelmed by the experience and maturity of their opponents of the same age. We now spend almost as much on sending juniors abroad as we do on seniors and this has paid off. The four very young players going to Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo are no strangers to tough competition and each has already had success abroad; that is the first faltering step which has been conquered.

Apart from Desmond Douglas and John Hilton the remaining senior players are still very young but have by now a wealth of

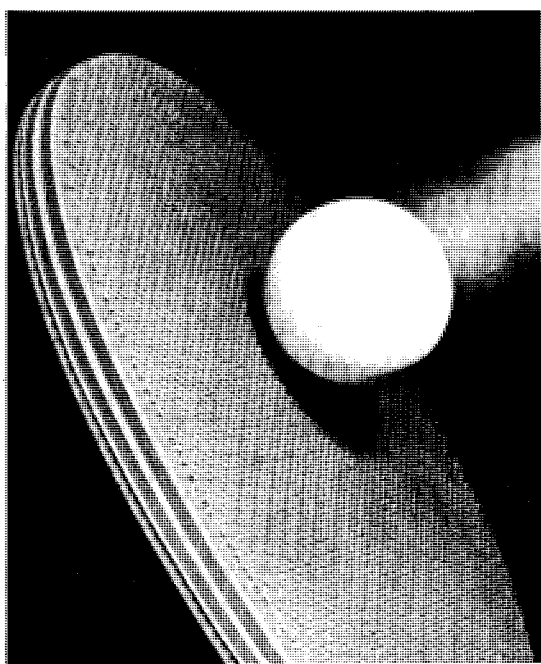
international experience behind them. For the first time we are sending three captains and this will help the younger players to gain confidence. The captain's job is very difficult and they are involved from the early hours of the morning to something well turned midnight, depending on the timing and the length of matches. The captaincy of an England side is no longer a job for a dedicated amateur official to do in his free time. It is a professional job and the captain is fully aware of his responsibilities and consequences of failure.

So let us send the party off with all our good wishes, support and complete confidence. Do not let us write them off as a bunch of youngsters destined to have little success. Do not let us prophesy failure through prolonged competition due to the preliminary efforts at the Commonwealth Championships. These players are young and tough, they represent the same generation that provides many gold medals at the Olympics. But, finally, they are the basis of the England teams of the future. They are on their way, it is up to all of us to help them with the great tasks ahead of them in the future.

SQUAD DEPARTURE

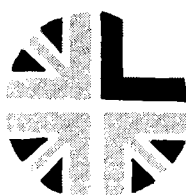
England's players participating in the 7th Commonwealth and 37th World Championships, in Kuala Lumpur and Tokyo, were due to fly out from Heathrow on Friday morning April 15 on Japan Airlines Flight No. JL466 at 10.05. They are due back in this country on Wednesday, May 11th.

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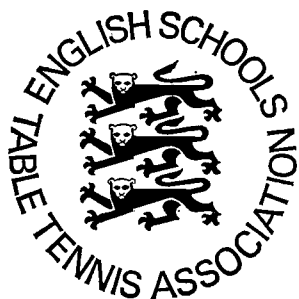
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National School Team Championships Finals

by DAVID LOMAS

Only two of the eight titles at stake were successfully defended when the seventeenth National School Team Championships — organised by the English Schools' TTA — took place at Lea Green, Matlock on Saturday, March 26.

Goffs School, Cheshunt, made it three consecutive wins in the Under-19 Girls' event whilst The Grove, Market Drayton, retained their U-13 Girls' title.

There are five new names on the trophies. Exmouth School — after finishing second and third in previous finals — finally made number one spot with the same four players who won the U-11 event in 1977. Their quartet was headed by England-ranked Juniors Gary Lambert and Mark Ellett. Both Exmouth and Rutlish (London Borough of Merton) defeated Robert Pattinson, Lincoln, 6-2, but the big clash between Rutlish and Exmouth never materialised as Exmouth cruised to a 7-1 win.

The Syed brothers, Andrew and Matthew, led Berkshire boys, Maiden Erlegh, to victory in the U-16 event to win the Leach-Carrington Trophy. There was a tie for second place between Caistor Grammar School and Putteridge High, Luton, but no doubt about the winners of the Girls' U-16 trophy — Highfields School, Wolverhampton.

Teams from Shropshire notched a "double" in the U-13 events. Mary Webb School put Pontesbury on the map in winning the Boys' U-13 trophy whilst The Grove, Market Drayton, won the Girls' event in style losing only one set. But two other Market Drayton sides — competing in the U-11 events — were unsuccessful.

Ramridge Junior School, Luton, also previous finalists, won the U-11 Girls' event whilst the U-11 Boys' event was quite a cliff-hanger. Wallop School had to beat Great Gonerby, Grantham, by a maximum, 8-0, in their final match. They did just that! But full marks to the Grantham boys. Coming from a very small school of only 80 pupils they never gave up and their sole victory against Market Drayton was greeted with great glee by their supporters.

The two "Best performance" awards went to the two top players — Gary Lambert (Exmouth) and Sarah Sandley (Goffs).

For the first time in a decade there were no winners from the Northern Region. The honours were shared evenly by the South & East and Midlands & West Regions.

The Championships were again sponsored by Stiga.

RESULTS

Lea Green - 26/3/'83

Boys' U19

- 1 EXMOUTH (Devon)
- 2 Rutlish, Merton (Surrey Metropolitan)
- 3 Robert Pattinson, North Hykeham (Lincs)
- Robert Pattinson 2 Rutlish 6
- Exmouth 6 Robert Pattinson 2
- Rutlish 1 Exmouth 7

Girls' U19

- 1 GOFFS, Cheshunt (Hertfordshire)
- 2 The Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire)
- 3 Amy Johnson High, Hull (Humberside)
- Grove 7 Amy Johnson 1
- Amy Johnson 1 Goffs 7
- Goffs 5 Grove 3

Boys' U16

- 1 MAIDEN ERLEGH, Reading (Berkshire)
- 2 Colton Hills, W'hampton (W. Midlands)
- 3 Bury Grammar (Greater Manchester)
- Colton Hills 7 Bury 1
- Bury 1 Maiden Erlegh 7
- Maiden Erlegh 6 Colton Hills 2

Girls' U16

- 1 HIGHFIELDS, W'hampton (W. Midlands)
- 2=Caistor Grammar (Lincolnshire)
- =Putteridge High, Luton (Bedfordshire)
- Caistor 4 Putteridge 4
- Putteridge 2 Highfields 6
- Highfields 6 Caistor 2

Boys' U13

- 1 MARY WEBB, Pontesbury (Shropshire)
- 2 Archbishop Cranmer CE Middle, Leeds (W. Yorks)
- 3 Bedford Modern (Bedfordshire)
- Archbishop Cranmer 5 Bedford Modern 3
- Bedford 3 Mary Webb 5
- Mary Webb 7 Archbishop Cranmer 1

Girls' U13

- 1 THE GROVE, Market Drayton (Salop)
- 2 Wold Junior High, Hull (Humberside)
- 3 Stopsley High, Luton (Bedfordshire)
- Stopsley 0 Wold 8
- The Grove 8 Stopsley 0
- Wold 1 The Grove 7

Boys' U11

- 1 WALLOP, Weybridge (Surrey County)
- 2 Market Drayton Junior (Shropshire)
- 3 Great Gonerby, Grantham (Lincs)
- Wallop 4 Market Drayton 4
- Market Drayton 7 Great Gonerby 1
- Great Gonerby 0 Wallop 8

Girls' U11

- 1 RAMRIDGE JUNIOR, Luton (Beds)
- 2 Dronfield Junior, Chesterfield (Derbys)
- 3 Market Drayton Junior (Shropshire)
- Dronfield 2 Ramridge 6
- Market Drayton 3 Dronfield 5
- Ramridge 5 Market Drayton 3

The tenth Stiga English Schools Individual Championships are due to take place on Saturday, April 30, 1983 at Mansfield Leisure Centre (9.30 a.m.).

Please note that this is a one day tournament on the **SATURDAY ONLY**. It was thought at one time that it might be held on both Saturday and Sunday and the amendment to a one day event — as per usual — has caused some confusion.

The No. 1 seeds are:

Under-19

- Boys David Dodd (Inner London)
Girls Sarah Sandley (Hertfordshire)

Under-16

- Boys Nigel Tyler (Middlesex)
Girls Susan Collier (Berkshire)

Under-13

- Boys Matthew Syed (Berkshire)
Girls Claire Potts (Cheshire)

Under-11

- Boys Damian Holland (Essex County)
Girls Kerry Hall (Derbyshire)

The Annual General Meeting of the ESTTA is due to take place on Sunday, May 15, 1983 at Curdworth Community Centre, Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands at 2 p.m.

REVISED WORLD RANKINGS

DES UP TO No. 7

Issued in March and effective for the 37th World Championships in Tokyo, the ITTF Classification Committee have, as traditional, left the reigning world champions **Guo Yuenhua** and **Tong Ling** occupying the No. 1 position both in the men's and women's categories.

But England's reigning champion Desmond Douglas has been lifted from No. 13 to No. 7 although John Hilton has been dropped from No. 43 to No. 49. Although not competing Jill Hammersley-Parker has been down-graded from No. 12 to No. 16.

Europe's Top 12 champions Milan Orlovski is moved up from No. 16 to No. 11 and the diminutive Olga Nemes comes up from No. 27 to No. 22. The top European in the women's list is Bettine Vriesekoop of the Netherlands at No. 7 behind six players from the People's Republic of China. Mikael Appelgren, like Miss Vriesekoop, the European title holder, is at No. 4 in the men's list.

Revised rankings (previous position in brackets) are:

Men

- 1 Guo Yuenhua (CHN) (1)
- 2 Cai Zhenhua (CHN) (2)
- 3 Xie Saike (CHN) (3)
- 4 Mikael Appelgren (SWE) (4)
- 5 Jiang Jialiang (CHN) (6)
- 6 Seiji Ono (JPN) (10)
- 7 **Desmond Douglas** (ENG) (13)
- 8 Wang Huiyuan (CHN) (12)
- 9 Jan-Ove Waldner (SWE) (22)
- 10 Zoran Kalinic (YUG) (25)
- 11 Milan Orlovski (TCH) (16)
- 12 Dragutin Surbek (YUG) (7)
- 13 Park Lee Hee (KOR) (14)
- 14 Kiyoshi Saito (JPN) (—)
- 15 Istvan Jonyer (HUN) (17)
- 16 Erik Lindh (SWE) (29)
- 17 Fan Changmao (CHN) (27)
- 18 Jacques Secretin (FRA) (15)
- 19 Chen Xinhua (CHN) (21)
- 20 Stellan Bengtsson (SWE) (19)
- 21 Andrezej Grubba (POL) (19)
- 22 Cho Yong Ho (PRK) (26)
- 23 Eric Boggan (USA) (32)
- 24 Hiroyuki Abe (JPN) (28)
- 25 Gabor Gergely (HUN) (18)
- 26 Norio Takashima (JPN) (24)
- 27 Cheng Yinghua (CHN) (—)
- 28 Jindrich Pansky (TCH) (31)
- 29 Masahiro Maehara (JPN) (37)
- 30 Kim Wan (KOR) (36)
- 31 Leszek Kucharski (POL) (30)
- 32 Hong Sun Chol (PRK) (34)
- 33 Ulf Bengtsson (SWE) (—)
- 34 Josef Dvoracek (TCH) (23)
- 35 Janos Molnar (HUN) (—)
- 36 Ulf Carlsson (SWE) (33)

- 37 Vong Ju Veng (HKG) (—)
 38 Chiu Man Kuen (HKG) (—)
 39 Diao Ming (CHN) (—)
 40 Ralf Wosik (FRG) (39)
 41 Patrick Birocheau (FRA) (38)
 42 Ljiljovj Karakasivic (YUG) (42)
 43 Christian Martin (FRA) (41)
 44 Georg Bohm (FRG) (—)
 45 Kenichi Sakamoto (JPN) (—)
 46 Peter Stellwag (FRG) (40)
 47 Hong Chol (PRK) (50)
 48 Engelbert Hugging (FRG) (35)
 49 **John Hilton** (ENG) (43)

Omitted from the previous list are:

- Tibor Klampar (HUN) (5)
 Shi Zhihao (CHN) (8)
 Teng Yi (CHN) (9)
 Lu Yaohua (CHN) (20)
 Huang Liang (CHN) (44)
 Hideo Goto (JPN) (45)
 Li Zhenshi (CHN) (46)
 Danny Seemiller (USA) (47)
 Atanda Musa (NGR) (48)
 Kim Hi Tal (KOR) (49)
 Igor Solopov (URS) (51)
 Wilfried Lieck (FRG) (52)

Women

- 1 Tong Ling (CHN) (1)
 2 Cao Yanhua (CHN) (2)
 3 Qi Boxiang (CHN) (4)
 4 Huang Junqun (CHN) (8)
 5 Dai Lili (CHN) (6)
 6 Chen Lili (CHN) (5)
 7 Bettine Vriesekoop (HOL) (10)
 8 Lee Soo Ja (KOR) (7)
 9 Pak Yong Sun (PRK) (9)
 10 Pu Qijuan (CHN) (11)
 11 Geng Lijuan (CHN) (22)
 12 Valentina Popova (URS) (15)
 13 An Hae Sook (KOR) (13)
 14 Li Song Suk (PRK) (14)
 15 Kayoko Kawahaigashi (JPN) (17)
 16 **Jill Hammersley-Parker** (ENG) (12)
 17 Kim Kyung Ja (KOR) (16)
 18 Yang Young Ja (KOR) (—)
 19 Tian Jing (CHN) (—)
 20 Rie Wada (JON) (24)
 21 Marie Hrachova (TCH) (19)
 22 Olga Nemes (ROM) (27)
 23 Fliura Bulatova (URS) (45)
 24 Zsuzsa Olah (HUN) (25)
 25 Cheng Jiliang (CHN) (21)
 26 Yoshiko Shimauchi (JPN) (32)
 27 Gabrielle Szabo (HUN) (—)
 28 Edit Urban (HUN) (26)
 29 Kim Gyong Sun (PRK) (—)
 30 Emiko Kanda (JPN) (41)
 31 Yoon Kyung Mi (KOR) (37)
 32 Shin Duek Hwa (KOR) (—)
 33 Kim Kyung Mi (KOR) (29)
 34 Kirsten Kruger (FRG) (36)
 35 Marie Lindblad (SWE) (35)
 36 Branka Batinic (YUG) (43)
 37 Li Chunli (CHN) (—)
 38 Ina Kovalenko (URS) (—)
 39 Judit Magos (HUN) (28)
 40 Narine Antonian (URS) (31)
 41 Eva Ferenczi (ROM) (33)
 42 He Zhili (CHN) (—)
 43 Hwang Nam Sook (KOR) (38)
 44 Erzebet Palatinus (YUG) (—)
 45 Gordana Perkucin (YUG)
 46 Sonja Grefberg (FIN) (49)
 47 Ilona Uhlíkova (TCH) (30)
 48 Beatrix Kishazi (HUN) (39)
 49 Ham Ni Ok (KOR) (—)

Omitted from the previous list are:

- Zhang Deying (CHN) (3)
 Ursula Kamizuru (FRG) (18)
 Ann-Christin Hellman (SWE) (20)
 Xie Chunjing (CHN) (34)

- Shen Jiaping (CHN) (40)
 Baik Jong Mi (KOR) (42)
 Hui So Hung (HKG) (44)
 Jong Jung Ja (KOR) (47)
 Xie Xiaojan (CHN) (—)
 Park Mal Bun (KOR) (50)

COMBINED UNIVERSITIES v BRITISH POLYS

by Mark Horsfall

This year's representative fixture between the U.A.U. and the British Polys, held in Sheffield on March 20, saw victory for the universities in both the men's and women's matches. Prospects looked poor for the U.A.U. men against a full-strength Polys side but in the slow conditions consistency won the day.

Loughborough's Mark Illingsworth took the first set for the U.A.U. crushing John Green before Anwar Majid levelled the score. Ian Reed then began a 4-set run for the U.A.U. by beating Ian Haines before stand-in Brian Bennett of Sheffield made the halfway score 3-1 in an amazing win over Mike Browne. Illingsworth further deflated the Polys in easing out Majid to be followed by Neil Bailey clinching victory with a hard-fought win over the erratic Browne. Green at last stemmed the tide, landing his awesome loops too often for Reed's liking, but Bennett finished on a high for U.A.U. to make the score 6-2.

The women's match was a classic from the off, Lesley Tyler's first set comeback against Trent Poly's Julie Revill just running out of points. Janet Deakin levelled at 1-1 for U.A.U. by staging a fantastic 3rd game recovery against Sandra Peakman, winning from 12-20 down! Melanie Ringrose then put U.A.U. ahead before Revill wore down Deakin's challenge to even at 2-2. The 5th set saw Tyler give an awesome display against Nicola Teague to restore U.A.U.'s lead but again the Polys came back with

Peakman just too consistent for Ringrose.

The next two sets were also shared to set a climax for the match at 4-4. Tyler faced Peakman and the former showed no nerves to take the 1st. Then Peakman opened up to build an early lead in the 2nd and reach 18-13. However Tyler then recovered her composure and inexorably hauled the game back through some epic rallies and using her priceless backhand loop skilfully squeezed home 22-20 showing the form that makes her the Welsh No. 1. Final score: U.A.U. 5 Polys 4.

SCORES

Men

M. Illingsworth bt J. Green 9, 9;
 N. Bailey lost to A. Majid -22, -13;
 I. Reed bt I. Haines 13, 11;
 B. Bennett bt M. Browne 17, 13;
 Illingsworth bt Majid -15, 18, 19;
 Bailey bt Browne 16, 19;
 Reed lost to Green 13, -17, -11;
 Bennett bt Haines 17, -19, 14.

Women

L. Tyler lost to J. Revill -12, -22;
 J. Deakin bt S. Peakman 14, -14, 20;
 M. Ringrose bt N. Teague 5, 10;
 Deakin lost to Revill -19, 22, -15;
 Tyler bt Teague 13, 3;
 Ringrose lost to Peakman -20, -16;
 Deakin bt Teague 12, 17;
 Ringrose lost to Revill -13, -11;
 Tyler bt Peakman 13, 20.

Presentation Dance

Preston, who have retained the first division Championship title of the Lancashire and Cheshire League, hold their Presentation Dance at Preston North End Supporters Club on Tuesday, May 24 from 8 p.m. to midnight. Tickets are priced at £1.50 each and can be obtained from Mr. C. G. Stokes, "Northesk", 166 Heeley Road, St. Annes-on-Sea. Phone: St. Annes 726524.

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FOCUS ON YOUTH

by Les D'Arcy

Wakefield

Wakefield Schools Table Tennis Championships once again proved to be a very successful event with over 180 school children showing their considerable skills at this impressively organised annual competition held for the second time at Kings School, Pontefract.

In a little over four hours 175 singles matches were decided and eight individual championships resolved. The standard of play and sportsmanship was a credit to all the schools taking part in the four different age groups: under 11s, 13s, 15s, and 19s, with separate competitions for boys and girls.

Age group winners:

Girls' events:

- U11s Debbie Toole (Normanton Town Middle)
- U13s Rebecca Tennyson (Sandal Endowed Middle)
- U15s Mandy Holmes (Castleford High)
- U19s Karen Arnold (Wakefield District College)

Boys' events:

- U11s Ian Ball (Sandal Endowed Middle)
- U13s Craig Dean (Normanton Town Middle)
- U15s Richard Hurley (Kettlethorpe High)
- U19s John Stather (Pontefract Kings School)

The event was organised by Mr. David Harrison assisted by Wakefield Schools TTA Staff. Prizes were presented by Mr. Alan Taylor, Wakefield Schools Senior Advisor and equipment was sponsored by Dunlop.

Yorkshire and Humberside Youth Tournament

Such is the strength of Wakefield Youth table tennis that team managers Owen and Sheila Atkinson were able to manage without several of their top ranked players who were playing in other competitions and still win the Yorkshire and Humberside Youth Organisations Championships for an incredible sixth successive year.

RESULTS

Wakefield 54 pts, 1st; Bradford 39 pts and Humberside 39 pts, = 2nd; Leeds 25 pts, 4th; Doncaster S.E. and Kirklees 'B' 18 pts, = 5th.

Best Individual performances:

Boys' Singles

Craig Render (Leeds) 5 wins out of 5.

Girls' Doubles

Julie Speight and Karen Burrows (Wakefield) 5 wins out of 5.

Mixed Doubles

Karen and Simon Arnold (Wakefield) 5 wins out of 5.

Boys' Doubles

Peter Meer and David Indriks (Bradford) 5 wins out of 5.

Other good performances came from John Skerratt (Humberside) 4 wins out of 5. Janet Evans (Humberside) 3 wins out of 5, both in the singles. Julie and Caroline Stocks (Bradford), Alison Evans and Paul Needley (Humberside), John Atkinson and Philip Tomlinson (Wakefield) won 4 out of 5 in their respective doubles events. Other members of Wakefield's team were Claudia



Table Tennis Championship Winners at Normanton Town School with Alan Hydes

Photo by Yorkshire Newspapers Group Ltd.

Oakes and Richard Hurley. Alison Speight and Alaric Bassano played in previous round.

Normanton

Alan Hydes just cannot stop in his ambassadorial work for table tennis. Alan was guest of Mr. Roger Vasey, deputy headmaster and table tennis teacher at Normanton Town Middle School, recently and presented prizes donated by Dunlop Sports Company to individual winners in the School's House Competitions for table tennis. Enthusiasm in the School which receives regular visits from YTTA Regional Coach, Mr. Rowden Fullen, and has recently won the Wakefield Schools Under-13s League Championships is boundless. This was shown when 170 of the Schools players took part in a sponsored 'Ping' which so far has raised almost £1,000 for a school mini-bus. Talent in the school which produced England's No. 1 Cadet and rapidly rising England Junior, Joanne Shaw, is generally of a high standard with Wakefield Schools' Individual Champions, Craig Dean and Debbie Toole, outstanding. Craig Davies, Paul and Mark Frost, Mark Squires, Susan Hopkinson, Sarah and Rebecca Morse are not far behind.

It was a pleasure for your correspondent to introduce Alan to the pupils and outline some of the events of his illustrious career, which they may try to emulate. Mr. Vasey would be happy for them to do so — both in table tennis and in personal qualities. They have certainly made an excellent start.

NATIONAL CLUB KNOCK-OUT CHAMPIONSHIPS

Quarter-final draws - Closing date Apl. 24/'83

Men's Competition

- Stockton Co-op Welfare (Stockton) v Penwortham GRYF (Preston) (1)
- Phoenix (Coventry) or Woodfield (Wolverhampton) v James Birk TTC (Potteries) (2)
- Exiles (Norwich) v Heathcote TTC (N. Middx) (3)

Lytchett (Poole) v Three Bridges TTC (Crawley) (4)

Semi-final draw - Closing date May 22/'83
1 v 2 3 v 4

4th Round Results

- Stockton Co-op Welfare w.o. Storeys (Westmorland) scr
- Penwortham GRYF 5 Daten Sports (Warrington) 1
- James Birk TTC w.o. Chesterfield A.C. scr
- Phoenix v Woodfield
- Exiles 5 Wellgate (Romford) 4
- Fellows Cranleigh (Dagenham) 1 Heathcote TTC 5
- Three Bridges TTC 5 Sturdee (Medway) 3
- Knowle & Brislington (Bristol) 3 Lytchett 5

Women's Competition

Semi-finals - Closing date Apl. 24/'83

- Thorn-EMI Ellenborough (North Middx) v Redhill (B'ham)
- Four T's (Southampton) v Brentwood (Brentwood)

Quarter-final Results

- Rafters (Liverpool) 0 Redhill 6
- Thorn EMI Ellenborough 5 Fellows Cranleigh (Dagenham) 2
- Brentwood w.o. Langley (Slough) scr
- Four T's w.o. Exeter Comm. Centre scr



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TOKYO READY TO STAGE THE WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

by Hideyuki Kamizuru

Though Japan has staged two world championships — one in 1956 in Tokyo and the second in Nagoya in 1971, the forthcoming world event to be organised between Apl. 28 and May 9, promises to surpass both previous ones.

Tokyo, the scene of the world championships this year, is making efforts to ensure the best circumstances for sportsmen, managers, visitors and journalists. The scene of the world championships will not be unfamiliar to visitors, as the Yoyogi National Stadium was the centre of the swimming events in the Olympics of 1964, and after careful remodelling it has now been turned into an ideal home for table tennis players. The stadium seats 13,000

persons, but despite the fact that Tokyo is a metropolis of over 10 million inhabitants, it is unlikely that the championships will be sold out.

Public transport poses one of the biggest problems in Tokyo, as the traffic is gigantic, and often a long time is needed to cover the shortest way, when cars and buses are in a traffic jam. Accordingly the organising committee will accommodate all delegations at the Keio Plaza Hotel — an inter-continental Hotel — in the Shinjuku quarter of the capital.

Shinjuku is one of the busiest commercial centres where tens of thousands of people go about their daily business. From the hotel, special buses will transport teams to the stadium, with the ride taking about 15 minutes. But in heavier traffic it will take a lot more time. Underground trams, whose stations are not only written in Japanese letters, can also be used. In Tokyo very many people speak English, and those who

have a command of this language, will be able to put it to good use.

Officials of the organising committee will be on hand to receive the arriving teams at Narita airport, and subsequently to take them into the capital, with the bus ride expected to take anything up to two hours, depending on the traffic.

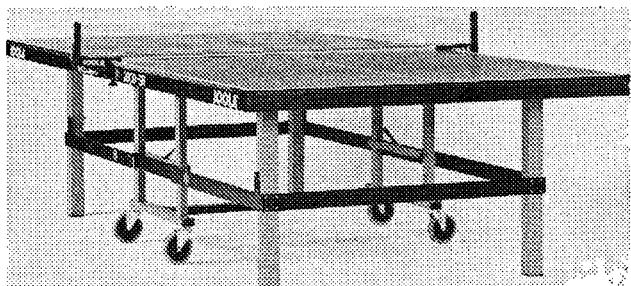
I am sure many people are interested in the meals, as the Japanese cuisine will be unusual for Europeans. The ones who do not wish to taste these Oriental savours, that we find extremely good, will be able to find a European cuisine. But it would be a pity not to taste the Japanese specialities.

The chairman of the 9-member organising committee of the world championships is Hajime Takagi. He is in charge of all organisation work, and in recent months he has not been much envied. Tokyo is now ready to stage the world championships, and hopes to see all visitors have a good time while in Japan.

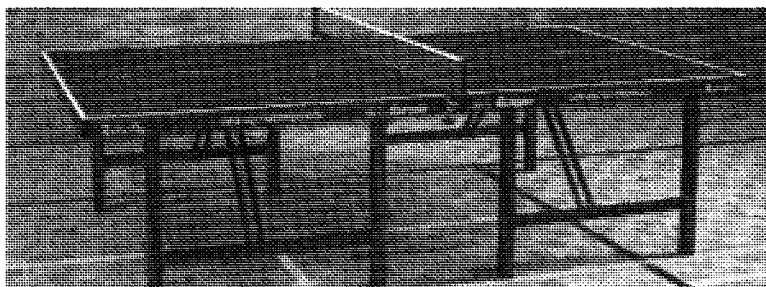
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NATIONAL LEAGUES CHAMPIONSHIPS

Quarter-final draws - Closing date Apl. 17/'83

Wilmott Cup

Liverpool v Northumberland (1)
Chesterfield v Dagenham (2)
Basildon v North Middlesex (3)
Hastings v Poole (4)

Semi-final draw - Closing date May 15/'83

2 v 1 4 v 3

4th Round Results

Stockport 3 Liverpool 5
Northumberland 5 Leeds 2
Chesterfield 5 Leicester 3
Dagenham 5 Ely 4
Basildon 5 Central London 3
North Middlesex 5 Reading 2
Beckenham 1 Hastings 5
Plymouth 0 Poole 6

J. M. Rose Bowl

Northumberland v Preston (1)
Leicester v Wolverhampton (2)
Harlow v Newbury (3)
Aldershot v Swindon (4)

Semi-final draw - Closing date May 15/'83

2 v 1 3 v 4

4th Round Results

Sunderland 0 Northumberland 6
Preston 5 Bradford 0
Grimsby 0 Leicester 9
Birmingham 1 Wolverhampton 5
Harlow 6 North Herts 0
North Middlesex 4 Newbury 5
Aldershot 5 Eastbourne 4
Plymouth 4 Swindon 5

Carter Cup

Ormesby v Bradford (1)
Chesterfield v Wolverhampton (2)
Thames Valley v North Herts (3)
Plymouth v Bromley (4)

Semi-final draw - Closing date May 15/'83

2 v 1 4 v 3

4th Round Results

Ormesby 5 Northumberland 3
Fleetwood 3 Bradford 6
Nottingham 1 Chesterfield 5
Wolverhampton 8 Norwich 1
North Herts 8 Southend 1
Thames Valley 5 North Middlesex 3
Crawley, Horsham 2 Bromley 7
Plymouth 6 Swindon 0

Bromfield Trophy

Sheffield v Northumberland (1)
Wolverhampton v Derby (2)
Thames Valley v North Middlesex (3)
Plymouth or Swindon v Crawley, Horsham (4)

Semi-final draw - Closing date May 15/'83

2 v 1 3 v 4

4th Round Results

Northumberland 5 Sunderland 1
Sheffield w.o. Leeds scr
Derby 6 Leicester 0
Ipswich 0 Wolverhampton 9
North Middlesex w.o. Brentwood scr
Thames Valley 5 Oxford 1
Crawley, Horsham 9 Brighton 0
Plymouth v Swindon

Letters to the Editor

PUT SO WELL

I found the March/April edition of the Magazine more mournful in tone than usual, but nevertheless most entertaining in this minor key.

The letter from my fellow Staffordshire lad, Geoff Williamson, put so well everything I felt about the Norwich Union Closed, and when my local league put on its own closed tournament a couple of weeks later I could well understand the comparison he made in the last paragraph of his well thought out letter. Incidentally, having always thought that the magazine was published centrally I am a little puzzled to find that I appear to be receiving what apparently amounts to the Isle of Wight edition. Curious.

TED SIMPKIN,

8 Great Goodwin Drive,
Guildford GU1 2TX.

"DEATH WISH"

As an enthusiastic player of our game and regular subscriber to your magazine, I have been 'tempted' to write on prior occasions, but feel that I must do so now on two accounts.

I write in response to the "Death Wish", with which our ruling bodies are trying to extinguish the flames of table-tennis as we know it. The "registered player/bat with a different colour rubber each side" proposal will surely deal a terrible blow to a majority of registered players.

Can the National Council not see what a ludicrous nature this proposal has? What on earth is the point of forcing players against their will, to change the rubber on one side of their bats, when they play with exactly the same rubber on both sides already?

The feeling expressed by local players is one of contempt for such a ruling and anyone who tried to enforce it! Would it not be more logical, to raise a proposal suggesting that people who use two different types of rubber on their bats must have two different colours of rubbers (this is after all what the latest "hue and cry" is all about).

Without this alternative consideration, a scathing, financial, impractical, illogical attack will be launched on English table tennis, from which it may never recover!

My second comment is based on the letter from Mr. Les Hewitt, published in March/April issue of 'Table Tennis News'. I would agree that it is far better for players to concentrate on how to play 'funny' rubbers rather than moaning. But would also point out the principle he has established using his own words and observations — "These rubbers have also given a new lease of life to some of us older players — the ones who are keeping table tennis in clubs and at grass roots going" — that it is obvious that the rubbers are giving the players an advantage, not improving their ability, from its immediate so-called "life-giving" effects!

DAVID RUSSELL,

25 Windmill Lane,
Wightwick,
Wolverhampton,
West Midlands WV3 8HJ.

John Woodford reports from . . .

SUSSEX

END OF SEASON NEAR

Writing a fortnight before I fly for the first time over the North Pole to Tokyo in the footsteps of high-flying officers like George Yates to whom such trips are routine, I must come back to earth with a bang and give an off-the-cuff summary of table tennis in Sussex as the campaign draws to a close.

Not a successful season looking at the whole spectrum over East and West Sussex. There has been no spectacular feats by any of the six Sussex teams in the county championships — still grotesquely over-manned like Fleet Street — in fact, I cannot think which is the worst of the two minus factors — our premier junior division team being relegated or at a county meeting facing the unanswerable question for the second time — why does Murray Corbin's splendid picture appear in every edition of this magazine!

However, the era of the brilliant Moore family as juniors is soon coming to an end, Stephen, Adrian and Teresa Moore have the rare distinction of all three names in the England rankings — I cannot think of another feat in that direction, in fact it could be unique.

But as I write Dolphins are desperately trying to fight off relegation in the National League, despite the talents of the Moores and despite England selectors supremo Peter Charters commenting favourably on Dolphins No. 4 John Green, who a few minutes later lost to the explosive hitting of Mandy Smith as the Reading team triumphed 6-2.

Looking for the highlights becomes a full-scale search — found one — Hastings through to the semi-finals of the Wilmott Cup — a fine effort by the Moore brothers but boosted at No. 3 with the new Sussex champion Graham Gillett, who, despite being the champion, is unlikely to give much more time to table tennis than in the previous two years — very little, no regular local league matches, just the odd appearance here and there when he can spare the time from composing pop music!

Although the friendly international matches that often follow European League matches in England are largely ignored by the national press, apart from results in the "The Daily Telegraph" and "The Times", I believe that the functions themselves are often filled with success, especially if you can find a sponsor as Harvey Webb did at Lancing when England, spurred on by Skylet Andrew, managed to overpower West Germany 4-2.

Make no mistake, the Germans tried hard, spurred on by Desmond Douglas losing again to Georg Bohm, but it was Skylet who raised the roof at the end throwing caution to the winds with a finale that included a cascade of shots that floored Bohm 18-21, 21-16, 21-15 — a fairy-tale finish in a match made possible by the sponsors, the Worthing office equipment firm Val-U-Copy and a great effort by the players including Karen Witt and Joy Grundy who both out-smarted the new German champion Suzanne Wenzel.

Crawley and Horsham, so often the hotbeds of junior talent have taken a less prominent role this season. The new producers of junior champions are the zealous coaches and administrators at Haywards Heath. Top youngster to emerge is the new Sussex junior champion Paul Elphick and his understudy Martin Packham — coaches Ken Merrett and even Malcolm Francis have been prominent in the area.

But Crawley have recovered some lost ground by winning the Sussex men's inter-league championship from Brighton after qualifying for relegation a year ago! Also, there is a new surprise Crawley champion, 18-year-old Richie Venner, son of the former Surrey star and England international Harry Venner. In the Crawley final, young Richie, who previously had done little to suggest he was in line for this honour, conquered Phil Smith, the man who reckons he should be above Adrian Moore in the Sussex rankings and there are some selectors who agree with him.

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County Championships Round-up

by AUBREY DRAPKIN

VARIOUS PROPOSALS

With only one set of matches remaining twelve divisions still remain to be decided so there is still a considerable amount of interest remaining at this stage of the season. Various proposals have been put forward to alter the format of the championships for the future and it is to be hoped that a full attendance will be in evidence at the Annual Conference when these will be debated. I have heard numerous comments about the present structure of the competition including comments that this competition is no longer required. I find this latter one extremely hard to believe and would be interested to hear the views of the country.

SENIOR DIVISION 2A

Derbyshire 3 Leics 7
Cheshire 5 Staffs II 5
Cambs 6 Yorks II 4
Lancs II 8 Northumberland 2

Leicestershire's triumph away to Derbyshire makes them champions and ensures Premier Division status for next season. Cheshire are still in last place but picked up an important point against Staffs. Two wins here for Brian Johns and Billy Gleave for Cheshire. Geoff Hallam won last set of the day in three ends against Mark Hankey to force a draw for Staffs. Poor performance by Northumberland although young Neil McMaster played well. Two sets for Andy Withers of Cambs including a victory over Tony Sanderson.

SENIOR DIVISION 2B

Middlesex II 7 Wilts 3
Devon 1 Surrey 9
Sussex 10 Hants 0
Bedfordshire 3 Kent 7

Big win for Surrey (Nicky Mason, Mark Oakley, Stephen Holloway, Lorraine Garbutt and Linda Clemett) to retain their 100% record and take the title. Sussex too strong for Hants although Stephen Moore was taken to three ends by Derek Holman and Malcolm Francis just got home 19 in the third against Ram Bhalla. Tony Stark won two sets for Middlesex and Mandy Reeves and Sarah Sandley won their ladies singles matches, whilst Eddie Roope of Wilts defeated John Payne and Percy Collino.

SENIOR DIVISION 3A

Notts 10 Cumbria 0 (walk-over)
Leics II 6 Derbyshire II 4
Northumberland v Lincs (postponed)

Three wins by the ladies (Julie Revill and Yvonne Hall) main reason for narrow win by Leics II with G. Hall winning both of his singles. Steve Yallop unbeaten for Derbyshire in a match which six sets went to three ends. Derbyshire still without a point and meet fellow strugglers Cumbria in their last match.

SENIOR DIVISION 3B

Gloucs 9 Hants II 1
Cornwall 9 Isle of Wight 1

Avon 6 Somerset 4
Dorset II 9 Berks II 1

Both leading counties beaten in this division. Hants II, previously unbeaten, came a cropper in no uncertain manner away to Gloucs, whilst Somerset narrowly lost to Avon. Shock win by Dorset II with Heaps, Robinson, Creasey and Joyce Coop all unbeaten. Cornwall also had a big win against the Isle of Wight with Woollins, Cornelius, Williams and Ms. James winning all of their sets.

SENIOR DIVISION 3C

Glamorgan 3 Northants 7
Wilts II 4 Bucks 6
Oxon 1 Worcestershire 9
Herefordshire v Hants (postponed)

Worcs and Northants both win to stay level on points at the top of the table. Two wins on his first team debut for Howes of Northants against Glamorgan. Bucks remain two points behind the two leading teams after their win away to Wilts.

SENIOR DIVISION 3D

Surrey II 6 Cambs II 4
Suffolk 5 Essex II 5
Herts 9 Norfolk 1
Kent II 8 Sussex II 2

Top of the table clash between Suffolk and Essex II marred by the fact that Essex played a player who was not registered for the senior team and the one set that he won was awarded to Suffolk to make the scoreline 5-5. Surrey II won a close encounter with Cambs II. Two wins for David Harding of Surrey and Martyn Livermore of Cambs. Taylor, White, Morton and Walters all unbeaten as Herts crushed Norfolk.

SENIOR DIVISION 4

Norfolk II 3 Sir Clwyd 7
Worcs II 6 Northants II 4

Deciding match between Norfolk and Sir Clwyd won by the Welshmen to give them the championship.

JUNIOR DIVISION 2A

Durham 5 Leics 5
Lincs 0 Lancs 10
Yorks II 10 Northants 0
Warwicks 3 Staffs 7

Important win for Staffs against unbeaten Warwicks put them top of the table, two points ahead of Yorks II who they meet in the final match of the season. Yet another draw for Durham, their third in succession, with David Blackburne and Darren McVitie unbeaten. Three wins for the girls (J. Murray and T. Clark) helped Leics to get a point. Another big defeat for Lincs means they are stranded at the foot of the table.

JUNIOR DIVISION 2B

Essex 8 Herts 2
Wilts 3 Berks 7
Glamorgan 2 Gloucs 8
Middlesex II 6 Kent II 4

Essex retained their 100% record at the expense of previously unbeaten Herts (Steve Dettmar, Richard Darnell, and Alison Barker undefeated). Berks have still only lost one point and now travel to Essex for the championship decider on April 9th. Two wins for Darren Griffin in Gloucs win against Glamorgan. Herbert and King unbeaten for Middlesex II against Kent II with both points going to Middlesex.

JUNIOR DIVISION 3A

Northumberland 10 Cumbria II 0
Cleveland II 0 Cheshire 10
Lincs II 3 Staffs II 7

Derbyshire 7 Cumbria 3
Northumberland 2 Cheshire 8
Cleveland II 0 Derbyshire 10
Staffs II 4 Cumbria 6

Derbyshire still unbeaten and top of the table after successive wins against Cumbria and Cleveland II. Rhodes unbeaten against Cumbria as was Miss Weightman. Cheshire won 8-2 away to Northumberland and 10-0 in Cleveland on their North East 'tour'. James Murdoch, Cheryl Clarke and Lyn Harrison unbeaten in both matches. The Northumberland team of Peter Curry, Thomas Blackman, Eddie Smith, Denise Campbell and Denise Wilkinson picked themselves up after losing their morning match with Cheshire to 'whitewash' Cumbria II in the afternoon.

JUNIOR DIVISION 3B

Bucks 9 Worcs 1
Oxon v Hants II (postponed)
Oxon 7 Dorset II 3

Bucks maintained their challenge to Warwicks II when they proved to be too strong for Worcs. Jonathon Bradbury kept his 100% record with impressive wins. Darren Butler (2) and Tyrone Silcott (1) backed him up. Worcs had a 20-15 lead in the third set of the boys' doubles but succumbed to Bradbury's service. Bucks girls the stronger of a weak foursome with Lesley Harris delighted to gain her first win for the county.

JUNIOR DIVISION 3C

Somerset 7 Cornwall 3
Surrey II 8 Hants 2
Berks II 5 Wilts II 5
Avon 4 Dorset 6

Dorset and Surrey II still locked together at the top of the table. Surrey led 7-0 at one stage but lost two of the last three sets against Hants which might prove to be important. Andrew Hardy, Leslie Popkiewicz and Jane Mills unbeaten although Popkiewicz given a fright by Kate Lines. Wiltshire and Berkshire still without a win after their drawn match in which Jenny Neale and Claire Hunter of Wilts and Matthew Syed and Paul Savins of Bucks were unbeaten.

JUNIOR DIVISION 3D

Norfolk II 1 Essex II 9
Cambs 5 Sussex II 5
Norfolk 7 Herts 3
Essex III 6 Norfolk 4
Herts 2 Cambs 8
Essex II 10 Suffolk 0

Title goes to Essex whose second and third teams occupy the top two places. Surrey came back from 1-4 down to draw with Cambs. Two more defeats for Herts who have yet to register their first point.

VETERANS PREMIER DIVISION

Essex 5 Lincs 4
Dorset 2 Kent 7
Cheshire 5 Notts 4
Middlesex 7 Hunts 2

Cheshire only just retained their 100% record against Notts, thanks to two wins from Griffiths. Derek and Doreen Schofield had one win each as well as winning the mixed doubles. Peter D'Arcy lost out to Bolton and Saunders (who also beat Schofield). Kent remain in second place after winning 7-2 away to Dorset, with Buist, Adams and Etheridge all undefeated in the singles. Essex came from 2-3 down to defeat Lincs, Battrick being unbeaten, whilst two wins each by D. Smith and Babs Adedayo

helped Middlesex to a big win against Hunts.

VETERANS DIVISION 2A

Herts 7 Cheshire II 2
Bucks 0 Worcs 9
Leics 8 Northants 1
Avon 6 Oxon 3
Avon 3 Worcs 6

Leics swept to victory over Northants to keep their 100% record and Herts stay in second place. Bottom of the table Bucks had to field three reserves and were out-classed by Worcs. Robbins came closest to salvaging a win for Bucks, losing 24-26 in the third to Dicks. Wood and Mrs. Hunt of Worcs were in a different class to the rest.

VETERANS DIVISION 2B

Middlesex II 3 Sussex 6
Dorset II 2 Berks 7
Hants 2 Essex II 7
Bedfordshire 4 Kent II 5

Extremely interesting position with Sussex, Berkshire and Essex II all on ten points with one match left. Berkshire entertain Sussex in the final game with Essex II at home to Bedfordshire. Sussex appeared to be in trouble when trailing 1-3 to Middlesex II but recovered to win 6-3, the last two matches being won 24-22 in the third and 22-20 in third. Sussex wins came from Batt Rawden (2), Rowden (1), Mike Watts (1), Mrs. V. Gillam and the men's doubles pairing of Batt Rawden and Watts. Bob Holiday won both of his singles for Berkshire with Sylvia Bruton winning her singles and both doubles being won against Dorset. Essex II were 2-2 with Hants after three of the first four sets and needed a third end to decide them but then ran out 7-2 winners without dropping another game. Murray and Parish were unbeaten and Mrs. Cathcart won her singles match.

SENIORS

Premier Division

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Middlesex	6	5	1	38	16	10
Essex	6	5	1	34	20	10
Lancashire	6	4	2	31	23	8
Yorkshire	6	3	3	33	21	6
Warwickshire	6	3	3	29	25	6
Berkshire	6	2	4	21	33	4
Staffordshire	6	2	4	20	34	4
Dorset	6	0	6	13	41	0

Division 2A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Leicestershire	6	5	1	0	47	13	11
Lancashire II	6	4	0	2	36	24	8
Yorkshire II	6	3	1	2	35	25	7
Cambridgeshire	6	3	1	2	29	31	7
Derbyshire	6	2	0	4	26	34	4
Northumberland	6	2	0	4	24	36	4
Staffordshire II	6	1	2	3	21	39	4
Cheshire	6	1	1	4	22	38	3

Division 2B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Surrey	6	6	0	0	43	17	12
Kent	6	4	1	1	36	24	9
Middlesex II	6	4	0	2	32	28	8
Sussex	6	3	0	3	32	28	6
Devon	6	3	0	3	31	29	6
Wiltshire	6	2	0	4	31	29	4
Hampshire	6	1	1	4	19	41	3
Bedfordshire	6	0	0	6	16	44	0

Division 3A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Warwickshire II	5	5	0	0	43	7	10
Nottingham	6	3	2	1	33	27	8
Leicestershire II	5	3	1	1	31	19	7
Lincolnshire	4	2	0	2	22	18	4
Northumberland	4	1	1	2	19	21	3
Cumbria	5	1	0	4	9	41	2
Derbyshire II	5	0	0	5	13	37	0

Division 3B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Avon	6	3	2	1	37	23	8
Gloucestershire	6	3	2	1	34	26	8
Somerset	6	3	1	2	32	28	7
Hampshire II	6	2	3	1	29	31	7
Berkshire II	6	2	2	2	28	32	6
Dorset II	6	2	1	3	31	29	5
Cornwall	6	2	1	3	30	30	5
Isle of Wight	6	1	0	5	19	41	2

Division 3C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Worcestershire	6	5	0	1	46	14	10
Northamptonshire	6	5	0	1	37	23	10
Buckinghamshire	6	4	0	2	35	25	8
Wiltshire II	6	2	1	3	30	30	5
Herefordshire	5	2	1	2	24	26	5
Glamorgan	6	1	2	3	22	38	4
Oxfordshire	6	1	1	4	24	36	3
Huntingdonshire	5	0	1	4	12	38	1

Division 3D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Suffolk	6	5	1	0	44	16	11
Essex II	6	4	1	1	42	18	9
Surrey II	6	3	2	1	28	32	8
Hertfordshire	6	3	0	3	31	29	6
Norfolk	6	3	0	3	28	32	6
Kent II	6	2	1	3	27	33	5
Sussex II	6	1	1	4	27	33	3
Cambridgeshire II	6	0	0	6	13	47	0

Division 4

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Clwyd	3	3	0	0	23	7	6
Norfolk II	3	2	0	1	19	11	4
Worcestershire II	3	1	0	2	10	20	2
Northants II	3	0	0	3	8	22	0

JUNIORS

Premier Division

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Yorkshire	7	6	1	0	59	11	13
Middlesex	7	5	2	0	48	22	12
Devon	7	5	0	2	40	30	10
Kent	7	4	1	2	42	28	9
Surrey	7	3	0	4	39	31	6
Cleveland	7	1	1	5	19	51	3
Sussex	7	1	0	6	21	49	2
Bedfordshire	7	0	1	6	12	58	1

Division 2A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Staffordshire	6	5	1	0	42	18	11
Yorkshire II	6	4	1	1	41	19	9
Warwickshire	6	3	2	1	38	22	8
Durham	6	2	3	1	32	28	7
Lancashire	6	3	0	3	38	22	6
Northamptonshire	6	1	1	4	20	40	3
Leicestershire	6	1	1	4	17	43	3
Lincolnshire	6	0	1	5	12	48	1

Division 2B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex	6	6	0	0	53	7	12
Berkshire	6	5	1	0	42	18	11
Hertfordshire	6	4	1	1	36	24	9
Gloucestershire	6	2	1	3	23	37	5
Middlesex II	6	2	0	4	23	37	4
Glamorgan	6	2	0	4	22	38	4
Kent II	6	1	0	5	22	38	2
Wiltshire	6	0	1	5	19	41	1

Division 3A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Derbyshire	7	5	2	0	53	17	12
Cheshire	6	5	1	0	50	10	11
Nottingham	7	5	1	1	43	27	11
Staffordshire II	6	4	0	2	40	20	8
Northumberland	7	4	0	3	39	31	8
Cumbria	8	3	0	5	42	38	6
Lincolnshire II	8	3	0	5	30	50	6
Cleveland II	7	0	1	6	14	56	1
Cumbria II	8	0	1	7	9	71	1

Division 3B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Warwickshire	4	4	0	0	26	14	8
Buckinghamshire	4	3	0	1	26	14	6
Oxfordshire	4	2	0	2	20	20	4
Worcestershire	5	2	0	3	20	30	4
Hampshire	3	1	0	2	16	14	2
Dorset II	4	0	0	4	12	28	0

Division 3C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Surrey II	6	5	1	0	45	15	11
Dorset	6	5	1	0	42	18	11
Hampshire	6	3	0	3	31	29	6
Avon	5	2	1	2	26	24	5
Somerset	6	2	1	3	29	31	5
Berkshire II	6	0	3	3	22	38	3
Cornwall	5	1	1	3	19	31	3
Wiltshire II	6	0	2	4	16	44	2

Division 3D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Essex II	6	6	0	0	52	8	12
Essex III	6	5	0	1	34	26	10
Norfolk II	6	4	0	2	31	29	8
Cambridgeshire	6	3	1	2	35	25	7
Norfolk	7	3	0	4	32	38	6
Sussex II	5	1	1	3	23	27	3
Suffolk	6	1	0	5	19	41	2
Hertfordshire II	6	0	0	6	14	46	0

VETERANS

Premier Division

	P	W	L	F	A	P
Cheshire	6	6	0	36	18	12
Kent	6	5	1	33	21	10
Lincolnshire	6	3	3	35	19	6
Middlesex	6	3	3	31	23	6
Essex	6	3	3	27	27	6
Nottingham	6	3	3	24	30	6
Huntingdonshire	6	1	5	20	34	2
Dorset	6	0	6	10	44	0

Division 2A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Leicestershire	6	6	0	41	13	12	12
Hertfordshire	6	5	1	43	11	10	10
Worcestershire	6	4	2	37	17	8	8
Avon	6	3	3	24	30	6	6
Cheshire II	6	3	3	24	30	6	6
Northamptonshire	6	2	4	15	39	4	4
Oxfordshire	6	1	5	20	34	2	2
Buckinghamshire	6	0	6	12	42	0	0

Division 2B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	P
Sussex	6	5	1	40	14	10	10
Berkshire	6	5	1	37	17	10	10
Essex II	6	5	1	31	23	10	10
Kent II	6	4	2	27	27	8	8