ORIENT EXPRESS

Photo by Paul D. France, Telford, Salop

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TABLE TENNIS NEWS
Published each month, October to May inclusive. Postal subscriptions £2.75 for eight issues. Overseas airmail £4.50.
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Meaningful ‘Friendship’

There could not have been a better advertisement for the game of table tennis than the men’s singles final of the Norwich Union International Championships in the Dome at Brighton last month.

How refreshing it was to see these two exponents, Kuo Yao-hua and Liang Ke-liang, underlining their seeded positions as the Nos. 1 and 2 in this event with a display that rightfully earned them a standing ovation.

Only one game was dropped by these two masters — by Liang to Milan Orlowski in the semis — and again in the men’s team event one game only escaped them in a doubles set against Desmond Douglas and Nicky Jarvis of England.

But in carrying all before them to the ultimate in both events, and the men’s doubles in the individuals, ‘friendship’ was far more evident than hitherto when one was aware that crumbs had been dropped from a table of plenty.

Gladly the BBC took the opportunity of filming the encore when Kuo and Liang put on yet another spectacular to complete an unforgettable occasion which had the audience, both in the Dome and via the medium of the box, in raptures.

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China’s Dynamic Duo

If proof was called for as to why the People’s Republic of China have three of their men contained in the top four world-ranked positions then it was amply demonstrated in the Norwich Union International Championships at Brighton over the period Jan. 11-13.

Kuo Yao-hua, the beaten finalist in the Birmingham world championships, shed not a game in winning the men’s singles title disposing of England’s Paul Day, Jindrich Pan sky of Czechoslovakia, Christian Martin of France, Tibor Klamper of Hungary and his two compatriots Wang Hui-yan and, in the final, Liang Ke-liang.

Without doubt the final clash between the world’s second and fourth-ranked players was a veritable feast of table tennis which evoked a standing ovation and a lap of honour in the form of an exhibition game to round off a memorable afternoon.

Jill Hammersley, for the second time in her illustrious career, captured the women’s singles title, reversing her Duisburg European Championships defeat by Judit Magos of Hungary in the final.

Prior to, England’s leading lady had, in straight games, ousted such personalities as Eva Nevesval of Sweden, Valentina Petrova of the Soviet Union, Zsuzsa Olah of Hungary and, in the semi, surprisingly — Brigitte Tubert of France.

Desmond Douglas and Linda Howard retained their mixed doubles title in an all-English final against John Hilton and Mrs. Hammersley the latter being adjudged to have given the best performance by an English player at Brighton and become the recipient of a special trophy and a cheque for £120 from the hands of John McDonnell the Public Relations Manager of the Norwich Union Insurance Group.

Judit Magos and Gabriella Szabo of Hungary won the women’s doubles event their final victims, over five games, being Dana Dubinova and Marie Hrachova of Czechoslovakia.

Kuo Yao-hua who with his compatriot, Liang Ke-liang, gave such a tremendous performance at Brighton.

Photo by Paul France, Telford, Salop.
the Essex player losing to Liang Ke-liang after
with a win, over Hopman of the Netherlands,
qualifier, succeeded in reaching the third round,
with 3-straight wins over David Newman (Essex),
subsequently to be 'taken out by the Russian No. 1
of the Netherlands.

included Wang Chien-chiang of China and Gergely.
Steve Knapp of Australia.
the fifth with the Frenchman Martin. John Dabin
Valery
fashion.
Liang Ke-liang who reve'rsed the scoreline in like
Europeans, mainly against each other and notably
Dvoracek of Czechoslovakia having initially beaten
Vlf Cronquist of Sweden to be followed by exit
man Hans Gootzen and carried the fight to -18 in
the fifth to

Orlowski. But there it ended in his meeting with
Ivan Solopov of the Soviet Union while his Middle-
sex teammate Colin Wilson failed to emerge from
a qualifying group dominated by Nigel Eckersey.
The Cheshire man made further progress at the
expense of Chass Pedersen of Denmark losing over
two games in Round 2 to Erich Amplatz of
Austras, vover also over Welsh No. 1 Alan
Griffiths.

and Bookman in the first round. Day and
Pansky /Dubinova in the mixed but lost to
Jean-Denis Constant /Martin. And there the home
interest ended.

Carol Knight and Anita Stevenson carrried
England's colours into the semi-final stage of the
women's doubles there to lose to Magos /Szabo,
the eventual winners. Illi Hammersley and Linda
Howard, after beating Olof /Urban, were seen off
by Dubinova /Hrachova, the beaten finalists.

But spare a thought for Melody Ludl and Karen
Witt who went in -15 in the fifth with Magos /
Szabo in Round 2. Miss Ludl partnered by
Cheshir's Mike Johns, had a good win over
Pansky /Dubinova in the mixed but lost to
Gergely /Magos in the subsequent round as did
Miss Stevenson with Jarvis to Shchekhovko /Popova
after beating U. Bengtsson /Lindblad.

Undoubtedly the championships, probably the
last on the Core Exchange - though not in
Brighton - reached a peak in popularity and for
that we must accord due thanks to that dynamic
duo Kuo Yue-hua and Liang Ke-liang of the
People's Republic of China. What sponsor could
wait for more? What an insurance for the future!

TAX EVENTS

Two teams from China plus the major European
countries Hungary and Czechoslovakia meant that
England I were bound to face very strong
opposition at the quarter-finals and as it turned
told, they were unhappy enough to be drawn against
China I, without question the strongest pair in the
world. (writes John Woodford).

It was therefore no surprise to see England
defeat Austria, gain a walk-over against the absent
Poles and then (at heavily) to China who fielded
Kuo and Liang throughout. As reports began to
filter through that these two were hammering
players like Klapmer, Gergely and Jenerzy to the
extent that the Hungarians were getting no more
than 11 or 12 points it being dif
cine.

the Chinese were as near invincible as makes no
difference.

The word "outclassed" has been used in a
number of press reports and it was justified in that it was no disgrace to anyone to
lose to the Chinese players because they were so
brilliant, in fact, just how good are they?

Remember him as a player with a lethal backhand?
He was at Brighton as non-playing captain of the
Soviet team . . . Stanislav Gumakov.

Page 3
I asked Alan Hydes and the answer went something like this: "There is no doubt that since the world championships in Birmingham, the top world players Kuo and Liang have developed their techniques against the top European players. The two men are something between three and six points better than at Birmingham."

As England slid to defeat by China, the other top seeds Hungary with Szabo and Magos player who almost dominated the women's team 3-1 defeat in the semi-finals. A loser in singles combat and WeIsman fell to opening set against Carole Knight, led to England's opening set when Patrice Fleming and Mabel Neish beat Dolores Fetter and Brigitte Gropper. Results:

Mark's Singles Round 1:

[Results continued from previous page]

WOMEN

Dana Dubinova of Czechoslovakia was the favourite for the women's singles especially as the winner of the quarter-finals when she beat her best rival Bakshutova, all of which must have been humiliating for the two Hungarian girls and proves that neither of them were playing as well as they did in Danbury last March.

Valentina Popova started in the final by hammering Hrachova 13, 14, but again it was Dubinova who continued her unbeaten run with a 19, -20, 16 victory against Bakshutova and then a doubles victory for the Czechs. The final crunch came when Dubinova beat Popova 19, 20. At that point in time it looked as though Dubinova had become the favourite for the women's singles especially as the Hungarians had been demolished.

But, as so often occurs, what happened in the women's team event, apart from the fading Hungarians, was not reflected in the women's events during the two days following.

England II represented by Karen Witt and Amanda Stevenson had a brave game against the Hungarians and their opening singles set when Bakshutova lost the middle game of three for Brigitte Thiriet but in partnership with Mandy took the French girls to a third game decider in the doubles as did Mandy in the subsequent singles against Thiriet.

Scotland, in losing 1-3 to Austria, had winners in the doubles set when Patricia Fleming and Mabel Neish beat Dolores Fetter and Brigitte Gropper.

...
Consolation Women’s Singles Quarter-finals:
Lindvall bt A. Gordon (ENG) -19, 12, 18;
Navarova bt Ludi 11, 12;
Thorsell w.o. Bengtsson scr;
Bolena bt Evans 18, 21.

Final:
Consolation Men’s Singles Quarter-finals:
THORSELL bt Carlsson -18, 16, 11.
Thorsell bt Crimmins 16, 19;
Johns bt Gierloff 7, 17;
H. Bolena (AUT) bt P. D’Arcy (Ch) 11, 17;
Hilton/Hammersley bt Klampar /Urban -15, 10, 20, 19;
BOLENA bt Schofield 15, -20, 15.

Semi-finals:
Carlsson bt Sandley 10, -14, 17.
DOUGLAS/HOWARD bt Hilton/Hammersley 22, 13, 16.
M. Crimmins (Sy) bt Griffiths 14, 21.
Knight/Stevenson bt Bakshutova/Popova 19, -18, -10, 16, 17;
G. Evans (WAL) bt T. Donlon (Ch) 8, 5.
Douglas/Howard bt Shevchenko/Popova 16, 19, -17, 17;
MAGOS/SZABO bt Dubinova/Hrachova 15, 15, -19, 15.

Men’s Doubles Quarter-finals:
Semi-finals:
Gergely/Orlowski bt Gernot/Renverse 14, 18, 10.
Kuo Yao-hua/Liang Ke-liang bt Jonyer/Klampar.

Hammersley bt Thiriet 9, 10, 19.
Jonyer/Klampar bt Dvoracek/Pansky 17, 12, 18.
Thiriet bt Hrachova 15, 20, 9;
Magos bt Dubinova -17, 18, 16, 12.

Quarter-finals:
Dubinova bt Urban 26, -20, -9, 18, 11;
Knapp bt Griffiths 16, -10, 22.
Knapp bt D. WeIsman 20, 11;
YAO-HUA/LIANG KE-LIANG bt Gergely/Orlowski.

China I bt Hungary I 3-0
Hungary I bt U.S.S.R. 3-0
Quarter-finals:
Takacs lost to Orlowski 18, -13, -6;
Knapp bt Griffiths 16, -10, 22.
Knapp bt D. WeIsman 20, 11;
Czechoslovakia bt Sweden II 3-0
Czechoslovakia bt U.S.S.R. 3-1
Quarter-finals:
Dubinova bt Popova 19, 20.
Bakshutova bt Witt 17, -20, 17.
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Czechoslovakia bt France 1-3

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When considering performance in any sport, training must be carried out in four basic areas, Physical, Technical, Tactical and Psychological. There is no time within this particular article to examine each one of these areas and how the emphasis shifts as one of the targets draws near. This month it will be the Physical preparation that will be examined in more detail.

Figure 1 shows how the training year is divided into the three major phases: pre-preparation, preparation and rest and also how the emphasis on physical preparation for the competitive phase is adjusted as this phase draws near. Physical condition is not neglected during the competitive phase and enough exercise is carried out to maintain the resting state has an advantage, since he can recover quickly from repeated efforts involving psychological efficiency. In this case both aerobic and anaerobic contractions will achieve a high level of psychological efficiency.

The emphasis at the beginning of the preparation phase is on endurance, improving the aerobic capacity of the players. Anaerobic work, short sprints etc., is also introduced during this period although as the competitive phase draws nearer the emphasis goes from endurance to speed. Flexibility work is maintained throughout the whole year concentrating on increasing mobility in the shoulder, waist, back and leg regions. General dynamic strength for increasing speed of movement is increased by sprints, weight and bounding exercises. General muscular strength and endurance are built up using weight training (working with % maximum), and circuit training.

From common observation, individuals require different general preparation and 'tapering-off' programmes to reach their peak at which time the combination of circulatory efficiency and nervous reflexes is at an optimum. Unfortunately achieving this optimum is only one of the many problems the table tennis coach faces. All the other physiological factors, muscular strength and endurance, dynamic strength etc., must also be at optimum. If the coach can achieve this optimum physiological state then he has also to coincide it with the technical, psychological and tactical optimum state.

PREPARATION

Periodisation is only in its early days and very few sports in England follow Matveyev's principles. A lot more research needs to be done in the area of applying the theory to other sports than just athletics. Next month's article will look at how a player should prepare technically for a competitive phase.

International Table Tennis Club of England

PETER SHEAD AND BETTY BIRD

SHOW PAST GLORIES IN RUBBER BAT OPEN

by Laurie Landry

The 8th Rubber Bat Open at Barnet on Jan. 14 gave us the biggest entry to date. Bernard Chatterley, managed to get everything through by just past 10 p.m.

Here of the day was former international Peter Shead, showing us all how the game used to be played with his artistic returns. In the very first round young John Souter took a game from Peter but after that he never looked back. Stuart Gibbs had a very good run to reach the final which was extremely good in the second game. Betty Bird, back for a while from Australia, was far too steady for all her opponents but it was good to see junior internationals Mandy Smith do so well against her in the semi.

The men's doubles was a win for a young pair David Wells and John Payne who won an exciting final against Len Adams and Peter Shead. Such was the progress of the young players with rubber bats that the veteran lost both his doubles titles with Terry Denham and Marjorie Walker.

The county make the claim that perhaps Richard Shead was the youngest qualified Umpire in the Country — that is unless anyone knows better.

Richard was born on the 13th May, 1964.

KEN GREEN,
County Umpire's Secretary,
83 Headlands,
Foamtonian,
Huntingdon,
Cambs.
PE18 9LF.
**Obituary**

**MARIA MEDNYANSZKY**

Early in the New Year the sad news was received from Dr. Gyorgy Lukatos of the Hungarian Table Tennis Association that Maria Mednyanszky, the greatest women table tennis player of all time, had died on the 22nd December last (1978) in Budapest Sport Hospital at the age of 72.

Maria Mednyanszky's record was quite unassailable. It is safe to say that — with the present scale of the world game and the nowadays biennial instead of annual world championships, it will never be equalled. She was the first world women champion and the greatest.

 Altogether she was 18 times World Champion (five times in singles), 18 times Hungarian Champion (five times in singles) and 19 times Budapest Champion (six times in singles).

In the World event she won all the first five singles titles in succession, in women's doubles seven titles (six in succession with Anuus Simo), in mixed doubles six titles (three times two in succession with three different partners — Z. Mechlířová, M. Szabados and L. Kelen).

Maria was born in 1911 of a working-class family. She began work herself in the Hungarian-Roman Italian Bank in Budapest at the age of 15. As she grew up she played table tennis for the M.E.K. Sports Club in Budapest, whose members included three other eventual world champions — Mechlířová, Szabados and Kana. Another member of the club was her future husband Laszlo Klucsik, at one time a vice-president of the Hungarian T.T.A. and now highly placed in the management of the Hungarian Trade Co-operative. She leaves a son Laslo Klucsik who, with his wife, hold responsible positions in the Hungarian Foreign Trade organisation.

Dying to premature deafness, Maria Mednyanszky retired on pension at the early age of 41. In her later years she lived comfortably with her family in a house overlooking the city from the hillside of Buda. Besides awards from the Hungarian T.T.A., she received in 1974 at a special ceremony and presented by the Hungarian Minister of Sport a gold medal with the title Life Honorary Champion, and, two years later, to celebrate simultaneously the 50th Anniversary of her first world title and her own 75th Birthday the Golden Sports Award of the Hungarian People's Republic.

Her last three or four years were beset by serious illness, construction of an important artery forced her recently to hospital, where, despite all care, she died after an operation. Many players of today knew this great player as a shy, modest and unobtrusive person. The Swaythling Club has had the honour of entertaining her as a special guest.

What manner of a player and a personality was Maria Mednyanszky? I remember her very vividly, first as a gentle, good-looking young woman in youth, later as quiet and hand­some in old age. She was not a Langsleth, but, as her record shows, a sort of table tennis and our sympathy goes out to her family and to the Hungarian sports world.

**Statement by . . .
A. J. H. WICKENS
E.T.T.A. Tournaments Committee Chairman**

It is apparent from correspondence received and conversations reported or overheard that there is widespread misunderstanding as to what a "Select" Junior Tournament is. The first and most important point to register is that it is a 2-star Tournament, and 3-star, there being no such thing as a 3-star Junior Tournament. Before the "Select" was introduced, long and careful consideration was given to whether there should be 3-star Junior Tournaments, and views were sought from all Organisers running Junior Tournaments at the time, the matter arising because of the increasing pressure on Junior players; senior players were able to restrict their Tournament appearances to 3-star Tournaments without precluding their ranking chances, and it was felt that there should similarly be a small number of specified Tournaments which a Junior would be expected to enter to provide information for ranking purposes.

As a result of the views obtained it was decided that there should not be 3-star Junior Tournaments, but to meet the requirements of the Selection Committee three 2-star Tournaments should be designated each season which Junior players applying to ranking would be expected to enter. The intention was that the Tournaments selected should vary from season to season, and that they should if possible be spaced through the Calendar and also geographically over the country (if possible one North, one Midlands and one South). These were, and are, the Select Junior Tournaments. Perhaps,110000, it was open to Tournaments to apply for Select status, it might have been wiser just to select three each season without inviting applications; at Select status does not impose any additional burdens on an organiser, but can only be beneficial in attracting the top players, presumably no Organiser would object to his Tournament being designated. As it is, only a small number of Tournaments have been Select, although there are in the past we have had "Select" Junior Tournaments. Geographical situation and date have played their part in influencing which Tournaments have been selected — the Memorandum also mentions "quality of administration" but this was intended to imply merely that the administration must be satisfactory. If a Tournament fulfils the requirements for being 2-star it is eligible for designation as a Select without meeting any additional standards; whether it is designated in any particular season is likely to depend upon where it is, when it is and when it was last a Select.

The Select Tournament remains a 2-star Tournament.

**What's on and where**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tournament</th>
<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>23/25-NORWICH UNION ENGLISH CHAMPIONSHIPS</td>
<td>Woking Leisure Centre, Woking, Surrey</td>
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<tr>
<td>24-Suffolk 2-Star Open</td>
<td>Ipswich Leisure Centre, Ipswich</td>
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<tr>
<td>25-Durham I-Star Open, Easington District Leisure Centre, Boness Road, Boness, Edinburgh</td>
<td>Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh</td>
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<tr>
<td>26-WEST MIDLANDS OPEN</td>
<td>Coventry I-Star Open, Ernesford Grange School, Binley Road, Coventry</td>
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<tr>
<td>27-Yorkshire 2-Star Open, Richard Dunn Sports Centre, Princethorpe Way, Binley, Coventry</td>
<td>Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>28-SCOTTISH OPEN (Meadowbank, Edinburgh)</td>
<td>Meadowbank Stadium, Edinburgh</td>
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</table>

Dr. Gyorgy Lukatos presents the Golden Sports Award of the Hungarian People's Republic to Maria Mednyanszky who, on her 75th birthday, also celebrated the 50th anniversary of her first world title.

Ivor Montagu, Founder President, I.T.T.F.
WHAT'S IN A NAME?

Trevor Channing’s letter in the January issue shows that, like many other people, he has confused the responsibilities of a match referee and a tournament referee, it is, perhaps, unfortunate, that the same term is used for two different jobs. A match referee’s main and sometimes only duty is to act as the final arbiter on any question of rule interpretation, but this is just one aspect of the duties of a tournament referee. A tournament referee needs also to be familiar with the details of domestic tournament regulations, to be able to conduct a draw and to deal with subsequent alterations in accordance with defined procedure and, most important of all, to be able to plan and manage the schedule of play. The E.T.T.A. qualifying tests for referees take account of all these requirements and no candidate is qualified unless he reaches an adequate standard in each section of the examination.

While it is quite likely that anyone interested and knowledgeable enough to have acquired a referee qualification will make a satisfactory match referee, the qualification itself cannot, and is not intended to, guarantee it. There are personal qualities which may, especially for an international match, make someone who would be quite incapable of running a tournament especially suitable as a match referee and the referee tests make no attempt to measure such qualities.

I agree with Trevor’s contention that it would be quite unreasonable for the match referee to be appreciably less well informed about the Laws of Table Tennis than the umpires whom he is supposed to be supervising, although I doubt whether the extreme circumstances he postulates occur often. The system adopted for European League matches, whereby two umpires act alternatively as umpire and referee, seems to work satisfactorily and to be a good practical arrangement. I would commend the system for County Championships matches, where there is still no requirement for the referee to have any kind of qualification, even in the Premier Division.

If it is not too late to refer to Trevor’s earlier letter about administrators, I think that here also he has got his terms a little confused. The paragons whose job he envies seem to me to be in a rather special class of administrators, namely the members of the referee’s organiser’s committee who sit at the “top table” in tournaments. To me, the term “administrator” covers all those people who work hard behind the scenes doing the unglamorous but essential tasks that enable table tennis organisations to function properly. While I would certainly not wish to belittle the efforts of the people quoted, I feel sure that there are hundreds of officials at all levels — club, league, county and national — who are just as busily engaged on administrative work that may not bring them so much into public notice but which is equally valuable. I feel equally sure that there are plenty of vacancies in this area, especially when I think of the many A.G.M.s I have attended at which we tried to cajole, bully, shame or blackmail someone into taking over as, say, Match Secretary or County Umpire Secretary. Admittedly the rewards from such a post are more likely to be in the satisfaction of a job well done than in any public acclaim, but isn’t this, as David Coleman might say, “what it’s all about?”

As General Secretary of the Surrey Association (a position in which he has had some very distinguished predecessors!), Trevor is already doing an important administrative job. If what he has now set his sights on is something different he needs to be quite clear what his objectives are, so that he has a better chance of achieving them. As Trevor has worked his way successfully through most of the qualifications set by the National Umpires and Referees Committee, perhaps he feels that the E.T.T.A. should set up a parallel qualifying scheme for administrators. The only problem is: where should we find the “top administrators” to set it up and run it?

COLIN CLEMETT,
7 Brookmead Way, Hove, East Sussex, BN5 1RT.

DETERIORATION

Having thoroughly enjoyed three days of fine Table Tennis at the recent Norwich Union Championships, topped off by that incredible, magnificant Men’s final, I suppose it is a little churlish to voice any concerns about the deterioration of “fair” serving (as defined by the Service Law).

Service has become such a vital part of a winning game these days (much too vital some would say) that players are more and more overstepping the rules in an effort to impart more spin, chop or whatever on the ball. There are now so many variations of services outside the letter of the law that for any umpire to single out one particular service as being a foul is ridiculous. One blatant fault is the “masked” service which will become more and more prevalent as players try to copy the high thrown service. I maintain that when a service is thrown high or not, it is absolutely impossible for the umpire to see the ball make contact with the bat.

If, as I firmly believe, there are sections of the Service Law which are today impossible to enforce without stopping the game every two or three points, then let the rules be changed before we get another such incident as marred the World Championships final.

I am in no way knocking umpires; they do a very difficult job remarkably well, nor players, all I
Watts and Doreen Stannard, and the organiser willing to help.

CHANLPIONS:

Raynes Park, 01-546 8772.

Kingston upon Thames, not too distant future.

57 Cardinal Avenue, Surrey, KT2 5RY.

S. O'CARROLL (Mr.).

CLASS 2 SINGLES

Through your columns may I make a number of observations regarding Class 2 Singles events in Open Tournaments?

As the following figures indicate this particular event is very popular with the players but as yet only four tournaments, all held in Northern England, have taken the plunge and altered their programme of events from the traditional MS, MD, WS, WD and XD.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Competitions</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1977-78</td>
<td>8 (152 entries)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1978-79</td>
<td>10 (484 entries)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

North Yorkshire (183 entries)
Yorkshire (unknown at present)

Are other clubs following the path of Tony Ross, Alan Ramone and myself or are four tournaments not so a limit?

My next plan is to hold a Grade 3 event but official approval and the establishment of a method to determine who is excluded from Grade 2 and eligible for Grade 3 are required. I would also suggest that the Elite Class (Class 1) list needs to be adjusted more frequently — the present list appears to me to be adrift.

Graded events are money spinners for tournaments and attractive for players who have little chance in the main singles events but if they are to continue a larger number of tournament organisers must show their support for the idea of graded events.

Richard Scruton

MORE SUITABLE METHOD

I am dismayed at the way players are sometimes penalised on their service, in particular the Chinese. I noticed whilst watching "Top Table" on B.B.C. and also at the World Championships at Birmingham I appreciated that if the umpire cannot see the ball being served he cannot judge whether the service is legal or not. However when tennis is broadcast in the United States I am not suggesting that there should be six umpires I do feel two umpires — one sitting on each side of the table would achieve a better result.

Punishing the players on services, not only destroys their concentration but also spoils the entertainment for the spectators. I am condemning deliberate foul serving but do feel there should be a more suitable method of judging a good or nice service, than there events at present.

S. O'Carroll (Mr.)

BARRY MEISEL,
President,
Global Table Tennis Promotions.

50 Green Lane,
Cheshunt,
Herts., EN14 3DN.
VII Chester through.

G13 Tupton Hall. Chesterfield (Derbyshire)

Holmgate, Chiy Cross (Derbyshire)

G 13 Fleetwood Hesketh (Lancashire)

B13 Little Moss (Greater Manchester)

G16 Lister, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)

B19 Culcheth High (Cheshire)

B16 Harveys (West Sussex)

G19 Runshaw College, Leyland (Lancashire)

B19 Matling, Stroud (Gloucestershire)

G19 Tolworth Girls (Surrey Metropolitan)

B19 Swanley (Kent County)

G16 Wyndgate, Folkstone (Kent County)

B11 Hillersons Middle, Morden (Surrey Metropolitan)

G13 Covryngham, Ramsgate (Kent County)

U11 Swayne Primary (Kent County)

A very satisfactory day for Kent County teams who had long journeys to make from the coast to Mouth Hill Sports Centre. Nice to see Harvey back in contention having won the Boys' Under-13 national title in 1976. Hillcross most noticeable for their parental support.

It is hoped to include reports and results from the Regional stages (Feb. 18) in the March issue. But why not go along to Leeds, Swindon or Orpington to see for yourself?

Other News

The Stiga English Schools Individual Championships are scheduled for Saturday, April 28, 1979 at Gloucester Sports Centre. Entry is via County Associations.

Conratulations to Executive Council member Phil Burwell who is co-author of a new book "Table Tennis Now" (Kaye and Ward, £4.25).

The Official E.S.T.T.A. kit available at (615 plus postage) from the Association's Chairman: John Arnold, Sandal Endowed C.E., Middle School, Barnsey Road, Wakefield, West Yorkshire, WF2 8AS.

A PSYCHOLOGICAL APPROACH TO SPORT

by DAVID LOMAS

The preliminary stages of the annual National School Team Championships — sponsored by Stiga A.S. Ltd and organised by the English Schools' Table Tennis Association — are well under way.

The twelve Area Finals of the Competition were completed by January 21 (with one or two exceptions) at venues throughout the country. There are some familiar names who have qualified — 12 of the 16 schools in last year's Nationals Finals are still in the competition — as well as a quota of "unknown" who will be keen to give an on-stage further and qualify for the Grand Finals which are scheduled to take place on Saturday, March 10, 1979 at Le Green Centre, Mallock, Derbyshire.

But to ensure a place at Le Green Centre must win one of three Regional Finals which take place at Leeds (Moor Grange School, Parkstone Avenue), Swindon (Park Sports Hall, MalỒow Avenue) and Orpington (Walnuts Sports Centre) on Sunday, February 18, commencing at 10 a.m. Winners of the Area Finals were as follows:

NORTH REGION

Area 1 (Bishop Auckland)
B19 Millen (Cumbria)
G19 Millen (Cumbria)
B16 Longlands, Kendal (Cumbria)
G16 Ratterpore, Sunderland (Tyne and Wear)
B13 Longlands, Kendal (Cumbria)
G13 Bishop Barrington (Durham)
U11 Woodhouse, Bishop Auckland (Durham)

Four teams from Cumbria have got through. A good 5-3 win by Ryhope over Millom (G 16) means Sandal Endowed, Wakefield (West Yorks), and Longlands, Kendal (Cumbria) will do battle with the Northern Area champions in the Semi-Finals. Strong contenders from Bishop Reindorp (previously named Guildford C.E.) plus some new names to the list — such as Karen (GI3) and son Simon (U11) — were not enough at Fleetwood.

Area 3 (Fleetwood)
B19 Caldecott High (Cheshire)
G19 Ruskin College, Leyland (Lancashire)
B15 Caldecott High (Cheshire)
G16 Penrhynore (Greater Manchester)
B13 Little Moss (Greater Manchester)
G13 Fleetwood Hesketh (Lancashire)
U11 Melting-with-Wrayton (Lancashire)

There were some close results at Fleetwood. Good to see representatives from Greater Manchester through.

Area 4 (Nottingham)
B19 Frank Wrenshall (Notts)
G19 Shreveley Netherthorpe (Derbyshire)
B16 Henry Farmhouse (Derbyshire)
G16 Walton Girls (Lincolnshire)
B19 Hinton Hall, Chesterfield (Derbyshire)
G13 Tipton Hall, Chesterfield (Derbyshire)
U11 Holgate, Clay Cross (Derbyshire)

A good day for Derbyshire with national holders Hatcliffe (U11) doing well against Castor (Lincoln), previous finalists.

MIDLANDS AND WEST REGION

Area 5 (Wolverhampton)
B19 Oswestry Boys (Salop)
G19 Highfield, Wolverhampton (W. Midlands)
B16 Mosley Park, Wolverhampton (W. Midlands)
G16 Orston Park (Salop)
B13 Highfield, Wolverhampton (W. Midlands)
G13 Highfield, Wolverhampton (W. Midlands)
U11 Sellyn (Hertford and Wскорse)

Three Wolverhampton teams through — both national winners last year.

Area 6 (Stratford-on-Avon)
B19 Matling, Stroud (Gloucestershire)
G13 Tipton Hall, Stratford-upon-Avon
B16 Matling, Stroud (Gloucestershire)
G16 North Lennington (Warwickshire)
B13 Godford Hill (Oxfordshire)
G19 Runshaw College, Leyland (Lancashire)
B19 Swainley (Kent County)

Area 7 (Callington)
B19 Peel Park (Devon)
G19 Yeovil Technical (Somerset)
B16 Furley (Devon)
G16 Callington (Cornwall)
B19 Cullompton (Devon)
G13 Callington (Cornwall)
B13 Camborne C.E. (Cornwall)

Exmouth, with three members of the Littleham Junior School team that won the national U11 title in 1972, made an unnecessary journey because their opponents failed to appear. Timms, led by Paul Whiting, look strong.

Area 8 (Wigan)
B19 Ince School, Southhampton (Hampshire)
B16 Birkdale, Southport (Lancashire)
G16 Clacton (Essex County)
B13 Longlands, Kendal (Cumbria)
B16 Harvey G.S., Folkestone (Kent County)
B19 Swinley (Kent County)

To artists under stress, complaining becomes a "groove" interest at Leeds.

SOUTH and EAST REGION

Area 8 (Old Harlow)
B19 Welbeck (Cumbria)
G19 Brecknockian (Hereford and Worcester)
B16 Harveys, West Sussex (East Yorks)
B19 Gadwood Hall (Hampshire)
G11 Old Buckenham Hall (Suffolk)

Excellent playing conditions at this purpose-built centre ensure one of the best National Championships Secretary, Eddie Mitchell, was the local organiser and he reports a very useful Wishibach Boys U11 side led by 13-years-old James Frost.

Area 9 (Reading)
G19 Desborough, Maidhead (Berkshire)
B16 Tenterden High (Kent County)
B19 Wyndgate, Folkestone (Kent County)
B13 Bedford Modern (Beds)
G16 Haslemere High School (Surrey County)
B19 Marling School (Gloucestershire)
B11 Wallop, Weybridge (Surrey County)

Strong contenders from Bishop Reindorp (previously named Guildford C.E.) plus some new faces from Surrey County.

Area 11 (Banter)
B19 Queen Elizabeth, Barnet (Middlesex)
G19 Brampton Manor, Newham (Essex Metro.)
B16 Trinity, Newham (Essex Metropolitan)
B13 Woodford (Essex Metropolitan)
B13 Hill House (Inner London)
G16 Hornsey (London Metropolitan)
B11 Hill House (Outer London)

Some very familiar names from Newham, London's borough rocks on Ray Perrin's Hill House teams. Alan Shepherd took off with writing letter to "Table Tennis News" to organise the proceedings at Barnet Table Tennis Centre.

A very satisfactory day for Kent County teams that had long journeys to make from the coast to Mouth Hill Sports Centre. Nice to see Harvey back in contention having won the Boys' Under-13 national title in 1976. Hillcross most noticeable for their parental support.

At times Sportmen and women, including Internationals, produce symptoms or problems which, intrinsically of limited significance, are due to the stress that sport imposes upon them. They seek escape by blaming their impaired performances upon these problems rather than appreciating or admitting to these causes. Let us take a brief look at some psychological factors in sport, now that the English team is about to leave for North Korea.

Sport is the social equivalent of combat and produces the reactions that combat provokes in man's ancestors. The primitive form of competition is combat, perhaps mortal combat. The four engendered causes a regression in character, the recently acquired behaviour patterns fading, the athlete being stripped to a primitive form of his own personality and becoming child-like at times. It takes a mature mind to remain calm or controlled in a distressing situation, for the reaction to stress depends upon experience of stress. Simply, there is combat and stress that sport imposes upon them. They seek escape by blaming their impaired performances upon these problems rather than appreciating or admitting to these causes. Let us take a brief look at some psychological factors in sport, now that the English team is about to leave for North Korea.

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Some times it is worth having a massuror or psychologist with the team, but it remains uncertain if the benefits of their treatment is always in the physical field; psychologists have told me how athletes relax and talk under treatment.

A responsibility of the doctor and coach is to understand the athlete and his attitude towards his problem — while remaining calm and objective themselves. My aphorism is that just as "anxious mothers have anxious children, so anxious coaches have anxious patients".

"The art is to listen — the lesson for the doctors being that "silence is diagnostic and therapeutic".

Elaborating on athletic injuries, I consider there are broadly two types, major and minor.

Major injuries such as fractures, tendon and muscle ruptures are sent to hospital. It was not appreciated that the athlete had equated his traumatic arthritis with his mother pain.

A tennis player developed severe earache before a race, making life a misery and never doing herself justice in competition. In confidence, it became apparent that this only lived on the edge of a volcano with implacable parents for whom she had conflicting feelings of love and hate. She was given the medication for her conditions one night to calm. Taking sedatives did not solve her problem but blunted her mind to them even if they did calm her slightly — (attitude to life).

A tennis player developed severe earache before a race, making life a misery and never doing herself justice in competition.
Chang Li was an old-timer and the other three Chinese Corbillon Cup team at the 34th world looked all the more impressive since it defeated 4th Asian Table Tennis Championships.

The victory for the Chinese women's team locked all the more impressive since it defeated all the other six opponents without dropping a single match. Even Japan, formerly a strong challenger and title holder, went down to China in three-straight sets. But another powerful contender, the women's team of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, was conspicuously absent this time.

On the Chinese women's team, only 27-year-old Chang Li was an ex-student and the other three played at the Asian Games for the first time. Hard-hitting Chang Li won the women's singles title at Teharin and retained her title at Bangkok. 

The other three Chinese girls were Zhang Yeh-ying, who, like Chang Li, was a member of the Chinese Corbillon Cup team at the 4th world championships. Yang Ying, a co-winner of the women's double title at Birmingham, and 16-year-old Tao Yen-hua, the new champion at the recent 4th Asian Table Tennis Championships.

Except for its 5-3 victory over the team from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Chinese men's team defeated all its opponents in straight sets. The four players on the Chinese men's team represent four different playing styles in China. Liang Ke-liang plays a smooth game that places equal emphasis on attack and defence. Twenty-two-year-old Kuo Yao-hua, an all-out attacker with formidable forehand drives and backhand half-volleys. Eighteen-year-old Chen Hsin-hua is consistent with his flexible cutting strokes imparted with a great variety of spins. The other player is loo-expect Hsing Tung-sheng who drives both from both forehand and backhand with equal facility.

But in the encounter with the DPRK team, the Chinese trio of Ke-liang, Kuo Yao-hua, Chen Hsin-hua crashed a set to Korea's No. 2 player Ju Yang Ho.

The finals of the men's singles, women's singles and mixed doubles were all-Chinese affairs. Defending Asian champion Liang Ke-liang retained his title by defeating his compatriot Kuo Yao-hua who was the men's singles title at the fourth Asian table tennis championships at Kuala Lumpur a month earlier.

Liang, 28, is a veteran player. He made his international debut at Nagoya, Japan, where the Chinese table tennis team started the famous "ping pong diplomacy". A native of the Guangxi Zhuang Autonomous Region, Liang is now a worker at the Nanking (Peking) stadium. He has an ambition to train world top-class table tennis players when he retires some day.

The Liang-Kuo match was the most spectacular highlight of the entire table tennis tournament at Bangkok. The spectators uttered "ah, ah, ah" and "oh, oh, oh" and some rose to their feet to cheer when the two Chinese traded long drives or when one jumped into the air to hit back after a long rally of balloon defense. After the match both and Kuo were instantly besieged by swarming autograph collectors.

Left-handed Chang Li also retained her Asian singles title. This 27-year-old player from central China province of Henan plays a fast attacking game, standing very close to the ball. Though twice women's singles champion at the 7th and 8th Asian Games and rated world No. 2 by the I.T.T.F., Chang Li confided to reporters that she is sure to be overtaken very soon by her companions at home since so many promising youngsters are emerging in China every year.

Chang Teh-ying, the women's singles runner-up is a teachers' college student in the northernmost province of Heilongjiang. She is world No. 3 in the I.T.T.F. ratings.

Kuo Yao-hua and Hsing Tung-sheng, both teachers' college students, had an easy win from Indonesia's Iriana Wuiani and Sindo Sapit 5-0 in the men's doubles final.

In the mixed doubles final, Kuo Kao-hua and Chang Li of China beat their compatriots Liang Ke-liang and Chang Teh-ying 3-0.

Sports observers, including the coach and team manager of the Pakistani table tennis team Mr. Farooq Zaman, noted that China's table tennis prowess should be attributed to its vast mass foundation. No other nation in the world, they pointed out, has so many table tennis fans and ping pong tables as in China.

Lin Hui-ching, the Chinese team manager, however, observed that though China won all the seven titles, some of the matches were very close. She mentioned the contests with the teams from Japan and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Li Fu-jung, coach of the Chinese team, said: "We find there is much for us to learn from other Asian players, for instance, the admirable fighting will of the players of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the superb footwork and good forehand strokes among Japanese players".

He also attached importance in encouraging a diversification of styles of play at home. A player has to meet regularly players of different styles at home before he attains the capability of coping with opponents of entirely different styles of play in international competitions, he added.

LANCASTHRE 2-STAR OPEN
Donald Parker continued his winning ways from Cleveland in winning the men's singles title in his native Lancashire his final victim being Mike Johns. Top seed Alan Fletcher was beaten in the quarters by Mark Hankey who lost to Johns in the semis. At that stage Parker beat Nigel Eckersley.

Susan Liste won the women's singles beating Diane Johnson in the final after outgapping the top seed. Melody Ludi, in the semis. Mrs. Johnson accounted for Sally Midgley. A full report with results will appear in the March issue.

COVER PHOTOGRAPH
Kuo Yao-hua of the People's Republic of China and star of the show at Brighton in the Norwich Union International Championships.
COUNTY NOTES SUPPLEMENT

ESSEX NOTES by Geoff Newman

BACK LOG MOUNTING

We have managed to play a few County Championships matches this month but the back log appears to be mounting and Messrs Ron McKenzie and Alan Shepherd might well have a few problems before the season is out.

A much depleted senior second team dropped a point to Cambridge but the late inclusion, Andy Bawden, Stuart Gibbs and Elaine Foulds, all played very well. Andy winning one single where Stuart nodded both. Elaine was a comfortable winner in her singles as was Elaine Sayer. Unfortunately Les Eeles chose this match to have a bad one and we inexplicably lost both doubles sets.

Match details (Essex players first):
- Miss E. Sayer bt Mrs J. Palmer 12, 17.
- Miss K. Buckledee bt Miss R. Harrowen 18, 18.
- Miss Grundy/Miss J. Parker bt Miss Powell/Miss Grundy 15, 16.
- Miss C. Scowcroft bt Miss T. Powell 16, 10.
- Miss Degg 13, 11.
- Miss B. Askem/Taylor lost to Creasey/Gilson -9, -19.

Our Junior second team visited Dorset and were well beaten 8-2 although we lost most of the close games. Alan Shepherd was quite pleased with his team particularly the girls.

Details (Essex names first):
- Roffe must be congratulated on his efficient handling services of ace veteran Derek Schofield who was flying his kite down on the Sussex coast and losing away to Cumbria scheduled for Millom on Jan 20. There was snow in then there Cumbrian hills! Too much in fact.

After seven years in the saddle as the Hon. Gen. Sec. of the Bolton Table Tennis League, Roger Mitchell will tender his resignation at the next meeting of the league's management committee on Feb. 5. Ken and his wife Mary are to leave the Bolton area and take up residence in the Isle of Man at Castletown.

Ken has rendered yeoman service on behalf of table tennis in Lancashire and this will doubtless be placed on record in the annals of the Bolton League which he has served so faithfully both as secretary, vice-chairman and commissioner. His likable successor is Howard Parr, the secretary of Bolton Colleges Athletic Club, of 1 Bowstone Hill Road, Harwood, Bolton, BL2 4LS. Phone Tortington 1138 (home).

Lancashire Notes by George R. Yates

"WHITENASH"

Lancashire’s Junior team returned with a 10-0 win over Wirral in Junior Division 2 (North) of the County Championships, their third win in four matches.

Three Bolton League players, Steven Scooownfoot and his cousin Carolyn and Paul Bradwood — third in the triumph which put the Lancashire County Club on the back foot — won in unbeaten records but still have Lancashire to play on March 31.

In the absence of Preston’s Paul Randell who was the Cleveland 3-star leader Cumbria’s Kevin Walsh was a debut boy for the county, individual scores (Lancashire names first):
- S. Roffe bt Creasey 13, 15; M. N. Roberts 6, 9.
- K. Walsh bt K. Randell 19, 13; P. Jackson 12, 16, 21.
- P. Bradwood at Jackson 16, -16, 21; Miss L. Degg 13, 11.
- Miss C. Scooownfoot/Miss L. Powell 10, 10.
- Miss Grundy/Miss J. Parker bt Miss Powell/Miss Grundy 10, 16.

The Junior team entered Northerb at the weekend with Andy Bawden n.g.e. Vic Russell was highly delighted with the 6-4 victory. Debut boy Andy took the only set running coming from behind 11-18 and 18-20 in the third to win 22-20 in the final set. Ken Gard. Andy Bawden, Kev Gard, Vic Russell and Andy Crawford all sharing in this good victory. Vic Russell was a little disappointed with the doubles however and it appears to be that overall this season’s Essex pairings have not fared too well.

Details:
- L. Eade lost to M. Harper -17, -12; C. Askett to Harper/Kibbivarden -17, -14.
- Miss E. Sayer bt Mrs J. Palmer 12, 17.
- Mrs. C. Foulds to Miss J. Hunter 13, 12.
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LINCOLNSHIRE NOTES by P. Taylor

BEATEN

The county team had missed fortunes in their last round of matches with only the Veterans and Junior seconds winning. The senior team were well beaten by Yorkshire 2nds, our only rubber being Brian Newbold's win over Mike Harrison. The Junior 1st team, away to Cheadle 2nds, suffered their first defeat of the season losing 3-2. Gillian Sharp won her singles and the other 2 wins were in doubles won against Malvern. The 1st Mens with Neil Parke and David Johnstone reached the semi-finals of the County Cup, played in a total entry of over 160. On the girls side, Gillian Sharpe and Debbie Brown won the L复次 division in the quarter-final stage of the girls U-15 doubles and Rachel Pickwell, partnered by Susan Hall, also reached the quarters in the girls U-14s.

LATEST COUNTY RANKING LISTS FOR COUNTY MATCHES (November ranking in brackets)

Men
1. A. Williams (Gra) (1) 9. S. Cole (Nor) (6)
2. J. Exton (Sunder) (2) 10. M. Skerratl (Sc) (7)
3. A. Carter (Nor) (3) 10. G. Mann (Sc) (7)
4. D. Bower (Sc) (4) 10. J. Halsa (Nor) (7)
5. S. J. Taylor (Gri) (5) 10. D. G. Halsa (Nor) (7)

Women
1. G. Grinham (Sc) (1) 10. M. East (Wy) (5)
2. S. Mayfield (Gri) (2) 9. S. East (Gri) (5)
3. J. Exton (Sunder) (3) 8. J. A. Mayfield (Gri) (5)
4. T. Miller (Wy) (4) 7. J. Newbold (Nor) (5)
5. D. Chambers (Gri) (5) 6. J. Newbold (Nor) (6)
7. J. Newbold (Nor) (7) 4. J. Newbold (Nor) (8)
8. J. Newbold (Nor) (8) 3. J. Newbold (Nor) (9)
9. J. Newbold (Nor) (9) 2. J. Newbold (Nor) (10)
10. J. Newbold (Nor) (10)

Grades

Boys
1. P. Jackson (Nor) (1)
2. G. Hawes (Gri) (2)
3. G. Hawes (Gri) (3)
4. G. Hawes (Gri) (4)
5. G. Hawes (Gri) (5)
6. G. Hawes (Gri) (6)
7. G. Hawes (Gri) (7)
8. G. Hawes (Gri) (8)
9. G. Hawes (Gri) (9)
10. G. Hawes (Gri) (10)

Girls
1. J. Newbold (Nor) (1)
2. J. Newbold (Nor) (2)
3. J. Newbold (Nor) (3)
4. J. Newbold (Nor) (4)
5. J. Newbold (Nor) (5)
6. J. Newbold (Nor) (6)
7. J. Newbold (Nor) (7)
8. J. Newbold (Nor) (8)
9. J. Newbold (Nor) (9)
10. J. Newbold (Nor) (10)

Cadet Boys
1. J. Newbold (Nor) (1)
2. J. Newbold (Nor) (2)
3. J. Newbold (Nor) (3)
4. J. Newbold (Nor) (4)
5. J. Newbold (Nor) (5)
6. J. Newbold (Nor) (6)
7. J. Newbold (Nor) (7)
8. J. Newbold (Nor) (8)
9. J. Newbold (Nor) (9)
10. J. Newbold (Nor) (10)

Veteran Men
1. J. Newbold (Nor) (1)
2. J. Newbold (Nor) (2)
3. J. Newbold (Nor) (3)
4. J. Newbold (Nor) (4)
5. J. Newbold (Nor) (5)
6. J. Newbold (Nor) (6)
7. J. Newbold (Nor) (7)
8. J. Newbold (Nor) (8)
9. J. Newbold (Nor) (9)
10. J. Newbold (Nor) (10)

Veteran Women
1. J. Newbold (Nor) (1)
2. J. Newbold (Nor) (2)
3. J. Newbold (Nor) (3)
4. J. Newbold (Nor) (4)
5. J. Newbold (Nor) (5)
6. J. Newbold (Nor) (6)
7. J. Newbold (Nor) (7)
8. J. Newbold (Nor) (8)
9. J. Newbold (Nor) (9)
10. J. Newbold (Nor) (10)

SHROPSHIRE NOTES by Gerald Green

NOT A HAPPY MONTH

The last month has not been a happy one for Shropshire table tennis, and a season which started on such an optimistic note has gone sour on us. This is not so much from a playing point of view - although results have not been good - but mainly on the administrative side where internal committee matters have resulted in the resignations of County Secretary Peter Parkhurst, and County Coaching Secretary Paddy Jackson. I obviously do not wish to go into details, but it does seem to me that with a bit more give and take things could have been sorted out more amicably without the necessity of such drastic action.

Shrewsbury Table Tennis Association has also suffered a blow by last week's intimation to its Management Committee by Neville Birch that he intends to resign as county secretary at the annual meeting. This is not due to any 'problems' - other than pressures of his own work.

All these officers have earned respect for their efficiency and devotion to their tasks and will be missed. It is perhaps even more encouraging that a junior, Keith Nicoll, having dealt successfully with the written paper, could soon join them, and so set the pattern for other young players to follow.

The County League situation suddenly became more complicated with the Wellingborough side withdrawing, and the Northants Seconds fielded an experienced team to beat them 9-1. We could have had a much tighter game which they were capable of winning, and so still have an excellent chance of promotion.

The Lincs. Junior Open once again proved to be one of the best seen for a long time. Mark Newboll, our only representative, reached the last 32 in a total entry of over 140. Mark Newboll

Alan Print joining Bull to take the Men's Doubles. The Tournament season is again approaching, with Kettering staging theirs at the Recreation Centre, on Feb. 24, and Wellingborough following a week later on March 3. However for the time being, the chances for league bonuses take precedence, with Rothbooth 'A', thanks to 100% records from Alden and Mapp, comfortably holding off Chapman's 'A' at Wellingborough, while at Kettering, Town 'A' is exactly ten points behind John Palmer, Dennis Millman and Dick Cole, occasionally supplemented by John Sanders, who are being very hard pressed by the much younger Town 'B', represented by Dave Simmons, Mick Hawes and Chris Handshaw.
PROFILE - ALBERT JACKSON

I have known Albert Jackson for some 25 years, ever since he was a Junior. During those 25 years he has succeeded in attaining a high standard of table tennis with his cunning defense, and has represented Cambridge on a number of occasions in both the Junior and Senior capacity. He won the South East Midlands League Singles title when it was first introduced and now in his 30th year he still plays a very good game and recently reached the final of the "Ely League" Veterans' Singles before losing to John Ashman. Nobody can be safe when playing Albert and his "honest-to-goodness" approach to the game endears him to everybody!

EVELYN DICKSON CLOSED

The Finals of the Ely League Tournament were held on June 4 and some exciting matches were witnessed. In the Men's Singles Keith Richardson beat Stuart Palmer after Palmer took the first game closely but then struggling manfully to keep in the match with Keith all out to win back his title. Young Palmer played very well and although losing the next three, surely his must be a name on the Shield before long. In the Women's Singles Joanne Palmer beat Kath Hubbard in a set that never lived up to its potential with both girls obviously nervous. Joanne just deserved to win but neither girl could be pleased with their form in this encounter.

Brian and Keith Richardson beat Brian Jones and Anthony Booth in the Men's Doubles but young Booth proved that he will be a force in the Junior sphere in the not too distant future. John Ashman beat Albert Jackson in the Veteran's Final. This was a final between two previous holders and John's attack was always in command over Albert's defense. John has now won this title for the past three years.

Results -
Men's Singles Semi-Finals:
K. Richardson (Soham) bt J. Ashman (Soham) 15, -1, 15, 15; B. Palmer (Ely) bt A. Richardson (Soham) 15, -1, 15, 15.

Final:
Richardson bt Palmer 19, -1, 17, 16.

Women's Singles Semi-Finals:
J. Palmer (Lakenheath) bt S. Palmer (Lakenheath) 15, -1, 15, 15; B. Palmer (Ely) bt E. Antill (Soham) 15, -1, 15, 15.

Final:
Richardson bt Palmer -19, 8, 17, 16.

Mixed Doubles Semi-Finals:
R. Everitt/S. Williams (Mepal) bt J. Ashman (Soham) 12, -17, 16.

Final:
Richardson/Williams bt Palmer/C. Judd 17, 14.

Women's Doubles Semi-Finals:
J. Ashman (Soham) bt P. Everitt (Soham) 12, -17, 16.

Final:
Everitt/S. Williams bt J. Ashman (Soham) 15, -17, 15, 17.

Veteran Singles Final:
J. Ashman (Soham) bt A. Jackson (Impington) 15, -17, 15, 17.

Men's Plate Final:
J. Everitt (Soham) bt P. Everitt (Soham) 12, -17, 15, 17.

Men's Plate Semi-Finals:
J. Everitt (Soham) bt Palmer/C. Judd (Impington) 15, -17, 15, 17.

UP WITH THE LEADERS

The No. 2 seed Neil Marples played well to reach the final for the third time. As champions this season his only real upset was to the No. 3 seed Neil Marples who beat him in the semi-finals. Veteran Singles Final:
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The first Cadet boys’ and girls’ ranking list of the season were recently issued, and these are:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Player</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>J. Burke</td>
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<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>S. Yeung</td>
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<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>W. Tinlin</td>
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The fortunes of Yorkshire lads in the Commonwealth Championships in Edinburgh.

CONGRATULATIONS

Maurice Billington was the favourite of many to regain the title he won in 1975, and looked impressive in the first round against Doug Kondos, but bowled out in the semifinal to Raynor by 16-16-16.

The 1977 Champion David Vallory was another strong contender not feeling very well on the day, and became a victim of his brother Stephen at 18-25-20 in a first round fight where family reputation was at stake.

Stephen reached the semifinal, only to be outplayed by his compatriot Philip Vickers 14-14, to make the final Chesterfield versus Derby.

Raynor started impressively dropping his backhand to win the first game; Philip changed the point of attack with the evening hit wide on Raynor’s forehand, and moved the ball using all the table to take the second game. David put the pressure right on at the start of the third game to lead 9-5, and just when the fight seemed settled he relaxed slightly as Philip started his recovery.

The mixed table tea also continued between the vocal supporters of both players, and Philip fought his way back to lead at 17-17 and go into a 20-17 lead, taking the title for the first time.

Raynor will be hoping that next season it will be out of that sort of finish although probably not as many upsets next time, or can it?

Possibly 16 seeds are too many when there are and David Yallop exited at the hands of and patience. with the seedings, the top four reaching the family reputation was at stake.

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CONGRATULATIONS
### Junior Division One

<table>
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<th>Team</th>
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### Standings with John Dabin, the England No. 9...

### Halifax

### York

### Junior Division Two

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<tr>
<td>Wakefield II</td>
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<td>0</td>
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<td>33</td>
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### Junior Division Three

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<tr>
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### Senior Division

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### Middlesex Notes

### Eddie O'Hara

### Cumbria Comment

### John Taylor

### Trial Success

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### Page 21
Middlesex I team in the D.W. Birmingham (Junior) Competition surprisingly lost 1-8 to Wembley II. Whatever the final outcome of this latter competition this was a very good result for the young Wingfield second string.

I should like to point out that the Middlesex Junior Authorised which is due to take place on 3rd March as the E.T.A. Junior Ranking Tournament - Southern Venue - is by invitation only. So if you have not been invited there is no point in asking for entry forms.

AVON NOTES
by Robert Oldfield

NO IMPROVEMENT

It is with great regret that I am unable to report an improvement in the news regarding one of No. 1, Chris Stewell. Struck down since November by severe sinus trouble, Chris has suffered a complete loss of hearing which has only been remedied speedily and successfully at the Royal National Throat, Nose and Ear Hospital. It is hoped that the necessary operation can be carried out in time for him to be able to return to full fitness the future he will be a very fine player indeed.

His No. 15 rating is currently the only hope of the necessary operation can be carried out in time for him to be able to return to full fitness the future he will be a very fine player indeed.

However, League teammates, Martyn Smith, Andy Bunn and I have promised Chris we will do our level best to help him. He has been a fine player and it is hoped that he will be able to return to full fitness in time for him to be able to return to full fitness next season.

The visitors then won the second string women's singles when the match was abandoned with both sides on an equal footing and the Hard Bat Trophy went to veteran Zenon to accept entries from people playing for other counties? But that's a story for another day.

Meanwhile an interesting development in the Bath League has been brought to my attention. Approaching the month of the Closed Championships (February) Ian an Lindsay, a Bath University student, put his mind to the problem of accurate cooking and has now sold the scheme to the Bath League. It is now an established part of the local Table Tennis fraternity of this area. Any articles, comments and advice you may have to give to myself or any other member of the Avon Committee.

NORFOLK NOTES
by J. S. Penny

First December

Congratulations to the Norwich League magazine on reaching its first decade of "Monthly Mezzie" is now only under 13 years old and good going. The editor Ken Edwards and Vic Bennett both give us plenty to talk about. Norwich League has become a very big one this season, with about 174 teams, graded into a Premier and twelve other divisions, each with its own Divisional Secretary. Teams 1 to 12 consist of four players with an optional fifth, and play each other once at home and once away. The Premier, however, play three in a team and meet each other three times on a home and away basis, the committee to decide the venue of the third match.

It comes as something of a bombshell that Len Miller, who has been the world champion since he succeeded Harold Betts as Hon. Secretary in 1959, has announced in the present issue that business commitments which take him from home a great deal mean that he will not be seeking re-election at the next A.G.M. He hopes, however, to remain on the committee as he is still very much involved with the promoted Table Tennis Centre, which before he took over as League Secretary was his first aim.

C.W.S.: T. Moore bt P. Steel 10, 11.

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SUDBURY NOTES
by Ted Simpkin

REVENGE WIN

The County was delighted with the revenge win against Berkshire recently, in view of last year's fixture when Surrey missed their chance of clinching the County Championships. The continually reliable David Wulstein was again the star, and it was his win with Jayne Mitchell which probably gave the away team the edge. Tiu affected the juniors against a very good team but who were worthy to win. Wulstein is still going strong and has won his last two matches.

Nigel Scott's twin, Richard, who also won two, moved up to No. 6.
At a sound base to work from - including J. R. who have moved. Thanks must go to our few coaches producing youngsters into the game and giving them is now residing further north.

of yours truly in the semi-final 13, -17, 18. had no good defence coupled with a very consistent back­

her the youngest ever women's champion - well "know-how" took the first. Lisa the second often problems with Ron Chambers in the final, his

played in a wonderful spirit with fortunes swinging

The County Closed Tournament held in the Bedfordshire Notes

Junior Boys ... ? Next month I hope to bring championships and report whether the "A" team's new

5. J. Green (Learn.), 6. E. Martin (Cov.), 7. C. Stevens (B'gharn), (Yes, Lester has a brother on his way up as well!), 8. N. Tucker (Cow.), 9. S. Britton (B'gharn), (Yes, Lister has a brother on his way up as well!), 10. C. Chambers (B'gharn).

Bedsfordshire Notes

JUNIORS RULE OK.
The County Closed Tournament held in the new Varsity Molnar Centre was a tremendous success, both from the standard of the entries and the interest shown at the close. The Bedfordshire Journal was delighted with the results, particularly with the number of boys and girls who participated in the event. The men's final was contested by junior Stephen Barby and the Bellinger girls remaining un­

1. Dimmock bt J. Miles 18, 14.

Girls Singles Final:

J. Dimmock bt J. Miles 13, 15.

Boys' Doubles Final:

S. Barby/D. Sharpe 18, -18, 16;

Girls' Doubles Final:

S. Barby/C. Luscombe 20, 18.

Mixed Doubles Final:

Barbara Hammond/D. Rawlinson bt I. Bellinger/ D. Sharpe 17, -17, 17.

Women's Doubles Final:

Barbara Hammond/D. Rawlinson bt J. Bellinger/ D. Sharpe 17, 25, 18.

Boys' Singles Final:

S. Barby bt D. Sharpe 18, -18, 16;

Girls' Doubles Final:


Girls' Doubles Final:

J. Dimmock bt I. Bellinger 20, 18.

Mixed Doubles Final:


Women's Doubles Final:


Men's Doubles Final:

Barbara Hammond/D. Rawlinson bt I. Bellinger/ D. Sharpe 17, 25, 18.

Boys' Singles Final:

S. Barby bt D. Sharpe 15, 13.

Girls' Singles Final:

J. Dimmock bt I. Bellinger 18, 14.

Mixed Doubles Final:


Women's Doubles Final:

Barbara Hammond/D. Rawlinson bt I. Bellinger/ D. Sharpe 17, -22, 19.

Men's Singles Semi-finals:


Men's Singles Semi-finals:

B. Hammond bt D. Cartwright/ J. Miles 12, 13;

Boys' Singles Final:

S. Barby bt D. Sharpe 15, 13.

Boys' Singles Final:

S. Barby bt D. Sharpe 18, -18, 16;

Girls' Singles Final:

J. Dimmock bt I. Bellinger 20, 18.

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

B. Hammond bt D. Cartwright 12, 13;

Women's Singles Semi-finals:


Women's Singles Semi-finals:

B. Hammond bt D. Campbell 12, 13;

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

D. Rudge bt J. Bellinger 20, 18.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

L. Bellinger bt B. Hammond 16, 21, 17.

Veterans' Singles Final:

S. Bellinger bt J. Bellinger 16, 15.

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

D. Rudge bt J. Bellinger 20, 18.

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

D. Rudge bt J. Bellinger 16, 15.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

B. Hammond bt D. Campbell 12, 13;

Men's Doubles Semi-finals:

L. Bellinger bt B. Hammond 16, 21, 17.

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

J. Bellinger bt J. Bellinger 20, 18.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

B. Hammond bt D. Campbell 12, 13;

Men's Singles Semi-finals:

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Men's Singles Semi-finals:

J. Bellinger bt J. Bellinger 20, 18.
LINCOLNSHIRE JUNIOR 2-STAR OPEN
LESSER LIGHTS SHINE

by P. Taylor

The Lincon. Junior 2-Star Open once again proved to be a very popular tournament. To accommodate the large number of entrants it was held over 2 days with the U-14 and U-12 events on the Saturday and the U-17 on the Sunday. This decision was fully justified as there were over 30 entrants in both the boys and girls' U-17 and U-14 singles, over 40 in the girls' U-17 doubles and 40 in the boys' U-14 doubles on a group basis with all winners going in to the final round proper.

The absence of the top juniors from the U-17 boys' singles gave the lesser lights far more chance to shine and the standard of play was very good. Overall, of the better matches involved local boys Chris Perry and Bryan Grannaford who met Julian Hall (Suffolk) in the 2nd round. This match was always going to be a very close contest but it was the balance and it was Chris who finally emerged the victor winning 19-17, 21-19. The eventual finalists both had fairly easy semi-final wins with Richard Tannor (Birmingham) defeating Andrew Dixon (Watsonians) and Mark Higgsworth (Birmingham) beating Bryan (Kambridge).

The Boys' U-14 final was between two players who had been previously involved in the large Coaching Events this season. The match was a close one and it was David Young who emerged the victor winning 21-18, 21-14. The Boys' U-17 final was won by the same pair and this time it was Peter M. Taylor who regained the title he had held last year winning 21-11, 19-21, 21-18.

The Girls' U-14 final was between two players who were new to the Championship and this time it was Alex E. Brown who emerged the winner winning 21-16, 21-14.

The Girls' U-17 final was between two players who had been previously involved in the large Coaching Events this season. The match was a close one and it was Carol A. Smith who emerged the victor winning 21-14, 21-18.

The Boys' Doubles U-14 finals were won by the same pair and this time it was David Young and Paul M. Taylor who regained the title they had held last year winning 21-16, 21-14.

The Girls' Doubles U-17 finals were won by the same pair and this time it was Alex E. Brown and Carol A. Smith who regained the title they had held last year winning 21-16, 21-14.

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CONCERN OF COACHES

by DOREEN HENDERSON

While attending the Norwich Union International Championships, upsets were still in my mind as who would be the English party of four men and women at the World Championships in New York in April.

Chris Perry and Desmond Douglas are no longer available who will follow on, it seems to me, from the Juniors to the Seniors. The ones who were expected to take their place are already fading away and it is now time for the Juniors to compete fairly for the senior positions.

This concern of the Coaches is how can we improve our players and develop true Internationals for the 1981 World Championships?

Perhaps the answer is in Brydon Tournaments.

Grade 1 being the present 2-Star tournaments (men and women)

Grade 2 being the present 3-Star tournaments (men and women)

Grade 3 being the present 1-Star tournaments (men and women)

Grade 1 men and women would endeavour to progress by results into Grade 2 and then to Grade 1.

From Grade 1 players, the selection committee would be able to enter Grade 1 tournaments in order to experience and earn the right to stay there.

Grade 1 players who are not being successful would come down to Grade 2 and so on making it fairer for all players.

The Juniors would still compete at Junior level in all School competitions in the necessary age groups, but at the same time their progress could be seen in the National Graded Tournaments. This would close the gap between Juniors and Seniors, encouraging the Juniors to compete fairly for the senior positions.

This could also be looked into at County level.

Many of the Counties are experiencing difficulties in running Junior County teams. Some have even given up Junior teams because they are expensive, and the difficulty in finding someone to Captain and transport the team.

The County could have 1st, 2nd and 3rd teams with Juniors playing together with Seniors in order of merit, which would give the Juniors incentives at County level.

There are many promising Juniors at the moment, but it is no good waiting until they are 13-year-old, and still playing as a promising 13-year-old at the age of 20! When players do not make the grade at 17, if they are still progressing by 18, 19 and 20, they should not be discarded; late developers often make very good Seniors.

STIGA CLUB WEEKEND
Dec. 28, 1978

One hundred and twenty players and forty Coaches invaded York. It was a weekend that would be remembered when York experienced the worst floods since 1947. The River Yore rose fifteen feet above normal. We were staying at the Viking Hotel which soon became surrounded by water. The only way out of the Hotel was from the fire floor, through the kitchens and down a back door to a little above the water to the main road. With water in the cellars of the Hotel it was feared we might be using candle light, but it didn't come to that and the Hotel staff looked after us very well, especially as they were short staffed owing to the floods.

Having learnt some very valuable lessons at the Birmingham weekend, the Coaching Committee took over the organisation of this one. They have the machinery and the experience for this type of weekend. They have had more recent Coaches who had not been previously involved in the large Coaching Rallies, this gave them an insight into what can be arranged when money is available.

Two venues were used, St. Peters Sports Centre with twenty-five tables, and York University with fifteen tables.

The aim was to have part of the weekend for Coaching and part for Competition. Thursday evening started with a Coaching programme at both venues. The full day Friday was also planned to come up with a coaching programme at both venues.

Saturday was Regional Competition with the five regions representative teams of 6 Coaches. Peter on sixteen tables, and the players not chosen for their Regional team should be playing in an individual competition at the University.

The reports on the players taking part in the weekend will be sent to the Regional Chairman for consideration when planning further training. There are two more such weekends planned.

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Two venues were used, St. Peters Sports Centre with twenty-five tables, and York University with fifteen tables.
CZECHS LEAD, ENGLAND THIRD

After competing in the Norwich Union International Championships, in Brighton, and against the People’s Republic of China, in Birmingham on the following Monday, England was bare to be defeated by the absence of the talents of Benedict, the likes of Ulf Thorll, Ulf Carlsson, Andreas Christen Hellman and Eva Stromvall on their home ground still need a bit of beating. Thorrell got his country off to a good start with a hard-won victory over Nicky Jarvis but this was countered by two England wins, by Desmond Douglas over Carlsson and by Jill Hammersley over Miss Hellman. But back came the Swedes to take both doubles and a 3-2 lead. Douglas equated the match scores with a workmanlike performance against Thorrell leaving Jarvis with the task of beating Carlsson for the match. And for once Jarvis earned his place with a fighting display coming through from behind in the third and final game to win at 19.

Individual scores:
U. Carlsson bt N. Jarvis 9, -18, 19.
U. Carlsson lost to D. Douglas 20, -14, 13.
A-G. Hellman lost to J. Hammersley 6, -16, -13.
Carlsson/Thorrell bt D.Jarvis/15, 16, 16.
Thorrell/E. Stromvall bt L. Howard 16, -21, 16.
Thorrell lost to Douglas -13, -20.
Carlsson lost to Jarvis -20, -15, 19.

Meantime in Miskolc on the same night the clash of the undefeated giants, Hungary and Yugoslavia, the title would appear to be won by Yugoslavia but quick to spike Jonyer/Klampar lost to Orlowski/J. Pansky 18, -13, 16.

Individual scores in Miskolc were:
Z. Olah bt K. Kucharski 17, -12, 11.
M. Kucharski bt I. Stoianov 17, -18, 16.
A. Grubba bt B. Guenchev 16, 6.
E. Hugling bt V. Shvetschenko 1, 2.
L. Bakshutova bt U. Hirschmuller 18, 13.
L. Kucharski bt I. Stoianov 17, -20, 16.
L. Kucharski bt I. Stoianov 16, -17, -17.

DIVISION ONE

Poland maintained their supremacy at the head of affairs in Division I of the European League by beating Belgium 5-2 with Vasil Aleksandiridis and Oktay Cimen winning their four singles between them, the other set being won by the same pair in the men’s doubles.

Scores:
V. Aleksandiridis bt H. Belien 17, -18, -17.
O. Cimen bt N. v.d. Walle 7, 12.
Cimen/Poyrazoglu lost to v.d. Walle/Germitz -17, -18, -17.
Aleksandiridis bt v.d. Walle 10, 11.

EUROPEAN LEAGUE TABLES

SUPER DIVISION
Czechoslovakia 5 0 24 11 5
Hungary 5 2 2 16 6 6
England 5 3 2 16 9 3
Federal Germany 5 2 3 19 16 2
Poland 5 5 0 24 11 5
France 5 2 3 14 21 2
Yugoslavia 5 1 4 15 20 1

DIVISION ONE
Poland 5 2 3 18 17 2
Luxembourg 5 2 3 13 22 2
Sweden 5 2 3 18 17 2
Spain 3 -1 2 8 13 0
Scotland .. .. .. .. ... .. ... .. ... . 3 0 3 8 13 0

DIVISION TWO
Poland 5 2 3 18 17 2
Luxembourg 5 2 3 13 22 2
Scotland 3 0 3 8 13 0

FITTING FOR MARCH 87/97

Super Division
Sweden v Hungary
Franco v Federal Germany
England v Soviet Union (at Southend)
Czechoslovakia v Yugoslavia

Division One
Netherlands v Poland
Ireland v Bulgaria

Ireland v Luxembourg

EUROPEAN YOUTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

The 22nd European Youth Championships will be held in Rome over the period July 21-28. The championships will take place in the Palazzo dello Sport EUR, one of the new multifunctional sports facilities in Italy. It is situated in an elegant residential...
of the city surrounded by green parks and an artificial lake. The Palasport has a capacity for Francesco Sturlesi as Secretary. All correspondence should be addressed to:- 00192 ROME - Via Andrea Grubba of Poland.

18,000 people.

the massacre.

CZECH OPEN (USTI NAD LABEM)

Tibor Klamper of Hungary won his third major open men's singles title in the Czech Open a full report of which will appear in the next issue of the magazine. England's Desmond Douglas, snowbound in Chicago, followed his teammates 24 hours later but, in the men's singles went out to Andrei Yushkevich.

U.S.S.R. TRADE UNION CHAMPIONSHIPS

Igor Solovey (Treu) was the winner of the men's singles. The U.S.S.R. Trade Union Championships final victim being Sarkis Sarkhjian (Spartak) (9, 7, 7). Winner of the women's singles was Eremenko who beat Evstifeeva (21, 13, 13).

Sarkhjian and Strel'koven won the men's doubles; Eremenko/Alekseeenk won the women's and Sarkhjian/ Zacharyan the mixed.

ASIAN CHAMPIONSHIPS

China's Kao Yen-hua was the winner of the men's singles in the Asian Championships, played in Kuala Lumpur over the period Nov. 21 - Dec. 1, 78. The final was the classic confrontation (as witnessed at Brighton) between two players of contrasting styles and at the beginning and at the end of their respective careers. (writes John Hanson of Australia).

Kao, at 22, on his way towards a possible world crown played an aggressive quick-kill game from the start, fought back in acclimatising rallies to demonstrate that even 22 years of experience stroke player in the world, in the end the superior class of his young Kao gave him an 8-17, 15, 19, victory.

Semi-final results were:-

Tibor Klamper of Hungary (Korea DPR) 14, 10, 19. Liang Chen Hen-hua (CHN) -11, 24, 21, 16.

The main upset in the women's singles was the victory of India's left-handed Indu Puri who beat Eremenko, by 23-18, 19-21, and 15-6, in the semi-finals.

But it was China's 16-year-old Yao Yen-hua who was the real champion with a final victory, over her compatriot Yang Ying (13), 19 and 12.

Winners of the men's doubles were Jo Hong Ho and Yun Chel with Pak Yong Ok and Chang Ae. Those men took the top title with a hard-fought battle by Kuo /Chang Li (A.S. Metz) - 22-20 and 17-15, in the final.

In the semi Secretin accounted for Rene Hatem (C.S.A. Kremlin Bicetre) 8-12 and 5 whilst Bergeret disposed of Jean Claude Decret (E.S. (Levallois) 72 by 15-13, 17-15, 18 and 22 and 14. Hatem beat Decret-14, 18, 11, 17, 17, 15, 11, 17 for third place. But it was for the third time asking for Claude Bergeret in the women's section who was surprised by Michele Gourmelon (VGA St Maur) who beat the ASPIT Annecy player -17, -10, 13, 12 and 17 (1) in the final.

In the semi Bergeret lost Nadine Daviaud (ASPTT Nancy) 16, 15, 11 whilst Gourmelon accounted for Patricia Germain -13, 16, 15, 18.

In the number three In Burningham, followed his teammates 24 hours later but, in the men's singles went out to Andrei Yushkevich.

In the women's section was surprise by Michele Gourmelon (VGA St Maur) who beat the ASPIT Annecy player -17, -10, 13, 12 and 17 (1) in the final.

In the semi Bergeret lost Nadine Daviaud (ASPTT Nancy) 16, 15, 11 whilst Gourmelon accounted for Patricia Germain -13, 16, 15, 18.

In the number three in games and 19-20 down in the fourth before he recovered to win 22-20 and 17-15. In the semi Secretin accounted for Rene Hatem (C.S.A. Kremlin Bicetre) 12, 18 and 8 whilst Birocheau the semis Secretin accounted for Rene Hatem (CSA Kremlin Bicetre) 12, 18 and 8 whilst Birocheau accounted for Patricia Germain -13, 16, 15, 18.

Forwant (AEE Bri) leads the Classmen Juniors in front of Patrice Benner (ACR Clichy) with Germain Sowmeh (U.S. Lavel) third.

C.S.A. Kremlin Bicetre and A.S. Metz won Paris both boast 20 points after seven rounds of the league. Melbourne team to Pyongyang, but Stephanie Jones and Cathryn Jones will figure in the teams in the European League matches, the Commonwealth Championships in Edinburgh.
ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
NATIONAL COACH

The English Table Tennis Association is considering the appointment of one or more National Coaches. Candidates should possess an E.T.T.A. Coaching Diploma of a high standard plus a practical knowledge of modern fitness training methods and be prepared to work in one of the following regions:

Midlands
South/South West

The duties of each National Coach will include organisation of general coaching within the E.T.T.A. Coaching Scheme and supervision of training for leading senior and junior players.

The salary scales of these posts are currently under review but starting salaries will be within the range £3,192 - £3,468. The present maximum of the commencing scale is £3,534.

Application forms are available from the E.T.T.A. Office and should be submitted to the General Secretary, E.T.T.A., 21 Claremont, Haslings, East Sussex, TN34 1HA by 28th February, 1979. Envelopes to be marked "COACH".

ENGLAND v. THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA
MAGICAL PULL by John Herbert
(Editor, Birmingham Table Tennis Now)

Despite an acute shortage of petrol, an immense nail strike and the intermission of the result, a good crowd turned up to see England play China at the Central Hall in Birmingham on Monday, Jan. 15, such is the pull of these Oriental magicians. Looking around the crowd there could hardly have been a Chinese restaurant open in the city during the match. The 7-1 result to China is now history but the magic of the evening will live for a very long time to come.

We can almost take the brilliance of the Chinese for granted but, what about the match from England's point of view. I shall remember it particularly for the outstanding performance of Nicky Jarvis, the England No. 1. His first singles against Kuo Yao-Hua; the World's No. 1 player, none the retirement of Miura Kohata, it looked for a while as if Nicky might bring off the impossible. In the first game with the score standing at 10-all, there was the most incredible rally I have ever seen with Nicky taking the point. The crowd erupted and it was several minutes before the applause died down to leave us on the edge of our seats for the rest of the game. Nicky lost -17 and -12 but he had won the "match of the match" vote from most of us.

His Cleveland team-mate Jimmy Walker who had stepped in at the last minute to replace John Hilton also put up a great performance and won the only set for England against Wang Hui-Yuan. Des Douglas, England's No. 1 seems to have shaken off his phobia about playing in front of his home crowd and produced some brilliant counter-hitting in his game against Kuo. Paul Day was strangely off colour and didn't produce anything like his usual form until his last game of the evening when he fought back from 10-20 down against Wang Hui-Yuan to level then lose -21.

After the match the Chinese put on a demonstration singles which left the crowd marveling at their superb ball control and numerous rallies. I couldn't help but contrast the Chinese now with the same Chinese I saw in The World's. Gone were the same Chinese I saw in The World's. Gone were the military style uniforms and polite aloofness. We can now welcome a new breed of brilliant Chinese, great sportsmanship and friendship. They will no doubt enrich the game for many years to come.

Results:
D. Douglas lost to Kuo Yao-Hua -12, -17.
D. Douglas lost to Ling Ke-liang -14, -10.
N. Jarvis lost to Kuo Yao-Hua -17, -12.
N. Jarvis lost to Liang Ke-liang -14, -10.
J. Walker lost to Wang Chien-Chang -12, -14.
J. Walker lost to Wang Hui-Yuan 22-17, 18.

Mrs. Frances Jarvis, President of the Devon County Table Tennis Association receiving a cheque from Mr. Roger Rose, Branch Contoller of Western Trust and Savings, Sparse, a member of the County Association, surrounded by Senior and Junior players before an exhibition given to handicapped children at the Royal Youth Club, Plymouth, on Monday, 8th December, 1978. Photo by courtesy of County Photos, Plymouth.
LETTER TO THE EDITOR

DETRIMENTAL EFFECT

I have been concerned for some time over two particular aspects of our game which I am certain have a detrimental effect on its spectator appeal. I am prompted to voice these thoughts in paper after watching the Lu Chi-Wei v Gabor Gergely match on T.V. in “Top Table” on 31st January. Brian Webb, the umpire, warned the Chinese (and quite rightly under the present rules) about the viability of his serve, several times during the second game, which appeared to totally break the concentration of the player. There has been much discussion on this point since the last World’s Men’s Singles final but when is something going to be done to resolve this ludicrous situation where a service can be legal from one end of the table but not from the other end? Can you imagine this situation being allowed to continue in any other sport?

Secondly, concerning rubbers, I have always been in favour of standardisation of these allowing the skills of the player to be the prime factor in performance. However I accept that there is also a reasonable argument that playing with and against different rubbers requires even more skill, but I would suggest that this is not in the interest of the spectator. Nevertheless, surely the whole thing has gone far too far when a player using the long pimpled rubber does not always know himself what spin he has imparted on the ball. If he doesn’t know, what chance does his opponent have of reading it. The lawn Tennis body quickly took action in banning the double strung racket in the interest of the spectator - let us do something quickly before the next monstrous innovation is introduced.

COLIN DYKE

45 Sadlers Lane, Winkleshur, Wokingham, Berks.

WORLD TEAMS AND COMMONWEALTH


WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men
Desmond Douglas (Warwickshire)
Nicky Jarvis (Cleveland)
Paul Day (Cambridgeshire)
John Hilton (Lancashire)
John Dalitz (Kent)
Colin Wilson (Middlesex)
Karen Witt (Berkshire)
Karen Smith (Berkshire)
Reserve: Carole Knight (Cleveland)
Captains: Peter Simpson and Bryan Merrett
COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Men
Jimmy Walker (Cleveland)
Alan Fletcher (Yorkshire)
John Dalitz (Kent)
Colin Wilson (Middlesex)
Karen Witt (Berkshire)
Karen Smith (Berkshire)
Reserve: Carole Knight (Cleveland)
Captains: Donald Parker, Bryan Merrett and Peter Hirst

The Selection Committee, in choosing these teams feel that they have picked those players with the best chance of securing titles for England in the World Championships. The Committee is anxious to point out that ranking and selection are two very different concepts and that whereas ranking is based on facts, selection is a matter of opinion.

In the World team the selection of Desmond Douglas was obvious. The selectors were pleased with his performance in the recent Norweig Union International Championships, where he lost against Liang Ke-liang of China, World ranked at No. 4, in the quarter-finals. Although Nicky Jarvis and Paul Day are not currently playing at their best, the selectors feel that at their peak they could do very well indeed.

John Hilton earned his place mainly by his outstanding performance in last season’s European Championships, and brings the additional advantage of an unorthodox style.

Again there was no question in Jill Hemmender’s selection — she is a totally reliable player in top class competition. Both Karen Witt and Anila Shennou were selected largely on their performance in the recent Polish Open.

In the Commonwealth team the selectors feel they have attained a combination of experience, youthful enthusiasm and reliability and although two Juniors, Colin Wilson and Mandy Smith have been chosen, the Selection Committee would point out that these Juniors are as good as Seniors and have been selected to win, not merely to obtain experience in International Competition.

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JOOLA 1000 S
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Tel: (0542) 2178445 or 249000 (24 hour answering service).

Page 29
The draw for the Norwich Union English Championships took place on Monday, 22nd January at the Woking Sports Centre from Friday, 23rd to Sunday, 25th February, features all of England’s top players—some of which have been specially released by their German clubs to take part.

In the men’s singles, Desmond Douglas has only one difficult match in his quarter—against Kent’s John Dabin in the second round. The second seed, Cleveland’s Nicky Jarvis has a tougher task with four England ranked players in his quarter.

Jill Hammersley, who last year won the women’s singles title from Carole Knight, is top seed this year, whilst Knight, following some poor results, is not even seeded! Second seed is the young Berkshire schoolgirl Karen Witt who faces a difficult second round match with her county team-mate Moody Smith.

The Norwich Union English Championships will be televised by London Weekend Television on the Saturday’s ‘World of Sport’ programme.

Seeds in draw order are:

- 1 J. Hammersley
- 2 K. Witt
- 3 C. Rogers
- 4 J. Kennedy

The facility at Eston Leisure Centre, which include special lighting for table tennis, are being provided by Langbaurgh Council, while the Centre is being financed by a grant from the Sports Council, Northern Region. Also assisting with this project is the governing body of the sport, the English Table Tennis Association.

The opening activities included a demonstration of the coaching programme by the coaches and young members, following which the local and visiting dignitaries, the members and some parents were treated to a first class exhibition match between two leading English players, Nicky Jarvis of Cleveland, ranked No. 2 in England and recently toured to the English team for the forthcoming World Championships in North Korea, and Donald Parker of Lancashire, the National Coach.

Both Jill Hammersley and John Hilton are contracted to Dunlop Sports to use the excellent co-operation between those organisations involved in the Centre, in particular to the considerable support by Langbaurgh Council and the hard work put in by the youngsters and coaches themselves. Mr. Saunders commented that this is a very good example of broad co-operation in providing opportunities for youngsters in the Region to reach their top potential.

Councillor Doug Moore, the Chairman of the Management Committee of the Centre of Excellence, said that Langbaurgh was deeply honoured that this Centre has been established at Eston Leisure Centre under the guidance of Mr. Alan Rantome and his fellow coaches. Councillor Moore believed that this was a natural thing to do as the Ormesby Table Tennis Club has put the Cleveland area on the map with their successful players proving themselves both nationally and internationally.

Councilor Moore continued that the young players will now have the opportunity to meet other participants from the whole of the Northern Region; He hoped that there would be continued financial support from both the Sports Council and local authorities and a good response to the Sport Scholarship Scheme established by the Management Committee for the members so that the sporting future of our young players can be assured.

TRADE NEWS...

DUNLOP PLAYERS SELECTED FOR WORLD TABLE TENNIS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dunlop contracted players Jill Hammersley and John Hilton have been selected for the English team due to visit the World Table Tennis Championships in North Korea from 20th April to 5th May. They will be part of a four man and three woman team taking part in the most prestigious event in the 1979 table tennis calendar.

Jill Hammersley, currently ranked number one in England and three in Europe, recently won the Nicholas Cup at the Norwich Union International Championships in Brighton. In the final she defeated top European player Judith Mages of Hungary 3-1 to take what is effectively the English open crown. Jill Hammersley and John Hilton were also runners-up in the Mixed Doubles event to Desmond Douglas and Linda Howard.

Both Jill Hammersley and John Hilton are contracted to Dunlop Sports to use the Company’s bats, sportswear and shoes on an exclusive worldwide basis.

Official Opening of the Table Tennis Centre of Excellence

Northern Region

Councillor Mrs. P. J. Zoryk, Mayor of Langbaurgh, officially opened the Table Tennis Centre of Excellence, Northern Region, at Eston Leisure Centre, Normandy Road, Eston, on Jan. 19th.

The opening activities included a demonstration of the coaching programme by the coaches and young members, following which the local and visiting dignitaries, the members and some parents were treated to a first class exhibition match between two leading English players, Nicky Jarvis of Cleveland, ranked No. 2 in England and recently toured to the English team for the forthcoming World Championships in North Korea, and Donald Parker of Lancashire, the National Coach for the North of England.

The Centre, which has been in operation since April, provides training facilities on two nights a week and one Sunday a month for the region’s international players and future stars. Play takes place on 12 international tables, with a membership of 30 players between the ages of 12 and 25.

The facility at Eston Leisure Centre, which include special lighting for table tennis, are being provided by Langbaurgh Council, while the Centre is being financed by a grant from the Sports Council, Northern Region. Also assisting with this project is the governing body of the sport, the English Table Tennis Association.

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IRISH NOTES

by WILLIE WALSH

IRELAND SPARKLE

Ireland kept their hopes alive of remaining in the European League First Division when they beat Slevin and Waldheusl in a very good defensive player - Franz points and the crowd


The opening set he seemed very nervous against a 17-year-old Dubliner was recalled to the Irish team for the first time 4-3, Brown then proved to be too good for O'Brien 19, 14 and hammer played some very good table tennis to beat Rice 18, 8. The doubles sets proved to be an anti-climax when Brown and Copes beat Fre less Fetter in Judenburg last year.

Annahilt of Belfast are the new Club Champions of Ireland, they beat Pioneers (Dublin) 7-4 in the All-Ireland Club Championship. An exciting match of fluctuating fortunes was seen by too few spectators, the closeness of the competition and the quality of play made it a more interesting spectacle than the recent Inter-Pro's which were too one-sided.

The first match between Nick Rice and Freddie Brown set the scene, first game 18 to Rice, second 18 to Brown. Rice got away to a good lead in the third and at 18-12 looked to be home, 20-14 and it should have been all over, but Brown fought back point by point and at 20-20, the atmosphere was electric, 21-20 to Rice, 21-20, two tremendous points and Brown was the winner 23-21. Annahilt and Ulster's international player. A terrific first game with Hickey struggling to keep in touch and finally succumbed to a succession of consistent forehand topspin drives by the late and non-arrival of Joe Hickey but gained his revenge in the semi-final. O'Brien bt Kieran Leonard -17, -19, and Cop. a 21-21, after Hamill had led all the way. With increased confidence in the early stages by the left-handed Brown who was varying the pace continually and switching

K. Keane bt E. Amplatz -17, -21, -20.

keene's backhand was at once an anxious time as Amplatz won the next three points to level. The match ended with a succession of consistent forehand topspin drives - Amplatz levelled by winning the second 21.

In the 3rd Keane got a "tie" to win the first 7 points. Amplatz levelled at 12-12 and it was then point for point to 17-17. Keane won the next three points and the crowd waited anxiously for Keane to clinch the set. It certainly was an anxious time as Amplatz won the next three points to level. The next two points were a nail-biting time as both players thrashed to the winds hitting forehand and backhand drives at each other with reckless abandon. Keane won both bringing the crowd to their feet in jubilation. Karen Senior gave Ireland a 2-1 lead when she beat Dolores Fetter comfortably 10 and 19. -12. Keene's next match with Eric Amplatz was a classic. He won the first 17, due to a succession of consistent forehand topspin drives - Amplatz levelled by winning the second 21.

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## DRAW FOR ROUND 3 (WOMEN)

**COMPLETION DATE 11/2/79**

### CARTER CUP

**ZONE 1**

- Ormesby v Hartlepool
- Barrow v Lancaster/Morecambe

**ZONE 2**

- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

**ZONE 3**

- Chesterfield v Leicester
- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

**ZONE 4**

- Chesterfield v Leicester
- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

**ZONE 5**

- Chesterfield v Leicester
- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

**ZONE 6**

- Chesterfield v Leicester
- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

**ZONE 7**

- Chesterfield v Leicester
- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

**ZONE 8**

- Chesterfield v Leicester
- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

### J. M. ROSE BOWL

**COMPLETION DATE 11/2/79**

**ZONE 1**

- North Middlesex v Ormesby
- Sunderland v Carlisle

**ZONE 2**

- Bury v Preston v Manchester
- Bradford v Stockport

**ZONE 3**

- Leicester v Peterborough
- Chesterfield v Grimsby
- Northampton v Birmingham

**ZONE 4**

- Northampton v Birmingham
- Kettering v Cambridge

**ZONE 5**

- Chesterfield v Basildon
- Dagenham v Ipswich

**ZONE 6**

- Watford v London Civil Service
- North Middlesex v Wembley

**ZONE 7**

- Gravesend v Leatherhead
- Crawley v Romford

**Zone 8**

- Exeter v Swindon v Bournemouth
- Newbury v Plymouth

### DRAW FOR ROUND 3 (MEN)

**COMPLETION DATE 11/2/79**

**WILMOTT CUP**

**ZONE 1**

- Ormesby v Hartlepool
- Barrow v Lancaster/Morecambe

**ZONE 2**

- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

**ZONE 3**

- Chesterfield v Leicester
- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

**ZONE 4**

- Chesterfield v Leicester
- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

**ZONE 5**

- Chesterfield v Leicester
- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

**ZONE 6**

- Chesterfield v Leicester
- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

**ZONE 7**

- Chesterfield v Leicester
- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

**ZONE 8**

- Chesterfield v Leicester
- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

### FROMSTEAD TROPHY

**COMPLETION DATE 11/2/79**

**ZONE 1**

- North Middlesex v Ormesby
- Sunderland v Carlisle

**ZONE 2**

- Bury v Preston v Manchester
- Bradford v Stockport

**ZONE 3**

- Leicester v Peterborough
- Chesterfield v Grimsby
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- Northampton v Birmingham
- Kettering v Cambridge

**ZONE 5**

- Chesterfield v Basildon
- Dagenham v Ipswich

**ZONE 6**

- Watford v London Civil Service
- North Middlesex v Wembley

**ZONE 7**

- Gravesend v Leatherhead
- Crawley v Romford

**Zone 8**

- Exeter v Swindon v Bournemouth
- Newbury v Plymouth

### DRAW FOR ROUND 3 (BOYS)

**COMPLETION DATE 11/2/79**

**ZONE 1**

- Ormesby v Hartlepool
- Barrow v Lancaster/Morecambe

**ZONE 2**

- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

**ZONE 3**

- Chesterfield v Leicester
- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

**ZONE 4**

- Chesterfield v Leicester
- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

**ZONE 5**

- Chesterfield v Leicester
- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

**ZONE 6**

- Chesterfield v Leicester
- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

**ZONE 7**

- Chesterfield v Leicester
- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

**ZONE 8**

- Chesterfield v Leicester
- Swindon v Swindon
- Exeter v Plymouth

### DRAW FOR ROUND 3 (GIRLS)

**COMPLETION DATE 11/2/79**

**ZONE 1**

- North Middlesex v Ormesby
- Sunderland v Carlisle

**ZONE 2**

- Bury v Preston v Manchester
- Bradford v Stockport

**ZONE 3**

- Leicester v Peterborough
- Chesterfield v Grimsby
- Northampton v Birmingham

**ZONE 4**

- Northampton v Birmingham
- Kettering v Cambridge

**ZONE 5**

- Chesterfield v Basildon
- Dagenham v Ipswich

**ZONE 6**

- Watford v London Civil Service
- North Middlesex v Wembley

**ZONE 7**

- Gravesend v Leatherhead
- Crawley v Romford

**Zone 8**

- Exeter v Swindon v Bournemouth
- Newbury v Plymouth

### 3rd Round Results

- Macclesfield 2 Dagenham 5
- North Middlesex v Wembley
- Redditch 6 St. Albans 0
- Oxford 0 Hereford 0
- North Middlesex v Wembley
- Derby 1 Cheltenham 5
- Trotters 1 Herne Bay 0
- Oxford 1 North Middlesex 0
- North Middlesex v Wembley
- Birmingham 1 Norwich 0
- Melbourne 1 Luton 3
- Manchester 5 Blackpool 2
- London Civil Service 5 Southend 2
- North Barking 5 North Acton 1
- Oxford 0 North Middlesex 0
- North Middlesex v Wembley
- Birmingham 1 Norwich 0
- Cambridge 1 Norwich 0
- North Middlesex v Wembley
- Birmingham 1 Norwich 0
- Cambridge 1 Norwich 0
- North Middlesex v Wembley

### 2nd Round Results

- Macclesfield 2 Dagenham 5
- North Middlesex v Wembley
- Redditch 6 St. Albans 0
- Oxford 0 Hereford 0
- North Middlesex v Wembley
- Derby 1 Cheltenham 5
- Trotters 1 Herne Bay 0
- Oxford 1 North Middlesex 0
- North Middlesex v Wembley
- Birmingham 1 Norwich 0
- Melbourne 1 Luton 3
- Manchester 5 Blackpool 2
- London Civil Service 5 Southend 2
- North Barking 5 North Acton 1
- Oxford 0 North Middlesex 0
- North Middlesex v Wembley
- Birmingham 1 Norwich 0
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NEWS FROM AMERICA
by MALCOLM ANDERSON

Eric Boggan is Youngest Ever U.S. Men's Champion!

The Men's Singles final of the 1976 U.S. Closed Championship, held at Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada, saw our defending champion, Danny Seemiller, pitted against his protege, 15-year-old Eric Boggan. Beth play the same style — "seemiller grip" — but Eric reverses his racket to give an "anti spin" shot far more often than does Danny. Throughout the match, Eric generally stayed at the table, blocking and hitting. Danny did more moving and looping. Eric won the first game at 23-21, and the second 21-16. In the third game, Danny slipped twice (on an indoor tennis court) after it was 15-15, and was down 15-17. Then he went 20-17 ahead, and missed a turkey at 20-18, and Eric forged ahead, 21-20! Then Danny won the game at 23-21! However, in the fourth game knowing this help was bringing this day nearer, Eric went ahead early and stayed there — and hit the table with his thumb! After 15 minutes of ice packs and pressure bandages, Scott ran around his backhand and tried a big forehand — and won the title 21-15.

Other results:-

Senior Singles (over 40):
Bill Sharpe bt Russell Thompson 11, 21, 21.
Eric Boggan bt Jim Wyles 21, 14, 17.

Boys' U-13:
Eric Boggan bt Brian Masters 15, 8, 18.

Girls' U-13:
Kasia Dawidowicz bt Chinna Kurnik 21, 14, 17.

Marilyn Johnston/Karin Thompson bt Cheryl Sistrunk/Mary Wise 15, 13, 17.

In the semi-finals, Danny beat Scott Boggan. When Scott was behind 10-16 in the first game, he ran around his backhand and tried a big forehand — after losing the first two games at 10 and 13, the point forced him to retire when down 17-10 in the third. Scott later admitted that he had discovered that his thumb was broken! In the other semi, Eric beat Kay Guilliam 17, 1, 22, 16. In the quarter-finals, Eric, who was seeded sixth, beat second seeded D. J. Lee, 19, 20, 15. In the semi-finals, Eric beat No. 1 seed, Kasia Dawidowicz with ease in the semi, where she came from behind to beat Kasia Dawidowicz, -18, -17, 14, 13. He was seen to beat Anjilu Sistrunk in the semi, 17, 17, 19, 7.

In Men's Doubles, Dan and Rick Seemiller beat two younsters from Washington, Dan Dojic and Quang Bui, 15, 12, 19.

In Women's Doubles, He-Ja Lee and Angelita Sistrunk beat the defending champions, in Sook Bhushan and Kasia Dawidowicz, 19, -12, 16, 19.

In Mixed Doubles, Danny and In Sook beat Ray Guilliam and Judy Bochenski, 12, 17, 18.

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In the Women's Singles final, in Caesar's Palace in Las Vegas, Nevada, saw our defending champion, Danny Seemiller, pitted against his protege, 15-year-old Eric Boggan. Beth play the same style — "seemiller grip" — but Eric reverses his racket to give an "anti spin" shot far more often than does Danny. Throughout the match, Eric generally stayed at the table, blocking and hitting. Danny did more moving and looping. Eric won the first game at 23-21, and the second 21-16. In the third game, Danny slipped twice (on an indoor tennis court) after it was 15-15, and was down 15-17. Then he went 20-17 ahead, and missed a turkey at 20-18, and Eric forged ahead, 21-20! Then Danny won the game at 23-21! However, in the fourth game knowing this help was bringing this day nearer, Eric went ahead early and stayed there — and hit the table with his thumb! After 15 minutes of ice packs and pressure bandages, Scott ran around his backhand and tried a big forehand — and won the title 21-15.

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CHESHTN & DISTRICT TABLE TENNIS LEAGUE

Tesco Stores Ltd. sponsored their second Cheshunt League Handicap Singles Tournament in November. Brian Ayed (Cheshunt) won the main event for the Tesco Trophy beating Mike Lyddiatt (Halleybury), both players from Division 5 and starting from scratch.

Mrs. Jo Chapman (East Herts College) won the consolation event and the Tesco Shield from Peter Browson (Goffs Oak), who had to give 19 up to 21 (no deuce!! Mrs. Chapman had learned from an earlier experience (her first round Trophy match saw defeat with 19 up against Alan Lamprell) and the young Brownlow could not afford too many fierce shots, just in case they came back. The final went the distance but Peter Browson's patience ran out.

Pictured (left to right): Mike Lyddiatt, Brian Ayed (Trophy Winner), John Stenlake (Tesco Director), Mrs. Jo Chapman (Shield Winner) and Peter Browson.

Photo by Tony Dobbin (Tesco Stores Ltd., Cheshunt, Herts.).

SCOTTISH NEWS

by DENIS GEORGE

COMMONWEALTH SQUAD TRAINING

The first of three weekend training camps for the 16 players nominated for the Commonwealth Championships was held at the National Recreation Centre, Inverclyde, Inverclyde, 5-7 January, 1979. The camp was unexpectedly extended for two days when the Chinese team (for the English Open), which included Kuo Yaw-Hua and Liang Ke-Liang, stayed at Inverclyde from 7-9 January. The Scottish players had ample opportunity to watch and play against the visitors and to listen to coach Li Fu-Jung expound his views on coaching, training and the game in general. Arrangements were made by S.T.T.A. Director of Coaching Eric Sutherland in conjunction with the Scottish Sports Council.

COMMONWEALTH CHAMPIONSHIPS

Edinburgh — 12/18 April 1979

Preparations are now well under way for the 5th Commonwealth Championships and Edinburgh is looking forward to welcoming players from all over the World who will converge on the Meadowbank Sports Centre in April. The Scottish squad includes Isobel Ferguson, Hilary Calder, Mabel Neish, Kristie Hammond, Margaret Cuthbertson, Lola Moir, Archie McCulloch, John Moir.

The Second London Youth Games are for young people (under 21) living in Greater London. It is an Inter-Borough Competition and London Boroughs can only select their teams from people living in their Borough.

PRELIMINARY ROUNDS

In some sports there will be preliminary rounds prior to the finals. These will take place at venues in London during May, June and July, 1979.

FINAL ROUND

The finals of all sports will be held at Crystal Palace National Sports Centre.

HOW TO ENTER

Each London Borough has its own organiser and those people wishing to represent their borough in the games should contact the organiser, whose address and telephone number can be obtained from your Town Hall.

FURTHER INFORMATION ON THE 1979 LONDON YOUTH GAMES CAN BE OBTAINED FROM JOHN STURT, SECRETARY, STEERING COMMITTEE. Telephone: 01-748-3020 x 406.

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MISSILES ON THE WAY?

No doubts there are quite a few people in the counties of Surrey and Cleveland preparing missiles to throw at the England selectors for their decisions to drop Linda Howard and Carole Knight from the England world team and replace them with the two younger girls Karen Witt and Anita Stevenson.

No one will deny that Linda Howard has in doubles events reached great heights. I have often noted her courage in mixed doubles when facing some of the world’s greatest male players. When tempted to push against really difficult services she will often make courageous attacking strokes.

But the fact remains that success in doubles is not enough. It may well be the case that for example Desmond Douglas could do as well or even better with Karen Witt. In any case, the selectors have already said that they were extremely impressed with Karen and Anita at the Polish Open and that is one of the main reasons for their selection for Pyongyang.

The Scottish T.T.A. are undoubtedly not happy that England have decided to send a second team to Edinburgh. I applaud the selectors for this decision. It gives a marvellous boost to the players, who themselves must have been surprised and, it is just not on to expect our best team to win.

When, for example, Juniors in local leagues, players who have never beaten a rival in their lives are suddenly breaking through. It takes a considerable time for players to become accustomed to the new surface.

Steve Worsman and Helen Shields. The two women teamed up in the doubles to win from Connie Moran and Linda Holmes.

The National Council discussed the application at their last meeting and authorised the participation of E.T.T.A. members and granted them permission to accept the cash prizes listed within the entry form.

GLOBAL OPENED

Presented by Barry Meisel and Danny Kinnard the Global National £2,000 Tournament, to be held at Greenwich Baths on Mar. 3/4, has received the blessing of the E.T.T.A.

The National Council discussed the application at their last meeting and authorised the participation of E.T.T.A. members and granted them permission to accept the cash prizes listed within the entry form.

Three championships were held in a small sports centre in Tel Aviv over the period Dec. 27/28, 1978. One can only describe conditions in the Harbour Centre as being below par, not even up to the standard of a 1-star tournament at home.

Five tables were squeezed into a minimum playing area with one week light over each. White walls and windows formed the main background. Concentration was difficult; it was noisy and umbrellas had to frequently rebuke the very young boys who got bored with “twiddling”.

It was difficult to believe, but dogs were barking during the final, scaffolding was being erected next to crucial games, and a fight developed in the sports centre because of a player dissapointing with the committee. Generally, although the Israeli Sports Federation did their best, they have a lot to learn.

In contrast, the hospitality could not be bettered. From stepping off the plane they could not do enough for us. They arranged a day out in Jerusalem on Christmas Eve. Followed by a trip to Bethlehem in the evening. The food and hotel were both of a high standard.

In the Championships, John reached the quarter-final of the singles and Alan reached the semi-finals. John beat one of the top Israelis, B. Yosi, and Alan beat Rene Hatem, the French No.4, 3-0 in the quarter-finals, before losing to Tommi Danielsson (Swedish No. 5) 19 in the fifths. John lost to Jean Claude Decret (French No. 3) 3-1.

In the team event, England beat Israel “D” (3-0) and lost to Israel “A” (2-3), and France (0-3). John did well to beat the top two Israeli players in the team event and Alan did well to take the Bronze Medal in the singles. Sweden provided the two men’s finalists (Anders Bylund beat Danielsson 3-1), and won the team event; Israel “A” were second and France third.

EAST OF ENGLAND 2-STAR

Entries for the East of England 2-Star Open, to be played on Sunday, March 11 at Yarborough Sports Centre, Knottcliffe Road, Lincoln, close on Wednesday, Feb. 21 to M. S. Brown, High St., Eagle, Lincoln LN6 9DG (Phone: Swinderby 291). Play commences at 9.45 a.m., the prize money being donated by Mr. R. Butlin and Mr. A. J. Biggadike.
CLEVELAND 3-STAR OPEN

PARKER SPRINGS SURPRISE

by The Editor

Lancashire's Donald Parker, the E.T.T.A.'s Northern National Staff Coach, was the surprise winner of the men's singles event in the Cleveland 3-Star Open played over the weekend of Jan. 20/21 at Thornaby Pavilion.

£250 was the prize money at stake in this event and, in the absence of Desmond Douglas and James Walker, Parker made his way through the top quarter to be opposed in the semi's by Graham Sandley who had the No. 3 seed, Paul Day, missing from his section of the draw.

Nonetheless Parker, now figuring at No. 17 in the national rankings, had a good deal to feel proud about especially in his final beating of his higher-ranked county teammate John Hilton. The weather played havoc with road conditions and because of this withdrawals were inevitable and many were the big names missing when the starter's gun was fired. Not so prominent in the men's event was No. 2 seed, Ian Hornsby (11, 13, 11) in Rd. 4 and Aussie Steve Knapp was taken out by Hammersley bt Buttery 4, 7; Hampshire .. 2 2 0 0 13 5 4 .

Intermediate Men's Singles Quarter-finals:

G. Chapman (Sy) bt K. Skipp (Cv) 13, 12;
A. Clark (Nd) bt Proffitt 19, 19;
I. Chapman (Cv) bt J. Proffitt (Mi)

Women's Doubles Quarter-finals:

S. Hunt (Li)/Witt bt M. Reeves (Mi)/J. Skipp (Cv) 13, 18;

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

Hammersley/Horsham bt A. Michael/H. Williams (Mi)

S. Hunt (Li)/Witt (Bu) bt M. Reeves (Mi)/J. Skipp (Cv) 13, 18;

Bested seed in the bottom half of the men's singles was No. 3 seed Anita Stevenson by Nottingham University student Cheryl Buttery of Lincolnshire, who triumphed 18 and 15, over the Loughborough girl. No. 4 seed Melody Ludi was a non-starter being snowbound in Bradford.

Hilton took consolation for his singles defeat by teaming up with Lassi to win the men's doubles, the second seeded Jan-Curt (Pol), the latter in place of Day, going out to the Australians Knapp and Carlyle. Top seeds, Douglas and Walker were, of course, absentees.

Yorkshireman Alan Fletcher had Nigel Eckersley as his partner but he conceded to Tony Clayton and Johnathan Profit in the Class 2 Mixed Singles Pat Glynn had a hard-fought encounter with Mark Hankey in the final winning at "serves" in the third.

But, in the Intermediate men's singles, one of the down under boys' took the money when, in the final, Carlyle beat Keith Paxton after earlier victories over David Hughes (Cv), Ian Reed (Cv), Malcolm Green (Sp) and, in the semi's, Stephen Cowley (La). Kevins Witt was the winner of the counterpart women's event her final victim being Mandy Smith.

Results:

Men's Singles Quarters-Finals:

A. Fletcher (Y) bt P. McQueen (Cv) 19, -18, 18.

Women's Singles Quarters-Finals:

H. Horsham (E) bt K. Skipp (Cv) 19, 15, 15.

Women's Doubles Quarters-Finals:

S. Hunt (Li)/Witt bt M. Reeves (Mi)/J. Skipp (Cv) 13, 18;

The Commonwealth challengers, Canada's A. Gordon (Bk) bt M. Smith (Bk) -13, 14, 13;

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

H. Horsham (E) bt K. Skipp (Cv) 19, 15, 15.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

H. Horsham (E) bt K. Skipp (Cv) 19, 15, 15.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

S. Hunt (Li)/Witt bt M. Reeves (Mi)/J. Skipp (Cv) 13, 18;

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

H. Horsham (E) bt K. Skipp (Cv) 19, 15, 15.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

H. Horsham (E) bt K. Skipp (Cv) 19, 15, 15.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

H. Horsham (E) bt K. Skipp (Cv) 19, 15, 15.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

S. Hunt (Li)/Witt bt M. Reeves (Mi)/J. Skipp (Cv) 13, 18;

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

H. Horsham (E) bt K. Skipp (Cv) 19, 15, 15.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

H. Horsham (E) bt K. Skipp (Cv) 19, 15, 15.

Women's Singles Semi-finals:

H. Horsham (E) bt K. Skipp (Cv) 19, 15, 15.

Women's Doubles Semi-finals:

H. Horsham (E) bt K. Skipp (Cv) 19, 15, 15.
STATE OF POSTPONEMENTS

A period of inactivity over the last few weeks results in a short report on the County Championships round-up. Whil no fair programme had been arranged by the Date 30, the clash with the Siga Club Junior Training sessions at York ceased a space of postponed matches and the New Year period itself did not feature favourably with others causing even more rescheduling. In the senior section, a full programme was completed in 2 North with Yorkshire II denying Lincolnshire any chance of divisional promotion giving out a 9-1 beating at Hull and denying our on-point team the place at the table. Cambridge remain in touch following an 8-2 win over Northumberland.

Newly promoted Shropshire are finding points very difficult to come by in 2 Midland. They are rooted at the foot of the division having succumbed to Northants, perhaps the best chance they will get this season. After five sets Shropshire were leading 3-2, but Northants' men used their home advantage to win 4-2.

County are having a good season. They have been top of the Premier since the start and they also hold top position in 3 North and 3 Midland. Chesire II are almost assured of the 3 North Midland title, having one match to play and unbeaten. Chesire III hold their place but Lancs II and Cleveland II are poised to take over with a match in hand.

Programme: (continued on page 38)

PREMIER

Cheshire.......................... 3 2 0 1 13 11 4
Lancashire.......................... 3 2 0 1 10 10 2
Cleveland.......................... 3 2 0 1 9 9 2
Yorkshire II.......................... 3 1 0 2 12 13 2
Shropshire.......................... 3 1 0 2 9 9 2
Cambs II.......................... 3 0 0 2 7 7 2

3 NORTH

Northamptonshire II 2 Shropshire II 3
Leics II.......................... 3 1 0 1 10 10 2
Cheshire III 2 Northumberland II 2
Hants II.......................... 2 1 0 1 11 11 2
Bedford II.......................... 2 1 0 1 1 1 1
Norfolk II.......................... 2 1 0 1 1 1 1
Suffolk II.......................... 2 1 0 1 1 1 1

3 SOUTH

Hampshire II.......................... 3 2 0 1 14 14 4
GloucestershireII.......................... 3 2 0 1 11 11 4
Kenton III.......................... 3 1 0 2 9 9 2
Bedford II.......................... 2 1 0 1 1 1 1

Cambs II.......................... 3 0 0 2 7 7 2

CHALLENGE MATCHES

It is proposed to hold challenge matches as follows:

PREMIER

Cheshire.......................... 3 2 0 1 13 13 4
Lancashire.......................... 3 2 0 1 10 10 2
Cleveland.......................... 3 2 0 1 9 9 2
Yorkshire II.......................... 3 1 0 2 12 13 2
Shropshire.......................... 3 1 0 2 9 9 2
Cambs II.......................... 3 0 0 2 7 7 2

3 NORTH

Northamptonshire II 2 Shropshire II 3
Leics II.......................... 3 1 0 1 10 10 2
Cheshire III 2 Northumberland II 2
Hants II.......................... 2 1 0 1 11 11 2
Bedford II.......................... 2 1 0 1 1 1 1
Norfolk II.......................... 2 1 0 1 1 1 1
Suffolk II.......................... 2 1 0 1 1 1 1

3 SOUTH

Hampshire II.......................... 3 2 0 1 14 14 4
GloucestershireII.......................... 3 2 0 1 11 11 4
Kenton III.......................... 3 1 0 2 9 9 2
Bedford II.......................... 2 1 0 1 1 1 1

Cambs II.......................... 3 0 0 2 7 7 2

JUNIOR PREMIER

Staffordshire.......................... 3 1 0 2 17 17 2
Yorkshire.......................... 3 1 0 2 17 17 2
Cheshire II.......................... 3 1 0 2 17 17 2
Berkshire.......................... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Essex II.......................... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Midlex II.......................... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0
Surrey II.......................... 0 0 0 0 0 0 0

JUNIOR 2 SOUTH

Hampshire II.......................... 3 2 0 1 14 14 4
Gloucestershire II.......................... 3 2 0 1 11 11 4
Kenton III.......................... 3 1 0 2 9 9 2
Bedford II.......................... 2 1 0 1 1 1 1
Norfolk II.......................... 2 1 0 1 1 1 1
Suffolk II.......................... 2 1 0 1 1 1 1

JUNIOR 2 NORTH

Hampshire II.......................... 3 2 0 1 14 14 4
Gloucestershire II.......................... 3 2 0 1 11 11 4
Kenton III.......................... 3 1 0 2 9 9 2
Bedford II.......................... 2 1 0 1 1 1 1
Norfolk II.......................... 2 1 0 1 1 1 1
Suffolk II.......................... 2 1 0 1 1 1 1

NEWSPAPER REVIEW

Spain: (continued on page 38)