CONQUERING CUMBRIANS

Photo by courtesy of English Schools' Table Tennis Association
SITUATION TENSE

England, by beating the Soviet Union 4-3 in front of 2,000 spectators in Moscow on Mar. 20, took another step towards retention of their Premier Division status in the European League, but they are by no means clear of the relegation issue in which four countries are now involved.

Desmond Douglas was England's match-winner in Moscow when, in the final set, with the match score standing at 3-3, he defeated Sarkis Sarkhojan. Earlier, after the Soviet Union had taken a 2-0 lead, Jill Hammersley beat Tatjana Ferdman, and Douglas combined successfully with Denis Neale and Linda Howard in winning both sets of doubles, the mixed against reigning world champions, Stanislav Gomozkov and Miss Ferdman!

All this was accomplished after a 5 a.m. arrival in Moscow on the day of the match and in that vital last set Douglas recovered from a first game deficit to win after being held to 17-all in the decider.

Individual scores—
1. A. Strokatov bt D. Douglas 8, 12.
2. Sarkhojan bt N. Jarvis 9, 14.
3. T. Ferdman lost to J. Hammersley -17, 20.
5. Gomozkov/Ferdman lost to Douglas/L. Howard 13, -21, -17.
7. Sarkhojan lost to Douglas 15, -19, -17.

Scores:
S. Bengtsson bt A. Neale -18, 13, -18.
P. Birocheau/Secretin bt Bengtsson/Johansson 15, 18, -16.
Secretin/Bergeret bt Johansson/Hellman 15, -19, 9.
Jonyer/Magos bt Orlovski/Riedlova -15, 17, 21.
Jonyer bt Kunz -19, 15, 16.
Gergely bt Orlovski 19, 19.

World champion, Istvan Jonyer, was Hungary's strong man in their 4-3 defeat of Czechoslovakia with wins over Milan Orlovski and Jaroslav Kuntz as well as sharing a mixed doubles success with Judit Magos.

Scores—
1. Jonyer bt M. Orlovski 18, 19.
2. Gergely lost to J. Kunz -12, 18, 13.
3. Magos lost to H. Riedlova -17, 12, 23.

Sweden, whose players came away from Calcutta divested of their two world championships, have taken over the leadership as a result of their 4-3 win over France in a match watched by 3,000 spectators in Rennes!

Scores—
2. C. Martin lost to S. Bengtsson 14, -18, 23.
8. Claude Bergeret led Ann-Christin Hellman 16-14 in the third and, in the penultimate set, Jacques Secretin led Stefan Bengtsson 10-7 at the turn in the decisive set.

On the International Front
by The Editor

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Sarkis Sarkhojan, of the Soviet Union, who, in Moscow, lost to England's Desmond and Douglas in the final set.
Sweden . . . . . . . . . . . . . . 5 4 1 22 13 4
J. Leiss lost to A. Stipancic 17, -18, -16.
P. Stellwag lost to D. Surbek -13, 20, -18.
England 5 2 3 16 19 2
P. Engel/Leiss lost to Stipancic/Surbek -12, 19, -18.
Hungary . . . . . . . . . . .. 5 4 1 19 16 4
when Jochen Leiss saved the "whitewash" by
defeating Dragutin Surbek.
France 5 1 4 16 19 1
Yugoslavia . . . . . . . . .. 5 3 2 18 17 3
Johansson bt Leiss bt Suribek -10, 18, 15.
Strokatov bt Secretin 10, 19.
Bengtsson lost to G. Gergely -20, -15.
Gomozkov /Sarkhojan lost to Birocheau/Secretin -18, -17.
Johansson/Hellnlan bt Jonyer /H. Lotaller -14, -3.
On the same night in Hamm, Federal
Germany's only win against Yugoslavia.

EUROPE CLUB CUP
Men's Event—Semi-final:
GKS Vistula, Zagreb (Yugoslavia) bt
Ormsby TTC (England) 5-2.
Sparta Praha (Czech) bt Kremlin-Bicetre
(France) 5-2.

Women's Event:
Sparta Praha (Czech) bt ASTK Mladost
(Yugoslavia) 5-3.
Varberg BTK (Sweden) bt Statistika PSC
(Hungary) 5-2.

OBITUARY
It is with sorrow that the death of Gunter
Gorlitz is reported. Gorlitz, who died on Jan.
29, was only 48. He was President of the
Deutsches Tischtennis-Verband der DDR from
1955 to 1969.
He served on the ITTF Advisory Committee
from 1957 to 1969 and was a member of the
Federal's Standing Orders Committee from
1961 to 1971. Gunter Gorlitz was an excellent
colleague to work with and during his service
with the ITTF he made some valuable contri-
butions to the activities of the Federation.

Jochen Leiss, who, in Hamm, beat Dragutin Surbek to register Federal Germany's
only win against Yugoslavia.

Photo by Karda Kieslich.
The end result was disappointing as the Scots had hoped to make it a close struggle. However, it was a case of "in near but yet so far" in the game. Richard Yule led Paul Day 20-17 in the first game and lost the next two 17-20 up to another determined effort by the English junior. Elaine Smith stood at 19 all with Carole Knight in the first end and 17 all in the second but could not repeat her Carole victory. Richard Yule, in his big game with Trevor Taylor, won the first 21-10 and reached 20 all in the second and 19 all in the third.

**Scores**
- R. Yule led to P. Day 20, 18, 20.
- J. McNee lost to T. Taylor 16, 19.
- Elaine Smith lost to Carole Knight -19, -18.
- Yule/McNee lost to Day/Barden -23, 15, -15, -19.
- Yule/Miss Smith lost to Barden/Miss Knight -17, -18.
- R. Yule lost to T. Taylor 20, 19, -15.

**Men's Singles**
- The early rounds brought few surprises; the only one to beat Eric Sutherland 3-2 in Round 2 was then last 3-2 to Nigel Eckersley in the next. Ian Robertson reversed his Perth Open defeat by beating veteran Kerr 3-0 in Round 1. Eckersley won out to Andy Barden 21-19 in the 5th and Robertson 3-1 to Trevor Taylor. Both in Round 4. Yule defeated Barden 24-13 in a hard-fought quarter-final and then beat Denis Neale for the second time this season in the semi-finals. Richard was in sparkling form, taking the ball very early on the backhand and directing it to either corner. However, fortunes fluctuated — Richard led 15-7 in the 4th only to lose 19-21 for Denis to level the score. Denis in turn led 15-7 in the 5th but Richard, helped no end by an enthusiastic crowd, fought back to win a backhanded 23-21.

**Scores**
- Men's Singles — Quarter-finals:
  - D. Neale (En) bt P. Day (En) 14, 8, 19.
  - R. Yule bt A. Barden (En) —14, 17, 13, -16, -17.
  - T. Taylor (En) bt J. Walker (En) 15, 18, 22.
  - N. Jarvis (En) bt J. McNee (S) 15, 13, 16.

- Semi-finals:
  - Yule bt Neale 14, 17, 19, 21.
  - J. McNee bt Taylor 15, 12, 12, 12.

- Final:
  - Yule vs McNee -7, 5, 18, 18.

**Women's Singles**
- Youth Walker led good wins over Ireland's Eric Stewart 3-2 and Scotland's Patrick Fleming before losing to Carole Knight in the semi-finals. Elaine Smith reached the final by way of Carol Walker, Brenda Morrish and Grece McKay 3-1.

**Scores**
- Semi-finals:
  - C. Knight (En) bt J. Walker (En) 15, -18, 16, 15.
  - E. Smith (Sc) bt G. McKay (Sc) -17, 15, 13, 12.

- Final:
  - J. McNee bt Smith 18, 17, 14.

**Other Results**
- JARVIS/WALKER bt Neale/Taylor 21, 16, 16.
- YULE/SMITH bt Day/Knight -12, 20, 19, 17.

**Women's Doubles**
- Yule/Smith bt P. Fleming (Sc)/Smith —18, 10, 11, -14.

**Boy's Singles**
- Day bt Barden 12, 12.

**Girl's Singles**
- McKay bt L. Wales (En) —13, 19.

**Veteran's Singles**
- F. L. DAVIES (En) bt R. Kerr (Sc) 20, 18.

**Disciplinary**
The Romanian Federation has suspended Ligia Lupu and the Scottish Association have suspended Kenneth J. Burrell from Mar. 2 to June 30, 1975.
This was certainly our "best ever". We have a splendid venue, playing conditions with ten courts, as good as most and better than many, an organisation which seems to cope with most of the problems, catering facilities on the spot, but what we lacked in the past was quality of entry.

Stiga helped us to make good this deficiency. World Champion Istvan Jonyer, his doubles champion partner Gabor Gergely, Hungarian Lotaller and Gabriella Ivasko, came from Hungary. European Champion Milan Orloński, Jaroslav Kunz, Hana Riedlova and Blanka Silhanova came from Czechoslovakia. Christor Johannson and Hanne Schaf brought over a very promising West German team, and Louis van Gelder brought van de Walle, who always provides good tournament fare, and Nassaar. Although England did not send Neale and Taylor, Nicky Jarvis was there, together with Jimmy Walker, Ian Horsham, Paul Day and Andy Barden, Jill Hammersley and Linda Howard, and many other top county players.

And the smaller countries were there, too. Guernsey, Jersey, Norway and Scotland came to vie with Wales in the West European Group of the European League. Scotland were without Richard Yule and the battle was really joined between Wales and Norway in their clash on Wednesday night. It was a desperately tight struggle, too, but Guttormsen and the defender Meland, were just too good for Alan Griffiths and Graham Davies, with North Wales Junior, Julie Ralphs, saddled with the singles bid and the other North Wales Junior, Pat Allen, coming in for the doubles.

In the event, Norway won the group and will now challenge the winner of the Mediterranean Group playing this month in Bulgaria. Spain, Turkey and Bulgaria are the contenders.

On Friday, these five teams were joined by the "big guns" in a knockout team event, in which Czechoslovakian men beat the Hungarians 3-1 and the Hungarians got their revenge 3-0 in the women's event.

The Individual matches were played on the Saturday and Sunday with the Finals on Sunday afternoon after a crowd of about 800 watching. Then, to a Farewell Party at Tito's Cabaret Club, rounding up a very successful week. So successful, in fact, that Stiga will sponsor the event again next season, when it is hoped that Sweden and Yugoslavia will join the others on a new date—February 6-9, 1976.

After the Welsh Open, the Czechs and Hungarians toured Wales, taking table tennis to areas which had never had the chance to see top play. Thus the Bush Leisure Centre, Pembroke, on Monday, March 10th, the Kings Hall, Aberystwyth, on Tuesday, and the Deeside Leisure Centre, on Wednesday. Altogether over 1,000 people saw some fine table tennis, and although it was to some extent contrived to maintain the edge—Czechoslovakia winning the rubber in the last game of the last match—enthusiastic crowds cheered these new heroes to the echo. Altogether a fine Festival of Table Tennis.

The Czechs and Hungarians monopolised the excellent Stiga Welsh Open played over the period Mar. 7-9 in Cardiff, at the National Sports Centre of Wales. It was good to be able to see the new World Champion, Istvan Jonyer, but it was Milan Orloński, in the men's team event, and Gabor Gergely in the singles, who really shone.

It was difficult to believe that Jonyer was the World Champion, but perhaps it was reaction. In the men's doubles, too, the World Champs, Gergely and Jonyer, lost to Orloński and Jaroslav Kunz.

Here of the meeting was young Paul Day, who played brilliantly and forcefully to beat Kunz, Europe's No. 11, and then Alan Griffiths in the quarters, after the Welshman had trounced Jimmy Walker. In the semis, Jonyer's class really told, however.

In the women's singles, Jill Hammersley retained her title but not without difficulty, particularly against the young Hungarian, Gabriella Ivasko, in the semi's. One No. 1 Junior, Melody Ludi, had a first-class victory over Linda Howard, taking it hit for hit and being quick enough to kill the odd one.

Best set of the championships was the excellent 5-7 game between Orloński and Norbert van de Walle, of Belgium, for a place in the semi's.

Hungary's Gabor Gergely, who, in beating his world champion compatriot, Istvan Jonyer, won the men's singles title in the Welsh Open at Cardiff.

Photo by Karda Kiesslich.
John Oakley in the "London Evening News"

Barnes: I QUOT TO SELL BEER

Barnes, now 28, intends to buy a free house in the West Country and adds: "Table tennis has no future."

"One of my mates in the Post Office earns £74 a week for doing a minor job."

"Trevor Taylor, who has been Commonwealth table tennis champion for the past six years, would have to keep playing to make that much in four weeks at this game."

"In any other sport, if you were Commonwealth champion, or that sort of class, you'd make a fortune."

"Table tennis is years behind the times. Even today the top prizes are only £110."

"I'd have to practice for three weeks to compete in that sort of tournament and then if you lose early you are pounds out of pocket."

"My advice to any young player who is good enough to think he might make a few bob in the game is to try something else."

Barnes, himself, has not done badly out of table tennis, because he is contracted to give exhibitions at holiday camps during the summer. He makes around £9,000 a year.

"But I figure it's best to quit competitive play now while I'm still at the top.

"Let all the other girls scramble for the odd crust from table tennis while I make a fortune from hugging beer."

If Chester is correct about his mate's earnings for a minor job in the Post Office, no wonder the postal charges have rocketed! - Ed.
TENNYSON TABLE TENNIS CLUB SILVER JUBILEE

By E. C. Prowen (Club President)

Following our third successive League Championship win in the Premier Division of the Wiltshire and District T.T. League, we are very proud and pleased to be able to celebrate our 25th anniversary with a commemorative match against Tennyson roadford. On Friday, 24th April, 1975, at N.C.R., North Circular Road, N.W.2.

Although a private club solely concerned with table tennis, our subscriptions are still at the 1963 level—indeed lower than in our second season when the six founder members were paying the hire purchase for a new table on a weekly basis.

The club was created by Arthur Rushton in a small hall at the corner of Tennyson Road, Kilburn, London—hence the name—and although no longer an active member, Arthur acts as Chairman at our Annual General Meetings.

Of the founder members, Molly and Eric Prowen are still playing regularly and a number of our members continue in service after 20 years or more—Lagie Landry, Ron Russell, Graham Hobbs, Bob Griffiths, John Wright, Bob Carver and Chris Sweetman. Many intstructorial and county stars have represented us—Murry and Brian Wright, Eddie Hodson, Stephen Wright, Ray Wright, Alan Wright, Bruce Carver and Chris Sweetman. Mary and Brian Wright, Eddie Hodson, Stephen Wright, Ray Wright, Alan Wright, Bruce Carver and Chris Sweetman. Many intstructorial and county stars have represented us—Murry and Brian Wright, Eddie Hodson, Stephen Wright, Ray Wright, Alan Wright, Bruce Carver and Chris Sweetman.

The Somerset Closed was held at Weston-super-Mare Y.M.C.A., on Mar. 8. The finalists went into the West England Championship, the best eight players in the M.S. in which Tony Kinsey (Winston M.) beat the defending champion, Reeves, 21-19, 19-21, 21-18. Other results—W.S. —Alma Heath (now Tubbs), M.D.—Reeves, C. Faithman (Fallded); W.D.—Mrs. L. Baker/Mrs. Heath; X.D.—K. Webster/F. Poole (Taunton). There were 43 competitors and a small presentation was made to Miss Sue Jones.

The Junior Closed was held at Weston-super-Mare Y.M.C.A., on Mar. 8. The finalists went into the West England Championship, the best eight players in the M.S. in which Tony Kinsey (Winston M.) beat the defending champion, Reeves, 21-19, 19-21, 21-18. Other results—W.S. —Alma Heath (now Tubbs), M.D.—Reeves, C. Faithman (Fallded); W.D.—Mrs. L. Baker/Mrs. Heath; X.D.—K. Webster/F. Poole (Taunton). There were 43 competitors and a small presentation was made to Miss Sue Jones.

The Junior Closed took place at Ware School, Hertford, but the entry was poor. Most interest was centred on the representatives from the previous season. Fred Laidler, who is doing a grand job coaching these youngsters.

The outstanding player in the Shrewsbury Closed Championships was undoubtedly Chris Sweetman. He reached the two finals and then beat the reigning champion, Alberry Huczko (11-17, 21-10) to win the boys' singles. He retained the men's doubles title with K. Walton by again bearing last year's runner-up, Huczko and G. Samuel, and, partnered by Miss S. Evans, narrowly just to last year's winners, W. E. Jones and Mrs. G. Goe (14-13, 19) in the mixed.

The 34 entries in the junior event reflected the efforts of the coaches during the last two years. In the final, Lee Banks beat new Stone Davies (17-19) to avenge last year's reverse. Mrs. Goe once more emerged victorious with the women's singles, beating Sue Evans in the final 18-20, 19.

The Telford Closed produced many early surprises, M. C. F. Jones and V. Conners champions for the last two years, losing in the first round to F. Guinnell, who won the runners-up title. Seeded W. Harris also lost in the first round to unseeded C. Sewell and F. Molloy, who later reached the final.

FAR FROM THE MADDING CROWD

By John Pike

Far removed from the E.T.T.A. office at Hastings, is the Lilleshall National Sports Centre, tucked away in the leafy lanes of Shropshire. It was there I met the Centre's Director, Derek Tremayne, at a press conference last month.

Since leaving the world of table tennis, Derek and his new management team have quickly brought about a new image to Lilleshall, which could not fail to impress the media. With his deputy, Colin McFadyean, the former player is doing a superb P.R. job. Lilleshall can only go from strength to strength.

On a conducted tour of the centre, one could see how a site which could take British sport back to the top.

A cycling track running through the picturesque grounds received high praise from one of the sport's leading administrators, Benny X.D.—Reeve/Mrs. A. Cory 

WHAT OF THE FUTURE?

Once again the County secular title were Tennyson Table Tennis Club is well represented at all levels of play and administration —National, County and League—and looks forward to many more successful years in its chosen sport. Attractively clothed in their new strip the team faced Bournville in the West Midland League. Bournville took the opening rubber 3-2, but Tennyson fought back to level the score at 2-2. In the deciding rubber Tennyson's number 1 pair won 21-17, 21-16, 21-19 as Tennyson gained the point. The next match took place at Bournville, this time Tennyson were the hosts. The result was the same with Tennyson gaining the point.

The centre can boast of having 800 members and 600 of these are actively involved in the sport. The centre has a 250-seater indoor hall, a sports hall which also doubles as a gymnasium, an outdoor court and a rowing lake. There is also a hotel and as a complete contrast, a group of Prison Officers are training there.

Inside, the running track and squash courts must have been the envy of many. In residence on the day of the press conference was the Birmingham City Police preparing for the cup tie with Middlebrough, some 30 schoolboys from Kenilworth at the indoor cricket nets, and as a complete contrast, a group of Prison Officers on a P.R. course.

With so much to offer, this venue should be a must for national table tennis teams. It is already used by junior players at coaching weekends but so many more could benefit by visiting this Shropshire outpost.

Next year Lilleshall celebrates its 25th anniversary, and I am sure on that occasion Derek's many table tennis friends will wish him well.

SELECTIONS

by Alan Cavell

A. C. REEVES (Taunton); J. B. TAYLOR (Somerset); G. D.-Conners (Ilminster); B.D.-Richard Moss (Bath)....

SHROPSHIRE NOTES

by Mike Hawkins

Jeremy Musselfwhite (Bath); G.S.—Jadith Conners (Purissled); B.D.—Richard Gheel (Crewkerne/Musselfwhite); G.D.—Conners/Jadith Conners (Midsummer-Norton); X.D.—Musselfwhite/Conners.

Martin Plumbidge (Taunton) won the U-15 R.S. title and John Redd the U-15 G.S. only one of the finals going into a third game.

In the Stiga National Club Championships, Oldfield Park Baptists 'A', the Bath and District League champions, met Heavtire 'A', champions of the Exeaster League, at Percy Boys Club, Bath. Oldfield must have been in a happy mood to desige some fine play from Chris Sewall. Has Oldfield played their player's star, Tony Clayton, I think the result would have been very different.

Since my last notes, another league, the Bath and District, have joined with the Bristol and District League and North-East Somerset, to form the new County Association of Area, of which much more will be heard of in the not too distant future.

Mrs. Doreen Henderson is still doing a good job of work on the coaching scheme and has arranged another version for youngsters at Wells State School, Midsummer-Norton. But what is going to happen to our Somerset Association in the months that lie ahead?

SPORTS HOLIDAYS FOR THE YOUNG ENTHUSIASTS

Sports coaching for boys and girls under the age of 18 has again been arranged at Scarborough over the period 26th July to 6th August, 1975.

In addition to the annual Cricket coaching for boys held by the Yorkshire County Cricket Club, there will again be table tennis coaching catered for. During the week 26th July to 2nd August there will be coaching for selected players in Rugby Union, Table Tennis, Badminton and Squash, while during the second week the activities covered will be Boys' and Girls' Cricket, Valleysports and Squash.

Applications will be accepted for all activities, the final selection or recommendation being made by the governing body of sport concerned.

Attendance at the course can be either on a day basis or resident at Scarborough College, Tilde Road, Scarborough. The full residential fee is £22.00 and that chargeable to day students £13.50 (including meals), both fees including V.A.T.
Henry Buist once again showed us what wonders he can work with a rubber bat when he again won the International Rubber Bat Open.

Henry romped through to the semi where he faced third seed Laurie Tarten, and timed his romp to win the first at 13, whereupon Laurie started to show us the form we know he is capable of, to win the second at 10. Henry continued his romp to win the final at 25.

In the women's singles, Diane Court, seeded No. 1, had to scratch and her place in the draw was taken by Elaine Tarten, who promptly lost to J. Garrett, to pave the way for Pauline Piddock, seeded No. 2. Pauline came on strong, to win at 18.

In the women's doubles, Pauline Piddock and Elaine Tarten, who had reached the final without the loss of a game, seemed to be outclassed and lost easily in the second -11.

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Junior Selections

Paul Day and Andrew Barden, who distinguished themselves by winning the men's doubles title in the Norwich Union English Championships at Crystal Palace, will constitute England's top pairing in the boys' team event of the Wrottesley Junior International Championships, to be played over the weekend of May 17-18.

In total some eight teams, 5 boys and 3 girls, have been entered by the E.T.T.A. for what was formerly known as the English Junior Open. Last season Day and Barden were eliminated in the semi-final round by Per Sandstrom and Roger Lagerfeldt, of Sweden, who went on to account for England's second team of David Alderson and John Kitchener, in winning the title.

Anita Stevenson and Carole Knight won the counterpart girls' event with a final 3-0 win over Sweden. Sandstrom won the B.S. title and Miss Knight, no longer a junior, the G.S., beating Marianne Wagemakers, of the Netherlands, in the final.

England's main hopes in the boys' individual events obviously rest with the No. 1 junior in the country, Paul Day, and the English Junior champion, Andrew Barden.

Day was outstanding at Crystal Palace reaching the semi-final of the M.S. event. He also displayed, at Easter, that he is among the top junior players in Europe, by reaching the final of the Federal German Junior Open, losing to the host nation's Engelbert Huging. Barden has performed well throughout the season, winning three Senior Open M.S. titles and, is currently ranked No. 6 in the national men's list.

Of the girls, England's No. 1 Junior, Melody Ludi, will wish to reproduce the form she showed in the Norwich Union English Championship, to be played over the weekend of May 17-18. Her partner will be Jill Hammersley, in winning the title.

The pairing of Kevin Beadsley and Johnny Leach (twice world Singles Champion), Chester Barnes (5 times English Champion), Denis Neale (4 times English Champion and No. 1 player), Linda Howard (England's No. 2), Richard Yule (Scotland's No. 1).

MIDAS SILVER SPOT is the choice of Champions, including:

JOHNNY LEACH (twice world Singles Champion),
JILL HAMMERSLEY (English Champion and No. 1 player),
CHESTER BARNES (5 times English Champion),
DENIS NEALE (4 times English Champion and No. 1 player),
LINDA HOWARD (England's No. 2),
RICHARD YULE (Scotland's No. 1).

Why are they all switching to MIDAS SILVER SPOT?

Ask your local sports dealer for MIDAS SILVER SPOT; the bat with the magic sandwich surface that Chester Barnes, and his fellow British stars, are all switching to. Dcn't a Neale is switching because:

"MIDAS SILVER SPOT gives me extra speed AND spin without sacrifice in ball control."

Jill Hammersley says:

"It's ideal for girls."

But let Chester Barnes have the last word:

"MIDAS SILVER SPOT is the best thing to happen in table tennis for ten years," he says. And he's not kidding.

Try it — and give your game a touch of magic.

Answer: They're all switching because MIDAS SILVER SPOT is the bat of the future.

INTRODUCING MIDAS SILVER SPOT

MIDAS SILVER SPOT Table Tennis bats represent a genuine advance in sandwich rubber. Top players have been amazed at its versatility, for it helps both attacking and defensive shots without any sacrifice of ball control. This special blend of natural and sponge rubber was developed in Japan by a leading manufacturer in consultation with Johnny Leach. It is endorsed by such British stars as Chester Barnes and Denis Neale, and is marketed exclusively by S. W. Hancock. The MIDAS SILVER SPOT bat features a specially constructed ply blade, to take maximum advantage of this super rubber, and also a smooth-grip waisted handle. It is available in either Leach or Barnes shape and style in four different thicknesses—1mm, 1.5mm, 2mm, and 2.5mm.

MIDAS SILVER SPOT Rubber is also available as a separate pack, so that a player may, if he prefers, affix it to his own favourite blade.
The other match, on April 10, resulted in a 5-2 win for Sweden over Czechoslovakia. Current table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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<th>P W L F Apts</th>
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**County Championships**

**TITLE FOR ESSEX**

Essex, with a 7-2 win over Yorkshire on April 12, regained the Premier Division title of the County Championships, last won in season 1971-72, to leave their victims with an anxious overnight wait pending the result of Bedfordshire’s home match against Cheshire on the following day.

Two wins for Trevor Taylor, a solo for brother Peter, together with the M.D., had the match score poised at 4-all before Nigel Eckersley won the day for Cheshire with a last set win over Peter Taylor.

Equal both on points and sets, Yorkshire got the way of execution on games average, their 743 being superior to the 692 of Bedfordshire. Glamorgan, beaten 7-2 by Lancashire, join Bob in the relegation positions. Warwickshire brought off a surprising 5-4 win away to Middlesex.

Final Premier Division table:

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**DEVON NOTES**

by Keith Ponting

COACHING DEDICATION

Pride of place this month goes to the unashamed, no-trumpeter-blowing, dedicated people whose efforts are making sure that our sport survives in the County for a very long time. I refer to the Coaches, who spend many hours in the service of table tennis and the Devon County Association. Under the guidance of the County Coaching Officer, Barbara Pearson and Paddy Shannon, programmes have been arranged and lots of youngsters are coming through. Paddy, helped by Bernard Shaw, has a large Sunday morning session at a local school, where Barbara Pearson and Frank Aslett are doing wonders in the Plymouth area.

Mike Edmunds and John Robinson are well serving the North of the County. Tony Lucsacco, in the Southern area, is also doing a magnificent job, now mainly on his own, owing to the unfortunate illness of Nan Wilkey. It is hoped that given time to recover, Nan will be back amongst the youngsters, giving them the benefit of her experience and advice. We may well make our friends "up-country" the envy of some things, but the dedication of these people cannot be matched anywhere, and our Association owes them a great debt of gratitude for the long way they continue.

Around the Leagues

The Exeter Championships were, once again, very successful, with Paul Stone, so often in the shadow of Mike Rattray, beating his rival to take the men's singles title. This was the first time Paul has beaten Mike and he thoroughly deserved his win, in a wonderful match. Rattray has always been a dignified winner and this showed even in defeat, after so many years on top. P. W. McCollough, the holder, was an example to all the youngsters who were present. Pam Mortimer again won the women's singles titles.

In the Stiga National Club Championships, our champions, Heath and Howards, had good runs, eventually going out to the strong Chadwell Heath team. However, they gave a good account of themselves and were full of praise for the kindness and hospitality of their Essex hosts.

In the Exmouth Championships, Paddy Shepherd almost caused an upset but Stone just managed to pull it off in the men's singles event. The Devon League looks like being dominated by Plymouth, but more about that next time, when I hope to have available the final league tables.

**SURREY CLOSED**

by TED SIMPKIN

SHOCK FOR SUSAN

The Senior County Championships, played on Mar. 10, were a great success, and just more than the usual crop of surprises. The No. 1 seed in the W.S., No. 1, was put out by D. Harding in the third round, Barry Hill at No. 3, fell victim to No. 4, Chrissie Stewart down to David Bangerter. No. 2, David Wallin, the holder, went through to the final, where, in a nail-biter, he popped a greatly improved Max Crimmins with a lucky point at "deuce" in the third.

In the W.S. Kay Greenough caused a sensation by beating Susan Henderson in the last one before falling to Linda Howard in the best-of-three final. The Veteran Championship was won by Gordon Chapman over Nick Kercher, and Barry Hill, with Linda Howard, got the win by beating D. Holman and Susan in the final. Holman had better luck with Lyme in the Men's Doubles against Walsh and Bangerter. Shock of the day in the Girls' Doubles was when two of England's top ten, Linda Howard and her sister, Susan Henderson, lost their semi-final 9-17, 9-17, to Mrs. J. and daughter Susan, Heath (who had not played together in a tournament). This result opened the way for Joan Mitchell and Suzanne Roeback to take the title.

Three weeks later the Guildford Association held their own tournament over three days at the magnificent Sports Hall of Surrey University. Twenty-seven hours of play for twenty-four individual trophies with twelve tables in use for the prouder part of the time culminating in the almost inevitable success of David Wallin over a gallant Rob McKewin in the Open Singles. The tournament as a whole was dominated by the juniors, with an amazing victory in the Intermediate Singles (open to all players in the Thirds and Fifths of the local league) by eleven-year-old Mark Oakley. It was generally held that the finals of the Open Doubles would be between Paul Brook and Bob Bradstreet, in which Paul's Barnsley-like form was once again over a magnificent retriever. Other successes were newcomers Stephen Bangton, Steven Woodgate, Suzanne Roeback, Jayme Mitchell, Michelle Brand, Sarah Creswell, Kim and Terry Murrin, Simon and Timmy Vine, Terry Haley, and Graham Russell. In the Men's Doubles McKewin and Paul Shannon beat Alan Thornton and Simon Pope on the last day. Three set points in the second set and after an incident in which the umpire dealt very effectively with a ticklish situation.
I.T.T.F. BIENNIAL GENERAL MEETING

E.T.T.A. delegates Charles M. Wyles (Chairman) and George R. Yates (Deputy Chairman) set the tone in for the first session of Congress in the Grand Hotel, Calcutta.

Photo by ajoy dey, Calcutta.

DECLARATION RE-AFFIRMED

by The Editor

At the Biennial General Meeting of the International Table Tennis Federation in Calcutta on Feb. 14, 1975, the President, H. Roy Evans, expressed regret at the circumstances which prevented the teams of Israel Sports Federation and South Africa Table Tennis Board from attending the 33rd World Table Tennis Championships.

The President was satisfied that every effort had been made to secure the attendance of these teams and reaffirmed the declaration that access to all World Championships must be available to all members.

NEW MEMBERS

A list of new members elected by the Council into "provisional membership in good standing," and requiring confirmation by the Biennial General Meeting was agreed. The newcomers brought up the overall membership to 118 Associations, the newly-elected being:- Bahrain, Bhutan National Sports Association, Costa Rica, Dominica, Faroese Islands, Guam, Iceland, Macao, Malagasy, Panama, Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Togo, United Arab Emirates, Yemen Arab Republic and People's Democratic Republic of Yemen.

OFFICERS AND COUNCIL 1975-1977

The election for 15 members making up the Council resulted:

1. I. Ogimura (Japan) .................. 97
2. T. D. Ranga Ramanujan (India) .... 82
3. A. Amir Amin (Iran) .................. 72
4. Dr. A. A. Efunkoya (Nigeria) ....... 72
5. C. M. Wyles, O.B.E. (England) ... 71

Votes

6. Rubee H. Turk (Palestine Gaza) .... 67
7. Mrs. Nancy Ray Evans (Wales) ..... 65
8. J. Neakvital (Czechoslovakia) ....... 63
9. Dr. H. Farrell (Mexico) ................. 59
10. Dr. G. Lakatos (Hungary) ........... 59
11. Son Gil Chon (DPR Korea) .......... 59
12. H. Urchetti (Switzerland) .......... 59
13. M. Kaperanac (Yugoslavia) ....... 58
14. S. Danet (Belgium) ................. 56
15. J. Veeshky (Ireland) ............... 56

Not elected were:

1. H. Haidar (Syria) ... 55
2. S. Albourjaily (Lebanon) ... 51
3. Michael Chen Wing Sun (Malaysia) ... 51
4. Rufford Harrison (U.S.A.) ... 49
5. Ductos (French) ... 45
6. T. D. Ranga Ramanujan (India) ... 45
7. M. Kaperanac (Yugoslavia) ... 32
8. A. Eriksson (Sweden) ... 31
9. Mrs. M. Anderi (Greece) ... 25
10. Chung Wing Kwong (Hong Kong) ... 24
11. Van Golder (Belgium) ... 23
12. Ivan Pasios Vitas (Brazil) ... 21
13. J. Salchi (Spain) ... 16

The Standing Orders Committee recommendations for Committees and Commissions were approved as follows:-

Classification Committee

Dr. G. Lakatos (Chairman), Hanns Schlaf, Germany FR (Secretary), Chang Chia-han (PR China), Dr. A. A. Efunkoya (Nigeria), S. Y. Hammarland (Sweden), John Read (USA) and H. Yanita (Japan).

Equipment Committee

*J. Rufford Harrison (Chairman), Jupp Schlaf (Secretary), Y. Miyamoto (Japan), R. I. Crayden (England), T. Horvath (Hungary), J. M. Kasyoka and G. Tartigin.

Press and Publicity Committee (formerly a Commission)

Mrs. Nancy Ray Evans (Chairman), Keith Bowler (Joint Secretary), *George R. Yates, England (Joint Secretary), C. Calliou (France), J. M. Kasyoka and G. Tartigin.

Rules Committee

*Colin J. Clemmott, England (Chairman),

The Editor looking with interest at the illustrated guide produced by Dunlop, India, on the occasion of the 33rd World Championships. From 1 to 10: A. Bhattachrji, Sanat Lahiri, Publicity Manager, Dunlop, India, George Yates and Ken Wilkinson, Hon. Gen. Sec. of the New Zealand T.T.A.

Photo by Memar Chand Mullica, Calcutta.
Low Note Finish
Northumberland County second team ended their season on a low note when they lost 3-7 at home to Cumbria in their final match.

This was their first-ever defeat by Cumbria, whose change of name seems to have brought them good fortune, as they were also successful against Durham's second team and just failed to collect a point against Cheshire's third team.

Only Andrew Clark, who won two singles, and Malcolm McMaster, who won one, showed their true form, and it is now seen that the days of the second team are numbered pending an official decision by the Executive Committee for next season. Should this decision be carried out, it will be sad exit for the first champions of the revived Northern Division during the 1976/7 season.

Meanwhile, it is all happening to the County junior teams. In their last match, at home to Lancashire, a 4-6 defeat was turned into a 6-4 win because Lancashire fielded an ineligible player. This time, Cumbria could only win one girl's match, which meant that they had to forfeit the girls' doubles. This, however, did not detract from a fine 7-3 win for the Northumberland, with Clark, as usual, winning two singles, and Glenn McCarrick and Eddie Thomas one each. Andrew and Glenn also won the boys' doubles, while Valerie Smith played most impressively to record her first singles win. Julie Harris, playing in her first County match, was unfortunate not to start off with a win, as she and Eddie lost the mixed only at 21-23 in the third.

The first team play their last match of the season at home to Cheshire II on April 12, and the juniors' final match will be at home to Cheshire on the same day.

Northumberland were eliminated from the J.M. Rose Bowl at the semi-final stage when they entertained Ormsby at North Shields Y.M.C.A. The Ormsby team of Carole Kearney, Barbara Kearney and Angela Tierney was much too strong for Pat Small, Pauline Jackson and Daphne Russell, and triumphed 4-0.
Lincolnshire's Suzanne Hunt, the English Junior Closed champion, chosen with Angela Tierney, for the trip to Federal Germany.

**TEAM SELECTIONS**

The Czechoslovakian International Championships were due to be held in Prague from March 28-30. Chosen for England were Commonwealth Champion Trevor Taylor (Bedford), many Walker (Cleveland) and Donald Parker (Lancashire). Women selected were: Susan Linse (Cheshire) and Carole Knight (Cleveland). Team captain: Bryan Belcher.

Over the same period the Federal German Junior International Championships were also due to be held at Dillingen, near Saarbrucken. Chosen for England were the country's two leading boys, Paul Day (Cambs.) and Andrew Barden (Middx) to be accompanied by Suzanne Hunt (Lincolnshire) and Angela Tierney (Cleveland). The team were to play a Junior International match against Federal Germany at Aachen on March 21, captained by Brian Burn.

**HERALDING HEREFORDSHIRE**

by Ian R. Crickmer

With both Hereford and Leominster bringing their League programmes towards their conclusion, interest in March switched to the Herefordshire Closed Championships. First the Village Farm, with Mark Owen and sistercomb, retain their top ratings with relative ease, as the Western Division programme, and Shropshire Schools' T.T.A. will provide the opposition in a challenge match which, it is hoped, will lead to increased schools' activity in the region. It is encouraging to note that Hereford will be well represented in the new combined Hereford and Worcester Schools' championships at Redditch on April 13th.

In the Worcestershire County League, Hereford's 6-4 away win over Malvern left the championship issue dependent on the final fixtures against Halesowen, a formidable side including Worcestershire County players Brian Belcher and Mervyn Wood.

Finally, following the success of last year's event, an end-of-season Dinner-Dance has again been arranged at the Park Hall Ballroom, Womerton—the date, a "must" for your diary—is Thursday, May 15th.

**JUNIOR SELECTIONS**

The National Selection Committee have chosen the following players to represent England in a Junior International match against the Netherlands in Holland, on the weekend of either April 26-27 or May 3-4, 1975.

**Boys**
- Chris Sewell (Gloucs), Mark Mitchell (Middx) and Douglas Johnson (Warwks).
- Suzanne Hunt (Lincolnshire) chosen in conjunction with Chris Sewell, Mark Mitchell and Douglas Johnson, to form the non-travelling reserves.

**Girls**
- Melody Ludi (Yorks) and Angela Mitchell (Middx).

Brian Burn is the n.p.c. with Martin Shuttleworth (Surrey) and Suzanne Hunt (Lincolnshire) chosen as the non-travelling reserves.

It transpires that the foregoing squad was chosen in conjunction with that making the trip to Federal Germany, the pity being that both squads were not announced at the same time, thus obliterating the fierce created in the Bread Aces.—Ed.


Lincolnshire's Suzanne Hunt, the English Junior Closed champion, chosen with Angela Tierney, for the trip to Federal Germany. Photo by Tony Ross, of Hessle.
COUNTY NOTES

SUPPLEMENT

ESSEX NOTES

by Geoff Newman

COUNTY TEAMS PROSPER

Our County Championship teams continue to prosper and our Senior, Junior, Veterans’ first, as well as the Junior seconds, all hope to take County titles. At present all lead their respective divisions but the final run-in will be hard, particularly for the Junior Premier team, who will have to contend with the Barden/Mitchell-inspired Middlesex team.

Bob Patton, our Junior No. 1, did well to win the West Midlands Junior “B” tournament and obviously deserves his England No. 6 ranking.

If any club players in the district can offer accommodation to entrants, Dagenham will provide transport and entry forms can be made out to Mrs. Margaret Carter, 173 Alma Avenue, Hornchurch.

The Essex Closed Championships will be held at the Essex College of Physical Education, Southend, on April 26-27. Organiser Ron Gore doing a wonderful job for their activities in the tournament sponsorship field.

The tournament promises to be bigger and better than ever, and it is hoped that a team event can be run on the Saturday evening.

That great Yorkshire player, Ian Varia, has confirmed that he will play in the event. Invitations have gone to Eberhard Achiller and his wife, Diane, better known as England’s Diane Rowe. The Scottish National squad will also receive entries from Germany and from Belgium.

The Essex Closed Championships will be held at the Essex College of Physical Education, Southend. On the 26th April, and this should be given the highest priority. The Essex Inter-League Championships is in full swing and the dates are to date.

Top of the table placings—

Division 1

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The second team has been more successful—drawing in acritic conditions against Clwyd, and beating Northants 2nd at home 5-1. The draw with Clwyd was achieved after the loss of the first three singles, then all the doubles were won by Notts. Diane Maxfield won the women’s singles, and Nicky Kirkland clinched the draw with only men’s singles to be decided.

The Junior team has done well with two sight 6-4 wins over Staffs, and Leics. 2nd. The Staffs match was won by the boys, Chris Stockdale, Dave Britton and Glen Streeter, but the Leics. match was won of a team effort. Elaine Hardman, on debut, won the first girls’ singles match for over a year, and Karen Mayfield found her demotion to the doubles more to her liking, combining well with Streeter to win the mixed. The match had an exciting climax, with Britton scraping home 22-20 in the third to clinch victory.

Again, I leave our most successful team until last. The Veterans continue their tremendous run, having won their last two matches 8-1 and 7-2 against Leics. and Warwicks, respectively. John Ellis, John Burraston and Ron Bolton provide stiff opposition for any opponent, whilst Pat Howard still proves too strong for most opposition.

The County Closed was again dominated by Bilton. He retained his singles title, in a repeat of last year’s final against Mayfield, and the men’s doubles with Roger Dawkins. Kimball was on top form also, taking the Intermediate title, reaching the semi-finals of the men’s singles, and with Sue Osborn, knocking out holders Croke and Pat Hopkins in the semi-final of the mixed. In this event the performances of Pat Hammond and All Saunders showed through in the final, regaining a title after being losing finalists last year.

Gloria Stocks beat the surprisingly unseeded Pat Hopkins in the women’s singles, winning both matches, winning both singles, and Sue Osborn also won the women’s doubles with Roger Dawkins. The County Closed was again dominated by Croke. He retained his singles title, in a repeat of last year’s final against Mayfield, and the men’s doubles with Roger Dawkins.

The Midland League the Nottinghamshire Men’s “B” team have been the one with most success, and as expected, are close to claiming the Division 3 title.

I am sorry to have to report the sudden death of Alan Packer at the age of 44. Alan was a well-known figure in Notts. T.T. circles, being a County Vets. player up until this season, and a local sports shop owner. He had just instigated a new competition to promote an improvement in playing conditions in the county.

LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES

by Alan G. Birks

GRIMSBY LOSE TWO TITLES

The third County table tennis Inter-town competitions have all been table tennis affairs, with 100% records. Wyberton won the Haigh Cup at their first attempt, up at their first appearance, up at their first attempt, up at their first attempt.

Wyberton took the Butcher Cup with a lead of 4 clear points, whilst Spalding retained the Butcher Trophy, conceding only 4 sets. And two of the three championship teams had unseeded matches, the Hill, the number one team in the 64, siding with his all his set for Wyberton, and Spalding’s John White was unbeaten for the second successive year.

Wyberton’s success was hardly unexpected, as they can call on the services of Brian Mayfield, and the County. They were only extended by holders Grimsby, who were beaten 4-1, M. East conceding only his set to B. Allinson.

In the second half of the season, last season’s runners-up, clinched the Weatherby Cup with victories over Spalding and the County. Grimsby, the holders, and Grimsby. Against
Grantham the Boston players won two singles each and also took the doubles to win 7-3. For 20 wins out of 24.

Round 7–

Butlin Cup

A. Dibdin 'Won his three for the Grantham R. Brown was unbeaten. In the consistency of Vaughan and Fossitt, both with

Yorkshire Notes

by Tony Ross

INCREIBLE DECISION

How can the E.T.T.A. Selection Committee, selecting a team to represent England in the West German Junior Open, decide which player is strongest in the County in terms of entry, spectator support and quality of play? My view is that it may be the second strongest, for reasons which I hope to show in a later article.

In the Docking Championships, Barry Gilbert gained revenged over Trevor Moone when he reversed but he still had a real chance. With Jim Elliott he took the doubles title, beating Doug Baker and Geoff Cowlan. The women's final, partnered Susan Walker to take the doubles over Marion Rogers and Gill McCulloch, and then joined Shuttle to win the mixed over Marion Rogers and Bill Holder. Elaine Battram beat Marion Rogers in the women's final, partnered Susan Walker to take the doubles over Marion Rogers and Gill McCulloch, and then joined Shuttle to win the mixed over Marion Rogers and Bill Holder.

Tony Ross

There were several other tournaments, but Tony managed to win the under-17 event.

Fourteen-year-old Kevin Beadsley won the Halifax Closed for the first time when he defeated anti-looper David Lamb 19, 18 in the men's singles final. In fact, Kevin won four other titles, and played three final matches against the same player, Tony Bentumney. Kevin won the under-15 and under-20 singles, but Tony managed to win the under-25 event. I am told by Halifax Secretary, Geoff Barns, that Tony was the only player over 25 to play in this season in any tournament.

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This season has seen a great revival in Cambridgeshire table tennis. The County Seniors have claimed the Division One title and the second junior team are on the verge of winning the Junior East Division, although they are fighting it out with Norfolk.

The Senior team are on the verge of winning the Junior East Division, 25-26 they will meet at the semi-finals of the Welsh Open Championship at Cardiff. Their crucial match against Hampshire, which clinched the title, was a real thriller, with Cambs scraping a 6-4 victory with almost the last shot.

In an Eastern Division match Cambs were beaten 6-4 by Hunts. Two Wisbech juniors, on the third round of the Stiga National Championship for the first time, at the bottom of the Division, but now have Fisons 8-2. Whilst still in the bottom two positions, they are doing enough to make the team immediately above them start worrying.

Individual results of note include Mike Johns winning the East of England Open, and Sam Lunel in his respective event, and John Milton's success in the Irish Open. John McNee, of the Wirral, has at last come good and won his first cap for his native Scotland.

John made an impressive debut at the Welsh Open, where he collected the scalp of Jimmy Walker, who reacted to this reverse by leaving European star, Gabi Gergely.

I know there are a number of leagues running their closed championships, at present and I would like to include results of some in these notes. However, as yet, no information has been forthcoming, so I am afraid the usual, old names will appear from month to month. I am a voluntary contributor and can only do so much in obtaining information, so your help would be greatly appreciated and would give our column wider horizons. So please, folks, I plead for news.

Congratulations to Cheshire's first-ever national finalists in the British School T.T.A., Marple Hall, whose team of John Evans, John Almond, Martin Wyssatt and Michael Houghton won the Boys' U-19 title in the National School Team Championships at Green Law, Manchester.

CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES
by Leslie Constable

TITLE CLINICER

In the first-ever national finals in the British School T.T.A., Marple Hall, whose team of John Evans, John Almond, Martin Wyssatt and Michael Houghton won the Boys' U-19 title in the National School Team Championships at Green Law, Manchester.

Cambridgeshire need only beat Dereham and will be relegated to Division II next season. Fire Service and Torchbearers II are almost certain to struggle with Northampton to clinch the title. With Barry White and Chris Pickard, it was left to Harper, Keith Richardson and Valerie Speirs to ensure a point for Cambridge, with almost the last shot.

Not to be outdone by the youngsters, Cambridge need only beat Dereham and will be relegated to Division II next season. Fire Service and Torchbearers II are almost certain to struggle with Northampton to clinch the title. With Barry White and Chris Pickard, it was left to Harper, Keith Richardson and Valerie Speirs to ensure a point for Cambridge, with almost the last shot.

Although inadequate lighting caused the last stages of the main events to become something of a lottery, the better players were able to surmount these problems, to proceed to the finals, with few qualms. TheIllness of Gary Adam last year; the unfortunate departure from the table tennis scene of brother Kevin; the elevation from Junior to Senior of the talented Anne Wallis, and the departure of one of the country's leading players, I would like to include results of some in these notes. However, as yet, no information has been forthcoming, so I am afraid the usual, old names will appear from month to month. I am a voluntary contributor and can only do so much in obtaining information, so your help would be greatly appreciated and would give our column wider horizons. So please, folks, I plead for news.

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HUNTINGDONSHIRE NOTES
by David Deller

A busy month with two County matches and more than four tournaments taking place in the space of three weeks. Hunts Seniors followed by Hunts Juniors, by the 1st. When 20 rounds were not played, due to rain, the Hunts Seniors were decided at the last minute, with 81 points for Peterborough, 79 for Cambridge, 78 for Stamford, and 76 for Spalding. The Hunts Juniors followed with 81 points for Cambridge, 77 for Peterborough, 75 for Spalding, and 72 for Stamford. In the Hunts Seniors, the winner was Matt Kew, beating Brian Jones, 3-1, 0-2, 2-0, 2-0. In the Hunts Juniors, the winner was George Smith, beating Simon Stack, 2-0, 2-0, 2-0, 2-0.

Oxfordshire

The Oxfordshire Juniors were decided at the last minute, with 76 points for Oxford, 75 for Banbury, 71 for Bicester, and 67 for Wantage. The winner was Sam Baker, beating Matt Kew, 2-0, 2-0, 2-0, 2-0.

Norfolk

In the Norfolk Juniors, the winner was Charlie Young, beating John Ford, 2-0, 2-0, 2-0, 2-0.

DERBYSHIRE NOTES
by Derek Oldman

As the season draws towards its close, many of the County's top players are finding life easier as they enjoy themselves playing in numerous leagues in and around the Derbyshire area. It is the time when closed tournaments are being held, both with the locals and a few county competitions. All of this might be good for the players but a nightmare for the organizers.

The real derby 'closed'! Doug Foulks celebrated his return to the County 1st side in the men's doubles title, a crown he has now captured on 8 occasions. Fast Warner was the beaten finalist this time.

The Norfolk County Dinner has temporarily lapsed. A sad event of the past month was the sudden death of Harold Betts, for 32 years at Dereham. Norfolk have had their fair share of "ups and downs", strong challenge from several excellent young players, but whose form and quality are impressive. Returning to the Closed, the winner was a surprise with both Stephen Baker and Michael Hawes being beaten by Alan Lamprell and Doreen Underwood, who took the Men's and Women's titles.

As this season draws towards its close, many of the County's top players are finding life easier as they enjoy themselves playing in numerous leagues in and around the Derbyshire area. It is the time when closed tournaments are being held, both with the locals and a few county competitions. All of this might be good for the players but a nightmare for the organizers.

The real derby 'closed'! Doug Foulks celebrated his return to the County 1st side in the men's doubles title, a crown he has now captured on 8 occasions. Fast Warner was the beaten finalist this time.
Lea Green Centre, Matlock, Derbyshire, was the venue for the Ninth Annual School Team Championship—organised by the English Schools' Table Tennis Association—on Sunday, 16th March.

Teams from the North and South & East Regions shared the major honours. The London Borough of Newham boosted their amazing record of national titles to twenty with three more victories, but their bid for a record-breaking haul of four titles was foiled by Cheshire champions, Marple Hall School, who won the Boys' U-19 title.

Millom School, Cumbria, pulled off a great double in the other two boys events, whilst Highfields Comprehensive School, Wolverhampton, were the only winners from the Midlands & West Region.

For the first time since 1968 no school managed to retain any of the seven titles and there were some new faces amongst the finalists—who qualified from twelve county areas.

Play took place on fourteen Stiga tables (provided by sponsors Stiga AB through their agents, Mitre Sports) involving the usual seven events for teams of four players.

In each event the teams which had fought their way through via local and county area competitions involving 33 counties, 15 Area and 3 Regional qualifying competitions, played against the other two Regional winners in a group.

The championships were staged at the well-equipped and beautifully-appointed Lea Green Centre, Northwood Sports Centre, Stoke-on-Trent, for the previous six years. Thanks are due to John Taylor and the Derbyshire Schools' T.T.A. Committee who worked hard with local preparations, and also to Peter Townend, Principal of the Centre, and his staff, for their splendid help.

E.S.T.T.A. Competitions Secretary, Eddie Mitchell, was the Organiser, sharing his enormous task with Worcester colleague Ian Crickmer, who was Referee. They were well supported by E.S.T.T.A. Officers and Executive Council members who ensured that the programme of events ran very smoothly.

Charles Wyles, O.B.E. (Chairman), Roy Taylor (General Secretary), and Mike Lawless (Develop Officer) were most welcome guests from the Senior Body, whilst there was also Authority Officials. There was a most generous response from the Authority, who provided the facilities without charge.

Yorkshire and England cricketer, Geoff Boycott, chatted to the players and officials during the afternoon and showed a keen interest in the play.

This season's competitions involved a record total of 204 teams which the newly-constituted county areas provided for the national stages of the popular team events now firmly established in the table tennis calendar.

RESULTS

Boys' Under-19
1st: Marple Hall, Marple, (Cheshire). (John Evans, John Almond, Martin Whyatt, Michael Ibson).
2nd: Cumberland Comprehensive School, Newham (Essex Metropolitan). (Devinder Sehmbi, Trevor Marsh, James Taylor, Anthony Forster).

Marple Hall 5, Brandwood 3
Brandwood 4, Cumberland 4
Cumberland 3, Marple Hall 5

Cheshire's first-ever National Finalists gained a narrow victory over Brandwood but then the Midland team held Cumberland to a draw, and the Northern lads needed only a draw for the title in the third encounter.

John Evans took England Group “A” Junior, Devinder Sehmbi, to 23-25 in the decider and...
John Almond was undefeated in both matches. A doubles set was necessary to decide second and third places and this was won by the London pair of Schmil and Marsh in the third game.

E.T.T.A. General Secretary, Roy Taylor, presented the Norman Cook Cup and individual plaques.

Girls’ Under-19
1st: Cumberland Comprehensive School, New­
woodlands 2, Millom 6
3rd: Chiswick Co’mprehensive School, Chiswick
Boycott presented the Leach-Carrington Cup
2nd: Sarah Metcallfe School, Eston (Cleve­
Ward gaining a sound victory to edge their
team into second place.
Boys’ Under-16
Girls’ Under-16
Cumberland 5, Sarah Metcalfe 3
Sarah Metcalfe 6, Kenilworth 2
the Millom boys a deciding doubles w’as
to unbeaten players Christopher Reed and Ian

Boys’ Under-15 winners and first-ever finalists for Cheshire, Marple Hall School, who received the Norman Cook Cup from E.T.T.A. General Secretary, Roy Taylor.

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his collection, as this will be his last year at school.

The ever-cheerful Janet Carr, from Highfields Comprehensive School, Wolverhampton, was the winner of the new "Stiga Trophy" presented by Stiga Executive, Martin Foulser. Over the past few years she has led the Highfields team in attempts to qualify for the Finals but this season saw their first Finals appearance culminating in victory in the Senior Girls’ event.

ENGLISH SCHOOLS’ TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Official News

The Annual General Meeting of the Association will be held at the George Hotel, Burslem, Stoke-on-Trent, on Saturday, 10th May, at 5.00 p.m.

Individual Championships

The second Stiga English Schools’ Individual Championships will be held at Northwood Sports Centre, Cromer Road, Stoke-on-Trent, on Sunday, 11th May, at 10 a.m. The first of the eight finals should commence at 5.20 p.m.

Each County Schools’ Association is entitled to enter one player in each of the eight events and is due to return details of its representative to the Honorary Competitions Secretary on or before April 14th.

Eddie Mitchell reports that preliminary indications are that the number of players participating will be an increase on last season.

INTERNATIONAL MATCHES—England v Scotland

The first-ever Stiga Schools’ International Championships will be held at Eston, on 5th July, 1975. The team events for boys and girls at Senior (Under-19), Intermediate (Under-16) and Junior (Under-13) level, involving teams of six (all play all), will take place on the Saturday.

The individual events—on the Sunday—will involve nine players from England and seven from Scotland, and the events will be as for the team events.

Cleveland County Council will generously assist in the Championships by providing accommodation.

The selection policy will be to select players from the finalists of the Stiga Individual Championships at Stoke (four players in each event) plus five others—probably from those schools involved in English Schools’ T.T.A. activities.

HERTFORDSHIRE NOTES

by Bob Bridges

CONSOLATION

After the failure of Hertfordshire’s first senior team to clinch Division 2 East (reported in various places last month), some consolation has been gained by the second team’s fine performance in the Eastern Division. Herts II ended the season with a 100 per cent record and the championship, clinching it with an 8-2 win over Norfolk II at CEYMS, Norwich, on March 8th.

For the record, Simon Proffitt and Geoff Giles, ever-presidents among the men, both finished with 86½, and Linda Towler, playing in the five women’s singles, finished with a creditable 60½.

On the junior scene, Herts top Juniors smashed Hampshire II 9-1, hoping for the opening to let them into the play-offs. Middlesex II crushed Herts II by the same score at Letchworth.

The Herts Association had been without a representative on the No. 2 Coaching Panel for some time, so Derrick Harris was approached with a view to carrying out some admin. work on the coaching scene. With a very professional approach, Derrick is ready going to stir things into action, at the same time as he himself performs coaching in such diverse areas as Cheshunt and St. Neots (he lives at Luton!). Derrick’s short-term ambition is to have fifty coaches working throughout the county at schools, youth clubs, sports centres, etc.

Who’s in line for the Inter-League Championship? In Division One, North Herts, St. Albans, Cheshunt and Watford are all still contenders, all taking points from each other, and Cheshunt II spoiling it for North Herts when they sneaked home 6-4 Division II isn’t quite so complicated, as it only between Welwyn Garden City/Hartfield and St. Albans II. North Herts have more or less assured themselves of the Junior Championship.

Gratifying to see some improvement in communication this season between leagues and their members/county association. Cheshunt League have for some time been publishing their own magazine, but now Hertford and Bishops Stortford Leagues are issuing monthly Newsletters. Hertford’s Newsletter, quite large for a league of 30 teams, consisting of some 8 or 9 pages, is published entirely by Secretary John Stroulger, and Stortford’s Newsletter enlists the help of members doing duplicated by different members, the last, a pleasing publication in Litho, always preferred to “ordinary” duplicating.

Cover Picture

E.S.T.T.A. Boys’ Under-16 team winners, Millen School, with Yorkshire and England cricketer, Geoff Boycott, who presents the Letch-Carrington Cup.
OPEN TOURNAMENT SURVEY


Chasuble's Nigel Eckersley was the M.S. winner in the South Yorkshire 1-Star Open, played at Sheffield on Feb. 8, his final victory being Paul Johnson's, 15, 20, 17, 20, whereupon Paul Rogers gained revenge in beating Melody Ludi in the W.S. final.

Eckersley was again a winner in the men's doubles when partnered by Phil Brown, whilst Miss Rogers also claimed a second title in the W.D. with Mandy Mellor, and the mixed with Barden-Reeves.

It was disturbing to have the country's top four boys, Day, Barden, Mitchell and Sewell, missing from the West Midlands Junior Select over the weekend of Feb. 22-23, but the tournament, generally, was good, with several players suffering from the after-effects of the Lilleshall Training Camp, which had only finished the day before.

In the U-13 B.S., Marta Shuttle again proved her worth by beating Lee Eadie and Doug Johnson before losing, in the final, to Bob Portrait. Tavren Burrows also played well in beating Nigel Hauxwell and Max Crimmins.

Melody Ludi excelled in winning the G.S. title, closely, from Angela Mitchell, Julie Reckless and Patricia McLean, who, as did Jill Wilson, of Somerset, in beating Karen Rogers, held her chance in the final when she led Caroline Reeves 15, 20. As was the case last season, the main spoils came back for the Fenland 2-Star Open, played at Kings Lynn on Mar. 9.

Jefferies-Final
B. Potton (Essex) bt C. Rogers (Leics).

Girls' Doubles-Final
M. Shuttle (Surrey) bt Johnson

Boys' Singles-Quarter-finals
D. Johnson (Warwks) bt D. Iszatt (Essex)

Semi-finals
W.S.: J. HAMMERSLEY (Bucks) bt L. Howard (Surrey) 7, 15.

Mixed Doubles-Final
Hampson/Lisle bt P. Ranell (Leics)/Rogers

Final
H. Robinson (Cleve) bt M. Bird (Yorks)

Boys' Singles-Final
R. Hazelwood (Yorks) bt S. Hazelwood (Yorks)

W.S.: S. LISLE (Ches) bt K. Rogers (Leics).
**Lancashire Junior 2-Star**

Men's Singles-Quarter-finals
- A. L. Smith (Hunts Central)
- D. J. Groves (Warwks)
- A. B. Voss (Lincs)
- A. Fletcher (Yorks)

Boys' Singles-Quarter-finals
- T. Beardsley
- G. Harrison
- B. Tyler (Middx)
- A. O'Connor (Lancs)

Girls' Singles-Quarter-finals
- J. Skipp
- C. Gordon
- L. Wilson
- J. Smith (Warwks)/J. Williams (Worcs)

Boys' Doubles-Semi-finals
- T. Beardsley (Lincs)/A. M. Naser (Derbys)
- A. G. Smith (Lancs)/J. Smith (Warwks)
- G. Harrison/T. Purslow
- B. Tyler (Middx)/J. J. Smith (Warwks)

Girls' Doubles-Semi-finals
- T. Beardsley (Lincs)/A. M. Naser (Derbys)
- A. G. Smith (Lancs)/J. Smith (Warwks)
- G. Harrison/T. Purslow
- B. Tyler (Middx)/J. J. Smith (Warwks)

**Women's Singles-Semi-finals**
- S. Hession (Essex)
- K. Rogers (Leics)
- C. Reeves/K. Witt (Berks)
- P. Taylor (Beds)/T. Taylor

Women's Doubles-Semi-finals
- L. Wallace (Worcs)/B. Taylor (York)
- K. Rogers/L. W. Taylor (York)
- S. Hession/A. Morgan (Warwks)
- C. Reeves/B. Taylor

Semi-finals
- C. Reeves/S. Hession
- K. Rogers/B. Taylor
- C. Reeves/K. Witt
- P. Taylor/T. Taylor

Finals
- C. Reeves/S. Hession
- K. Rogers/B. Taylor
- C. Reeves/K. Witt
- P. Taylor/T. Taylor

**East of England 2-Star**

Men's Singles-Quarter-finals
- A. Joseph (Yorks)
- P. H. Glynn (Warwks)
- A. I. Reed (Cumb)
- D. J. Groves (Warwks)

Boys' Singles-Quarter-finals
- T. Beardsley
- G. Harrison
- B. Tyler (Middx)
- A. O'Connor (Lancs)

Girls' Singles-Quarter-finals
- J. Skipp
- C. Gordon
- L. Wilson
- J. Smith (Warwks)/J. Williams (Worcs)

Boys' Doubles-Semi-finals
- T. Beardsley (Lincs)/A. M. Naser (Derbys)
- A. G. Smith (Lancs)/J. Smith (Warwks)
- G. Harrison/T. Purslow
- B. Tyler (Middx)/J. J. Smith (Warwks)

Girls' Doubles-Semi-finals
- T. Beardsley (Lincs)/A. M. Naser (Derbys)
- A. G. Smith (Lancs)/J. Smith (Warwks)
- G. Harrison/T. Purslow
- B. Tyler (Middx)/J. J. Smith (Warwks)

Finals
- C. Reeves/S. Hession
- K. Rogers/B. Taylor
- C. Reeves/K. Witt
- P. Taylor/T. Taylor

**Women's Singles-Semi-finals**
- S. Hession (Essex)
- K. Rogers (Leics)
- C. Reeves/K. Witt (Berks)
- P. Taylor (Beds)/T. Taylor

Women's Doubles-Semi-finals
- L. Wallace (Worcs)/B. Taylor (York)
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- C. Reeves/B. Taylor

**GLAMOUR GIRL**

The Essex T.T.A. magazine "Scimitar" continues to progress and their "Lovely Ladies" feature is proving popular. As Essex like to share all good things they feel that readers of "T.T. News" might like to share in their good fortune, so for your delight, a peep of Julie Jarvis, to equal the record of Chester Barnes in winning the title five times, Jill Hammersley, with a final victory over Carole Knight, in the Norwich Union English Championships by Di Rowe and Mary Wright.


Other successes in the tournament were: Men's Reserve Doubles: R. Gale/L. Horne (Northants); Women's Reserve Doubles: S. Harper/L. Booth (Northerts); Junior Reserve Doubles: N. Chaplin/N. Douglas (Daventry); Reserve Mixed Doubles: M. Edwards/Mrs. M. Malby (Northants).
Coaching Panel No. 2

In order that information may be collected covering coaching activities in the counties of Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Middlesex and Essex, which form “Panel 2”, would all coaches organising rallies or regular sessions please send details to their respective representatives as follows:

Middlesex—D. Hope, 56 Queen Anne’s Place, Enfield, Middlesex, EN1 2PT.

Beds. and Essex—R. Gove, 2 Vista Road, Wickford, Essex.

Herts.—D. Harris, 150 Carlton Crescent, Luton, Beds., LU1 1FW.

It is hoped that when all the information is collated this will be the first step to improving the coaching facilities in Panel 2.

THE GAME IS FOR THE PLAYERS

by JOHN CORSER

Table Tennis Correspondent of ‘The Observer’

At the Norwich Union English Championship ships I was amazed to see umpires insisting that players served so that the ball could be seen from the umpire’s chair. As an interpretation of the rules, this is an entirely new departure. Until now all rules have been formed and interpreted in the interests of the players.

I believe that it is vital that all services are to be fair. However, other sports arrange matters so that no unnecessary restrictions are placed on the players. For example, an umpire in cricket (whether at the crease or at square leg) will move if he is unable to see the play or is in the way of the players.

It is patently absurd to ban a player from using a particular service at one end of the table when it is permitted at the other. This is the case with every service banned because the server’s body hides the ball. Consider the case of two players whose most devastating services happen to be of this type. Just suppose that these two players oppose each other and choose to hold these services in reserve until the end of the deciding game. This is not an unlikely situation, but one player is permitted to use the service and the other is not. Not only is this unfair—it is entirely unnecessary.

Two alternative remedies come readily to mind. First, the umpire can move his position. Second, a service judge could be placed opposite the umpire.
THE ASCOT BUTTERFLY NATIONAL LEAGUES CHAMPIONSHIPS

by KEITH PONTING

Ormesby still in all four Competitions

It is interesting to note that all of the Leagues which entered the competitions way back in October, only two still to de as the season winds down. The Manchester trio of Paul Bowes, Brian Clements and Kevin Forschaw had to fight hard against a byzak-Relay team, but just had the edge. The Potteries have a fine season and their win over Stockport was outstanding, thanks to Tony Isaac, Sean Rowe and Trevor Burrows.

Paul Judd, Doug Johnson and Derek Munt, representing Birmingham, had quite an easy passage by overconling Oxford without reply. A very close match at Cheshunt, with Paul Day doing his best to take easy by 5-4. A fine display from this brilliant player, Cheshunt's team of Tack Bender, Chris Day doing his best to take things Ely's way.

Despite a 6-3 win over North Middlesex, Paul Illingworth, Chris Pickard and Barry White, just did enough between them, as Bournemouth accounted for Southend with four victories.

Tony Isacc, Steven Rowe and Trevor Burrows.

Able support was given by Graham Hall, who beat Clive Wainwright in the semi-final and Philomena Cowan saw to it that Ormsby won enough between them.

Karen Howard, 'Guild-Hammersley. After just getting through the maxims from Karenza Mathews and Jill Albans. The holders, Ormesby, had their usual concerns. The lads from Barrow have won the championship of the Women's first division, whilst the lads from Bournemouth have been unbeaten as Bournemouth accounted for Southend with two wins from Karen Groves. No trouble for Ormsby and for the Bournemouth's team of Jane Williams, and Jane Skipp in their line-up, they must have a chance as, I am sure, Liverpool will look for.

Bournemouth, with victory over his younger brother, Geoffrey. Partnered by Nigel Hallowes (Little Lever C.C.), and Carol Riden (Westbrook), the men and mixed doubles titles also went into the Hoy snatch, to complete a memorable evening's play.

Yet another meeting between Ormesby and North Middlesex resulted in the holders again coming out on top with Stephen Souter in fine form. A magnificent maximum by Chris Rogers swung the balance in favour of Leicester. Able support was given by Graham Hall, who beat Clive Wainwright in the semi-final.

Another exciting match at Dunstable saw the home team just get the better of the final set thanks to Garry Hamilton's brilliant maximum. Roderic Harris was outstanding for North Herts, but to no avail, as the Wemhley trio of Steven Meg, Keith Thorn and Michael O'Mahony won enough between them.

The holders, Ormesby, won enough between them. Alan Shepard says: 'Tell Alan Ransome to clean the Cup for us,' and who can blame him after a superb 9-0 win for his youngsters against Tanking.

Another tremendous win over Stockport was due to two wins from Susan Dove, Marilyn Sangster and Jill Campion saw to it that Ormsby won enough between them. Angela Mitchell and Jack Clayton were on form again, according to the Chester League, but a black mark to the Chester League, yet no trouble for Ormsby, with Norma Carne, June Williams and Norma Parry.

The Chesterfield trio must have a great chance of making further progress, for Leicester put out Stockport in the previous round. Another Ormsby-North Middlesex clash saw Angela Tierney, Carole Kight and Barbara Kower win two each for the Cleveland team, whilst another triumph was Bradford's, thanks to Paul Illingworth, Malgoffy, Malgoffy, and Sylvia Broad-10, who were too good for Blackpool. Two wins each from Salty Hurst, Valerie Scripps and Janet Rodgers, for Cambridge, hailed their own progress, for the same can be said for Wemhley against St. Albans. The holders, Ormsby, were too good for Blackpool and Basingstoke. After the previous round, without Linda Howard, Guildford welcomed her back against Eastbourne and she was unbeaten, along with her sister, Sue Henderson. Eastbourne's only success came when Diane Gard beat Ruth Miles. Bournemouth have done well to reach this far and their team of Joyce Coop, Jan New and Julie Reading, were too good for Basingstoke.

Carter Cup

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Karen Howard, 'Guild-Hammersley. After just getting through the maxims from Karenza Mathews and Jill Albans. The holders, Ormsby, have an abundance of talent, and my guess is that this famous league will, one day, win all four competitions in the same season— but not just yet. In the Wimlott Cup competition the Pre-Quarter Finals winners qualify for prize money, each successful team earning £25. The prize money will increase from now onwards and will include all competitions from the Quarter-Final stages, thanks to the generous sponsorship of the Ascot Sports Company. The holders of all competitions are still involved and there could be some very interesting matches before the season comes to an end.

Wimlott Cup

The holders, Ormsby, have their usual concerns. The lads from Barrow have won the championship of the Women's first division, whilst the lads from Bournemouth have been unbeaten as Bournemouth accounted for Southend with two wins from Karen Groves. No trouble for Ormsby and for the Bournemouth's team of Jane Williams, and Jane Skipp in their line-up, they must have a chance as, I am sure, Liverpool will look for.

Bromfield Trophy

Ormsby, who just lost the final last season, seem determined to have another go this time, and with Norma Carne, June Williams and Jane Skipp in their line-up, they must have a chance as, I am sure, Liverpool will look for.

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Lancashire Notes

George Yates

FOUR TITLES FOR GRAHAM

Graham Hoy (17), of the Greenwood Club, made history at the finals of the Bury and District League Closed Championships on April 15, when he won all four titles open to him, a feat never previously performed.

In the final of the men's singles he beat the defending champion, Ted Foster (Little Lever C.C.), after retaining his boys' singles title with victory over his younger brother, Geoffrey.

Partnered by Nigel Hallowes (Little Lever C.C.), and Carol Riden (Westbrook), the men's and mixed doubles titles also went into the Hoy snatch, to complete a memorable evening's play.

Bury's inter-town team also made history when on Mar. 22, at Wigan's Community Centre, they won the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy for the first time.

Philip Brown won the M.S. title in the Manchester and District Closed Championships beating Kevin Forthas in the final. Susan Liddle took the counterpart W.S. title with a final victory over Mary Leigh. Roger Edwards won the B.S. and Jack Clayton the vets', his final victory was never before performed.

Hoy never previously performed.

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Partnered by Nigel Hallowes (Little Lever C.C.), and Carol Riden (Westbrook), the men's and mixed doubles titles also went into the Hoy snatch, to complete a memorable evening's play.

Bury's inter-town team also made history when on Mar. 22, at Wigan's Community Centre, they won the Norman Cook Memorial Trophy for the first time.
Dilemma

By THE EDITOR

In an endeavour to keep faith with correspondents, in conjunction with covering the World and Commonwealth Championships, it became necessary to enlarge the Feb./March issue of this magazine or make more enemies than friends.

The excess material necessitated a further four pages and, being conscious of the weight limitations covered by a 5p stamp, the solution appeared to be a double supplement of County Notes on lighter weight paper. This was mocked up and at a local sub-Post Office the scale registered 4 oz, precisely.

After delivery of the magazines from the printer, and the subsequent hurriedly-of enveloping same, they were then taken down by car to the Sorting Office at a few minutes before midnight on Friday, March 14. It came as a bolt from the blue when, on being ready by car to the Sorting Office at a few minutes from the P.O. drawing attention to the following morning, a telephone call was made enveloping same, they were then taken down the stipulated weight for a 5p stamp. (By a make up the difference. A counter proposition presented himself at the Sorting Office armed to set forth for Hull on E.T.T.A. business the whisker, I'll be bound!).

A postscript to this lamentable saga is provided by the Post Office, whose Assistant Head Postmaster (Postal) in Bolton, subsequently rang, firstly to apologise for his Department’s lack of customer relationship, and then to say that a refund of 2p would be made on every stamp used on the magazines to go forward and take the consequences.

It is to be hoped that the number of subscribers to take actionable offence will be few, moreover in that those extra four pages cost the Editor to frank the offending envelopes with a further 2p and the cost would be met on demand, there and then, if need be.

The time needed to purchase a shipping order of 2p stamps on a Saturday morning, plus that needed to affix same, would have prevented attendance at the all-important meeting in Hull. So the decision was taken, on grounds of expediency, to let the magazines go forward with the necessary number of 2p stamps to make the,ms white. These proved too heavy for first day and he decided to try hollow celluloid balls, sending to America to have them specially made. Celluloid answered admirably and Gibb felt ready to launch the game commercially. The manufacturer he approached first, Messrs. Jeffries, turned it down, but Jaques were enthusiastic. As Gosima, the game was slow to catch on, and John Jaques decided to change the name to “Ping Pong.” It immediately became immensely popular, sweeping the country during the course of 1901 to become the first of a succession of Edwardian crazes. In other countries, including the U.S.A., the game enjoyed a similar phenomenal success. The French, however, field abut, one Parisian newspaper assenting to it being a proof of England’s moral degeneration that so much attention could be paid to Ping Pong while her soldiers were dying in South Africa.

Table tennis bats were originally either of plain wood or in the form of celluloid-covered battledores. The first with a studded rubber surface was Bryan’s Atropa Puten Ping Pong Bat, announced in the September, 1902, Army and Navy Stores catalogue, price 2s. 8d.

Table tennis club: The first was established in Moorgate Street in the City of London, early in 1901.

Table tennis-tournament (Open): The first was the Championship of London, held at the Royal Aquarium on 14th December, 1901. The winner of the men’s event was R. D. Ayling, and of the women’s, Miss V. Ealnes, of Streatham.

Reproduced by kind permission of the publishers, Ebury Press.
The coaching sessions are continuing with great vigour, and the progress is aided by great teamwork among 1-star coaches, Steve Worsman and Sylvia Broadhead, club coaches Stanley Clegg and Awo Subris, and student-coaches Tony Markham and Mike Smith, who runs a Saturday morning mini-league as part of the coaching session.

Our chairman, Headmaster David Robinson, has watched all the growth and success with great satisfaction. He agrees that a large part of any progress made is because of the tremendous dedication of, and hard work done by, our coaching secretary, Hans Soova, a brilliant coach besides being a fine player in his own right.

For many years now Bradford has had a strong and well-organised League. Now that the Schools Tennis Association is gaining in strength and support, the Schools Table Tennis Committee can see a time in the not too distant future when “Bradford Metro” will be a stronghold of Table Tennis in the Yorkshire County set-up.

... and so much in so short a time!

COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Charles M. Wyles, Chairman of the ETTA and Hon. Secretary of the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championships, convened a Press Conference in Melbourne and gave, inter alia, the following information:

(a) Jersey has been given an option to hold the Fourth Commonwealth TT Championships in 1977. Dates would be either immediately before or immediately after the 34th World Championships, to be held in Birmingham from April 11-25, 1977, and not too distant from the end of April of this year to advise whether they wish to take the option on the results of this decision will depend upon progress in the building of a £4 million sports and tourism complex in Jersey. If Jersey does not take up its option, Mr. Wyles will make a recommendation on an alternative venue. He stated that the ETTA would not be an option.

(b) Mr. Keith Bowler, Hon. International Secretary of the Australian TTA, was elected Chairman of the Commonwealth TT Championships, to take office immediately on the conclusion of the Championships then in progress.

The Management Committee of the Commonwealth Championships, appointed by delegates in Australia, comprises:

Africa—Dr. A. A. Efunkoya (Nigeria) and D. Farkhan (Kenya); Asia—A. Lam (Singapore) and T. D. Ranga Ramasjnan (India); Europe—C. M. Wykes and G. R. Yates (England); North America—A. M. Werier (Canada) and Oceania—A. Hurdig (New Zealand)

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In winning the Boys’ U-15 singles title in the Yorkshire Junior 25/30 Championship, Chris Reed became Cumbria’s first-ever event winner in an English Open tournament.

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STIGA ORMESBY CUP

STIGA GAINSFORD CUP

QUARTER-FINALS - SEMI-FINALS - FINALS

By John Pike

Table tennis is very much an academic sport when it comes to staging cup finals. Last year’s finals of the Stiga National Club Championships were held at Loughborough University, with the quarter-final matches on Saturday and the semi-final ties on Sunday. That level of facilities and organization gives something very much to aspire to.

Very slightly favour the Ilford side, following their ‘6-1 win over the West Country champions. Those Championships were held at Loughborough University.

The Shepherd Cup team, from the north-east, to retain their title, but a 4-1 win over the champions. The best of the rest.

The finals of the Stiga National Club Championships were held at Loughborough University, with the quarter-final matches on Saturday and the semi-final ties on Sunday.

With so many of England’s top players on view it promises to be a table tennis bonanza.

As in previous years, two teams again dominate this year’s competition, and so I must gy Beaton 5-0 in last year’s final, the Fellows of Westminster will go on to retain the much for the U-13’s. Each year new schools are making it four teams from the south, the Birmingham club, Handsby, are likely to be among the winners this year.

The match that looks balanced on a knife-edge is that between Chadwell Heath and the sheepbridge. And the Birmingham club, Handsby, are likely to be among the winners this year. The group stage is a formality.

Like their seniors team, Fellows Cranleigh have played no small part in getting our England’s No.1 and 2, Denis Neale and Nicky Jarvis. Like their seniors team, Fellows Cranleigh have played no small part in getting our England’s No.1 and 2, Denis Neale and Nicky Jarvis.

Making it four teams from the south, the Birmingham club, Handsby, are likely to be among the winners this year. The group stage is a formality.

Also in their line-up are British No.1 and 2, Chris Reed and John Pike, are likely to be among the winners this year.

In the senior’s section, the job of stopping Ormesby reaching the semi-finals to Galley Y.M.C.A. is a formidable one. All set to book another ticket into Europe by taking the cup back to London. Both teams have the class and experience to take on, and best, the rest of the best.

Watching the Ormesby Cup for men, and the Stiga Gainsford Cup for women. It will be a two-day event with the quarter-final matches on Saturday and the semi-final ties on Sunday.

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At the time of writing there is a thriving league, spearheaded by Melody Ludi, the National No. 1 Junior girl, and Lynda Hysenko, the Cadets No. 3 girl, among other boys and girls of promise. A quick look at the system was Sylvia Broadhead, the present Yorkshire Ladies No.1, who besides being a fine example of dedication and hard work done by, our coaching secretary, Hans Soova, a brilliant coach besides being a fine player in his own right.

For many years now Bradford has had a strong and well-organised League. Now that the Schools Tennis Association is gaining in strength and support, the Schools Table Tennis Committee can see a time in the not too distant future when “Bradford Metro” will be a stronghold of Table Tennis in the Yorkshire County set-up.

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THE SUNDAY TIMES
SUPER LEAGUE

ONE MAN'S VIEW
by MIKE LAWLESS

Having passed by way of London, Hall, Birmingham and Wolverhampton, the 1974/75 "Sunday Times" Super League came to a predictable and gentle close at Basingsale on Saturday March 1, with Trevor Taylor's team taking first place. As at other venues, spectator
reaction at best was really no more than
passive acceptance of a certain and predictable
attitude I feel that a playing format, although perhaps logical for
participants, is in no way to produce good table tennis, financially
rewarding players and, possibly the most important, one of giving junior players regular competition with and against the top "prati-
quanes" in the country.

To say that the last series of matches under-
took the benefit that juniors have extracted from the experience would be to exaggerate, but for three young players it was a day to
savour. First Graham Sandley, a 12-year-old from Middlesex, made his debut - being chosen by Denis Neale to replace the absent Robert Wale - against Commonwealth Champions Trevor Taylor, took a game off Peter Taylor (who incidentally coaches Graham), and thus showed no lack of assurance when being inter-
viewed by a "Sunday Times" reporter.

For Andrew Barden, England Junior Cham-

pion, the reward for his efforts was less
equal, but more concrete. Andrew, recent
winner of three consecutive tournaments, took
on and beat the No. 2 player in the country,

Day by Day, the headlines also reflect with satisfaction on his wins over Ian Horsham and Jimmy Walker.

In spite of increases in prize money in
a number of tournaments, most of the top players are still far short of
"earning a living" at the game and two off-
table incidents can be said to illustrate this
state of affairs. The first was the leading
players plying for their winnings early, and the second, not without humour at the
time, was the view of the agonised expression
on the face of a player obviously more adept on the face of a player obviously more adept
than at wielding a bat than at "mental calculation
num!". The Wellington T.T.A. to four for, and Alan Cavell became chair-
man of that Association in 1972.

The Club has contributed greatly to the
playing strength of the Telford T.T.A., the last series of matches under-
played for playing sessions since 1955, for £5,500. The village is in Shropshire, close to the Shropshire-Staffordshire boundary, and has a popu-
lation of about 5,000.

The Club, for the third time, was the view of the agonised expression
So the public to maintain interest for
over three hours is partly to blame.

Although perhaps logical for participants,
the need for success was born out by con-
versation.

As the Club gradually expanded the need for
it to have its own headquarters became increasingly more pressing. For a number of years the Club tried unsuccessfully to secure a long lease on the hall. When the hall was advertised for sale the Club immediately took steps to buy it.

The hall was built in 1934; it needs repairs
or complete rederection. Work parties have already begun these tasks and it is hoped that the promise will eventually be suitable for County matches. Extension of the present coaching activities is being planned.

The Club's Management Committee consists of Chairman, D. R. Black; Hon. Secretary, Mrs. E. Cavell; Hon. Treasurer, C. Eaves;

ALBRIGHTON TABLE TENNS CLUB

Village Vigour

The Albrighton T.T.C. has now purchased a brick-built hall, which it has hired for
playing sessions since 1955, for £5,000. The village is in Shropshire, close to the Shrop-
shire-Staffordshire boundary, and has a popu-
lation of about 5,000.

The Club was formed as a result of a public
meeting called by Alan Cavell, the Club's
treasurer, and John Cutler, then chairman of the local youth section of the Conservation
Party. The Club has always been non-political
and open to anyone interested in table tennis. "Club members Mrs. Esme Cavell has been its secretary since its formation in 1955.

The Club joined the Wolverhampton and
District T.T.A. in 1956, and has given that
Association much administrative support over
the years. Club members Graham Riden was its
hon. secretary from 1957 to 1960 and he
was followed from 1960 to 1966 by Alan Cavell, who had been inter-league secretary from 1957 to 1960. Mrs. Esme Cavell has been its secretary since its formation in 1955.

The Club joined the Wolverhampton and

County 'matches. Expansion of the present
team. In 1969 the Club was a founder member
of the Telford T.T.A., which incorporated the
Wolverhampton T.T.A., whose apathetic existence had started about 1945. The Club gradually increased its number of teams in the Telford
T.T.A. to four, and Alan Cavell became chair-
man of that Association in 1972.

The Club has contributed greatly to the
playing strength of the Telford T.T.A., the
"COMPLETE" range for CLUB or HOME user)

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- Excellent Playing Surface
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Page 31
MEMORIES RECALLED

What memories are recalled by the letters in the recent issue about table tennis in the 1920s and 1930s.

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

From G. G. “Jimmy” Mannooche

“Jimmy” Mannooche did a very excellent job as Programme Editor at the World Championship at Wembley in 1954. My first meeting with “Jimmy” was at the Kent Open, 1933/34, and I believe he was responsible for reviving this tournament after a lapse of eight years. I was at Wembley in 1954, and my particular job was to organise the movements of a fleet of coaches transporting the players and officials back to the hotel in London. This was quite interesting, especially when one famous player wanted to get back to town quickly and had to be “persuaded” to wait until I had a full quota of passengers for the coach.

I played in the 1938 World Championship at the Royal Albert Hall, and remember the seven tables on the gallery floor, where I was then defeated by Victor Barna and Laszlo Beltik. From these Championships the game that stands out most in my memory was the Swaithling Cup meeting of Richard Bergmann, then Austrian No. 1, and Sol Schiff (U.S.A.). At that time, Schiff was 3-0 up, but then he lost two games, and eventually finished right on top. This was table tennis history.

I was at the World Championships of 1935, and had a very minor job as a table steward. This tournament after a lapse of eight years. I was at Wembley in 1954, and my particular job was to organise the movements of a fleet of coaches transporting the players and officials back to the hotel in London. This was quite interesting, especially when one famous player wanted to get back to town quickly and had to be “persuaded” to wait until I had a full quota of passengers for the coach.

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DEMO TIVATION

How to de-motivate a player without trying!

Melody Ludi finished the 1973/74 season as No. 4 in the Junior rankings. (Please note: I have made a few changes and omissions in the past which were very difficult to understand.

ERIC HILL

Hon. Secretary,
Clayton Heights T.T. Club,
Highgate House,
Highgate Road,

TABLE TENNIS ON FILM

We were very interested to read in the January issue of “Table Tennis News”, John Sullivan’s report (“In the Coaching Field”, page 28) of the growing interest in films and allied visual aids amongst the coaching fraternity.

What can be done about such a situation?

I was kind enough to give this Company a share of the credit for the trend, and we can confirm that films are rapidly gaining favour amongst coaches not only of table tennis but of the entire range of sporting activity. Once a coach has discovered the impetus which film gives to the performance of specific skills and to competitive ambition, he becomes a firm advocate of the medium.

It is nevertheless true, as Mr. Sullivan indicated, that many students and coaches are ill-informed about the availability of films on their sport, and we should be most grateful for the hospitality of your columns to state that our films at all events can be booked on application to the undersigned, either by post to London, SW15 SHW.

TABLE TENNIS ON FILM

COMPETITIVENESS

Are players getting too competitive? For the average league player it is a matter of one league match per week during the season, with the possibility of a couple of cup matches. Throw in the annual closed championship (power cuts permitting) and a knock-up at the club, always providing that the hall is not already booked for the local Women’s Institute meeting.

What can be done about such a situation?

Players in this area, even our top men and women, do not get enough to keep their competitive impulses in check. If any reader has the answer I would be pleased to have the knowledge spread.

I. M. COLLINS.

Registered Office: 31 Palace Court, London, SW1E 5WH.

HANS SOOVA

3-Star Diploma Coach.
Oakhill Lodge,
West Lane,
Kibworth,
West Yorkshire.

LESLIE M. BROMFIELD.

La Folle,
76 Old Fort Road,
Shoreham Beach,
Sussex, BN4 9HA.

Some of the greatest Asiatic players who came to this country in the 1920’s and 1930’s! The game in the last few years. As soon as a player loses two points in a row, he stops the game for towelling—if not urged him to do that after the first miss?

Sure, sometimes the need for towelling is genuine, but most often it is only a means of tactics.

Why can’t Table Tennis have a rule regarding towelling? Say, players could stop for drying themselves at the end of every 20 points. I don’t think this would not be unexpected anymore, nor would a player be able to stop the game at the same time and time again at his convenience.

K. JAVOR,
State Coach to Victoria T.T.A.
Flat 7, 3 Anderson Street,
Caulfield, Victoria 3161,
Australia.

EMERSON’S CITADEL.

TABLE TENNIS ON FILM

WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

From G. G. “Jimmy” Mannooche

I have just been to the World Championships of 1929 at the Memorial Hall, Farringdon Street, London. I was then at the peak of my career, but I did go to the Memorial Hall in 1935. It is a pity that we cannot now see many of the great Asiatic players who came to this country in the 1920’s and 1930’s! The game in the last few years. As soon as a player loses two points in a row, he stops the game for towelling—if not urged him to do that after the first miss?

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I. M. COLLINS.
John Woodford

...responds to protest

My copy of “Table Tennis News” (Feb.-Mar. edition) was still lying on the front-door mat when a very troubled John Wright telephoned to protest at possible implications in that edition concerning fixture manipulations.

Inevitably, when faced with writing a column of this nature, it happens occasionally that people feel that they are being shot at underhand. I must therefore apologise to John Wright, as he feels that my story contained implications in that in his capacity as secretary of the County Championships he has moved further steps to suit Middlesex. My point is that any future secretary must have the maximum advantage of seeing the whole picture and he would not be human if he didn’t work to see that his own teams had a good deal.

As everyone connected with English table tennis knows, John Wright is in every respect a different sort of controversy to end the season: The theory has been put forward in the last months of the County Championships Secretary that people feel that they are being shot at underhand. It is perhaps worth recording that other counties, notably Hertfordshire and Worcestershire, have in recent seasons used Rule 21 to change fixtures on their fixture lists, and that this season Bedfordshire and Essex have used the 10 Home Matches rule. Of course, this was not mentioned, and we have a collection of County Championship weekends in the fixture lists for all, and I have no close connection with any of these associations.

In the 15 seasons that I have served as secretary, I have attempted to treat all counties, regardless of strength, size, personal connection, equally. The statements made by Mr. Woodford’s article are utterly disgraceful and without foundation in fact; I expect a full and public apology.

...and from Len Filditch, 16 Hilton Avenue, North Finchley, London N11:

Having read John Woodford’s article with understandable suspicion, I feel that he has gone too far when he attempts to belittle the fine efforts of John Wright, the County Championships Secretary. To change the subject completely, here is a different sort of controversy to end the season: The theory has been put forward in the last months of the County Championships Secretary that people feel that they are being shot at underhand. It is perhaps worth recording that other counties, notably Hertfordshire and Worcestershire, have in recent seasons used Rule 21 to change fixtures on their fixture lists, and that this season Bedfordshire and Essex have used the 10 Home Matches rule. Of course, this was not mentioned, and we have a collection of County Championship weekends in the fixture lists for all, and I have no close connection with any of these associations.

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...and from Brian Webb, of 26 Churchill Close, Fallowfield Heath, High Wycombe, Bucks, HP10 3LB:

Whilst appreciating that John Woodford’s “Controversy” column must under this heading be, always sounding off on controversial subjects, his inference in the February/March letter that it has been easy for him to have checked his “law” by a quick glance at the County Championship Handbook before jumping into print with his scurrilous allegations.

The dates of fixtures printed in the Handbook are as fixed at 10th August. If two counties agree before 10th August, to play on a date other than that in the provisional list, JOHN WRIGHT HAS NO SAY IN THE MATTER, and John Woodford need only have read C.T.C. Rule 21 to know that. Perhaps he chose not to read it, preferring to indulge in irresponsible innuendo without actually knowing he was wrong.

...And from A. J. H. Wickens, of 2 Fernhill Wals, Farnham Common, Slough, Buckinghamshire, SL2 3QP:

Controversial writing, yes, but not to the point of making unfounded accusations of corruption—I refer to the last part of John Woodford’s article in the February/March letter. It would have been easy for him to have checked his “law” by a quick glance at the County Championship Handbook before jumping into print with his scurrilous allegations.

The dates of fixtures printed in the Handbook are as fixed at 10th August. If two counties agree before 10th August, to play on a date other than that in the provisional list, JOHN WRIGHT HAS NO SAY IN THE MATTER, and John Woodford need only have read C.T.C. Rule 21 to know that. Perhaps he chose not to read it, preferring to indulge in irresponsible innuendo without actually knowing he was wrong.

...And from M. D. Watts, of “Glenagleys”, 25 Church Green, Sycamore Way, Canewdon, Essex—

Be “Controversy” in the February/March, 1970, edition, I know that John Woodford likes to stir up feeling for the articles that he writes for “Table Tennis News” and that he has gone too far when he attempts to belittle the fine efforts of John Wright, the County Championships Secretary.

Surely John Woodford should check up on his facts. If every County wanted to change all their fixtures they can do so (County Championship Rule 21), so his statement about not tolerating a breach of this rule is wrong. When officials do not carry out their duties officials are subject to some criticism, but in this case he is entirely wrong, and I hope in the next edition of “Table Tennis News” we may see an apology to this effect.
### Divisional Tables

**Up to and including 16th March**

#### PREMIER

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### GLOUCESTERSHIRE NOTES

*By John Cooper*

In the Gloucestershire match against Derbyshire young Chris Sewell played superbly to win three sets against tremendous defensive "A" girls. They achieved this without Susan Sperring. Derbyshire Conditions at the CECGB Tournament could not have been better. There was plenty of light and space, yet still the Derby chips were crashing into the crowd in trying fantastic retrievals, and mostly succumbing. With 3 from Sewell we managed a draw with the help of our doubles combination, which included the return of Mrs. S. Matthews. Gloucester boys, in the Midland Counties League, dropped their first point in drawing with Coventry, but promotion is assured.

Stroud girls had a good draw with Bristol "A"A girls. They achieved this without Susan Giles but with thanks to Louise Wilsher, who contributed 3 wins. Stroud men lost to Birmingham "C" 3-7. Now I must mention Andrew Goldberg again. At aged 16, playing in the third Div., he has won all three of his sets over the last 3 weeks and in the Stroud Closed reached the last 8 in the Men's, putting out four 1st. Div. players in the process.

To end with Chris Sewell we mention his win three sets against tremendous defensive "A" girls. They achieved this without Susan Sperring. Gloucester boys, in the Midland Counties League, dropped their first point in drawing with Coventry, but promotion is assured.

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Page 35
WHO GOES DOWN?

Although in most Divisions a clear pattern has now emerged, the scene in the Premier is still covered in a dense fog. Four matches remain (Essex v Yorks, Glamorgan v Lancs, Middlesex v Warwick, Bedford v Cheshire) and in theory any two of five Counties could make the big drop to the 2nd Division, and any of the remaining three could take the title.

Surrey and Cambridge are certain of places in the top Premier challenge at Shenley on 26th and 27th April, with Cleveland needing the last day win. Any of the remaining three could take the title.

Middlesex II 8, Glamorgan II 1


Oxfordshire II 10, Huntingdonshire II 0

1. Barden/MM/Chapman/Taylor lost to P. Taylor/Hammond 18, 19, -17, 19.

Bedfordshire II 10, Huntingdonshire II 0

N. Hallows lost to P. Taylor -13, -15; bt Dr. Brown/Horsham 16, 14, -15.

Worcestershire II 3, Glamorgan II 7

Mrs. S. Hession lost to Miss B. Green -17, -16.

Hampshire II 4, Essex II 6

P. Judd 13, 12.

R. Hesson (2) and Ray Tilling (3) which meant that 3 sets were played which should not have been. Kent "won" two of these, both forfeited, and 3 on the table became 1-0.

Middlesex II 2, Surrey II 8

Despite the surprise of an opening set defeat for Steve Lyons (-15, 14, -13, to Dick Phillips) the Division winners powered on to a convincing win. David Welman very sharp, and Chris Butcher (taking over from Tony Hammond, Simon Proffitt and Linda Williams) really was putting his best foot forward.

Middlesex II 10, Cambridge II 0

Although in most Divisions a clear pattern has begun to show itself, there is still a lot to play for. Middlesex, with the best record, and Kent still to come, will probably be used some more! The North is less settled with only Northumberland II 3, Cumbria 7, and Yorkshire II 5, Kent II 5, likely to be in the top fourth spots, and the rest still to be played.

SUFFOLK AMATEUR LEAGUE

Suffolk 1, Cambridgeshire 9

John Nixter's win against Michael Harper, Cambs rarely in trouble and deserved their biggest ever victory over Suffolks.

Norfolk 7, Northamptonshire 3

As ever, Norfolk look to see John Fuller back again; he crushed Rod Marchant and ended all thoughts of a Northants revival.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Somerset II 6, Hampshire II 9

Berkshire 9, Somerset 1

Bob Thornton went down in the first set to Brian Reeves, but fairly comfortable after that.

Dorset 1, Cornwall 9

Somerset 5, Devon 3

There must have been a good reason for the result sheet reaching me with names and signatures on it, but I will confess I had expected some scores! (These come later!)

Northumberland II 3, Cambridgeshire 7

Worcestershire II 5, Derbyshire II 3

Not a convincing Worch performance, but just good enough to give them the Division.

NORHERN DIVISION

Cheshire III 5, Cumbria 2

Northumberland II 3, Cumbria 7

The five sets all seemed to need the deciding game, and Cumbria then led 4-1. Their better women were unbeaten, and Jennifer Pachulka did not have a good day. Andrew Clark think he picked up 2 M.W.'s which should still be nice to see. Cumbria establishing themselves as a winning team after a long struggle as Cumbland.

MIDLAND DIVISION

Gloucestershire II 5, Derbyshire II 3

Mrs. S. Hession lost to Miss B. Green -17, -16.

Worcestershire II 3, Berkshire 7

Worcestershire II 3, Glamorgan II 7

With Worcs unbeaten, and Glamorgan having gone down to Gwent, three Counties interested in this match. But for the second season running Worcs were to be deprived; this time by a Glamorgan side far stronger than any they had turned out before. I would have thought that the outcome of this match would not have been in doubt.

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Worcestershire II 3, Glamorgan II 7

With Worcs unbeaten, and Glamorgan having gone down to Gwent, three Counties interested in this match. But for the second season running Worcs were to be deprived; this time by a Glamorgan side far stronger than any they had turned out before. I would have thought that the outcome of this match would not have been in doubt.

Suffolk 1, Cambridgeshire 9

John Nixter's win over Michael Harper, Cambs rarely in trouble and deserved their biggest ever victory over Suffolks.

Norfolk 7, Northamptonshire 3

As ever, Norfolk look to see John Fuller back again; he crushed Rod Marchant and ended all thoughts of a Northants revival.

SOUTHERN DIVISION

Somerset II 6, Hampshire II 9

Berkshire 9, Somerset 1

Bob Thornton went down in the first set to Brian Reeves, but fairly comfortable after that.

Dorset 1, Cornwall 9

Somerset 5, Devon 3

There must have been a good reason for the result sheet reaching me with names and signatures on it, but I will confess I had expected some scores! (These come later!)

Northumberland II 3, Cambridgeshire 7

Worcestershire II 5, Derbyshire II 3

Not a convincing Worch performance, but just good enough to give them the Division.

NORHERN DIVISION

Cheshire III 5, Cumbria 2

Northumberland II 3, Cumbria 7

The four sets all needed the deciding game, and Cumbria then led 4-1. Their better women were unbeaten, and Jennifer Pachulka did not have a good day. Andrew Clark think he picked up 2 M.W.'s which should still be nice to see. Cumbria establishing themselves as a winning team after a long struggle as Cumbland.

MIDLAND DIVISION

Gloucestershire II 5, Derbyshire II 3

Mrs. S. Hession lost to Miss B. Green -17, -16.

Worcestershire II 3, Berkshire 7

Worcestershire II 3, Glamorgan II 7

With Worcs unbeaten, and Glamorgan having gone down to Gwent, three Counties interested in this match. But for the second season running Worcs were to be deprived; this time by a Glamorgan side far stronger than any they had turned out before. I would have thought that the outcome of this match would not have been in doubt.