Champion Towelmaster

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec, London SW17

British and best by Jaques
PERISH THE THOUGHT
It is never easy, at the best of times, for a match secretary to fulfill the requirements of the post and moreso if the job is linked, as it often is, with that of publicity.

Affording the local paper up to date results, match reports and league tables might seem easy meat to those with the flair unless the person responsible happens to be you!

Only then does one appreciate just what the job entails and should the worthy incumbent be without a home telephone then you are assured of trouble in abundant proportions.

The late or non-submission of result sheets is a constant thorn in the side of publicity. The unofficial one, in Manchester. Who is linked, as it often is, with that of area affected by a postal dispute, such as the one in Manchester. But spare a thought for those such officials who happen to operate in an area affected by a postal dispute, such as the unofficial one in Manchester. Who would want to be a match secretary there? Perish the thought.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
Patron: Her Majesty The Queen.
President: M. Goldstein, O.B.E.
Life Vice-President: Hon. Ivor Montagu.
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(Vice-Chairmen)

On the International Front by The Editor

STILL THERE . . . AT THE TOP!
There was much anguish and gnashing of teeth at Belper Sports Centre on Jan. 15 when England, defending their unbeaten record in the Super Division of the European League, found themselves 0-2 down to Czechoslovakia.

But from thereon a spirited revival was staged to such an extent that England won the next four sets for a decisive 4-2 lead which pleased the crowd no end and the match sponsors, Auto Windscreens (Chesterfield) Ltd., even more. They had backed a winner!

Both Desmond Douglas and John Hilton suffered 2-straight reverses, to Milan Orlowski and Josef Dvoracek respectively, in that black opening phase subsequently relieved when Jill Hammersley, carrying on the good work from Basingstoke, had the measure of Alice Pelikanova who, despite a nervous beginning, put up stout resistance albeit unavailing.

Douglas and Paul Day then set about Dvoracek, looking every inch the Guardsman that he is not, and the smaller Jindrich Pansky in no mean fashion to take the men's doubles to be followed by a cliff-hanger in which Douglas, partnered by Linda Jarvis, sparked back from an opening game deficit to beat Pansky and Marie Hrachova in no mean fashion to Czechoslovakia.

Douglas was then called upon to make a third consecutive return to the table but with that opening set defeat far behind him, and the adrenalin in full flow, his reflexes were just too much for Dvoracek who went under 11 and 18 for England to secure their fifth successive win to maintain their top position in the league.

Sadly John Hilton, our European champion, had to do without for his labours even allowing for him taking the second game of Orlowski in the final set.

Individual Scores:
D. Douglas lost to M. Orlowski -19, -10; J. Hilton lost to J. Dvoracek -10, -15; J. Hammersley bt A. Pelikanova 13, 13; D. Day/Douglas bt Dvoracek/J. Pansky 17, 19.

Douglas/L. Jarvis bt Pansky/M. Hrachova -18, 15, 18; Douglas bt Dvoracek 11, 18; Hilton lost to Orlowski -19, 15, 15.

Meantime, in Budapest, Hungary preserved their unbeaten record with a like 4-3 success over France who did remarkably well to take three sets from the defending champions. Jacques Secretin was involved in all three French successes beating Gabor Gergely in singles and sharing in two doubles wins with Patrick Brochu and Claude Bergeret. Tibor Klampar (2) and Gergely (1) plus a win for Szusza Ohai, over Miss Bergeret, got the Hungarians home.

Scores:
T. Klampar bt P. Brochu -19, 14, 15; G. Gergely lost to J. Secretin -9, -12;

Desmond Douglas who carried on the good work started by Jill Hammersley at Belper began winning the men's and mixed doubles, with Paul Day and Linda Jarvis, and then won the match for England by beating Josef Dvoracek.

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec, London.
On the same night, in Lenigrad, Sweden went into a 4-0 lead against the Soviet Union yet only won 4-3 against the point-less Russians who came back remarkably well. The two Ulfs, Thorsell and Carlsson, opened up in blistering style putting down, most effectively, Anatoli Strokatov and Igor Solopov respectively.

Scores:
1. Solopov lost to T. Takacs -13, -17;
2. A. Strokatov lost to G. Gergely -10, -14;
3. J. Javoroskaya lost to B. Kishazi -17, -20;
4. B. Batinic/S. Grefberg bt Kriston/E. Urban 18, -12, 14;
5. Strokatov bt Takacs 13, -17, -11.

Spanish revised their position as England's runners-up, Romania and France to maintain their 5-2 lead and Wales were hard-pressed to preserve their unbeaten record.

Scores:
1. Westwood lost to G. Bar -15, -18, -17;
2. F. Bisi lost to J. Jokinen 16, -17, -16;
3. J. Kucharski lost to S. Grefberg -16, -18, -17;
4. J. L. Kriston lost to G. Muller -16, -18, -17;
5. J. Kucharski lost to W. Fetter 16, -18, -17.

In the second game of the men's doubles win against Kriston and Edit Urban in the mixed, Gergely then won the match for Hungarians in beating Solopov but in the final set, Strokatov came good to beat Janos Takacs.

Scores:
1. Solopov lost to J. Takacs -17, -17, -17;
2. A. Strokatov lost to G. Gergely -10, -14, -14;
3. J. Javoroskaya lost to B. Kishazi -17, -20, -11;
4. B. Batinic/S. Grefberg bt Kriston/E. Urban 18, -12, 14;

Solopov lost to Gergely 16, -14, -15, -16, -17.

Super Division

England

Scores:
1. T. Busin bt B. Grimstrup 11, 16, -17;
2. A. Grubba bt G. Muller 1, 15, -14;
3. W. Szabo lost to D. Fetter -16, -17, -16;
4. Grubba/Kucharski bt Bar/Muller 15, -14, -17;
5. Fetter -13, -16, -17.

Promoted Finland travelled to Messina to account for Italy 5-2 to maintain their second position behind Poland and to leave their victims with but one point from five matches. Fighting their way to a 3-2 score-line Italy failed to make a third comeback and crashed to defeat in the final three sets.

Scores:
1. M. Constantini lost to J. Jokinen 17, -24, -20;
2. O. Bid to K. Ronnen 15, -21, 17;
3. M. Gergol lost to G. Greger -12, -8;
4. Bid/Constantini bt Jokinen/Jokinen 16, -21, 10;
5. Bid lost to Jokinen/Greger -14, -55.

Meanwhile, in Athens, Bulgaria kept themselves in the picture with a narrow 4-3 success over Greece where Djurat Hassanov had two singles victories and Danies Guergulcheva figured in a women's singles success and the mixed doubles with Ivan Stoilov.

Scores:
1. D. Zikos bt I. Stoljanov 13, 18;
2. C. Priftis lost to D. Hassanov 20, -20, -14;
3. E. Spanos lost to D. Guergulcheva -9, -8;
4. Priftis/Zikos lost to I. Stoljanov -19, 10, 15;
5. Priftis/Spanos lost to Stoljanov/ Guergulcheva -16, -17, -17.

Zikos lost to Hassanov -16, -17;
Priftis/K. Ronnen 11, 14, 14.

In Heerenveen, Friesland (known for European/Wold championship skating) the Netherlands had a narrow squeak in beating Luxembourg 4-3 — a match umpired and refereed by Englishmen Brian Webb and Alf Lethe.

Luxembourg had as their non-playing captain Li Deyang of China who has replaced Lu Yang Sheng who has, because of illness, returned to his home in Peking.

In the beginning it looked all too easy for the Dutch side which went into a 3-0 lead but pulled back to 3-2 and much depended on the result of the penultimate set between Rene Hulme and Ves Maas with Hulme losing the first game -16. But it all came right in the end as Maas successful in the next two and a winning lead was established.

Scores:
1. H. Hulme bt A. Hartmann 30, 17;
2. G. Gootzen bt Y. Maas 7, -19, 16;
3. S. de Kruif lost to C. Risch 13, 16;


Hulme bt Maas -17, 19, 17;
Gootzen bt Hartmann -16, 19, 17.

In the second game of the men's doubles win against Kriston and Patrick Swier had match point at 20-18 over Andre Hartmann and Maas yet failed to capitalise on it.

Division One

France

Scores:
P W L F A P
France 5 5 0 24 11 5
Poland 5 5 0 23 12 5
Bulgaria 5 5 0 22 13 3
Switzerland 5 5 0 17 18 2
Italy 5 5 0 17 18 2
Netherlands 5 5 0 16 19 2
Greece 5 5 0 12 23 1
Luxembourg 5 5 0 10 23 0

Figures for Feb. 12/81 are:
1. Finland v Netherlands
2. Luxembourg v Poland
3. Austria v Bulgaria
4. Italy v Greece
5. Belgium v Greece
6. Sweden v Finland
7. Denmark v Belgium
8. Sweden v England

Division Two

Ireland, as reported elsewhere by Willie Walsh, crushed at home 3-0 to Belgium when Denmark now sees the champion, flew off the challenge of Switzerland 6-1 in Winterthur. Only one set escaped the champions... the first when Thomas Bustin beat Bjarne Grimmstrup in straight games!

Scores:
1. B. Ulfsby bt B. Grimstrup 11, 16.
IRISH AFFAIRS
by Willie Walsh

IRELAND LOSE TO BELGIUM
In a spectacular Supply Board Sportsco Hall, Dublin, Ireland who were installed as firm favourites before the match suffered an unexpected defeat before a packed audience.

The atmosphere at the opening ceremony was certainly electric as the teams entered the arena, but the first shock for Ireland was the surprise defeat of Colum Slevin, Dublin, Ireland who were installed as was certainly electric as the teams entered

make matters worse, the final point was a net hit. Credit to the Belgians who lost the first game and then went on to win the second.

In the final game Cabrera lead 16-6 at the change of ends and at 18-6 Slevin served off the table which added further to his wo. Slevin closed the gap to 15-17, but from there on we had a cliff-hanger, 15-16, 15-19, 16-19, 18-19, 19-20, 20-20. Cabrera then hit a scorch from a formidable lead to lead 22-20 and then came the winner with a net cord.

"Pat Glynn redressed the imbalance when he beat Romain Schalley and gained for himself his first International singles win. It was certainly an electric day for Irish Table Tennis as Glynn played his heart out. He proved a bit too much for Glynn as he lost -10, but in the second he played his heart out as he trounced 1-0. Then he finally caught Schalley at 12. From then on it was 'neck and neck' until Glynn finally clinched it at 22-20.

In the women's singles, Belgium introduced Caroline D'Hondt against Anne Leonard. The first game was quite close, 14-22, but from the second on it was all Glynn. The seeding had to be changed of ends and at 18-16 Glynn served off the table which added further to his woes. He finally caught Schalley at 12. From

the arena, but the first shock for Ireland

the second.

In the Electricity Supply Board Sports co

ITTA, for their wonderful hard work and excellent organisation.

GLENALBYN OPEN
That great Irish Table Tennis nursery Glenalbyn, Dublin, which has produced more International players at all levels of Irish Table Tennis than any other Club, ran one of the most successful and exciting domestic tournaments, in Oatlands College. It has been my pleasure to watch for a long time. I'm sure readers will agree that the most successful tournaments are the ones that threaten to be a disaster and drive the organisers up the wall. During the week prior to the tournament the organisers were plagued with scratchings — the most not-

able being Pat Glynn. The seeding had to be re-arranged and the entire draw done again. Then there was the unavailability of local player Colum Slevin who was with the Irish Schools team in Chester and things began to look even worse.

Undaunted, that great patriarch of Glenalbyn, Richard Leonard and his handful of workers, John Manning, Michael Greene, Siobhan Slevin, Larry Roe and Ciaran Markham, put in a huge effort. The tournament was a great success and was won for a record sixth time by Anne Leonard when she beat Mary Sheehan in the semi-final and Ulster Junior No. 1, Louise Gibson in the final. Gibbons beat Kathleen Murray in the other semi and Miss Murray shocked Geraldine Leonard in the quarters.

Tommie Comes Back
37-years-young former International and the doyen of Irish Table Tennis for over 20 years — gracing it with dignity and sportsmanship — Tommie Caffrey won his first open tournament for many a day when he beat Norway's John Strange in the semi-final and scored his third win on the tour for Kevin Keane in the final. Tommie lost to Keane in the Bray Open in November, but beat him twice in the Leinster Super League since.

The final had everything. Keane's extravagance against Caffrey's cuteness. Caffrey won the first game 17-18. In the 3rd Caffrey led 11-9, but lost the next six points. Keane then led 16-13, but
Heasley/Copes bt Keane/Greene 12, 17.
Heasley bt Greene 11, -20, 15.
Cash/Copes bt Leonard/Greene 9, 19.
T. Heasley lost to Keane -13, -19.
R·. Copes lost to K. Keane 22, -14, -14.
Copes bt Leonard -14, 17, 15.
Heasley/Cash bt, Keane/Leonard 15, -22, 15.
Cash lost to Keane 13, -13, -18.

RESULTS (Anahilt names first)
Men's Doubles Final:


A. LEONARD bt L. Gibson 11, 10.
K. Keane bt C. Leonard -14, 19, 14;
T. Caffrey bt J. Strange 13, 9.

CAFFREY bt Keane 17, -18, 19.

R·. Copes lost to K. Keane 22, -14, -14.
Copes bt Leonard -14, 17, 15.

TOP ULSTER RANKING

Men
1 Derek Weln, 2 Jimmy Hannumill and Tom Heasley, 4 Allistair Clairs, 5 Jack Cash, 6 Roger Monroe
Women
1 Karen Walker, 2 Liz Cheever, 3 Louise Olson and Valerie Moore, 4 Pat Hunter and Stella McManus.
Boys
1 Brian O’Ror, 2 Mark Irwin, 3 Gary O’Hara, 4 Raymond Dunjeavy and John Fail, 6 Gary Casey.
Girls
1 Louise Gibson, 2 Mary McMonik and Jennifer Reid, 3 Evelyn Nelson and Nora McIlroy, 4 Mandy Dunjeavy.
Cadet Boys
1 G. Curry, 2 J. Magrane, 3 J. McEvoy, 4 G. Wallace and C. Boyd, 6 Y. Young.
Cadet Girls

ISLE OF WIGHT NOTES
by John Prean

AGAINT THE ODDS

The population of the Isle of Wight is 120,000, so that on statistical calculations the chances against our producing an English Junior Champion must be 350 or 400 to 1. Nevertheless this is Carl Peden did at Hitchley at the age of 13 (table tennis age 12).

I read John Wright’s analytical report in Table Tennis News. It was noted that our small Isle of Wight contingent was not at the Finals on the first day; having been unable to go on lack of spectator support in our sport, I accept the criticism. It should be said, that despite the various transport problems imposed by our geographical position, we do support the main events of the ETTA and on the first and second day of the English Open at Brighton it is not unusual to see thirty or forty supporters from the Isle of Wight. There were a few at the English Closed, where the playing schedule hardly encourages spectators. Whilst at Woking we were able to muster good support, but we shall find it very hard to reach. We should support other tournaments if these finished earlier or at least a time that enables us to catch the last bus. Also, as I have written on other occasions, this is not the case and it seems to be a tradition that all tournaments draw on into the late hours of the night, no thought whatever being given to those competitors and spectators who still face a homeward journey of several hours.

This gives me the opportunity of saying that the Junior Closed at Hitchley was extremely well and considerately organised. Having often had to make the opposite comment, it gives me particular pleasure to congratulate everyone on this event. We felt that after the disappointment in the Cadet Event our Representatives need a good nights’ rest and our “Council of Elders” went into session to analyse what had gone wrong. Certainly the little fellow was a different player the next day.

The Monday after the event proved just as thrilling, as the “phone hardly stopped ringing and we were touched by all the good-will and good wishes. It was tremendous. Carl went on to do the “Double” Cadet and Junior in the Gwent Open “Scratch Doubles”. The Boys’ final was the Junior Final I have ever seen, but with the usual late finish hardly anybody saw it. Played at three or four o’clock in the afternoon it would have drawn and entertained a very large crowd. Great credit to Paul Rainford, looser by 19 in the 3rd. He played magnificently and no one deserved to lose. Table Tennis was the only winner.

The Doubles was won by the “scratch pair” of Matt Oakley and Peadar Dare, in the Cadet Boys’ event and some problems in the earlier rounds they looked forward to.
The ETFA selectors have decided not to pick the 1980 European champion, John Hilton, for the squad that will play in the Czech Open in Prague on Feb. 19/22. Hilton, 33, now committed to a heavy playing schedule in Federal Germany, is to be rested but his place in the unchanged team against Sweden in Oslo was now brought forward to Wednesday, Feb. 11.

England captain, Peter Simpson, explained, "This is John's first year as a professional player and he has a very heavy schedule in the next two weeks with the European Top 13 and European League immediately followed by the Norwich Union Championships".


**Hilton Rested**

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**Norwich Union Masters to be held in Hong Kong**

The Norwich Union Masters, the culmination of the Norwich Union Grand Prix, is to be held this year in the Queen Elizabeth Stadium in Hong Kong between 10th and 14th June, exact dates to be finalized.

This magnificent stadium with a seating capacity of 3500 is ideally suited for table tennis, a sport which has such an enormous and exuberant following in Hong Kong.

The Masters event, which started three years ago, is expected to be one of the highlights of the new World Championships held in Hong Kong between 19th and 24th June.

The BRC televised the Masters event from Milton Keynes and Preston during the last two years, but due to cuts in their budget arrangements could not cover the Masters this year.

Price money for this year's Masters in Hong Kong will be $11,700 ($US27,650), with the winner receiving $4,000 ($US 10,000) and the runner-up $2,000 ($US 5,000). The prize pool at Preston in 1980 was $3,000. Local television will be involved, and it is hoped to provide signal and tapes for other countries, including of course the United Kingdom.

Norwich Union, the world's largest sponsor of table tennis, has already promised the help and co-operation of the Hong Kong Table Tennis Association, and also welcomes very much the help of the Urban Council of Hong Kong. We acknowledge the support and help of British Caledonian Airways.

The Norwich Union operates in many countries throughout the world, including Hong Kong.

Competitors in the Masters will comprise the top fourteen players in the Grand Prix, together with the new world champion, to be crowned in Yugoslavia in April, and England's John Hilton, the European champion.

The identity of the top 14 players in the Grand Prix, whose position is achieved by their performance in eight Open Championships and the Norwich Union Trophy, will not be known until after the Czechoslovak Open Championships, which takes place from 20th to 22nd February.

After the 7th event, the British Welsh Open Table Tennis Championships, the following lead the points table:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Grand Prix</th>
<th>Points</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Guo Yue Hua (CHN)</td>
<td>2000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tiber Klamper (HUN)</td>
<td>2000</td>
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<td>Illyan Dovray (HUN)</td>
<td>1975</td>
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<td>Josef Dvoracek (CZE)</td>
<td>1600</td>
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<td>Desmond Douglas (ENG)</td>
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<td>Milan Orlovske (CZE)</td>
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<td>Ulf Carlsson (SWE)</td>
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<td>Ulf Thorsell (SWE)</td>
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<td>Jindrich Panyky (CZE)</td>
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<td>Mike Panyky (CZE)</td>
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<td>Huang Liang (CHN)</td>
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<tr>
<td>Lu Yao Hua (CHN)</td>
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**BRITISH UNIVERSITIES CHAMPIONSHIPS**

At Stratclyde University, Glasgow over the weekend of Jan 13/14 the men's singles event was won by Chris Rogers (Lancashire) with a final victory against Gannon (Lancaster) 13 and 8. A. Burke (London) won the women's title beating L. Smith (Aston) 11 and 16 in the final.

A good pair, I wonder whether they will ever defend that 100% record?

Though the finals started about seven, they finished nearer nine by which time there was no chance of catching our last at 11.35 p.m. and it meant another night in Glasgow and missing school and work the next day. Gloucester was no different from other tournaments. The finals started around seven o'clock, whilst in Sweden they have a more civilized time of it. Ignoring our own strip of water, the homeward journey for them had still to be three or four hours which means returning in the early hours of the morning. Given this inevitable fact I shall never understand why our Sport is conducted in this way. One result is that we play in far fewer tournaments than we would like.

The uninterrupted success story of our County Team ended at last when our Seniors Team returned from the 400 mile round trip to Corry Hall defeated and our bright Championship hopes were buried. We needed a 5-5, but lost 4-6. The unbeaten Doulton doubles (Women's and Men's) held and fell. We could not muster the vital 5th point and finding two reserves did not help.

The Veterans made it 4 out of 4, winning away against Somerset. Jim Daly was again our hero and my own luck in the vital match continued. So Jim won 5-4. Their No.1 Colin Felham looked a fine player in both defence and attack, but Jim Daly "decided" in the 3rd, the match was that close.

The Kent Island League 1st Division (there are altogether) has again developed into a two horse race between Jim Daly's team) and Columbia (Carl's, but he only played in the vital match). The teams drew 5-5 and Columbia kept their 1 point advantage. O'Bram and Simon Lamb (3) made their points, but they were not enough to win the second leg. County matches and good local ebb and matches which might have been won but were not played. Jim Stacey 1, Stacey v Neville and John Stacey 1 each, Stacey v Neville for most complete. We must still be three or four points nearer the top if we are to make the best of our Sport is conducted in this way. One result is that we play in far fewer tournaments than we would like.

One can only hope that the new opportunities. Despite the new attraction of County matches and good local players, supporters interest is at a very low ebb and matches which might have attracted up to 50 spectators a few years ago, today are seen by only a handful. It is a subject that I first explored in Table Tennis News several years ago and I pointed out that the reason why I thought our Sport was losing its spectator base. In a nut-shell I will be modern game depending on the early ball attack and little spectators. The way to win matches. "The modern game", as I said some time ago, has been played differently. The spectators have gone elsewhere...
Cleveland 3-Star Open

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CZECHS DOMINATE AT THORNABY

by Alan Ransome

Only Jill Hammersley was able to break the grip of the touring Czechoslovakian team and prize money at the Cleveland 3-Star Open played at Thornaby Pavilion on Jan. 17/18.

Jill, playing her first open since her recent comeback was pushed all the way in the final of the women’s singles against Marie Hrachova. The Czech girl led most of the way in the opening game of the final, only to find the strong defence of the former European Champion coming into its own in the last few points. Again Miss Hrachova dominated the second and this time was successful at 17, but in the decider the experience of Mrs. Hammersley showed through in the latter stages.

Other interesting matches in the women’s event was Carole Knight’s run. In the second round she almost came a cropper to young Jean Parker of Lancashire, just winning 19 in the third. Then in the quarters she showed some of her old form to account for Linda Jarvis at 11 in the third. The semi-final match against Hrachova was a good one with the Czech girl getting home in two close games.

Jill Hammersley put out Allison Gordon and Alice Pelikanova without too much difficulty. Miss Pelikanova having a round earlier narrowly defeated Karen Witt, Anita Stevenson, just winning 19 in the third. Then in the quarters she showed some of her old form to account for Linda Jarvis at 11 in the third. The semi-final match against Hrachova was a good one with the Czech girl getting home in two close games.

The men’s singles was Czech-dominated all the way. On paper Desmond Douglas was the men’s best, but he did not have one of his better days. In the earlier rounds he returned with Bradford’s John Wellman before losing narrowly in the decider to Ian Horsham.

Pansky hitting a purple patch in the quarters.

Pansky also beat Paul Day and Graham Sandley without losing a game. Sandley came through in the place of Milan Orlovsky who pulled out of the tournament due to a leg injury. His place was taken by Vlado Miko, the 1966 European silver medalist who is the Czech captain. Miko did well beating Ian Kenyon and Andy Weilman before losing narrowly in the decider to Ian Horsham.

With Douglas out of the tournament the way was open for the Czech No. 1 and European No. 5 Josef Dvoracek to pick up the £350 prize money and this he did without the loss of a game. He accounted for Donnie Johnson, Nicky Jarvis, and Donald Parker on his way to the final.

Other interesting results in the tournament included a victory for Unity’s Steve Mills over Bob Foston in the third round but Mills found Jarvis a little too tight a round later.

Peter McQueen did well to oust Vietnamese boatman Chu Van Que but he found the going a bit too steady in the quarters.

The men’s doubles was again Czech-dominated as Pansky and Dvoracek too their revenge from the European League a few days earlier over Douglas and Day.

The women’s doubles provided the shocks. Out went Jill Hammersley and Linda Jarvis to Karen Smith (nee Rogers) and Suzanne Hunt. Out went Hrachova and Pelikanova to Witt and Gordon. This left the field open for Carole Knight and Anita Stevenson to cruise through beating both sets of giant killers to win the title.

On the Saturday at Thornaby the Butterfly International team Event produced some magnificent table tennis and was a great success. Again, both the men’s and women’s sections were dominated by the Czechs. There was a number of interesting matches en route. In the men’s event the best display came from Unity who pushed Czechoslovakia in the opening round. Mills put Unity one ahead with a 19 in the third victory over Pansky. Chris Rogers did well to take the middle game from Dvoracek but this victory put the Czechs back in the match. They won the doubles but Mills came close to causing his second upset of the day when he took Dvoracek to 16 in the third.

Another team to perform above expectations was City of Newcastle. They took Canada 3-0 in the opening round and then gave England a scare in the quarter-finals.

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The women’s doubles provided the shocks. Out went Jill Hammersley and Linda Jarvis to Karen Smith (nee Rogers) and Suzanne Hunt. Out went Hrachova and Pelikanova to Witt and Gordon. This left the field open for Carole Knight and Anita Stevenson to cruise through beating both sets of giant killers to win the title.

On the Saturday at Thornaby the Butterfly International team Event produced some magnificent table tennis and was a great success. Again, both the men’s and women’s sections were dominated by the Czechs. There was a number of interesting matches en route. In the men’s event the best display came from Unity who pushed Czechoslovakia in the opening round. Mills put Unity one ahead with a 19 in the third victory over Pansky. Chris Rogers did well to take the middle game from Dvoracek but this victory put the Czechs back in the match. They won the doubles but Mills came close to causing his second upset of the day when he took Dvoracek to 16 in the third.

Another team to perform above expectations was City of Newcastle. They took Canada 3-0 in the opening round and then gave England a scare in the quarter-finals. Chu Van Que opened for Newcastle by seeing off Johnson 14 in the third. Sandley made short work of surprise choice Ian

FOREIGN EXCHANGE

County Councillor F. Rogers, Chairman of Cleveland County Council, presents Josef Dvoracek of Czechoslovakia with a cheque for £350 as his prize for winning the men’s singles in the Cleveland 3-Star Open.

Photo by Stan Hilton, Billingham, Cleveland.
Splendid defence carries Jill Hammersley through to victory in the women's singles event against Marie Hrachova.

Photo by Stan Hilton, Billingham, Cleveland.

Robertson and England took the doubles but again Chu Van Que put the National team under pressure before going down “duce” in the third to Sandley.

Other early matches included Macleans 3-1 win over Billington and Sealink Milton Keynes going down 2-3 to Scotland with Sealink player Richard Yule playing a blinder for his country and against his club.

The semi-finals saw England scoring a narrow victory over Macleans 3-2 with Max Crimmings winning both his singles, whilst Soham put up a spirited display against the Czechs before going down 0-3. Czechoslovakia made equally short work of England in the final taking all three sets without the loss of a game.

In the women's team event the surprise of the day was the defeat of England at the hands of the Ormesby team Carole Knight and Melody Hill. England played Anita Stevenson the quick ones which gave Ormesby a chance. They grabbed it with both hands with Carole and Melody both beating Anita in straight games. The match that really decided this contest was the doubles, where England brought in Linda Jarvis to play with Jill Hammersley. The Ormesby pair on this occasion were too strong winning at 14 in the third, putting England out of the tournament in the semi-final to the extent of 2-1 with Jill taking the only set against Carole Knight.

Probably the best match of the women's event was Czechoslovakia's 3-2 victory against Omega which saw Karen Wits at her very best. Karen opened the scoring for Omega with a “duce” in the third win against Alice Pelikanova then pulled the score back to two-all by beating Marie Hrachova. Try as she might, Alison Gordon was unable to pull off a win and the Czechs went through at 3-2.

The final was very much one way traffic with the Czechs winning 3-0 against Ormesby without the loss of a game.

The prizes of the Championship were presented by Councillor Frank Rodgers, the chairman of Cleveland County Council whose Leisure Services Department sponsored and co-organised the event with the Cleveland Table Tennis Association.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Round 4:
N. Eckersley (Ch) bt B. K. Johnson (Wa) 11, 11;
D. Parker (La) bt P. McQueen (Sy) 18, -18, 12;
N. Jarvis (Cv) bt S. Mills (Y) 18, 18;
J. Dvoracek (Cze) bt D. Johnson (Wa) 17, 14;
I. Horsham (E) bt V. Miko (Cze) -12, 20, 18;
G. Sandley (Mi) bt S. Turner (La) -18, 17, 16;
J. Ponsky (Cze) bt P. Day (Ca) 18, 19;
D. Douglas (Wa) bt J. Kennedy (K) 5, 16.

Quarter-finals:
Parker bt Eckersley -21, 17, 14;
Dvoracek bt Jarvis 13, 13;
Sandley bt Horsham 14, -16, 7;

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Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh on successful the event will be staged at currently under way to find a sponsor; if March 20/22. Negotiations are from March 20/22. Negotiations are currently under way to find a sponsor; if successful the event will be staged at Meadowbank Sports Centre, Edinburgh on Friday/Saturday, May 3/6, 1981.

Joe Dvoracek hammers one over against his compatriot Jindrich Pansky in the men's singles final. Photo by Stan Hilton, Billingham, Cleveland.

East Midlands Cadets League by Philip Reid

Coventry with three more massive wins are virtually certain to top the league. Both Ian Davies and Michael Thomas are unbeaten and with Richard Marlowe being only once they have shown a consistency no other team can match. Only Derby (Simon Horn, David Slack and Andrew Still) who are also unbeaten can depose Hinckley... 8 0 1 7 15 65 1

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JOOLA YOUTH TOURNAMENT
No. 1
S.E. Region at Elephant & Castle
PREAN, HAMS AND POPKIEWICZ
TRIUMPH
by Barry Pollentine

CARL PREAN

The day after Boxing Day and I arrive, almost, or so it seems, with the dawn, at the Elephant & Castle Recreation Centre, London, still full of the Christmas spirit (literally) and smelling of the sweet aroma of stale cigar smoke and suffering from lack of sleep. Facing me an empty hall - but

The Elephant

shattered but the hall has rapidly been

surrounds, etc. and by 12 o'clock we are

of stale cigar smoke and suffering from lack

Already, two hours before the scheduled

up - oblivious of the frantic activity

around them as we try desperately to finish

The third game was very evenly contested with players pushing for an opening and taking any opportunities, when the under-15 girls hit the ball. Hams was 10-12 down, and then managed to dominate her opponent to such an extent that she led 17-12 before Popkiewicz began to attack once again, but the damage had been done and Hams clinched the match 21-17. In the final, Moore met D. Simmonds and although both girls enjoyed several free flowing, hard-hitting rallies, it was Moore who realised that by steadying her game and blocking it back wide of Hams, this policy half-way through the first game brought victory to Moore by 21-14, and continuing to play this steady game brought her victory by 21-15 in the second. The final between Hams and Moore began with Moore taking a 6-1 lead which was not to be overhauled, and find herself 9-12 down. Moore was patiently trying to force her opponent into mistakes but was finding her opponent's forehand loop too powerful at times and she determined to change her tactics after losing the first 21-17. In the second game Moore began to use the Hams loop against her by moving quickly into position and blocking it back wide of Hams. This paid off to give her a lead of 12-7, but Hams fought her way back, with a series of quick forehand kills, and intelligent pushing to lead 20-18. It was then the turn of Moore to fight and she saved two match points and twice Hams kept herself in the game by forehand kills, and then Moore found herself 22-25 down, made one more mistake to lose the game and the match.

The under-13 boys event had twenty-one entries, who were split into seven groups of three, with the winners of each group being put into two further groups. Group A winners consisted of C. Fream (IOY), P. Galica (SY), A. Cunningham (K) and P. Savins (BK). and C. Prean won through to this group to meet Prean in the final. The other group contained R. O’Grady (K), M. Syed (BK) and P. Andrews (RK) and it was Syed who won this group to meet Prean in the final. In the final Fream was far too strong for his opponent, and unleashed a powerhouse of shots upon him and won very swiftly 21-4, 21-2.

The under-13 girls event had only seven contestants who were placed in two groups, the winners of which went through to contest the final. Group 1 was won by L. Popkiewicz (SY) and Group 2 by D. Simmonds (BK). In the final Popkiewicz took a commanding 7-1 lead with several forehand loop winners, but in the second game Simmonds won 21-17 both sides of the table, but then Simmonds closed her down and drew level at 10-10. For a few more points the game was evenly contested with Popkiewicz again taking command to win 21-14. The second game was point for point until midway through Simmonds allowed Popkiewicz to dominate slightly, before she began to play with confidence and win the game 21-14 again.

And so ended the first Joolia Youth Championships—on time (hurrah!) and an enjoyable day seemed to be enjoyed by all. Richard Scruiten conducted the pro-
ceedings smoothly and efficiently whilst Alan Ransome gave advice and encouragement to youngsters who crowded his stall to emerge smartly dressed and equipped with bats/rubbers designed to improve their play, and with his comments lodged firmly in their minds. When all had departed, the last task was to pack away all those tables and accessories which had played such an important part during the day. Finally, tired and weary but with the knowledge that a successful day had been enjoyed, we went off home—or to Cardiff for tournament No. 2. A new day, a new venue and new winners. One down, seven to go!!

MATTHEW SYED

MORE POWER TO OUR ELBOW

I feel that Table Tennis could benefit from the Umpire and REFEREE having this power, which would have given the umpire the power to have stopped the time wasting tactics as used by Thorsell.

MERVYN COULSON,
International Umpire.

84 St. Anns Road,
Heath
Cardiff CF4 4DN.

MEMORIES RECALLED

I was sorry to read in the December issue of Table Tennis News of Leslie Cohen’s death. He was a likeable chap, and a lovely player at his best. I first saw him about 1937 representing the Manchester League against the Ashton-u-Lyne team, which I remember the best, two players were Harry Renshaw and Len Hill.

In the Manchester team was Benny Casofsky, Freddie Cromwell and C. W. Davies from Manchester YMCA. What teams! Andy Miller, Norman Davies, C. W. Davies, Arthur Waite and Ken Stanley.

Grove House, Benny Casofsky, Hymie Lurie, Jeff Inger, Les Cohen, “Twink” Cohen and Freddie Cromwell. A 5-all draw which always seemed to materialise seemed a fair result. Les Cohen seemed to model his play on Victor Barna, having a good defence, a good backhand, a little weak on the forehand in comparison with the great man.

ARNOLD SHEPHERD,
38 Bromley Road,
Beckenham, Kent,
BR3 2JD.

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Page 15
LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

ANYTHING BUT TRIVIAL

On behalf of the Executive Council of the English Schools Table Tennis Association, I have been requested to write to you concerning an article written by Alan Shepherd and published on page 8 of the December issue of Table Tennis News. Mr. Shepherd wrote as follows . . .

"The fact that they can despatch the information in a comparatively trivial School Tournament to the wilderness of May 116th (1981), which is virtually out of the calendar, and replace it by a comparatively trivial Schools' Tournament is unarguable because the Essex Junior Select Tournament is a Ranking Tournament.

The Essex Junior Select had been moved to the 16th May, 1981 - and this was dated the 15th October, 1979 (Document No. 439/67/MDW). ESTTA would appreciate that these points be brought to the attention of the readers of Table Tennis News, so that a clearer understanding of Mr. Shepherd's letter can be formed.

The only correct procedure that is known to me is that which is made clear by a document received by the Essex County party on 19th March, 1980, requesting that their Tournament be allocated to its normal date on the first weekend in 1981 and were accordingly amazed to find out that it had been supplanted by the Schools Tournament.

Re: 36TH WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS

The Committee decided to short-list the following players for the remaining two men's team places and one women's team place:

**Men**
- Desmond Douglas
- John Hilton
- Paul Day

**Women**
- Jill Hammersley
- Linda Jarvis
- Karen Witt

The final selections for the remaining places will take place at the end of February, after the Norwich Union English Championships and the Essex 3-Star/Czech Open tournaments (these last two events are on the same weekend - Feb. 21/22).

Men's Captain: Peter Simpson
Women's Captain: Donald Parker.

It is news to me that there is a "correct procedure" laid down by the Calendar Working Party under which one takes action "in advance of the start of the current season" and presumably makes an application for the allocation of a date to one's event in the following season. Mr. Vickers implies that his Association took advantage of this alleged procedure and thus got his event into the first draft of the 1980/1981 calendar. Would it be possible for Mr. Vickers to refer me to the relevant document setting out this "correct procedure"?

My argument is not with the ESTTA of which I am a firm supporter as Mike Vickers will be aware, but with the ESTTA and its Calendar Working Party.

ALAN SHEPHERD,
52 Ardmore Lane, Buckhurst Hill, Essex.

UMPires FOR NOVI SAD

The following English umpires have been selected to officiate at the forthcoming World Championships in Yugoslavia: Jack Melnick (Leader), P. Goacher and K. Green. Reserve: G. Hammond.

ENGLAND versus JAPAN

Following the World Championships in Yugoslavia, a Japanese team will visit England and provisionally matches will be played on April 28, 30 and May 2, 1981.
CAMBRIDGESHIRE NOTES

by Leslie Constable

CHALLENGE MAINTAINED

Cambridge maintained their title challenge in two of the County Championship. The first team beat Norfolk at Cambridge 8-2 in Div. II East at March to give them maximum points in the three remaining impressive sets of 25-3. Cambs won the first five sets and their young and inexperienced singles against the strong set of Norfolk. The first set won by Neil Radford, who had previously beaten Dougge Bennett the Norfolk No. 1, was surprisingly beaten by Michael Hunter. The second set was won by John Hones, who had no hope of beating an even more powerful John Richard. Dave Veitch managed his first win in the third set, which was to be his last. The doubles, played for the first time in the league, were won by Tim Murray and Dave West, and the third win came in the mixed doubles with Jackson beating Potton and Tuckett.

Cambs II 9 Hunts 1

Hunts had to wait three years for their first win of the season and the first two sets were to be won by their opponents. John Radford and Mike Hunter were both defeated and the three sets played in the third round of the Carter Cup were to be won by Andy Wells and John Southon. As a result of matches played just before Christmas in the Cambs League every top team was in action and March's Paul Stacey confirmed his No. 1 position by winning his three sets. Cambridge trailed 3-4 but pulled back to 4-4 when Stacey clinched the match against Police. Andy Wells proved too experienced for the young players and with Jackson beating Potton and Tuckett, Cambridge were beaten 6-4 by Cambridge University III.

University I and in a recent match although beating Dave Elkin and Steve Tanner 15-18, the Cambridge U. I defeated their opponents in the same way. Cambridge University II and Oxford University II went on to win 8-2 and 6-4 wins over Bassingbourn thanks mainly to wins by Brian Toody.

Wesley I increased their lead in the top of Div. IIIB with an 8-2 win over Haverhill II. Martin Livermore and Peter Motson, who have been ignored by the County Selectors despite their consistency, were again in maximum form. Wesley now lead Shenfield by 22 points.

Six-German Bundesliga player Ernst Egert has been playing in the Cambs League for Cambridge University I and in a recent match although beating Dave Elkin and Steve Tanner 15-18, the Cambridge U. I defeated their opponents in the same way. Cambridge University II and Oxford University II went on to win 8-2 and 6-4 wins over Bassingbourn thanks mainly to wins by Brian Toody.

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successive success for the Cambridge team in their match away to Hampshire.

Division I Division II
M. Palmer 100% S. Hunt 100%
R. Swift 93% S. Stafford 81%
A. Withers 95% R. Pettit 95%
G. Jordan 90% T. Johnson 80%

won the Division. This is the second unbeaten at the end of the first half of the season.

DORSET NOTES
Souter bt S. Turner 17, 18;
C. Prean bt Randall 17, 18;
believed to be unbeaten for some time in the final against Newman, and has the women's doubles.

CAMBS LEAGUE AGENDA
Mick Palmer the Suffolk County Player of the Year, the Division II winner and the Cambs County Division player in the Cambs League. However, we have mixed fortunes in the league, the team losing.

LEADING AVERAGES
Division I
M. Palmer 100% S. Hunt 100%
R. Swift 95% T. Johnson 80%
G. Jordan 90% T. Johnson 80%

In the SEM League (Veterans' Section), Cambridges defeated North Essex 6-4 and won the Division II Division. This is the second successive success for the Cambridge team as they won the division when the league disbanded temporarily two seasons ago.

Leicestershire, who have had so much success in the 2nd Division in the past few years have been shown this success is by no means hereditary. After dropping a point at home to Worcestershire they went to Warwickshire II, who p...
Westfield Parva 'B' v Hinckley Mencap or Barwell in the squad to suggest that next season still 1000/0. Market Bosworth lead the 2nd Division 'whilst Ashby Parva appear to have lost their main chance to challenge for a Premier division spot. In their trip to Bradford they met the YOUGLADOS on March 14 and won. The Reading Individual Handicap event was won by a member of the County team and was won by a player who recently captured both points, but in a close contest in which twelve games went to a deciding set. Andy Bellingham was our star performer, including a 5-set victory over England No. 9 ranked Donald Bellingham, but our match against the visitors off to a good start with an easy victory over Alan Fletcher, but here our successes ended. Not that they didn't play a vital role in our team of Berkshire's strength, there was only limited opportunity for further success. The outstanding contest was Bellingham's singles against the Yorkshire No. 1, Kevin Beadall, a truly class player who, surprisingly, is not in the England ranking list. Despite strong play by Bellingham, Beadall was able to vary his game to recover in each set to win 17, 19. The women's singles was an interesting tussle between the two England ranked players, Jill Harris and Melody Hill, the latter surely being the hardest hitting woman in English table tennis. Jill held on to take the first at 19, Hill took the second comfortably, but the third was evenly balanced when Harris unwaveringly allowed a controversial edge to unsettle her and the Bradford player ran out easy winner 31-12.

Results of other county matches include a Senior B side win at Lincoln 6-4, and their unbeaten record takes them to the top of Div I North. Greg Hallam and junior Paul Bartoli are proving to be the mainstay of this team and this is an appropriate point at which to congratulate Paul on his deserved election to the England Junior ranking list, going in at No. 14. The Staffs Junior B side, continuing their 'squad' approach, gained a 6-4 win over Northants, with cedel Adrian Dixon coming in and winning both his singles, but they came up against a clever player in a group which featured a worthy winner in the Under 100 event whilst Ashby Parva appear to have lost their main chance to challenge for a Premier division spot. In their trip to Bradford they met the YOUGLADOS on March 14 and won. The Reading Individual Handicap event was won by a player who recently captured both points, but in a close contest in which twelve games went to a deciding set. Andy Bellingham was our star performer, including a 5-set victory over England No. 9 ranked Donald Bellingham, but our match against the visitors off to a good start with an easy victory over Alan Fletcher, but here our successes ended. Not that they didn't play a vital role in our team of Berkshire's strength, there was only limited opportunity for further success. The outstanding contest was Bellingham's singles against the Yorkshire No. 1, Kevin Beadall, a truly class player who, surprisingly, is not in the England ranking list. Despite strong play by Bellingham, Beadall was able to vary his game to recover in each set to win 17, 19. The women's singles was an interesting tussle between the two England ranked players, Jill Harris and Melody Hill, the latter surely being the hardest hitting woman in English table tennis. Jill held on to take the first at 19, Hill took the second comfortably, but the third was evenly balanced when Harris unwaveringly allowed a controversial edge to unsettle her and the Bradford player ran out easy winner 31-12.

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the Stafford League. That's not to say that they are going to be there at the end of the season. There are one or two other teams with a few old stagers such as John Taylor, now a first year man in the veteran class, who are hitting at their heels.

The County League has reached the half-way stage with Potteries 'A' and 'B' leading up the 1st and 2nd Divisions. Walsall 'A' are also unbeaten in the 2nd, but the a long time since we have seen three Wolverhampton teams struggling at the bottom of the divisions. In the lower divisions, at least all the teams have shared in the points and one must welcome the fact that teams from the smaller leagues, Darlaston, Bridgnorth and Lichfield, are leading Divisions 3, 4 and 5.

LEADING POSITIONS

Division 1

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<th>Team</th>
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<td>Potteries 'A'</td>
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DURHAM NOTES

by Ray Simpson

ASPIRATIONS FADE

Durham seniors saw their County Championship aspirations fade and then disappear over Christmas and the New Year, but the juniors maintained their 100% record.

The first Senior disaster came against Yorkshire at Shirley Row on Dec. 20, with the visitors coming out on top by 9-1. All the match points were lost. Ian Svenson was second against Brian Johns to put the second doubles 1-2, while Tony Golder retired at 1-0 down. Tony Golder retired at 1-0 down. Tony Golder lost 16-14, 11-12 to Stevenson and 16-14, 11-12 to Illingsworth.

For the women, Lynne Batherfield fell to Helen Shields -13, -14, but Durham's best performance on the night came from Julie Smith, who fought hard against Julie Mead, going down 21-15 to Mike Stevenson and 20-12, 14-15. The women's combination went down 2-3, 3-1, 4-2 to_wifi. Durham's consolation came when the women's teams won the mixed doubles 11-19, 11-19 against Sanderson and Hilfinger.

Junior captain Paul Smith told me afterwards that only Miss Smith played to anything like her real form. Durham had their women to thank for a 6-6 draw against Chester on Jan. 3. Miss Smith continued her good form and produced the most remarkable score of the season so far when she defeated Mrs. Batherfield in the women's doubles 17-15. Miss Smith also won the mixed double in the previous match against Miss H. Appley 14-11, 11-16.

The other victories came from Golder who defeated the separator 14-11, -13, -14, and Svenson once again won the doubles 11-19, 11-16.

Durham juniors meanwhile had a good 9-1-away win over Cumbria on the same day. With Cumbria finding an unrella girl, Durham had two sets start, but the boys made sure they did not need them anyway. David Blackborne, a late replacement for Michael Polkinghorne, marked his debut with a good double, beating Ian Sharp 19-17 and 17-19. Match 10 was very intelligently by 7-16. A vital doubles victory by 21-19, 19-15 to make it 4-1 and Golder's 18-11 win over Webster that won the match completed SWD's tally.

SWD had earlier travelled to Ormskirk on Dec. 21 and lost 5-4, with Crawford and Batherfield recording the victories. Crawford defeated Kevin Green 19, 16 and Reay defeated the same player 15, 11. A good showing in this match for Martin Gent who took Lindsey Taylor to three but unfortunately losing heavily in the decisive.

The leading County League positions are:

Men's Division

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One idea which may develop in the county is the Inter-League tournament between Durham and Bishop Auckland on Feb. 22, at Chester Le Street. Mrs. Batherfield wins the women's doubles 11-10, 11-13, while Tony Golder won the mixed double in the previous match against Mrs. H. Appley 14-11, 11-16.

The other victories came from Golder who defeated the separator 14-11, -13, -14, and Svenson once again won the doubles 11-19, 11-19.

Durham juniors meanwhile had a good

Page 20
Although with a game in hand. The latter maintains an unbeaten singles division. One point behind Nottingham "A" Walsall and Nottingham being in a currently being distributed in due course, and the final result 7-3 to Nottingham. The match between these teams will therefore be decisive. In Junior Div. 4 decisions, these are against the bottom three teams, so it is too early to conclude that they are likely winners by extension. Stuart Palmer that his determination and power of shot was going to be an asset. He did not win this one but what an enthralling game, which could be won either way.

Gavin made sure of opening his account when against Mark Palmer his power over-ran the opposition. Mark Palmer, who is always better, was stretched by Wooliscroft in the semi-final. He then proceeded to go down to the quarter-finals and beat him. Surely neither team deserved to lose. But in the final it was that Cutting just went down in the second just failed to make it a win. The final result 7-3 to Andy McLeish.

It was a very entertaining set in which Andy McLeish had to show his power over-ran the opposition. Mark Palmer lost 20-18 up in the second just failed to make it a win. The final result 7-3 to Andy McLeish.

Tony Dimmock

COUNTY CLOSED

In the league match against Suffolk, played at Bedford, new signing Gavin Booth was representing the county for the first time and it was obvious from the very first points of his set against Stuart Palmer that his determination and power of shot was going to be an asset. He did not win this one but what an enthralling game, which could be won either way.

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Buckinghamshire Notes

by Ronald Hedley

AUSIE DEPUT

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Our newly-formed Veterans’ team is finding it tough and has yet to record a victory. On Jan. 3 I watched them, for the first time, when they entertained Oxon. If this match was anything to go by I can certainly recommend veterans’ table tennis. The play was at times in the spirit in which the match was played was far above anything I have seen in 10yrs of watching county play. The bright spot in a 6-3 defeat came from Brian Allen who won both his singles on debut and Peter Leckie was our other winner.

Recently the Coaching Officer, Alce Watson, resigned his position due to pressure of work. He has moved to Milton Keynes. With this, Philip Bradbury and Bob Tuckett will enter the Bucks Closed take place. Hopefully they will produce a good representative.

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The second half of the Northumberland League season has just concluded after the Christmas and New Year break, and there seems to be no stopping Glororum Terrace 'A' in the Premier Division. They completed the first half of the season without dropping a point, and started off the second half of the right foot when their team of Nigel Jobling, Paul Saul and League top scorer, Martin Hall, defeated the second team of Benfield's Newhouse 'A' and came away with a good margin. The other teams in Division One were also strong, with Ali Van Qaad and Andrew Clark in their side and the young RGS 'A' of County-ranked players. Bennett won the men's singles, with Wendy Hoog Wolters. Wendy made it three titles by taking the mixed with Paul Durrant, and the women's doubles with mother Ruth, Leslie Raymond and Steve Howlett ('Wynmouth') took the men's doubles crown, while Dave Hardy won the veterans singles.

Norfolk selects have issued revised senior ranking lists with effect from Feb. 1. The first four players, by Stan Honor (no restriction on age), and sponsored by World of Sport, Norfolk. As a result, there were few entries from outside of Norfolk, and the nearest competition was by Harry Cullercoats 'A'.

January saw the re-introduction of the East Anglian League Closed Championships, held at the new venue of the County Club in Cambridge. The tournament produced some excellent performances with the current Ranking Lists, but two Under-13 Boys who I would like to see Middlesex have further problems next season with our best players not being available again or not wanting to play in the 2nd Division.

All seems to be going to plan and to despondency to me at the moment. Having run our 3-star and Under-13 Championship tournaments at Aylesford School, Newmarket, where the Midsummerhouse CC will be doing all we can to help with the organisation etc. and still the financial responsibilities will be all their own, and Ralph has certainly got plenty of ideas for ensuring that the cash is forthcoming. We can only hope that we can help with their progress - maybe we can learn from them - but in the meantime we wish them luck.

MIDDLEx NOTES

by Iris Moss

GRAVITING COMMENTS

It was gratifying to see that my comments on the County Championships (November 1980) were well received by the Editor and also by Alan Shepherd of Essex. It seems that most people now realize that it is possible to plan the season, and that the NEU topped the division largely due to the efforts of Colin Cottrell and Colin Greggt, who made the biggest changes in their county tournament early.

MIDDLeX NOTES

by Iris Moss

EMPHASIS ON STAMINA

The Middlesex U-15 & U-13 2 STAR OPEN took place at Picketts Lock outside Edmonton, London, on May 22nd and 23rd. The tournament was a great success and attracted a high standard of entry, although we did miss out on our contingent of girls from the OUU. It seems that the change of venue, nor the change of date, seem to have affected the popularity of this event, although we did miss out on our contingent of girls from the OUU. There were 67 girls who took part and at least the veterans' singles. We can only hope that we can continue to attract a high standard of entry.
THE JOHN JAQUES CAMBS.
CLOSED CHAMPIONSHIPS
DEATH OF FEMALES BY LESLIE CONSTABLE

The John Jaques Cambs Closed Championships was held at Cambridge Sports Hall on Jan. 18. There was a good attendance and the format was very disappointing and there were only two pairs in the Cadet Girls Doubles. There were no entries for the Cadet Girls which shows that there was no dearth of girls in Cambs. a situation that will have to remedied before long if girls are forthcoming from the Junior ranks.

The big surprise again was the eliminaiton of Keith Richardson from the Men's Singles — this time in the semi when Geoff Davies beat him after a very tough match although I thought that Keith was a bit out of touch in that he velocities a couple of balls which is most unlike him and which seemed to affect him to some degree.

Davies, nevertheless, played well and duly deserved his success. Mick Harper easily disposed of Andy Withers in the other semi, the latter youngster just did not seem able to cope with the superb control of Harper who always had the match in his grasp right from the word go.

The final was a rather subdued affair and Harper easily took the first. Davies seemed to be playing "second fiddle" all the time and although he was probably the better player in the second game he never really seemed able to gain control and Harper, although not playing well was in the lead throughout and won 19-17.

After being taken to three by Ruth Hunter in the semi-final of the Women's Finals, Mandy Judd retained her title by easily beating Joanne Palmer in the final. At no time was she extended being able to rate her game when required. Her attack now is going very well and is most accurate.

In the Boys' Singles the seedings came true when Paul Stacey and Julian Walters met in the final. Both players had comfortable victories in the semi-finals against Tony Pacitto respectively, and the final turned out to be a close affair although Stacey won in two.

In this Boys' Singles the youngsters fought like tigers for every point there was no sign of "tempering" whether they did well or not. I think we will hear a lot more of these two in the future.

The John Jaques Cambs Closed Champions were awarded a cheque for £50 by Leslie Constable.

RESULTS

Men's Singles Semi-finals: K. Richardson bt E. Sharpe 12, 10.

Men's Singles Final: K. Richardson bt J. Stacey 11, 10.


Men's Doubles Final: J. Palmer bt D. Davis 11, 9.


Boys' Singles Semi-finals: M. Judd bt R. Hunter 11, 9.

Boys' Singles Final: M. Judd bt R. Hunter 11, 9.


Women's Doubles Final: J. Falcon bt A. Spiers 11, 9.


BRENT JUNIOR T.T. CLUB
SUDUIS UNDER 21 CHAMPIONSHIPS

Brent Junior T.T. Club disappointed at the loss of the Northern Junior Open and Rock U-21 agreed with the ESTA and the Junior Ranking Tournament at the Club on Mar. 7, 1981.

Tony Pietto, originator of the Rock U-21 was even more concerned at the loss of this new but popular event and is pleased to announce a new sponsor to the sport in "Buddias" who are in the Sports Goods trade and subject to approval by the tournament committee will stage the new competition in March. Like the old Slough Junior Open, the event and the Junior Ranking Tournament will be played in three halls at Ayotsteme School, the home of the Brent Club. The prize money of £365 should attract the best of the young players, and it is hoped that this event will become a regular feature in the calendar in future years.
Thorsell bridges gap
by George R. Yates

A much happier Ulf Thorsell, than depicted holding aloft the winner’s trophy at Cardiff. Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec, London.

In bridging a gap of two decades since a Swede had won the men’s singles title of the Welsh Open — it was Tony Larson in 1961 — Ulf Thorsell gained few friends in the methods he adopted, for a season’s championships admirably staged second time, to oust England’s Desmond Douglas in the penultimate stage of this tournament.

Douglas was ousted by China’s Wang Huiyuan whilst the England No.1, in 1979, caused a stir. Thorsell went on to dispose of Douglas with ease, winning 2–1.

Even sterner resistance was encountered at the quarter-final stage with Federal Germany “A” equaling a 9–2 deficit when, finally, Michael Plum and Peter Stellwag won the doubles and Stellwag registered a 3-straight win over Douglas.

This was subsequent to Day having beaten Stellwag 8 and 12 (!) and Douglas had seen off Plum. But it was Day who carried England into the semi with a fifth set win over Plum.

Curtains came with the meeting with Sweden “B” whose Tommy Danielsson, a late substitute for Ulf Carlsson, began the encounter with a 16–1 win over Douglas and Day. In the second set, lost to Mikael Appelgren.

From that inauspicious start a recovery was staged with the English pair winning the doubles and Douglas just getting the better of Appelgren. But there was no repeat salvage operation for Day in the fifth and final set won, in convincing style by Danielsson.

An Hae Sook (Korea Republic) winner of the women’s singles event whose final victory was against her compatriot Kim Kyung Ja.

In an all-Swedish mixed doubles final (best of 3) Thorsell captured his second title being partnered by Marie Lindblad in the disposal of Bengtsson and Anneli Hermvall. Prior to, in, the team event, Hungary, as the reigning world champions, predictably won the men’s title with the “B” team of Korean Republic capturing the women’s, Swedish teams filling the runners-up position in both.

TEAM EVENTS

In a 19-country line-up for the men’s team event, with Hungary and Sweden occupying pole positions, England had Douglas and Paul Day designated the “A” team and European champion John Hilton and Dougall Johnson labelled “B”.

It was an easy opening ride for the “A” duo, against Poland, who were really given the cold shoulder, but Norway “A” in a second round match put up more resistance with Tom Johnson beating Day to level the match score. Hilton defeated S.1 but Douglas was more than equal to the task in disposing of both Pal Oerttemann and Johansen as well as doing his bit in a doubles success.

Even sterner resistance was encountered at the quarter-final stage with Federal Germany “A” equaling a 9–2 deficit when, finally, Michael Plum and Peter Stellwag won the doubles and Stellwag registered a 3-straight win over Douglas.

A gap was on in the Hungarian camp when England’s “B” duo came back from 0–2 down to level the match score with a win for Hilton over Gabor Gergely following a second singles success, 3–1 against Federal Germany “B”, saw Hilton lose yet another set in going under to Hans-Joachim Nolton but the Mancunian came good in his other set beating Ralf Wostk over three.

England “B” raised a few eyebrows in beating Korea Republic “A” 3–2 in their opening encounter, both Hilton and John­son losing to No Yoon Kwun. A second success, 3–1 against Federal Germany “B”, saw Hilton lose yet another set in going under to Hans-Joachim Nolton but the Mancunian came good in his other set beating Ralf Wostk over three.

In the women’s team event England “A” (Jill Hammersley and Linda Jarvis) had one match only to reach the quarters which they won 2–1 against a Nissen Motors­ sponsored Japanese, the one. But, up against Korea Republic’s Lee Soo Ja and Kim Kyung Ja, the English girls had no real answer and failed to take a game in the 3-set encounter.

England “B” (Karen Witt and Alison Gordon) began with an easy opener, 3–0 against Portugal, and an equally convincing performance against Japan “B” only to be taken out in the quarters.

In this latter encounter after Alison had lost to Marie Lindblad, and Karen to Ann-
Christina Hellman, the English girl, starred a spirited recovery with a doubles success followed by a win for Karen over Lindblad.

Bob Potter fell to Thorsell in Rd. 1 and Max Crimmins to Lee Sang Sook at the same stage. Graham Sandley did manage a first round win, at the expense of qualifier Alan Fletcher, but thereafter was despatched by Gergely in no mean fashion.

Nicki Jarvis had good wins over Steve Mills and Ian Kronin but he too fell to a Hungarian, in the person of Jonyer, whilst Donald Parker failed to take a game off Grubba after besting qualifier Dave Barra.

Carl Prean, the reigning English Junior-champion, found the Welsh wizard, veteran George Evans, with just that bit more know-how and failed to break out from the qualifiers whilst Danielson, the Swedish substitute, was beaten in three games by Jonyer in Rd. 1.

Jill Hammenley, like Hilton, was also a top seed, in the women's singles but fell 20-30 on expedit in the fifth to the eventual winner An Hae Soo. Linda Jarvis was a first round filler to Brigitte Thiriet of Luxembourg but lost over five games to Kim Kwung Ja -15 in the fifth.

Gordon also failed at the first hurdle losing, surrendering his chances of pocketing £400 when defeated by that man Thorsell, in the fifth.

Des and Linda, our main hope for success in the mixed event fell to South Koreans in the quarters and all in all, Douglas apart, there was very little for English supporters to cheer.

Well, you can't win 'em all, would appear to be the reflected thoughts of the losing finalist in the men's singles — Stefan Engelin of Sweden.

Photo by Graham Duncan, Tooting Bec, London.
Women's Doubles: Scotland A 3 England A 1

1. Reid/Smith bt Foot/Jones 9, 8, 7.
3. Reid/MacIntyre lost to Critch/Thompson 8, 8.

Mixed Doubles: Scotland B 3 England B 1

1. Reid/MacIntyre bt T. Walker/James 9, 7, 6.
2. Alexander/McIntyre bt Foot/Jones 12, 17, 15.
3. Reid/Smith bt Critch/Thompson 10, 7, 7.

Singles: England A 3 Scotland A 1

1. Reid bt T. Walker 15, 16, 18.
2. Alexander bt Foot 21, 17, 10.

Semi-finals:
1. Reid bt Critch 15, 16, 18.
2. Alexander bt Foot 21, 17, 10.

Finals:
1. Reid bt T. Walker 15, 16, 18.
2. Alexander bt Foot 21, 17, 10.
The 'B' team have an outstanding record winning all of their five matches played. Their latest victory was over Leeds, who are amongst the most dangerous opponents the 'B' winning all 10-0 which obviously suits them. Their team is very young and is an opportunity of finding venues, and is an opportunity of developing some of the future, and they are readily improving. 

WARWICKSHIRE CLUB COMPETITION (R. MACKEY CUP) (HANDICAPS)

After last year's successful event the entries are the highest ever - 46 teams.

This is the first season that the Juniors have composed the Warwickshire League, being a big success - and a much better system of playing these matches. 'Round Robin' of the Warwickshire League, was a big success - and a much better improving.

Hereford winning 10-0 which obviously proves all they need is a little confidence, going to Ian Smith who beat Jeremy Duffield 17 in the 3rd, well done Ian.

LEAGUE TABLES

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COVENTRY GOLDEN JUBILEE YEAR CELEBRATION

Congratulations go to the Coventry and District Table Tennis Association on attaining their 50th Anniversary.

To celebrate this milestone in their history a Golden Jubilee Year Celebration Table Tennis International between ENGLAND v CZECHOSLOVAKIA was played at Coventry Sports Centre on Tuesday, 26th Jan., 1981.

As a final item - Congratulations go to Pat Givens who was chosen to represent the Ireland team against Spain a very well earned honour Pat.

REVIEWED SENIOR RANKINGS

Following her return to competitive play the former European Champion, Jill Hammer, has been reinstated at No. 1 in the new England women's ranking list. In the men's list Paul Day is back at No. 1, but the biggest leap in the revised rankings is by 25-years-old Ian Horsham. Ian who comes straight into the list at No.13, thanks to his results in the recent Cleveland 3-Star Open. 

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At Sealink, he is joining a truly all international line-up which includes England No. 1 Doug Johnson, Scottish No. 1 Richard Yule and Australian No. 1 Bob Tuckett.

Brian Ashton, Sealing Milton Keynes General Manager said of his new signing, "We have acquired an exceptional talent in Barry because already he has a victory over Bob Tuckett under his belt and this has only been beaten twice in the National League this season. We have also proved yet again that it is still possible to attract top overseas players into this country and that is very important for English Table Tennis at present."

Barry is due in Britain during the first week in February and he will be using his National League experience with Sealink as part of his build-up to this year's Worlds.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

STILL CAUTIOUS

World Championships rivals Dougle Johnson and Graham Sandley were due to meet on Feb. 8 when last season's champions, Sealink Milton Keynes were to face off. But Johnson and Sandley together with Bob Potton, are fighting for the two remaining places for Novi Sad.

Elenborough, defeated 7-2 earlier in the season, seek revenge over Sealink, who no longer have the services of England No.5. Potton — now playing for the Nikon Club in Holland, Comet's club Sealink, seem certain to win this season's Premier Division title, leading by 2 pts with a match in hand. But team manager Eric Day is cautious "We could still slip up, we have to beat a couple of last season's champions Ormsby and Salek and we would be in dire trouble".

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DIVISION 2 NORTH

City of Newcastle continue their relentless drive for promotion and have beaten their nearest rivals Salford Select. Table.

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<th>CITY OF NEWCASTLE</th>
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SUMMARY:

City of Newcastle have a team spirit that is hard to match and have a very strong team that is very difficult to beat. They have won all of their matches played and have a very good chance of retaining their title.

Salford Select, on the other hand, have a mix of good and bad results. They have won some matches and lost others, but overall they are doing well and are in the mix for promotion.

However, the real test for both teams will be their encounter on Saturday, when they will play against each other. This will be a crucial match and the team that wins will have a huge advantage in their promotion aspirations.

In conclusion, City of Newcastle and Salford Select are neck-and-neck in the promotion race, and the outcome of their Saturday clash will decide who takes the top spot.

The city of Manchester has been abuzz with excitement as the two teams, City of Newcastle and Salford Select, are both hungry for promotion in the league. The rivalry between the two teams is fierce, and the pressure is on as they both aim to secure their promotion to the next level.

City of Newcastle, with their strong team and well-organized strategies, are the clear favorites to win this match. They have been performing consistently well and have a solid core of players who are experienced and skilled.

Salford Select, on the other hand, have been a surprise package in the league. They have managed to snatch wins against some of the top teams and have proven their worth. Their roster includes some talented players who are capable of pulling off a shock victory.

As the big day approaches, anticipation is at its peak. Both teams are gearing up for a thrilling encounter, and the fans are buzzing with excitement. The atmosphere in the stadium will be electric, and the crowd is expected to pack out as they come to witness this highly anticipated clash.

In conclusion, this match promises to be a fantastic display of talent and strategy. The city of Manchester is on the edge of its seat, and the outcome of this match is sure to be a game-changer in the league. It will be interesting to see how it unfolds, but one thing is certain - the fans will not be disappointed!
The National School Team Championships — organised by the ESTT and sponsored by Stiga took place on the weekend of Jan. 17/18 at twelve venues throughout the country.

The winning teams are due to compete in the Regional Championships which are scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 22 at Leeds (Moor Grange High School), Stroud (Leeds Grammar School), and Orpington (Walsall Sports Centre). The winners then go forward to the National Finals at Lea Green Centre, Matlock on Saturday, April 4.

Some well-known schools have already been eliminated but a battle royal seems ensured should Millom (Cumbria) and The Girls U-16 of domination for Millom but also says that Culcheth have a strong B19 team.

**AREA 1 (at Leeds)**
- B19 Rufford Junior (Merseyside)
- G19 St. Helen's, Chesterfield (Derbyshire)
- B16 Tipton Hall (Derbyshire)
- G13 Tipton Hall (Derbyshire)
- B11 Stavely Junior (Derbyshire)

A good day for general players in general and Tipton Hall in particular. In the Boys U-14 event Tipton Hall's No. 1, Alan Cooke defeated Chris Bryan of Bishop Barrington whilst 12-year-old Andrew Henry was underestaled.

**MIDLANDS & WEST REGION**
- B19 Sheldon Heath (West Midlands)
- B16 Moseley Park (West Midlands)
- B16 Grove, Market Drayton (Shropshire)
- B1 Market Drayton County Primary

Ann Durrall reports a disappointing start in this area but Moseley Park lost a strong team in Boys' U-16.

**AREA 2 (at Wolverhampton)**
- B19 Cheltenham Grammar
- G19 Strood High (Gloucestershire)
- B16 Streatham High (Gloucestershire)
- G19 Charlton Park Convent

South & East Region
- G19 Yeovil College (Somerset)
- G19 Chilton Trinity (Somerset)
- G19 Millfield Junior (Somerset)

Current title holders Bournemouth School have a very strong team in Boys U-11 event. However, after losing 5-3 against Chilton Trinity, Gary Lambert at No. 1 for Exmouth.

**AREA 3 (at Leeds)**
- B19 Priestley Arts (Leeds)
- G19 Wyle Cop (Cheshire)
- B16 St. Aidan's, Gateshead (Tyne & Wear)
- G16 Bede House, Darlington (Durham)

Best prospects in this area look to be Newcastle Royal Grammar School with Martin Durrall. A very good day for West Yorkshire teams.

**SOUTH & EAST REGION**
- G19 Longsands, St. Neots (Cambridgeshire)
- G19 Edgehill, Cheadle (Staffs)
- B16 Bede House, Darlington (Durham)
- G19 Gosford Hill (Oxfordshire)

Current title holders Bournemouth School for Girls went out on a doubles wobbler in the Girls' U-19 event but in the Girls' U-16 another doubles wobble saw them through.

**WHAT'S ON AND WHERE**

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>Event</th>
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<tr>
<td>NATIONAL CLUB KNOCK-OUT CHAMPIONSHIPS</td>
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<td>MEN'S COMPETITION - Season 1980-81</td>
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<td>Savoy (Fleetwood) v Alderley (Wirral) (a)</td>
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<td>Wavetree Labour (Liverpool) v Penmaen (Wyberton) (b)</td>
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<td>Penmaen (Wyberton) v Rusten Bycurys (Lincoln) (b)</td>
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The draw for the Quarter-finals of the Exeter Community Centre (Exeter) Cup is:

- Sturdee (Medway) 8
- Fellows Cranleigh (Barking) 5
- Grove School (Market Drayton) v Saints (Exeter) 9
- Kidlington Forum (Oxford) v Flixton CC (Sale)

ZONE 1 A
- RC'T (Aldershot) v Saints (Exeter) (a)

ZONE 1 B
- Merton (Bournemouth) v Omega (Reading) (d)

ZONE 2
- Pyloa (Poole) v Saints (Exeter) (a)

ZONE 3
- Maldon (Chelmsford) 5 Grove (Harlow) 2

ZONE 4
- St. Andrews (Derby) v South Yardley (Birmingham) (a)
- Goffs Oak (Cheshunt) v Fellows Cranleigh (Barking)

ZONE 5
- Dagenham Dock (Dagenham) v Soham (Cambridge) awarded match against Saints (Exeter)
- Exiles (Central London) (a)
- Geoffs Oak (Chesterfield) v Ellenborough Park Middlesex (b)

ZONE 6
- Ashley Park (Barking) v Saints (Cambridge) (a)
- Ellenborough Park Middlesex (b)
- Sturdee (Medway) v Loyds Register (Brighton, Redhill)
- Shoreham THC (Brighton) v Civil Service (Hastings) (b)

ZONE 7
- Shoreham TTC (Brighton) v Goffs Oak (Cheshunt) v Kidlington Forum (Oxford)

ZONE 8
- Soham (Cambridge) v
- Goffs Oak (Cheshunt) v
- Kidlington Forum (Oxford) v
- Moseley Park Schools (Wolves) 2

ZONE 9
- Flixton CC (Sale) v Mawdsley Village (Southport) 1
- Lytchett (Poole) v Omega (Reading) (b)

ROUND 4 DRAW

ZONE 1 A v B
ZONE 2 B v A
ZONE 3 B v A
ZONE 4 A v B
ZONE 5 B v A
ZONE 6 A v B
ZONE 7 B v A
ZONE 8 A v B

ROUND 2 RESULTS
Mereside Fire Brigade (Liverpool) BH 2
e
Post Office Courier Club (Preston) 2
Savoy (Fleetwood) 7
Flitton CC (Gates) 5 ELFM (Burry) 3
Mawdsley Village (Southport) 1
Phoenix (Coventry) 5
Ellenborough Park Schools (Wolves) 1
Maldon (Chelmsford) 5
Grove (Harlow) 2
Soham (Cambridge) awarded match against
Dunstable Young People Club (Dunstable)
Fellows Cranleigh (Barking) 1
Omega (Reading) 8
Sturdee (Medway) 8
Goffs Oak (Cheshunt) 5
P.O. Supplies (Woolwich) 1
Ellies (Central London) 8
Sandown (Tunbridge Wells) 1
Lytchett (Poole) v
Merton (Bournemouh)
Omega (Reading) v
Weston YMCA (Bristol)

VBS SPORTS (Portsmouth) 3

SOMERSET NOTES

by Jill Green

GLOUCESTERSHIRE NOTES
by Leslie Smith

Gloucestershire now has its own Independent Radio Station, "Severn Sound", and on its Saturday afternoon sports programme.
Alf Peppard, the Gloucester League Press Secretary, has been given a regular table tennis spot to give all the news of what's happening in the local leagues.

The "Police" individual championships have a new venue this season. Southbridge School, Gloucester, when a big entry is expected for the event which takes place in March.

The County senior team continue to find the going tough, losing at home to Leicester City 2-8 and away to Notts 4-6. In the Leics match, John Turner had his first success at senior level when he beat K. Fellows. Cathy Robb winning the other set. The Notts match was closely fought, with six sets going to a decider. Graham Slack showing his best form yet for the seniors, while for determination, the performance of Team Secretary, Joan Golding takes some beating, coming back from 15-20 down in the 3rd to beat Gloria Stocks 22-20.

The Juniors for their away match with Hants were badly affected by illness, but full marks go to the team for returning with a 3-5 draw.

In the match at home to Glamorgan at Nailsworth Boys' Club, the team seemed to be having things all their own way. Following Andrew Jones opening win against the Welsh No. 2 Andrew Jones, the home team quickly built up a 4-0 lead, including a first girls' doubles success for Nina Takashirska and Clare Symonds. But from then on things went wrong for Gloucestershire. Darren O'Connell and Andrew Jones losing their first doubles for 3 years. Gloucs/gem continued the fight back to level the match score at 4-4, but Nina wasted no time in beating Susan Jones 19 and 11 to leave Richard Russell to clinch the match by beating C. Symonds 6-4 with Steve Manlow taking two singles and Graham Green, John Crabtree, Judy Wodehouse and Nicki Palk taking a singles each. Somerset II did not have the same success against Dorset II. They only succeeded in taking the men's doubles in a 9-1 result in favour of Dorset.

Somerset's first team have played three matches in the past two months. Their first was against Gwent at Nailsea the result being 8-4 in Gwent's favour with the women taking all their sets for Somerset and Brian Reeves taking a singles for the men.

The next match was against Berkshire, who beat us 9-1 with Brian the only winner. The most recent match was against Avon, played in the usual friendly spirit, but the end result was the reverse of last season with Avon winning 8-2. Brian Reeves and Jill Green took a singles each but a mention must be made of Manlow, making his first team debut, and making the Avon players earn their victory.

The final results to report on are the Bridgwater men's and women's teams' efforts in the National competitions - the Wilmott and Rose Bowl. The men lost their match 4-3 to Torbay but the women were victorious over West Corkwall 8-3 and now have to play Swindon in the next round.

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KEITH PONTING HONOURED

K. T. O. Ponting, Devon's National Councillor and Exeter's "Mr Ping Pong" had a pre-Christmas surprise when he read his copy of the local Express and Echo. For it was then he knew, for the first time, he was the tenth winner of the paper's 'Service to Sport' award.

Keith, secretary of the Exeter and District TTA and of the Devon TTA, was nominated by his daughter, Sandra. "I think my dad deserves one of your awards" said 18-year-old Sandra.

"At home he is always working on something to do with table tennis. He likes to give the youngsters something to do so they are not going out causing trouble, and he loves to organise things!"

Keith's administrative ability was recognised in 1972 when he was the first recipient of the Ivor Montagu award for outstanding national administration.

The Express and Echo award—a trophy and £20 cheque—is jointly given by the national administration of table tennis and the Devon Association for 10 years.

Keith, secretary of the Exeter and Dist. TTA, and of the Devon TTA, has certainly done this since he joined the national administration.

His 13 years as secretary of the Exeter League makes him the longest serving official in the city. Keith himself has held the post for 10 years, as has his daughter, Sandra, who nominated her father, and the Devon Association chairman, Mr. D. Raitte is on the left.

Photo by courtesy of Express and Echo, Exeter, Devon.

NORTHAMPTONSHIRE NOTES

by Dennis Millman

"HOME AND DRY"

Shortage of space and lateness of copy caused my January notes to be terminated in mid stream and so this month I will begin by repeating that results from the South East Midlands remain difficult to obtain and even harder to assess, but nevertheless some honours seem certain to come Northants way, with Kettering home and dry in the Men's Second Division, having won all six matches for a total of forty eight points.

As in other spheres, Keith Nicoll has excelled in this competition, winning all twelve singles and sharing in five doubles successes with Steve West, who himself has taken eleven, rubbers out of twelve. Ken Nicoll and John Sanders completed the finely balanced team and remained undefeated at doubles, with Nicoll adding nine singles victories.

Kettering has also made an impact on the Junior First Division, despite the loss of the Nicoll twins, with five wins from seven starts, as Richard Malfait and Terry Cardwell provided the majority of points, while the talented Wellingborough trio of juniors, Ian Hawes, Neil Ridge and Stephen Cardwell, continue to impress.

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Unfortunately the premature, but hopefully temporary, retirement of Anne Wallis, who played and won the final singles against Peter Cussing to give Northants a 5-4 victory.

The Juniors also had a good result when they shared the honours with a young squad of Muskerry and, Graeme McInn winning two singles each and Richard Maltby contributing the vital fifth set.

Romano Gallo, much more at home at second team level, again displayed his undoubted ability against Worcestershire. Seconds but with support from the ever-green Genni Hooper the match was narrowly lost. When the Firsts lost their third successive defeat, can only hope that Gary Alden will soon return to better form, and to someone needing someone to restore that confidence that disappeared with his disappearance from the action fifteen months ago.

Keeling Town "A" have retained the Kettering Premier League Championship for five seasons now, but Rothborough "A" are pulling out all the stops this season, even to the extent of giving Gary Alden his long overdue comeback in the Kettering side. Rothborough's victory in the Firsts table, with eight wins and two defeats, is the most consistent performance of any team in the League for many seasons.
ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION

Regional Development Officer
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A unique opportunity for an enthusiastic person to work full time in table tennis in a new and challenging position. Based in Cleveland to cover the Sports Council Northern Region area, the successful applicant will be responsible for all aspects of development work, including: membership recruitment, acquisition of facilities, developing and implementing programmes for the disabled and unemployed, publicity and public relations, sponsorship, Sports Council and Local Authority liaison, development of play within the sports and leisure, liaison with schools and other educational establishments and to assist the ETTA National Coach and Localities.

An office is provided within the Cleveland Leisure Services Department and some administrative support will be given by the County Authority. The ability to communicate well with others is essential. A driving license, typing and secretarial skills, organisational ability, a knowledge of table tennis and of the field of leisure and recreation would be desirable.

Salary will be in the region of £4,000 per annum plus expenses.

For further information and application forms apply in writing to:
THE GENERAL SECRETARY,
ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION,
21 CLAREMONT,
HASTINGS.

Please mark envelope: Regional Development Officer
All applications will be treated in confidence.

3rd N. WALES JUNIOR OPEN
UNQUALIFIED SUCCESS
by Philip Leddy

England's European League squad pose before the action against Czechoslovakia at Belper in a match sponsored by Autowindscreens (Chesterfield) Ltd. From front to back: Linda Jarvis, Paul Day, Jill Hammersley (at the wheel), Desmond Douglas, John Hilton and NFC Peter Simpson.

An analysis of their European League records of the last five seasons:

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K. Ring (Ire) bt H. Fros (La) 15, -21, 13; J. Myers (La) bt P. Blair (Ire) 10, 6; S. Powell (Wal) bt A. Reilly (Ire); 12, 20, 17; G. Hemmings (La) bt V. Skeats (Wal) -18, 17, 7.

Semi-finals:
Myers bt Ring 11, 14; Powell bt Hemmings 19, 17.

Final:
MYERS bt Powell 16, 21.
Boys' Doubles Semi-finals:
C. Slevin/A. Walsh (Ire) bt O'Leary/Stark 15, -19, 18; Rudge/J. Duffield (Wo) bt Jones/O. Wilkins (Wal) 12, 12.

Final:
SLEVIN/WALSH bt Rudge/Duffield 10, 12.

Girls' Doubles Semi-finals:

Final:
JONES/MYERS bt Blair/Cotter 19, 19.

Cadet Boys' Singles Quarter-finals:
Gleave bt A. Slevin (Ire) 12, 13; J. Ellis (Ch) bt G. Hayworth (La) 15, 10; A. Jones (Wal) bt P. Hyde (Sp) 16, 11; I. McLoughlin (La) bt D. McInerney 11, 14.

Semi-finals:
Gleave bt Ellis 6, 14, 10; McLoughlin bt Jones 15, 6.

Final:
Gleave bt McLoughlin 19, 17.

Cadet Girls' Singles Quarter-finals:
Sully bt E. McManus (Ire) 11, 14; M. Christie (Ire) bt M. Jennings (Ire) 4, 18; Cotter bt A. Sherlock (Ire) 10, 11; E. Watson (Ire) bt C. Potts (Ch) 21, -18, 10.

Semi-finals:
Sully bt Christie 9, 14; Cotter bt Watson 15, 12.

Final:
Gleave bt McLoughlin 19, 17.

RECOVERY CONTINUED

Avon County teams have continued their recovery to better form having played seven matches and lost just one. The first team, now including reinstated Martin Smith as their No. 1, have come to form with a real bang recording a good 7-3 win away at Gwent when Smith with Avon champion Andy Creed got five sets between them and were backed up by a singles and doubles from Tina Shortman. Their next match was even better when they entertained Somerset at Weston, and beat them for the first time since Avon was created. Set of the night was the first Creed beating Brian Reeves on his way to remaining unbeaten on the night, Smith got one ... losing to Reeves, Paul Jackson got two and both the girls got on the score sheet. Shortman with a singles, and Rebecca Russe joined her for a great doubles win.

Jackson, Shortman and Russe are also playing some great doubles for the Junior first team as well, though against Wiltshire neither girl got a singles though they got the doubles which earned Avon the draw. Against Devon II they were in top form winning 8-2 with Chris Ross playing splendidly. The only sets to elude the visitors were the girls' doubles and one of Paul Hooper's singles.

The Veterans' team has been much changed this season and the results have reflected this greatly. Early in Jan. they entertained Dorset II and won 7-2 with J. Morris and Joan Collier remaining unbeaten with Mike Baker and Keith House sharing the rest of the sets. John Russell got two singles for Dorset very different. Avon team went to play the Dorset first team and were hammered 9-0, the County's first defeat since way before Christmas. They had their chances to pick up a few sets but were unable to capitalise.

ENGLISH TABLE TENNIS ASSOCIATION
ENGLAND v. CZECHOSLOVAKIA

by Mike Watts

As part of their 50th Golden Jubilee Anniversary the Coventry and District TTA hosted a friendly international match between England and Czechoslovakia at the Coventry Sports Centre on Tuesday Jan. 20/81.

Following an injury sustained some time previously, the Czech star Milan Orlovski had immediately flown back home after their 4-3 defeat by England at Belper the previous Thursday, and this left the Czechs rather short on the ground. However, former European Star and now National Coach, Vlado Miko decided to try his hand against the Coventry 3-Star and after beating Ian Kenyon (surviving two match points) and Andy Weiman he went down in the quarters by 20 in the third to Ian Day. These encounters prompted Miko to name himself at No. 3 for the Coventry match points), and Andy Weiman he went down in the quarters by 20 in the third to Ian Day. These encounters prompted Miko to name himself at No. 3 for the Coventry match, much to the consternation of Douggie Johnson and Paul Day who, as likely possible candidates for the World Championships squad, could see their chances diminished somewhat should Miko be successful.

The staging of the match itself was a complete success, and a large crowd in excess of 600 were provided with an excellent international right from the first rally between Bob Potton and Jimmich Pansky which lasted 38 shots. Eight bangers from the Coventry School of Music provided the opening fanfare, and Coventry can feel very pleased with their organisation, which was first class. The Lord Mayor of Coventry played host to the Czech team the previous evening, and also attended for most of the match. On completion a dinner for both teams, officials and specially invited guests was held at the Allesley Hotel.

The match itself got off to a tremendous start with Potton and Pansky both eager to please and snapping shots for shot in a high speed encounter played mainly well away from the table. Potton took the first game and led 17-15 in the second. Then an uncharacteristic lapse by the young Czech allowed Potton back into the game to lead 20-19 and the game was duly won by Potton 21-19 to great applause from the audience.

Day, eager to enhance his growing reputation as a vital member of the highly successful European League squad, then came to the table to oppose Josef Dvoracek. This match was almost a repeat of the previous weekend's final at Clevelend, with Jill gradually wearing down a very difficult opponent in three games to put England back into the lead for the third time.

Potton came back to the table to oppose Dvoracek with the knowledge that his previous encounter with the tall Czech had resulted in only a close defeat at -19 in both games, but despite all his efforts Dvoracek for the second time in the evening proved why he has risen so rapidly in European circles, winning comfortably.

Day put England back into the lead with a 3-starlight thrashing of Miko, but try as much as could be expected, Johnson could not outwit Pansky in the final set, even though it went to three.

Following completion of the match Dvoracek and Pansky gave a one-game exhibition which delighted the audience, and one was left with the spectacle of Pansky jumping onto the table to volley Dvoracek's high lobs from corner to corner.

Coventry must be congratulated on organising such a successful evening at a venue ideally suited for a European League match in the future.

RESULTS

ENGLAND 4 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 4

D. Johnson bt V. Miko 14, 16;
J. Hammersley bt M. Hrachova -14, 14, 15;
P. Day lost to J. Dvoracek -15, -16;
A. Stevenson lost to A. Pelikanova 19, -17, -20;
B. Potton bt J. Pansky -19, 19, 19;
J. Hammersley bt M. Hrachova -14, 14, 15;
J. Pansky bt B. Potton -20, 20, 20;
D. Johnson bt J. Pansky -15, -16;
A. Pelikanova bt A. Stevenson 19, -17, -20;
J. Pansky bt B. Potton 20, 20, 20;
J. Hammersley bt M. Hrachova 14, 14, 15;

Final Score: ENGLAND 4 CZECHOSLOVAKIA 4

JOOLA AT TEES SPORT

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Why Peter Stellwag will soon have more Rhythm in his Game

On the Ivory Coast a giant Koto tree has been cut down. The special acoustic panels used in concert halls are made of this wood. And now the veneer is used to make JOOLA blades. Many other kinds of wood may be light, but they are at the same time not too sturdy; Koto veneer combines low weight with a high degree of resistance. German table tennis champion Peter Stellwag says, "I like playing with blades made out of this wood because it is light, can be controlled easily, and is still strong and solid." So, in the future, Koto trees will not only be helping to provide the right sounds in concert halls, but will also be adding more rhythm to table tennis.

ZOOLA

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Now, with 12 tables, two large playing areas, an enthusiastic coaching team and guidance from the Y.T.T.A., the Centre will continue to prepare Yorkshire players with the right qualities and attitudes to challenge the best. Meanwhile, Tom Matthews, who is now retired, has set his next target. Every week in term time he visits Leeds Carnegie P.E. College, where he was a former student. He wants his students to have as much fun and satisfaction coaching the younger generation as he has had and in the process, make life a little happier for all who take part.

COUNTY CHAMPS

The County Championships continue to give indication that all four Yorkshire teams could win their respective divisions. The Premier Division side with a 100% record so far gave increased reason for optimism when they registered their fourth successive victory with an 8-2 win over Staffordshire. Kevin Beadsley, Steve Mills and Melody Hill all unbeaten. Yorkshire 2nds have considerably improved their chances with a 9-1 win over Cheshire 2nds and, by the same score, over Manchester. Mark Illingsworth, Tony Sanderson, Helen Shields and Julie McLean make a winning blend of youth and experience.

The Junior 2nd Division (North) side have also been in devastating form and enhanced their chances of retaining the Championship with two 8-2 wins against Northumberland and over Lincolnshire.

Regulars Michael Stead, Paul Rook, Rachel Brook and Melanie Seaton were joined by Mark Ryecroft for the Linca match. Mark celebrated his debut by winning both his singles.

NATIONAL LEAGUE

In the 1st Division of the National League, the Centre created a sensation when they took a 5-6 winning lead over former European Club champions, Ormesby of Cleveland. Newly promoted No.1 Steve Mills produced a whirlwind attack which was too much for a below-form Nicky Jarvis who went down 2-straight. Chris Rogers consolidated against Donald Partner in the finest exhibition I have seen in the National League with both players making some brilliant returns.

Kevin Beadsley pressed home the advantage against Keith Rodger to make it 3-0, if there was to be a fight back by Ormesby then it was at that point with that warrior of many great battles and six times champion of England, Denis Neave, ready and willing to devour yet another opponent. Steve Turner, without a win in the National Div. 1, must have felt as raw as that cold December afternoon as he faced up, but he and his game didn’t show it.

He fought for every point to win 24-22 in the 3rd to thunderous applause. It was sheer magic and although Rogers and Beadsley sailed the vital doubles to make it 5-0 and a win for Unity, many of the spectators like Steve must have been dreaming action replays of the previous set. Ormesby received some consolation when Parker beat Mills, Jarvis - Beadsley and Seale - Rogers, but it was the Preston lad Turner who crowned his day with a win over Rodger to make it 6-3 to Unity.

At the Yorkshire Closed, 16-year-old York youngster Tony Sanderson came close to an astonishing win over Yorkshire champion Beadsley. Leading 20-19 in the 3rd game of the quarter-final, Tony had the agony of seeing a desperate Beadsley hit the next three winners to take the set. Tony’s performance did not go unnoticed, Richard Beaton, Unity’s Manager, made Tony’s place along with the County No. 1 junior boy, Steven Sharpe, in the National League team’s squad.

Sharpe is on top form at the moment. He won the Yorkshire U-17’s, the Area 5 Boys’ ranking tournament, and has, with Claudia Oakes, also of Wakefield, been named as the Yorkshire Players of the Year.

Another top performance at the Yorkshire Closed was 16-years-old David Rook. He progressed to the semi-finals of the men’s with wins over Mark Illingsworth, Shelford and Keith, Hurley before being beaten by Beadsley who went on to win 16-10. Nicky Davies II, 1, in the final. Helen Shields won the women’s singles for the third time in four years, defeating girls’ winner Julie Speight 11-16.

NEW RANKINGS

Yorkshire rankings are:-

Men
1 S. Mills, 2 A. Fletcher, 3 K. Beadsley
4 A. Clayton, 5 M. Illingsworth, 6 David Rook, 7 M. Illingsworth, 8 H. Shutt, 9 A. Bottomley, 10 A. Sanderson.

Women
1 M. Hill, 2 S. Midgley, 3 J. McLean
4 H. Shields, 5 S. L. Hysenko, 6 J. Speight, 7 M. Seaton, 8 L. Broomhead.

Boys
1 S. Sharpe, 2 A. Sanderson, 3 D. Illingsworth, 4 N. Edgecock, 5 M. Stead, 6 D. Rook, 7 M. Ryecroft, 8 K. Mcandrew.
9 T. Dyson, 10 R. Waneley, 11 K. Thompson, 12 D. Indrihla.

Girls
1 J. Speight, 2 M. Seaton, 3 L. Broomhead
4 H. Brook, 5 J. Bayliss, 6 S. Evans, 7 R. Burrows, 8 D. Malpass, 9 Jule Evans, 10 J. Todd.

16-years-old Michael Stead won the Telegraph and Argus Hard Bat tournament held at Parade, defeated by Tom Matthews 20-16 in the final after going through the rounds without dropping a game. Mark Ryecroft and Rd. Pfitsaettel beat Derek Schofield and Terry Denton of Stockport in the doubles final.

Y.T.T.A. members please contact me with news for press and radio by ringing 0113-2446240.

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TWO NEW FILMS ON TABLE TENNIS

"Table Tennis Technique" and "Battle of the Bats" are two new films sponsored by Sorel Films and are available from Guild Sound & Vision for hire and purchase.

"Table Tennis Technique", which runs for 20 minutes, looks at the techniques used by the top table tennis players and analyses and considers them from the amateur players point of view. Everyone who plays table tennis will find it fascinating and constructive and trainers will find it an invaluable aid.

"Battle of the Bats", 35 minutes, traces the build-up to the finals of the 50th World Table Tennis Championships, and features the world's leading table tennis players.

Both films are available for hire at £15 each per booking for 2 days, £20 each per booking for 1 week and for purchase at £250 each (all prices excluding VAT) from Guild Sound & Vision Ltd., Woodland House, Oundle Road, Peterborough PE9 9PZ.
Robinson, Joyce Applin and Leanne Harman.

Chris Pickard, Jason Creasey, John Lincolnshire 5 Cleveland 5

McMaster again played well. Stuart Worrell

this dive Look at their strength for 3rd

but Lanes girls (Jacqueline Myers and Helen

in Lanes-Cleveland encounter. He won them

manage a singles win for Lines,. Michael

Cumbria - what a find he his! Another

Cumbria 2 Cheshire 8

Dorset II 9 Somerset II 1

Warwickshire should take this division. P.

Oxon 4 -1 when Tufft beat Malfait 16, -18, 20 in

Berkshire II 8 Bedfordshire II 2

Hertfordshire II 5 Oxfordshire II 5

This win by Berks makes them strong

favourites to take the title. Oxon again

slipped up in doubles — only two wins out

of 8 this season in an otherwise strong
division.

**VETERANS SOUTH (A)**

Hertfordshire II 6 Berkshire II 3

Essex II 1 Middlesex 6

Hampshire II 4 Sussex 5

Smith and Tyler on form for Herts with

Mrs. Gale also winning again. Essex II's first
defeat — at hands of Middlesex — for whom

D. Smith was outstanding, Sussex first

win of season thanks to A. Hawden — D.

Allen outstanding for Hants.

Sussex 4 Essex II 5

**Berkshire II 6 Hampshire II 3**

Middlesex I 7 Kent I 2

Middlesex almost there with D. Smith and

Alan Lindsay leading the way. Nice to see

Peter Sheed (Sussex) and Ron Etheridge (Kent)

playing county table tennis again.

**VETERANS SOUTH (B)**

Berkshire III 3 Hertfordshire 6

Middlesex III 2 Essex 6

Sussex II 8 Hampshire II 3

Kent II 7 Middlesex II 7

A Essex look certain to retain title — Hilda

Catecarr still 100% in WS and XD, but two

each by Lois and Holley against Berks keep Hants in the running should Essex slip up. Ken Sturman’s wins for Kent I couldn’t stop Middlesex.

**VETERANS MIDLAND**

Huntingdonshire 6 Buckinghamshire 3

Northamptonshire 2 Worcestershire 7

Oxfordshire 4 Hertfordshire 3

Sussex II 8 Sussex I 1

Ken Snaith’s two wins for Kent II couldn’t

stop Middlesex.

**JUNIOR 3 SOUTH**

Essex III 4 Isle of Wight 5

Essex II 1 Dorset II 4

Sussex II 8 Somerset II 4

Berkshire II 8 Berkshire II 5

Essex II 5 Berkshire II 3

West Sussex 5 Middlesex 2

Dorset II 8 Somerset II 8

C. Dale still unbeaten for Hants — R.

Fisher also chipped in with two. Wors look
certain winners here. Mervyn Wood, Brian

Belcher and Janet Hunt all 100%. Arthur

Davies can still turn it on for Oxon — but
despite two wins his team

Huntingdonshire 3 Worcestershire 6

Bedfordshire 1 Northamptonshire 5

Warwickshire 6 Oxfordshire 4

In the battle of the two 100% teams

Wors went from 3-3 to win remaining sets
against Hants. Colin Dale split Brian

Belcher 100% record when Mervyn Wood
himself 100% beat him. Janet Hunt clinched Northants’ victory beating

P. Cutting 19-18, 16-15 in final set. Joyce

Porter six wins out of six in WS and XD.

What a great season All Davies is having for

Oxon! Seven wins out of eight encounters so far.

VETERANS WEST

Wiltshire 5 Dorset II 2

Sussex I 8 Somerset I 8

Two rather one-sided matches here. Wilt-

shire have hit good form. O.D. Watts, M.

Morris and Gwen Hare all unbeaten.

Somerset I 4 Isle of Wight 5

Avon 7 Dorset II 4

Somerset II 1 Dorset II 8

Isle of Wight still 100% but just one —

three 2-6 and one 6-1 — show close it’s been.
Jim Daly with seven out of eight has kept

them in the hunt — but they still have

(continued on page 37)
TYES TO THE FORE
Yorkshire only unbeaten team in the Premier Division. Only one man unbeaten in the division by A. Yorkshire's Steve Milne. Yorkshire also won all 8W and XD. Staffs first XD defeat but what a margin!

Warwickshire had Dougie Johnson moist with a 10-1 appearance and they should now finish mid-way up the chart, but their real hero was his brother Barry who lost his first set of the season (to Donald Parker) but has won seven in a row since.

Glamorgan led 4-3 but lost vital match with Essex. George Evans had no bother in taking two. Lancashire had a good win over Cheshire but Michael Jones lost to RHS than rest of team put together. Middlesex had a strong team led by Philip Reid. Lancashire's Steve Milne.

PREMIER DIVISION
Staffordshire 4 Lancashire 5

Worcestershire 4 Cheshire 5

Glamorgan 4 Essex 5

Durham 1 Yorkshire II 9

Northants look to be struggling in this div but, Keith Nicoll had a good 18, 18. 18 win over Phil Vickers. Robert Watson and Pauline Simpson still unbeaten for Northants but they were instrumental in bringing about their first win. Watson, first year out of juniors has easily made the step to senior county table tennis. Lee Jones out of run ning. Two Internationals (Anita Stevenson and Karen Smith) in team who easily won their sets but only Keith Fillow could manage anything else.

Hertfordshire 4 Essex II 5

Cambridgeshire 4 Northamptonshire II 5

Bedfordshire 4 Suffolk II 5

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Bedfordshire 4 Suffolk II 5